

**Southern Sudan – Abyei Displacement  
OCHA Situation Report No. 9  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**SITUATION**

1. Following outbreak of conflict in Abyei starting on 13<sup>th</sup> May, the majority of the residents of Abyei town fled southwards to the areas of Abatok, Awal, Wunpeth, Malual Alio and Agok in the border areas and downwards into Twic County in Warrap State as well as into Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states in smaller numbers.
2. The security situation remains calm and stable in areas where IDPs have settled and in Abyei, with the exception of Agok north where food distributions were put on halt until the security situation in that area has stabilised.
3. Head count of affected people in areas South of Abyei is ongoing with about 26,000 people having registered by 28 May 2008, in Agok, Wauchin, Joljok, Manding Jok. In Twic County the authorities estimate a total population of 23,000 including the host community.
4. In Abatok and Malbong authorities completed the registration process on 27 May 2008; however the breakdown of the registration was not available at the time when this update was submitted. The results of the registration process of IDPs will continue to be updated in the coming days.
5. Today (28 May 2008) the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), a number of Ambassadors and representatives of the diplomatic community visited Agok. They had an opportunity to assess the situation on the ground and they were appraised on the emergency response operation, its achievements and constrains. During a meeting with them some concerns and constrains were raised that included; the safety of civilian population, challenges faced by poor road network in accessing affected population and the road linkage with Khartoum and the limited resource capacity in the event that the situation deteriorates.
6. Displaced from unrelated conflict in Gogrial West and East have been reported by SSRRC to have arrived in Turalei and several surrounding payams (SSRRC reported total of 10,100 in Ajakwach, Aweng, Turalei, Wunrok, Panyok and Akok payams)
7. It has been raining heavily for the last five days making it difficult to effectively implement the planned responses, distributions and logistical challenges in accessing some locations.

**COORDINATION**

1. A coordination meeting is scheduled to take place in Twic County on 2nd June 2008 at the County Commissioner's officers in the morning. This will be co-chaired by the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and an INGO. Agencies operating or planning to operate in this area are invited to attend this meeting.
2. Teams composed of OCHA, Resident Coordinator's Office, and UNJLC are facilitating coordination of activities among partners on the ground. The teams are based in Agok, Turalei and Juba with daily coordination meetings being held in the field (Agok) at 08:30 and 18:00 at WARD a local NGO. In Juba meetings have been scaled down to three times a week (Mon-Wed-Fri) at 14:00 hours at SSRRC GoSS.

3. The coordination meeting to review the humanitarian response of the last two weeks will take place on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. Sector planning for the raining season will also be discussed.
4. Agencies sending staff to the field should coordinate with UNDSS and should make sure that their staff are self supporting in terms of accommodation, food and transport, so as to not to over-stretch the limited resources in the field.

## **LOGISTICS**

1. On 29 May 2008, one UNJLC staff is travelling from Juba to the field for a week to assess the logistical needs of the operation and provide support the field team.
2. Following heavy rains in the last five days in and around Agok, the airstrip in Agok is not landable on 29 May 2008; hence any planned flights are advised to land in Turalei or Wunrok.
3. The unavailability and high cost of fuel makes it difficult to run the operation.
4. The Road Agok – Turalei is all weather and can be used as a route for road transportation, while the Turalei – Wunrok is generally good except one stretch mid-way which need upgrading. The coordination team is appealing to UNMIS engineers to assist in close collaboration with local authorities. Work on the Wau – Wunrok road was stopped following the Abyei conflict.
5. All towns in Twic, Agok, Turalei and Wunrok are prone to flooding, hence the need for agencies to consider this in their response planning.
6. During a coordination meeting in Juba on 28 May 2008, NGOs expressed concern over some penalties or levies charged by local authorities on the roads hinders free road movement and transportation of humanitarian goods. SSRRC promised to follow up this issue through the High Committee..

## **INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

### *Water and Sanitation*

- CRS has drilled 4 of the 9 boreholes it planned for this emergency response to the IDPs and war affected host community.
- A total of 20 volunteers drawn from the IDPs were trained in household treatment with support from UNICEF. Another 30 volunteers will be trained in the coming days.
- Sanitation provision remains a challenge and the team in the field is requesting for empty 200 litre drums that can be used in stabilising the pit latrines from collapsing.
- Health and hygiene promotion remains a gap that needs to be urgently filled.

### *Food Aid*

- WFP have provided food in two distribution tranches. Initially, a 2 day emergency ration was provided to 37,682 people with a total of 40.7 MT. From 26 – 28 May 2008 following a headcount and registration exercise using tokens, 22,000 beneficiaries received a 15 day ration totalling 178.2MT. Light showers on Tuesday 28 May 2008 disrupted some of the distributions and distributions in Agok north will have to wait until the security situation in that area has stabilised.

### *Health/Nutrition*

- Ministry of Health (Government of South Sudan) is planning to send 9 medical officers in the coming days.
- IOM is supplying 14 tents to be used for supplementary medical services by MoH, ADRA, MFS-CH/CCM and GOAL.
- Joint Ministry of Health and WHO polio campaign has been scheduled for 4 – 6 June 2008, targeting the IDPs and the war affected host community.
- CCM is sending 6 months drug supply to Turalei hospital that is currently run by MSF-CH as a referral hospital for all patients in Twic County.
- Oxfam is completing a public health and hygiene promotion needs assessment that will guide in developing intervention plans.



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## Partnership for Humanity

- There is an urgent need for an ambulance to transfer patients from Agok and surrounding areas to the referral hospital in Turalei.
- WHO has pre-positioned 2 full emergency kits for 20,000 people sufficient for three months.
- WHO, MoH and partners strengthening early warning, alert and response system {EWARS} to catch the early warning signals of communicable diseases to avoid outbreaks.
- GOAL's 11 health clinics in Twic County are open and are providing services to both IDPs and resident population. Malnutrition is a major concern in Awal, Abatok and Rum-Amer. As soon as the security situation allows partners should prioritize food distribution in those areas.

### *Non-food items*

- By the end of 28 May 2008 about 6,450 kits will have been distributed in five locations (Agok airstrip 2,000, Manding Gok 1,000, Malual Aleu 1,450 from ICRC, Wauchin 1,000 and Joljok 1,000)

### *Protection*

- ICRC is running a tracing programme for unaccompanied minors and missing children.
- UNICEF continues to identify, register and facilitate reunification of children.

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