

# HUMANITARIAN Overview

1 FEBRUARY - 28 FEBRUARY 2007



PHOTO CREDIT: Derk Segaar / OCHA / 2006

OCHA led an interagency assessment to Jebel Marra in December 2006, where humanitarians have not had a permanent presence since autumn. UN and partners have started the distribution of medical supplies and blankets to IDPs (See message from the UN DSRSG/RC/HC on page 3).

### THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS:

- DARFUR UPDATE ON HUMANITARIAN ACCESS
- MESSAGE FROM THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR ON JEBEL MARRA
- MENINGITIS OUTBREAK UPDATE
- MEETINGS & EVENTS IN MARCH 2007

Welcome to the second issue of the Sudan Humanitarian Overview (SHO) for 2007. Produced by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in collaboration with other UN agencies and partner NGOs, the SHO aims to provide an overview of humanitarian trends and activities in Sudan, as well as focus on particular issues of interest. Send comments and contributions to [sho@unsudanig.org](mailto:sho@unsudanig.org)

## DARFUR

Clashes between government and rebel forces were quieter in the last three weeks of February compared to December and January. Aerial bombings also largely ceased. The Secretary-General condemned the preceding months' aerial bombings in his latest report on Darfur to the Security Council released on 28 February. However, inter-tribal fighting intensified, leading to hundreds of casualties and thousands being newly displaced. Overall, an additional 30,000 people were displaced in February. Humanitarian operations continue to suffer attacks at the same time as vulnerable groups are growing in number.

The most recent figures gathered by OCHA indicate that 30,000 people were displaced in February, bringing the total number of people that have fled the ongoing violence since the beginning of the year (1 Jan-28 Feb 2007) to 80,000. The largest number of **displacements** took place in South Darfur

(54,450), largely due to the GOS/militia attacks which started in December 2006 and sent 25,000 people fleeing into the bush (see related piece on the Jebel Marra). West and North Darfur follow with 12,595 and 11,500 displaced respectively. Inter-tribal fighting around Kass and South-East of Zalingei during the month has led to hundreds of casualties and thousands displaced. These figures do not include displacements that could not be monitored or verified, or those who temporarily hid in the bush following attacks on villages and other armed clashes (see chart on page 2).

**IDP Camps are reaching full capacity** due to the continuing population displacements. In North Darfur, As Salaam camp has been declared at full capacity, due to the lack of water sources to sustain additional incoming IDPs. Given that Abu Shouk has already been closed to additional IDPs and that Zam Zam is very close to its maximum capacity, a new location for a camp near El Fasher has to be found. Previous surveys have found few appropriate sites near El Fasher.

Sexual and physical **assault on civilians** continues to be reported on a daily basis, and three incidents this month were particularly indicative of the wide-spread climate of terror. On 7 February, three commercial trucks transporting relief supplies were attacked on three separate occasions on the route between Kabkabiya and El Fasher in North Darfur. While no

TOTAL DARFUR AFFECTED POPULATION JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2007			
	Total Affected	IDPs	Residents
Reached	2,996,640	1,685,489	1,311,151
Not Reached	900,712	342,269	558,443
<b>% Not Reached</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>30%</b>



## REASONS FOR DISPLACEMENTS IN DARFUR JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2007

Causes of displacement	Number Displaced
GoS/militia – rebel fighting	0
Gos/Militia attacks on villages	25,400
Militia attacks	15,995
SLA signatories attacks	8,500
SLA non-signatories attacks	0
Inter-tribal fighting	28,650
Intra-SLA fighting	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,545</b>

relief items were stolen, each time the attackers sexually assaulted female and physically assaulted male passengers. On 11 February, three armed men forcefully entered an NGO clinic in Mornei, West Darfur, at night, gathered all the patients and threatened their lives. On 17 February, some armed men believed to be militiamen entered Krinding II camp near Geneina and burnt one shelter. When some IDPs left their huts and protested, one of them was shot in the head and killed instantly.

Insecurity also continues to directly affect **humanitarian operations**, with 11 vehicles hijacked in February. In the same period, eight humanitarian convoys were ambushed and sometimes looted. One ambush was particularly violent: two NGO vehicles were sprayed with bullets, wounding a nurse from the Ministry of Health traveling with the convoy. Carjackings are not only affecting humanitarians: a vehicle belonging to the government Humanitarian Affairs Commission was hijacked in Geneina town, and later recuperated, as was one GoS Committee of Refugees vehicle on loan from the UN.

An armed break-in into an NGO compound in Um Dukhum in West Darfur led to the temporary relocation of most of the NGO's staff. On a positive note, four out of five WES staff members abducted on 25 October last year were finally released. The fifth member had been murdered.

Due to ongoing lobbying for the respect of **humanitarian space**, some armed groups seem to understand the severity of the current situation and the consequent risk that aid organisations will stop their operations as a result of the breakdown in security and lack of access to beneficiaries. Over the past month, joint efforts by a number of agencies have resulted in the return of three hijacked vehicles, including an ambulance, from the total 11 taken during the month.

**Bureaucratic impediments from the Government** including demands for travel permits, failure to extend permits and blocking of movement, continue to obstruct timely humanitarian response. Efforts to improve the humanitarian operational space have recently been stepped up both at Khartoum level with Government authorities and in Darfur with the different parties to the conflict. Advocacy at Khartoum level has resulted in most stay visas and work permits for expatriate NGO staff being extended by the Humanitarian Affairs Commission. UN staff members in North Darfur have been arbitrarily removed from UN

humanitarian flights on a nearly daily basis and GoS authorities are regularly **denying access** to UN missions to the field demanding travel permits, in contravention of the SOFA agreement. For example, a security assessment mission to Tanjiki (West Darfur) was blocked, delaying the delivery of humanitarian services to this conflict-affected area for an indefinite period. An AU patrol to the south of El Fasher was also harassed at different GoS check points and eventually forced to abandon its mission while a local SLA-MM commander denied access to an inter-agency assessment team in Muhajiriya. Travel permits to the El Geneina camps, West Darfur, continue to be inconsistently imposed on humanitarians.

Despite severe **access** restrictions, humanitarian organisations have been using every window of opportunity to provide assistance. Humanitarian activities were resumed in Tawilla and in Khazan Tungur (North Darfur). From the latter location, health services will also be provided to eastern Jebel Marra with a mobile clinic (see related message from the DSRSG/HC/RC). Following a security assessment, humanitarian operations have recommenced in Beida, Arara and Kongo Haraza in West Darfur. While some concrete steps have been taken with the SLA-MM to resume in Shangil Tobayi (North Darfur), international NGOs have not resumed presence in Gereida (South Darfur) due to a lack of sufficient safety guarantees for humanitarian workers. The humanitarian community continues to avoid a crisis through the use of air and commercial transport and implementing partners based in the community.

Other positive developments this month include the reversal by GoS authorities of an earlier decision to relocate the IDPs in Habilla (West Darfur) and to waive any monetary claims for land use. Following one confirmed case of polio in Chad just across the border, an accelerated polio vaccination campaign is being organized in North Darfur. UNICEF/WES and partners have initiated surveys of the water and sanitation conditions in the IDP camps in order to identify any gaps before the start of the rainy season.

### ABYEI

Aid workers are responding to a **measles outbreak** and possible **meningitis outbreak** in **Abyei** (see *story on meningitis outbreak in Southern Sudan on page 4*). While most measles cases were in the town, there was concern the disease may spread to the remote villages far from the medical help of the hospital. Medecines sans Frontieres has brought in a support team of a doctor, a nurse and logistics officer from Geneva and will lead the vaccination campaign with vaccines supplied by the Ministry of Health. However, at the end of the month the vaccines had not been received from Khartoum. More vehicles are arriving from Khartoum to support the operation.

Also in Abyei, UNICEF has drilled 14 boreholes fitted with hand pumps in the last three weeks. In addition, Save the Children-US has so far completed 13 hand pumps in returnee villages. Both organizations plan to drill a total of 70 hand pumps and 2 water yards before the rainy season.

While humanitarian/development agencies continue to enjoy unrestricted movement to areas North of Abyei, authorities have again imposed restrictions on UNMIS patrols to areas North of Abyei. Similar restrictions were imposed in December 2005 until November 2006, when permits were given on a monthly renewable basis. The restriction on UNMIS may also affect the clearing of the proposed airstrip 8 km North of Abyei town which could affect the delivery of relief supplies by air.



## MESSAGE FROM THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

This month, I took advantage of the recently re-established access to **Jebel Marra** to lead a mission with OCHA, WFP and UNICEF to two locations in the region where armed clashes between the GoS and Abdul Wahid's faction of the SLA have led to large-scale displacement. Most of the fighting, which according to reports on the ground included aerial bombing, use of gunships and ground troops, took place in December and January, although conflict has continued as recently as early February. Humanitarian aid workers had to be relocated and tens of thousand of civilians have fled, many of them hiding in the bush or in the mountains. The harsh environment of this mountainous region and lack of assistance has put a large number of people, particularly of women and children, at risk.

In meetings with the SLA field commanders in Deribat and Rowatta, I emphasised the increasing insecurity faced by humanitarian workers, particularly car-jackings, and reiterated the Commanders' responsibility to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian operations within their area of control. I also noted that such attacks were not taking place with anonymity: we have reliable reports on who the perpetrators are and we fully expect those responsible to be held accountable.

The Commanders' reassured us that the security and safety of humanitarian operations in areas under their control was a priority, and committed themselves to reasserting this control. I feel a common understanding was reached on both the type of humanitarian issues being faced by the people of Deribat, and the security issues limiting the operations of humanitarian workers, and that the UN and SLA respectively would commit to addressing these issues.

We are looking forward to the speedy resumption of humanitarian operations in the area. Already, in response

## SOUTHERN SUDAN

**A severe meningitis outbreak has spread in areas in Southern Sudan. Humanitarian partners are responding with the government but some activities, such as returns and food distributions, have had to be temporarily halted. The LRA cessation of hostilities agreement expired on 28 February, raising concerns of new insecurity. A visit from the Special Envoy, Joaquim Chissano, is expected in March to follow up with the delegations and mediation team on his January visit.**

Although no serious attacks on humanitarian workers have been indicated in February, **security** incidents were reported in several states. In Jamam town (Upper Nile State), local tensions have reportedly resulted in 281 homes being burned and over 800 being looted. 300 households were left homeless and scattered in nearby villages, and some 1,000 highly vulnerable – both groups in urgent need of food and non-food items (NFIs) assistance.



Fred Noy/UNMIS-PIO/2006

to community requests, UNICEF will undertake a mission to three locations in the Jebel Marra – Rowatto, Rokerro and Daya – to conduct vaccinations, distributions of non-food items and meet with the communities in the first week of March

Negotiation at the field level reinforces the higher level advocacy strategies that are currently ongoing in Khartoum, and underscores the importance of lobbying both Government and rebel parties. I hope that we, as the humanitarian community, can build on the success of Jebel Marra to secure the guarantees we need to return – and stay and work – in other areas.

Manuel Aranda da Silva  
UN DSRSG/RC/HC

Relief International and other NGOs in the area are to conduct an inter-agency assessment in early March. The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has stocks of non-food items (NFIs) in Malakal, as well as education supplies, ready to be dispatched as needed; the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) has already re-supplied the local clinic with medicines.

In some areas of Jonglei State, sporadic attacks by cattle raiders are still reported by villagers. On 18 February, in the village of Lualdit, gunshots were reportedly fired following one of these attacks, leaving one attacker dead.

The Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of Uganda and the "Lord's Resistance Army" (LRA) expired on 28 February; the next visit of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for LRA affected areas, President Joaquim Chissano, to the region is viewed as the possibility to move the **peace talks** forward. The talks aim at ending two decades of war and humanitarian crisis in Uganda and in Southern Sudan; if they fail, this could have security and



humanitarian implications for Southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Central African Republic (CAR).

**Meningitis** continues to be of great concern. The outbreak has reached the epidemic threshold in several areas of Southern Sudan. From 29 January to 25 February, 1,194 cases of suspected meningitis were reported, leading to 60 known deaths, with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) month when 114 deaths were reported, i.e. a CFR was 10.87%. This suggests that the response of prevention and treatment is effective; surveillance systems are limited and prevent a clear analysis of the epidemiological situation (*see map of meningitis outbreak in Southern Sudan on page 6*).

Over 100,000 people have so far been vaccinated in Southern Sudan (in particular in Warrap and Central Equatoria states). Humanitarian organizations in support of the Ministry of Health (MoH), are ensuring that necessary doses of vaccine are obtained. An application for provision of vaccines has been raised through the World Health Organization (WHO) with the ICG Geneva for nearly 300,000 doses to cover five payams in four states (Central and Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, and Warrap), and an application from Médecins Sans Frontières – France (MSF-F) to ICG Geneva for a further 300,000 doses to cover areas of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State. Over 500,000 further doses have been requested by the WHO and MSF-F, from ICG, to cover three payams of Juba County. In partnership with NGOs on the ground, WHO leads the effort so that all relevant organizations produce timely standard reports and surveillance data formats distributed by the MoH. A two-day training programme on outbreak investigation and response, conducted by WHO and the MoH, has been planned for 2 to 3 March, for surveillance focal points from all ten states. Through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), OCHA is ensuring that emergency response will be supported by funding projects for an amount of USD60,000 to 80,000. As disease transmission is more common during the dry season, there are fears that it will continue to claim lives this year until May or June; it is hoped that thanks to the current efforts, the Government and of humanitarian actors will be in a position to provide vaccination and treatment to the extents required.

Cases of **acute watery diarrhoea** (AWD), which may include



Fred Noy/UNMIS-PIO/2007

On February 13, 85 people (25 families) left Kostis Way Station on their way to Kadugli in the third Internally Displaced person (IDP) organised return convoy.

cholera, continue to be reported almost exclusively in Central and Eastern Equatoria states, and in Upper Nile State. As of 4 March, 1,123 cases had been reported since the beginning of the year, with 29 deaths. In Juba, Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-E) has almost completed the set up of a cholera treatment centre. Preventing the spread of the disease is the first priority for the agencies supporting the Government and the UN and partners are stepping up again the prevention through chlorination of water tankers in Juba and Malakal as a first step.

The Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA) for Southern Sudan that was had been led by the World Food Programme (WFP) was released in February; it indicates that **food security** should improve in 2007, with a 19 percent drop in food aid requirements from last year. This happened thanks to favourable rainfall and to markets opening. WFP estimates that 108,000 MT of food aid will still be required by 1.3 million people in the year; 60 % of which will be required by the chronically food insecure households during the April to July "hunger season."

In February, WFP was due to assist 159,646 beneficiaries with 3,641 metric tonnes (MT) of food, in various locations throughout Southern Sudan. Unfortunately, general **food distribution** had to be suspended in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State due to the outbreak of meningitis: a government decree currently prevents people from gathering in one place, which halted WFP food distribution. In preparation for the rainy season, WFP is expanding its storage capacity to ensure that 42,000 MT of food are pre-positioned as close as possible to beneficiaries, based on predicted needs, and especially in areas that will become inaccessible during the rainy season. OCHA has continued training in February of "**Emergency Response Teams**" (ERTs) at state level. ERT teams will be composed of national and international staff of humanitarian agencies and organizations and the State Government will be expected to be in charge of coordinating relief efforts in the event of natural and human-made disasters. During the month, two ERT trainings took place, targeting 30 team members from four states.

In its efforts for the **protection** of the most vulnerable, the United Nations organized on 20 February a one-day workshop on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). After claims of sexual abuse by international humanitarian staff, in particular against children, the workshop was aimed at promoting awareness of how to prevent and respond to alleged cases of SEA. The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and the United Nations are to set up a task force to address the problem, through the establishment of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, as well as awareness campaigns.

#### Welcome to the UN Common Map Shop !

The Map Shop is a joint effort of several UN agencies, created with the intention of providing map products to the wider humanitarian community. We have over 450 different maps of Sudan in a variety of sizes and formats, available free of charge to humanitarian organizations, donors, and government. We are located on the first floor of the OCHA office, Bldg. 290 in Garden City, Khartoum (across from UNMIS). We are open Sunday - Thursday, 9:00 - 15:30.

You may view and download most of our maps at:

<http://www.unsudanig.org/library/mapcatalogue/sudan/index.php>



## RETURNS

February saw the first organized returns in 2007 of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Khartoum and neighbouring areas to the South, with close to 1,000 IDPs arriving to Unity State out of the 6,600 expected. The journey from Khartoum takes three days, with overnight stops at way stations in Kosti and Kadugli. Reception committees established by the local authorities and communities with support from international organizations were in place to welcome returnees. Many residents gathered along the route singing and cheering to welcome the IDPs back home. A way station is being established in the state capital Bentiu to provide overnight assistance to returnees, which will allow to begin returning IDPs to areas further south in Unity State. The Government, along with the United Nations and partners, plan to assist up to 90,000 IDPs to return from the north (excluding Darfur) to the South during 2007.

Return Route depicting the four day trip from Khartoum to Kadugli (Heiban, Kauda and Ira) in the third IDP organised return convoy organised by the Government of National Unity (GNU), The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). (source: UNMIS-PIO).

Three other **organized return operations of IDPs** are planned for 2007 in Southern Sudan. For the operation from Wau County (Western Bahr el-Ghazal State) to Warrap State, registration started on 23 February. The movement will start over the next weeks, and will see the return of approximately 10,000 IDPs. The return of IDPs from South Darfur to Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State will begin in early March, as it has been delayed due to wet road conditions, and to the need to vaccinate IDPs against meningitis prior to the operation. In the return of ethnic Dinka IDPs from the Equatoria States to Bor (Jonglei State), a second movement took place on 02 February by barge chartered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), carrying 312 IDPs.

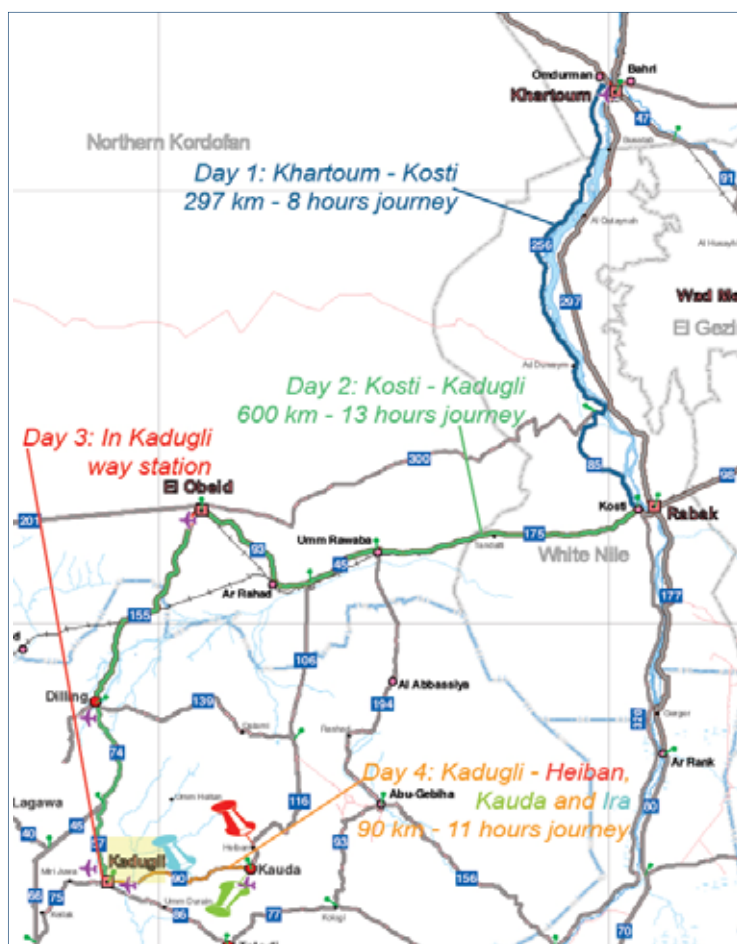
The road between Aweil and Meiram in South Darfur has been nearly completed. The new road will make Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal State accessible throughout the year from Northern Sudan; this will boost local economic activities and improve access for humanitarian partners. This is particularly important now, as local communities prepare to receive returnees from South Darfur.

During February, organized voluntary **repatriation of refugees** took place from the Central African Republic (CAR), the

### ONLINE CONTACT DATABASE

The online contact database for the UN, NGOs and key government authorities, launched by the OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU), is available at: <http://www.unsudan.info/contacts/>

The database can be searched by various fields, such as name, job title, organisation, acronym, sector and state, and query results can be printed or saved in a variety of formats. There is also a link for updating or correcting existing information. Please direct your inquiries to: [ochasudan@un.org](mailto:ochasudan@un.org)



Return Route depicting the four-day trip from Khartoum to Kadugli (Heiban, Kauda and Ira) in the third IDP organised return convoy organised by the Government of National Unity (GNU), The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS). (source: UNMIS-PIO)

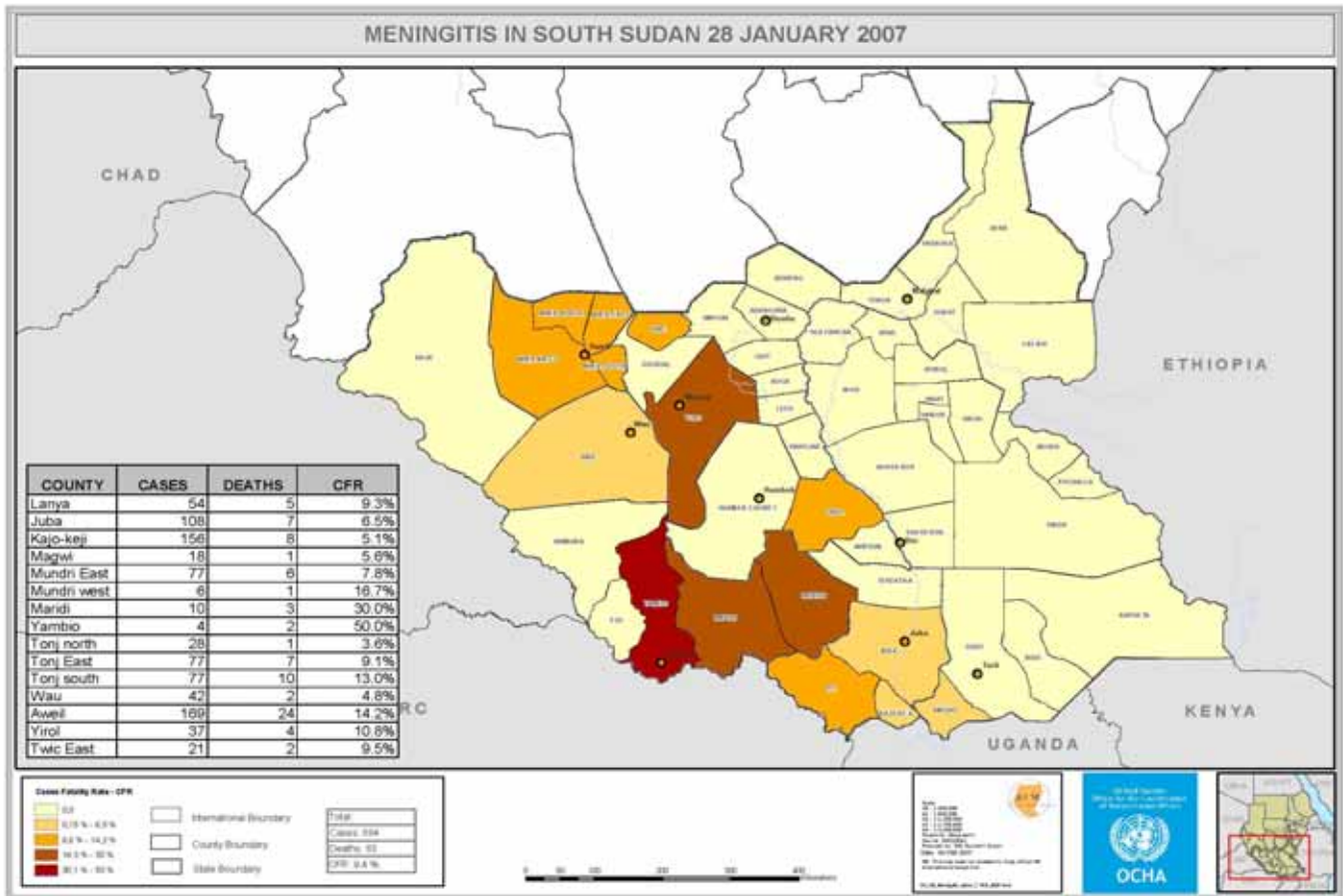
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Kenya, numbering 876, 150, and 745 individuals respectively [up to 24 February]. Organized repatriation from Uganda is on hold due to the outbreak of meningitis in Northern Uganda. Organized repatriation from Ethiopia, which was on hold due to concerns about mine clearance of roads to be used, is due to resume on 26 February. During the month, spontaneous returns from CAR, DRC, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda have been assisted, for a total of 803 individuals – a figure significantly lower than 2,080 such returns during January. The WFP provided food aid to over 4,000 Sudanese refugees who had returned from Ethiopia to Jonglei State, including food rations for most of the 1,035 youth, mostly male, who had spontaneously walked from Dimma Camp in Ethiopia to Boma (Jonglei State) last month.

Over 200 vulnerable people of the **M'bororo ethnic group** remain hosted at the Juba way station. The United Nations, IOM and partners, are finalizing preparations for their movement to Blue Nile State; there are logistic constraints and non-vulnerable individuals will move overland with their cattle.

Immunisation against measles took place in February for all members of the group aged six months to 15 years. In the north-eastern part of Southern Sudan, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) distributed 6,000 doses cattle vaccines in cattle camps ran by ethnic M'bororos.



**MENINGITIS OUTBREAK IN SOUTHERN SUDAN** (See page 4 for story)



**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS OF NOTE IN MARCH 2007**

\*For full information on meetings go to the meeting schedule on [www.unsudanig.org](http://www.unsudanig.org)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01 MARCH	02 MARCH	03 MARCH
				11:00 Common Pipeline Management Meeting, OCHA 11:00 Cooperating Partner Coordination Meeting for Central, East and three areas, WFP	2-4 March LRA Crisis Meeting—Juba	UN Special Envoy Joachim Chlsano Mission to Southern Sudan-Juba
04 MARCH	05 MARCH	06 MARCH	07 MARCH	08 MARCH	09 MARCH	10 MARCH
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA  National AIDS Survey Meeting - Khartoum, Pharmacists Union Club - VIP room	12:00 SGBV Core Group, UNFPA 13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP, TBC 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor briefing, UNDP	11:00 IAWG, OCHA	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 09:00 Reproductive Health, UNFPA 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 15:30 WATSAN, UNICEF	14:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare 14:00 Logistics meeting for Darfur & RoS, UNDP		
11 MARCH	12 MARCH	13 MARCH	14 MARCH	15 MARCH	16 MARCH	17 MARCH
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA 15:00 Health, WHO	10:00 Food Sector Coordination Darfur/RoS, HAC 11:00 KHT State Inter-Agency, FAR	13:00 KHT Protection WG, UNHCR  13–15 March, Regional Training on HIV & Gender Based Violence in Emergencies—Nairobi	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA  14-16 March & 19-21 March, 2007 HIV Regional Estimates Training—Johannesburg	11:00 Nutrition, UNICEF 11:00 NFI Coordination meeting - Darfur, OCHA	10:00 PI/Info Working Group, OCHA-Juba	
18 MARCH	19 MARCH	20 MARCH	21 MARCH	22 MARCH	23 MARCH	24 MARCH
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA	12:00 SGBV Core Group, UNFPA 13:00 UN Sector Coordinators RoS, UNDP, TBC 14:00 UN Sector Coordinators Darfur, UNDP 15:15 UN Donor briefing, UNDP	11:00 IAWG, OCHA	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 11:00 Food Security and Livelihoods sector, FAO	11:00 NFI Coordination meeting - RoS, OCHA 14:00 Child Protection, National Council for Child Welfare	22-26 March ,ERC Mission to Sudan	
25 MARCH	26 MARCH	27 MARCH	28 MARCH	29 MARCH	30 MARCH	31 MARCH
12:00 Return and Reintegration WG, OCHA 15:00 Health, WHO	11:00 KHT State Inter-Agency, FAR	13:00 KHT Protection WG, UNHCR	08:30 UN Security Brief for NGOs, UNDSS 11:00 KPSG, OCHA 11:00 Education, UNICEF Darfur Emergency Coordination Office	27-30 March ,ERC Mission to Chad & CAR	10:00 PI/Info Working Group, OCHA-Juba	