

## Briefing: Southern Sudan

Three issues lie at the heart of concern for humanitarian actors in Southern Sudan: tribal clashes, north-south movements and breakdown of security. So far this year, 407 people have been reported killed in inter- and intra-tribal violence or clashes between civilians and security forces, adding to 216 killed in the last two weeks of December alone. According to reports by authorities and assessment teams, an estimated 40,843 people were displaced in January and February. Warrap along the border of Unity state has been particularly affected, and with little UN and NGO presence, the area remains difficult to reach. Tension persists on the border between Warrap and Lakes states in Cueibet County, where a tribe clashed with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), killing more than 20 people and displacing an unknown number.

At least 25 emergency operations were underway in February in nine of the south's 10 states, including in Lakes, the border between Warrap and Unity, and in Tonj counties in Warrap. There is also ongoing response in Akobo in Jonglei and in Ezo in Western Equatoria.

Efforts are underway to track the number of displaced people who have been unable to return home. WFP food distribution figures, UN and NGO presence on the ground and reports from the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission estimate that 231,000 people displaced during 2009 remained displaced at the end of the year. Verification of these figures continues this year. In February, humanitarian actors also focused on responding to earlier displacements, including in Unity, where cross-border tribal fighting in Warrap displaced several thousand people into the towns, and lack of water is a major concern. Across the three northern Unity counties, water shortages remain an issue that compounds ongoing conflicts. In addition, a pharmaceutical supply gap following procurement delays worsened over the month. Reports of essential drug shortages in health facilities reliant on Ministry of Health drug kits have been received from 43 of 79 counties across Southern Sudan.

### Misseriya migration

Migration of pastoralists in search of water and pasture resources began early, as the last rainy season was poor. (> p. 2)



Guldo village in Jebel Marra, West Darfur

Inger-Johanne Tjøflaat/OCHA

## Darfur: Hurrying up and waiting

As concerns grow over the impact of recent fighting, humanitarians push to respond

Jebel Marra is the breadbasket of Sudan's Darfur region – an area that covers roughly 12,800 square kilometres across all three Darfur states and is home to some 300,000 people. A stronghold of the rebel Sudan Liberation Army – Abdul Wahid faction (SLA-AW), the area has frequently witnessed fighting at the beginning of the year, often temporarily displacing local people from their homes.

Recent fighting in Jebel Marra appears to fit this pattern, with the consequences no less serious for affected people. In January and February, a series of clashes broke out between rival SLA-AW factions, forcing as many as 4,000 households to seek refuge around Nertiti, Thur and Guldo in western Jebel Marra. Separate fighting in eastern Jebel Marra in late February and early March may have displaced tens of thousands of people, but a lack of access has complicated verification efforts.

Based on projected scenarios, the humanitarian community has sufficient supplies to respond effectively in both areas, but access constraints – particularly in eastern Jebel Marra, where fighting continues – could undermine the timeliness of this response. Working with all parties to establish safe, reliable humanitarian access is paramount.

### Western Jebel Marra

Internal disagreements among SLA-AW commanders reportedly erupted into

violent clashes in western Jebel Marra on 5 January, coming to an end a week later but re-igniting at the end of the month. The affected area, mainly around Nertiti, is now mostly calm, and humanitarian partners are working to verify how many people were displaced and meet their needs.

Establishing these needs with certainty has posed a significant challenge, as several inter-sector missions to the area were unable to meet with displaced people, who have tended to mix with earlier IDP groups and host communities. Instead, humanitarian workers were often presented with lists of new IDPs – upwards of 6,500 households in some cases – that did not always appear to match evidence on the ground. Independent verification is a critical component of principled humanitarian action, and assessment missions continued to visit the area, with a recent visit to Nertiti estimating 2,000 newly displaced households.

Distribution of relief supplies immediately began based on this assessment, with UNHCR and NGO partners completing delivery of non-food items and shelter materials at the end of February. The Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) has managed food aid for 5,850 households in Nertiti based on its own estimates, as well as 1,760 households in neighbouring Thur.

(> p. 2)

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(Southern Sudan, cont.)

This could increase the possibility of violent conflict over scarce resources. Migration traditionally takes place through four corridors, of which only one is secured by state migration agreements. In one clash between Arab Misseriya pastoralists and the SPLA on 4 February north of Abiemnom, Unity state, 20 people were reported killed, and 21 wounded.

**Food and Livelihoods**

In response to the massive food deficit projected by the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA), which estimates that 4.3 million people will need food assistance at some point during 2010, WFP is pre-positioning almost 60,000 MT of food. Almost half of this assistance is destined for Jonglei state, which has been hard-hit by food insecurity and tribal conflict. In 2010, Southern Sudan faces a cereal deficit of 225,000 MT, according to the FAO/WFP-led Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM).

**Humanitarian coordination**

The first Southern Sudan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) met in Juba in early February; it includes UN agencies, NGOs, international organizations and donors. Projects to ensure procurement and pre-positioning of emergency assistance have been cleared for funding through the Common Humanitarian Fund. Vaccines, emergency drugs, non-food items, seeds and tools, water purification chemicals and hand-pump spare parts will need to be in place in distribution hubs across Southern Sudan before the rainy season starts, normally in May, when access to remote communities can be cut off.

(Darfur, cont.)

**Eastern Jebel Marra**

Determining exact caseloads is difficult in western Jebel Marra, but in eastern Jebel Marra, humanitarian partners have not been able to enter conflict-affected areas at all – a situation that leaves local civilians exposed to significant risks. Local reports have indicated conflict-related displacements, mostly in South Darfur, but verification remains a serious challenge.

Given the complete lack of access to the areas of eastern Jebel Marra where fighting has been reported, humanitarian agencies can neither assess people's needs nor independently verify reports of large-scale displacements. Indications that humanitarian assets have been looted in some areas affected by the recent fighting are concerning, as this will further exacerbate local people's vulnerability. Interruptions to service provision by affected organizations are likely to follow, meaning that surrounding communities could be affected as well.

For these reasons, pressing for safe access throughout Jebel Marra remains the humanitarian community's primary objective, as it is the first step in delivering assistance to people in need. Health services are entirely unavailable in the area at present, and gaps in water and sanitation, as well as livelihoods assistance, will almost certainly have a negative impact on local families. Recent efforts by humanitarian partners have focussed on preparedness – pre-positioning critical supplies and planning for response operations – so that when the time comes, assistance can reach those in need as quickly as possible.



**Darfur: Gaining entry in the Northern Corridor**

Violence in the Northern Corridor, Jebel Moon and Selea areas of northern West Darfur state peaked in mid-February, exacerbating the area's insecurity, displacing local residents and restricting humanitarian access. The fighting displaced an unconfirmed number of people from Jebel Moon into Selea (63 km north of El Geneina) and the surrounding areas, with others said to have been displaced into Chad and out of Selea.

These events have undermined humanitarian access in the Northern Corridor, which had been characterized by serious access restrictions for some time. In Selea, only one international NGO, Concern, had staff based in town, but was forced to relocate non-local staff to El Geneina due to insecurity. Recent fighting also cut off access to some villages outside Kulbus altogether.

Efforts by the humanitarian community helped to improve access in early March, and flights in the Northern Corridor resumed after a month of total inaccessibility. On 3 March, partners

delivered a three-month supply of medicine to Kulbus hospital, in addition to critical supplies for health facilities in the area. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern, UNHCR, UNJLC and OCHA conducted a joint assessment in Selea on 4 March, but road and flight restrictions were re-introduced that day and remain in effect.

Committed to providing relief despite these restrictions, organizations in Kulbus have adopted innovative strategies to keep aid flowing in the area, including sending community health workers on horseback in order to manage common illnesses.

Elsewhere in the area, OCHA and UNAMID organized a special flight to deliver assistance to Seraf Jidad (41 km NW of El Geneina) on 2 March – the first time since July 2009. Relief supplies included supplies from WHO for the Seraf Jidad clinic, as well as school and recreation supplies from CRS. Seraf Jidad was repopulated when about 1,400 IDP households returned from El Geneina and Armankul in April 2009.



The Northern Corridor of West Darfur



Duk Padiet,  
Jonglei  
state

## Southern Sudan in focus: Jonglei state

Rising insecurity and shortages of food put more residents at risk this year

The violence that escalated in Southern Sudan last year has continued into 2010. Following a series of incidents between March and August 2009, Jonglei, the largest state in Southern Sudan, has suffered disproportionately. Insecurity has inflicted fear and trauma on the local population, disrupting agricultural life and preventing children from going to school. The implication for food security is striking: nearly 60 percent of households in the state are vulnerable to moderate or severe food insecurity and may remain or become severely food insecure in the coming year. At only 24 percent coverage, Jonglei also has the lowest vaccination rate among children in Southern Sudan.

### Inter-tribal conflict

As a result of continuous inter-ethnic clashes, an estimated 64,710 people who were displaced in 2009 were unable to return homes at the end of the year. Of these, half remained displaced in Akobo County. Of the 60 conflict incidents with fatalities reported across Southern Sudan this year, more than half have taken place in Jonglei, displacing around 21,000 people.

Recent fighting in the state includes an attack in Atar payam in Canal County on 31 December, in which four people were killed and 150 tukuls burnt to the ground. The attack was believed to be part of a wave of attacks among tribal groups, reportedly caused by a range of issues, from land ownership to political disputes. In the Atar incident, it was reported that 1,000 women, girls, boys and men that had fled their homes during fighting in Canal a few months earlier were once again uprooted.

In January there were also tensions between Murle and Dinka tribes in Bor county, with several cattle-raiding incidents reportedly displacing some 6,000 people. Although total casualties were limited compared to other conflicts in the south in the past months, the attacks showed a similar pattern as the violence last year that culminated in about 1,000 people killed. This year has also seen fighting between Dinka and Nuer in Kolanyang, between Canal and Fangak counties in northern Jonglei, with several clashes reported from 15 to 21 January following a cattle-raiding incident, causing an estimated 15,000 people to flee their homes. In addition to cattle disputes, land and border issues also incite conflict, aggravated by a lack of roads and infrastructure, limited recourse to justice, as well as food insecurity and poor water access. A series of revenge attacks among Nuer, Murle and Dinka groups last year in Akobo inflicted fear in the local population. Akobo holds the highest number of displaced people in the state.

### Why so conflict-prone?

Insecurity in Jonglei dates back to the time of the civil war, and there is a long history of attacks and counter-attacks among ethnic tribes. Jonglei remains one of the most underdeveloped regions in the world, and peace dividends, including access to basic health care, education, food and clean water, have been slow to materialize. With different ethnic communities migrating seasonally to sustain cattle and preserve their pastoralist life,

### State risk profile: Jonglei

**Typical risks:** Impacts of drought and floods both affect food security in Jonglei. Inter-tribal conflicts, which increased in 2009, have resulted in significant loss of life and have spread persistent instability. Limited access to counties due to poorly developed road networks and communications infrastructure also contribute to instability. Competition over grazing lands and water resources is a destabilizing factor. Proliferation of arms among the civilian population contributes to tensions and results in high casualty figures when violence erupts.

**Risks and vulnerabilities in 2010:** Tensions and possible conflict exist between the main ethnic groups Dinka, Lou Nuer, Jikany Nuer, Murle and Mundari. Areas where violence is most likely include Pibor, Akobo, Twic East, Duk, Old Fangak counties and the borders along Central and Eastern Equatoria. Food insecurity is likely to be centred in Akobo and adjacent counties.

(Source: UN & Partners Humanitarian Work Plan 2010)

access to water and grazing areas as well as cattle rustling are triggers for conflict. A mass of small arms and light weapons among the civilian population is also a factor behind the high casualty figures. Six counties in the state (Bor, Twic East, Duk, Ayod, Wuror and Nyirol) have been disarmed, with a total of 6,000 arms collected. From Fangak, disarmament is reportedly slow because of a lack of confidence in the process. Disarmament can leave communities feeling unprotected unless other groups are disarmed simultaneously or sufficient provisions for security and protection are put in place. In Bor county, insufficient presence and capacity of security forces following disarmament activities has been reported despite deployment of police and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to cover the perceived security gap. An additional concern is the lack of communications equipment to request assistance in case of attack.

### Food security and access

Jonglei is also heavily affected by food shortages. According to the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment (ANLA), 30 percent of the state population is projected to be severely food insecure in 2010, and 28 percent moderately food insecure because of conflict and drought. Food deficits may increase competition for scarce resources and the chances of conflict.

In February, a nutrition survey was conducted in Akobo by Save the Children and Medair. Final results are pending, but initial information showed Global Acute Malnutrition rates of up to 45 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition rates of up to 15 percent. Focus groups led by Medair revealed that people interviewed ate only two meals per day at most, mainly the wild fruit lalop, gathered in the forest, supplemented by honey mixed with water. A lack of seeds and tools was also reported, as was a reluctance to return to Nyandit, five hours by foot from Akobo town, from where many were displaced in April 2009. Bad harvests the last few years and insecurity contributed to the fear of returning.

Ongoing violence has negatively impacted the ability of traders to reach markets. As a result, food commodities in various locations have become more scarce and more expensive, further exacerbated by delayed rains, poor harvests and crop failure. WFP has dispatched 20,300 MT of food to Pibor, Akobo, Pochalla and Duk counties, among other areas.

### Health

The latest figures from the Ministry of Health on the routine expanded program on immunization (EPI) from mid-February showed encouraging signs of improvement for some southern states. Jonglei, however, had the lowest coverage of a combination of vaccines against three infectious diseases in humans: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus (DPT). Only 24 percent of the children in the state are covered, highlighting the lack of access to basic health care. In addition, six of nine counties in Jonglei reported a drug stock-out in health facilities reliant on Ministry of Health drug kits.

## Insight: The Transitional Areas

### Abyei

As the annual Misseriya migration continues south, tensions have flared over nomads' entry into Unity and Warrab states in Southern Sudan. Confrontations with the SPLA have prevented many Misseriya and their cattle from leaving the Muglad and Abyei areas, straining local resources and fuelling instability. Security concerns limit humanitarian access, although efforts continue to focus on the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly pastoralists and displaced people returning to Abyei. In February, humanitarian partners warned of food shortages following a longer than usual dry season. School feeding, water and sanitation, and NFI programmes are ongoing, as is coordination with local authorities to encourage a smooth process for the estimated 45,000 to 60,000 returns of displaced people by June.

### Southern Kordofan

People displaced in 2008-09 to Rihaid Himaidan (40 km from Muglad) continue to confront a lack of basic services. Poor harvests have exacerbated this challenge, and roughly 25 percent of children under 5 in the community are exposed to moderate malnutrition.

Water shortages have been reported in areas where nomads, refused entry to Southern Sudan, have gathered around Muglad. Assessments indicate that these shortages do not pose a significant humanitarian risk and mainly affect livestock. Humanitarian partners are addressing the issue by focusing on the rehabilitation of boreholes and other measures.

## From Darfur to Southern Sudan, and back again

Bileil IDP camp in South Darfur sits 18 kilometres from the state capital, Nyala, and is currently home to an estimated 32,000 people, most of whom fled Southern Sudan during the civil war. New arrivals came in 2005, mainly fleeing conflict in Shaeria locality in South Darfur. A similar profile describes neighbouring Al Salam camp, where some 65,000 IDPs have been living since 2005.

Starting in January, new families started arriving in these camps, the majority of them in Bileil. Following reported attacks in October and December 2009 by Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Southern Sudanese state of Western Bahr el Ghazal, some residents fled to South Darfur in search of safety.

In a sense, they had also come home. Originally from the Goz el Gharbi area of South Darfur, fighting in Darfur had previously forced these families, mostly of the Zaghawa tribe, into Southern Sudan in 2004.

The total number of arrivals is only around 30 households, but the return to their native area – five years later, and still as IDPs – in many ways

exemplifies typical displacement trends in Sudan, a phenomenon that can affect the same people over and over, driving them across borders and back again. As a consequence, these families also demonstrate the need for coordinated humanitarian assistance across borders, in spite – or because of – the very different conditions in Darfur and Southern Sudan.

IDP families continue to trickle into Bileil camp – 13 more arrived in early March – and all have food ration cards from Southern Sudan. Although the reported LRA attacks occurred as long ago as October 2009, new arrivals continue to flee five months later.

WFP and the Sudan Popular Committee for Relief have led verification efforts, followed by a joint assessment by UNAMID, the Gender Advisory Unit, UNFPA and OCHA. These activities formed the basis for NFI and emergency shelter distributions by Norwegian Church Aid and UNJLC, with water access provided by existing camp facilities. This is probably not the first time in this process for many affected households, most of which are currently headed by single women.

## Donor contributions/pledges to the Common Humanitarian Fund, 2006–2010

| Donor          | 2006 Contributions   | 2007 Contributions | 2008 Contributions   | 2009 Contributions    | Current 2010 Pledges |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Denmark        | -                    | -                  | 0.4 million*         | -                     | 4.8 million          |
| Ireland        | 2.5 million          | 4 million          | 6.3 million          | 3.9 million           | 4.3 million          |
| Netherlands    | 51.3 million         | 37 million         | 25.6 million         | 23.8 million          | 12 million           |
| Norway         | 14 million           | 17.5 million       | 17 million           | 16 million            | 15.5 million         |
| Spain          | -                    | 9.5 million        | -                    | 8.65 million**        | 8 million***         |
| Sweden         | 16 million           | 20 million         | 20.6 million         | 14.7 million          | 10.6 million         |
| United Kingdom | 88.5 million         | 79 million         | 79.5 million         | 49.4 million          | 57.4 million         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>172.3 million</b> | <b>167 million</b> | <b>149.4 million</b> | <b>116.45 million</b> | <b>112.6 million</b> |

All figures in US dollars

\* 2007 contribution which was transferred in 2008

\*\* 2008 contribution which was transferred in 2009

\*\*\* 2009 contribution which was transferred in 2010

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