



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 09, 2-8 March 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Some parts/roads in Central Equatoria increased from security level two to three, escort required.
- ✚ Sudanese refugee repatriation from Uganda may increase to 3,250 per week.
- ✚ Measles – 24 cases and one death confirmed at hospital.
- ✚ Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) / cholera records 137 cases in Khaldak area.
- ✚ More disease outbreaks likely when rainy season starts soon.
- ✚ Over 1 million children were immunized, 5-8 March

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

- The security level in various areas of Central Equatoria has been increased from level 2 to level 3, including route stretches like Pisak-Rassolo, Miden to Katigiri, Gimunu to Kalipapa, Lire-Rado and a point on the Juba/Kajo Keji road due west of Lobonok-Limuro-Wuji-Dongoro-Kala-Kansuk-Lire. Security level 3 requires all convoys to have armed escorts. UN security is monitoring the situation and advising agencies.
- The security situation in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) along the boarder with Southern Khordofan and Southern Darfur continued to be tense by end of week and overall remains fragile and unpredictable.
- Due to insecurity at the boarder, the road through Meream in Southern Kordofan to NBeG remains largely closed to road transport. This has affected humanitarian supplies expected to come into NBeG from Northern Sudan.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

- On 7 March, UNMIS/RRR attended the ceremony to launch the rehabilitation of Yambio-Diabio-Tambura-Wau road. The Yambio-Tambura road forms part of the Western Corridor connecting Farsika-Maridi- Yambio-Tambura-Wau road funded by USAID. The Yambio-Tambura road will be an all weather gravel road of 185 kilometers long. Demining of certain sections of the road and rehabilitation works on four of its bridges are planned.
- OCHA Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Evaline Dianga arrived in Juba 26th February 2008. She is reachable on the following contacts: VSAT: +4724237828 - 35 Ext. 1070, Juba Mobile: +256477111599, Thuraya: +8821643341394 and Emails: dianga@un.org.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) (from OCHA)

- Increasing displacements into the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warap areas are predicted following fighting in the border area between Northern Bahr al Ghazal

(NBEG)/Warrap and Southern Khordofan/Southern Darfur over the weekend (1-2 March), which claimed over 60-70 lives. Humanitarian impact of the fighting is not yet determined.

- If large-scale insecurity continues Abyei, it is anticipated that it could displace over 50,000 people. Interagency contingency plans are being developed for that worst case scenario.
- UNICEF participated in the verification and monitoring of returnees in Malengagok, Pachong and Aduel payams in Rumbek East. A monitoring mission was conducted in the IDP village of Liath (NBeG). Two recreational kits were donated and will benefit vulnerable children in the camp.
- In Korfulus, UNICEF registered 42 children associated with fighting forces.

Refugees (from UNMIS/RRR)

- UNHCR will step up repatriation of refugees from Uganda by introducing commercial trucks for transportation purposes. While the current movement is up to 1,200 individuals per week after the introduction of the commercial trucks, the movement capacity is expected to increase to 3,250 per week. Commercial trucks will transport refugees from Uganda to the boarder with Nimule from where UNHCR will transport them to Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria State. Due to logistical difficulties, UNHCR is planning to proceed with the commercial trucks as far as Pageri, and then to Magwi in UNHCR convoys. UNHCR also reported that about three convoys will move from Kakuma to Jonglei and one to Eastern and Central Equatoria States within next week.

Returns and Re-integration (from IOM, UNMIS/RRR)

- The first IOM organised convoy of returnees from El Daein in South Darfur to NBeG in 2008 arrived on 5 March with a total of 351 individuals. These included 175 males and 176 females. The group was met by the reception committees, which had been organised by UNMIS/RRR and the local authorities in Gok Machar, Yargot, Marol Dengen and Majaker payams. The reception committees, which comprise of local authorities and community members assured the returnees support with access to land, safety and security throughout the state. WFP provided food to all the returnees through their cooperating partners. The reception committee provided temporary shelter to those families/individuals in need whilst they waited for relatives to arrive.
- IOM's protection officers will monitor human rights violations and protection risks encountered by the returnees so that they may be addressed by relevant authorities.
- On 8 March, another 461 assisted returnees, mainly from El Daein in South Darfur, arrived in NBeG. The target for 2008 organised returns into NBeG from camps in South Darfur is expected to be around 8,000 individuals, while around 1,000 individuals will come from Khartoum.
- During this week, 377 individuals (91 households) were transported from Khartoum to Eastern Equatoria.
- In 2008, the total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan so far stands at 6,408.
- The ADRA/IOM team in Kosti reported a total of 717 individuals (153 households) passing through the transit hub in spontaneous movements between 29 February to 6

March, representing an increase of 50% from previous week's figures. The main destinations were Upper Nile (35%), and South Kordofan (33%).

- On 2 March, UNMIS/RRR and WFP, ADRA and South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) participated in interagency verification of spontaneous returnees at Bor county office (Jonglei State). A total of 487 individuals (112 households) were screened coming from Labone, Nimule, Yei and Malakal. The areas of return for this particular caseload were the Payams in Bor County (Anyidi, Jalle, Baidit Kolnyang and Makuach). While a smaller group will return to various villages in Duk County. The spontaneous return inflows in the past three weeks has grown-up, humanitarian agencies linked the rush to the census proposed in April.

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Coordination and Common Services (from OCHA, UNMIS/RRR)

- OCHA Emergence Preparedness and Response Unit (EP&R) is working with Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), SSRRC and partners to mobilize humanitarian assistance to affected communities in Juba, Lainya and Kajo Keji counties.
- Linked to the above and following reports of tensions between the Messeriya and Dinka, which has led to heightened insecurity in Abyei and potential displacement, EP&R took part in an interagency fact finding mission to Twic County/Abyei where the team met with RCO and SSRRC/HAC to gain an understanding of developments in Abyei and potential humanitarian impacts. The situation remains highly volatile. EP&R, RCO and partners are working on contingency plans for humanitarian preparedness.
- The EP&R on 28 February 2008 participated in an Inter-Agency meeting in Jonglei state which focused at various ways of voluntary disarmament of the Murle community through community assets and projects. This approach is envisaged to be more participatory. It ensures benefits to the community rather than individuals. In the event of forced disarmament, OCHA EP&R is developing a contingency plan to address the humanitarian impact.
- A state-level contingency planning workshop was conducted in Western Bahr el Ghazal and attended by sixteen participants from UNDP, RCO, WFP, state ministries of infrastructure, health, social welfare and finance. NGO's were also in attendance.
- Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states have shown the interest on contingency planning processes taking into consideration the evolving situation, with a particular focus of population influx likely to affect Twic County if the situation in Abyei worsens.

Disease outbreaks (from OCHA – RP&R)

- Measles has been reported in Juba Teaching Hospital with 24 cases and one confirmed death. The ministry of health is planning to increase Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) activities in Juba area to respond to the epidemic. The epidemic in Kapoeta appears to have been contained with no new cases since the 17th of February. MSF-Swiss will not conduct a mass vaccination campaign in the area but will investigate further to see if there are any potential smaller scale interventions that can be done.
- Meningitis has been reported again in Eastern Equatoria this time in Rowito and Narus, DOT and ADEO managed clinics. MSF-Swiss carried out an assessment in the

Rowito area on 8 March. WHO has requested more supplies on ground to be able to fully investigate Narus. One case from Narus came to Juba Teaching Hospital and a sample was taken to verify meningitis. Test results are still pending.

- Hepatitis E response is currently being designed by WHO and UNICEF for Eastern Equatoria, Kapoeta area. UNICEF in collaboration with the organisation AVSI are currently responding to the situation in Mosingo, Eastern Equatoria.
- AWD/Cholera - 137 cases of AWD/Cholera were reported from a Ministry of Health Clinic in Khaldak during the month of February. A multi-sectoral team from MoH and Medair will be visiting the site on 12/03/08 to obtain more information and potentially respond. The AWD/Cholera epidemic in Owiny kibil has been contained and there have been no new cases of the disease for two weeks. *For more information contact John Primrose on primrose@un.org*

Health

- Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) is ongoing in Rumbek. UNICEF transported and distributed polio vaccine to Rumbek North County and is monitoring activities in Cueibet County. The NIDs programme was launched on 5 March in Western Equatoria and is expected to reach 95% of children under five years of age (185,796). The campaign also started on 5 March in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap States. UNICEF supported first round of Polio NIDs conducted between March 5 – 7 targeting 310,503 children under five in Upper Nile and 313,146 in Unity, respectively.
- UNICEF distributed 20 Primary Health Care kits to states MoH with a further ten given to Save the Children USA in Wulu. A total of 90,000 community members will benefit from these kits for one month.
- UNICEF has provided the states MoH with vaccines and vaccination accessories including vaccination cards, AD syringes for BCG, DPT and TT vaccination with the aim of increasing DPT3 coverage from 42% to 50%;
- UNICEF provided Maridi and Mundri counties with 3,000 doses of BCG, DPT and TT vaccine for routine immunization implementation
- The NBeG State Ministry of Health with WHO is engaged in polio vaccination campaign. The campaign which started on 5 March is scheduled to end on 9 March. It targets to cover 340,000 children under five in all the five counties of NBeG State. The method used is house to house strategy vaccination. All health partners in the State are participating in the exercise.
- An increased number of health partners in the counties of NBeG are reporting to MoH GoSS and WHO's IDSR strategy based disease surveillance system. IDSR strategy based disease surveillance system will enable MoH GoSS and WHO to detect and response to disease outbreaks in a timely manner. According to this system each health facility has to provide information on a prescribed format to County and State Ministry of Health for further dissemination to MoH GoSS and WHO.

Child Protection/DDR

- UNICEF is coordinating with Save the Children Sweden, South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) and UNDDR to receive the Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) that are due to be demobilized in Mapel on 9 March.

- UNICEF facilitated the reunification of a girl child previously abducted by the LRA, who will be returned to Yambio on Tuesday.
- UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) with regards to planning for the registration of the most vulnerable orphans in Western Equatoria.
- 39 previously registered CAAFG were found in Mapel. The families of 20 of them have been traced. Awareness raising sessions on child DDR were given to Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) officials and Health Net started the medical screening of the children to be demobilized. Child DDR officers are going to inform and sensitize the families and communities that will receive the children after demobilization as well as finalize tracing for the remaining cases.

Nutrition

- Nutrition supplies including therapeutic milk and high energy biscuits benefiting 500 malnourished children were dispatched to Lakes state, Yirol west and will be used by Rumbek Hospitals and an Italian NGO called Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM) to respond to nutritional emergencies in Bundagok.
- 100 cartons of BP 5 were distributed to people living with HIV/AIDS in Nzara, Yambio as part of UNICEF support to improve their nutritional status.
- UNICEF provided the states MoH with 2,000 Vitamin A capsules to be given to children under 5 and lactating women in Nzara and Yambio Counties.

Water and Sanitation

- Four new boreholes were completed in Wulu County; three of the new water sources are used by communities and one is for a school. The new water points will provide access to safe drinking water to an additional 2,000 people;
- Five hand pumps were repaired in Rumbek as part of routine maintenance activities by Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (DRWSS) with support from UNICEF.
- Three hand pumps were maintained by the Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation re-establishing access to safe water to 1,500 people in Yambio County.
- Discussions were held between UNICEF and the Minister of Physical Infrastructure to discuss International Year of Sanitation Week. A follow up meeting was held at the Directorate of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in the presence of key stakeholders and a draft agenda is being finalized and will be shared with the minister next week.
- Two separate five compartment toilet blocks were completed in schools in Jiir and Mourngeny, benefiting approximately 640 students.
- Two hand-pump platforms were repaired; one in Kosti primary school and one in Wau South Payam, re-establishing access to 1,000 people. In Warrap State a further two boreholes were repaired; one in Kuajok old primary school and another in a residential areas, re-establishing access to safe water for 1,000 people;
- Ten household pit-latrines were constructed in Kuajok Warrap State
- One borehole has been completed at Gofa village (Maban County) and will provide safe water to an additional 500 persons.

Food Security

- FAO reported that in this planting season they are targeting 6,000 returnees and vulnerable individuals with seeds, tools and fishing equipment while also supporting capacity building programmes through its partners. Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with WFP food for recovery programme will undertake fruit trees project, while FAO will support animal resources through VSF Swiss.

Governance

- Save the Children, in collaboration with UNICEF, facilitated two days child protection and juvenile justice training for police, prison guards, judiciary and local customary courts in Rumbek.

Education

- UNICEF dispatched about 83 MTs of school supplies including exercise books, teacher kits and students kits to eight Counties (Renk, Maluth, Maban, Manyo, Fashoda, Lungushuk, Maiwut and Malakal Counties) in Upper Nile State) The supplies went to 171 schools and will benefit 99,995 pupils 1,195 teachers.
- Two days training of trainers on Girls Education Movement (GEM)/ life skills/ HIV/AIDS took place in Fashoda County. The workshop was facilitated by trainers from state Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) who formed (GEM) clubs in four schools.
- UNICEF provided 70 T-Shirts for the celebration of International Women's Day and mobilized Girls' Education Movement clubs to present a drama during the celebration;
- A team of senior Education Staff from MOEST GoSS and other states arrived in Wau and Kuajok. The two States conducted training on the head count exercise at the state level.

Mine Action

- Islamic Relief Worldwide has conducted mine risk awareness sessions in Longichuk. Thirty children, youth, women and men, including returnees, benefited from the session.

NFI

- NSTR

ENDS

Disclaimer: The information in this report is consolidated from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, RCO at state level, NGOs, and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: maputseni@un.org