



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 17, 27 April – 03 May 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Disaster Risk Reduction and Management workshop – 61 officials participated
- ✚ Joint Plan returned 22,992 IDPs since January 2008 – up from 19,557 two weeks ago
- ✚ 278,171 refugees have returned to South Sudan so far
- ✚ Rains slow down return of IDPs and refugees
- ✚ 500 households displaced in Bentiu

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

UN Mine Action Office Advisory

Due to ongoing mine clearance activities by UNMAO along the road stretch from '8 Kms west of Rokon to Eastern Bank of Tafari Bridge' (GPS locations: N05 06 56.4 - E30 52 04.2 & N05 06 39.07 - E 30 51 00.72, a stretch of 2.4 kms) has been declared 'Red NO GO' till further notice from UNMAO and is closed for all UN traffic.

Upper Nile State

UNDSS reported assaults of drivers of three WFP lorries by military elements.

Lakes State

On April 26 a fight broke out in the Kout Cattle Camp about 10 Km North-East of Rumbek town between the Athoi clan of Rumbek Central County and Amothom clan of Pacong in Rumbek East County. Twelve persons were killed, seven from the Athoi clan and five from the Amothom clan. About 29 persons were injured. State authorities have deployed troops and police to the Rumbek CCM hospital in order to prevent any revenge attacks on the injured from both sides of the conflict. Additional troops were deployed to the area of the fight, to separate the two groups and prevent any further clashes breaking out.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Consultative Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Sixty-one senior staff from the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) (29), UN agencies (20), NGOs (9), the Red Cross and Red Crescent (1) and the private sector (2) participated in a two-day consultative workshop on disaster risk reduction and management from 29 – 30 April 2008.

The workshop was organized by UNOCHA in collaboration with the Ministry of Presidential Affairs – Special Affairs Programme and UNDP. It was

hosted at Home and Away Conference Centre in Juba.

Areas of focus at the workshop included disaster risk and management situational analysis in South Sudan to determine policy issues that need to be addressed in the process of formulating and implementing the Disaster Management framework.

A total of 19 papers were presented during this workshop. The presentations brought out some lessons learnt and identified gaps

and provoked discussion on thematic areas of disaster risk reduction and management. Participants agreed on the need for coming up with a disaster management framework for South Sudan that would promote

coordination among different actors in emergency preparedness and response. Major recommendations included the need to establish a disaster management structure based on a defined policy and legal framework.

Rains slow down return programmes for IDPs and refugees – UNMIS/RRR

UNHCR has reported increasing difficulties in overland access to several destinations, where early rains had made roads almost impassable. Low subscription to the repatriation movement on 30 April from Kakuma Camp in Kenya to Malakal in Unity State led to the suspension of UNHCR efforts until the next dry season.

Similar considerations moved UNMIS/RRR and IOM this week to propose the imminent seasonal cessation of north-south return movements to governmental partners on the Joint Planning Task Force. Final movements until the end of the rainy season are anticipated for mid-May.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (from UNMIS/RRR, UNICEF)

- About 500 households have been displaced to Bentiu town following fighting in Kharasana area, which also claimed five lives on 30 April. Following a request from the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) to preposition supplies, UNICEF sent a boat carrying 1,000 NFI kits from Malakal on Friday afternoon for distribution to the needy people as soon as possible. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) planned to start quick screening on 04 May and refer any malnourished children to their Therapeutic Feeding Centre (TFC) supported by UNICEF. At present, water is not a problem as IDPs are staying close to the main water supply in Bor town. UNMIS/RRR and UNICEF will coordinate with the Rural Water Department to ensure these IDPs get water supply freely until they are moved out of their current location. UNDP and UNMIS/RRR are liaising with local authorities for urgent provision of a suitable location for the IDPs.
- In a related development, UNMIS/RRR and its partners are considering conducting a new intentions survey in the IDP camps around Khartoum to assess remaining interest in returns during the next dry season. This would help in planning and resource mobilization for future activities. If acceptable to decision-makers in the Government of National Unit (GNU), GoSS and United Nations, a proposal will be developed for donor consideration. As UNMIS/RRR turns its energies increasingly toward early reintegration activities, returns next season may reasonably be expected to be characterized by a more targeted nature that would respond to the needs of particularly vulnerable groups.

Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR)

Joint Organized Return Plan

The total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan since January 2008 has risen to 22,992 – up from 19,557 in the last two weeks. The Joint Plan is coordinated and implemented by the Government of National Unity (GoNU),

the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and IOM.

During this week, only 944 individuals were transported in two south-south return movements organized under the Joint Plan.

In the first of these convoys, 477 persons were transported from Wau, in Western Bahr el Ghazal, to destinations in Warrap, whilst in the second 467 returnees from the Equatorias arrived in Jonglei. The 632 individuals stranded last week in Kadugli by insecurity in the area around Kharasana finally reached their areas of choice in Unity State this week. Some 880 candidates for return to Warrap State detained in the departure centre in Khartoum were able to begin their journey home.

State & SPLA Organized Returns

As the national census was drawing toward its close, IOM and UNMIS/RRR monitoring also revealed only minor SPLM-organized movements. Nonetheless, the parallel returns organized by various political actors resulted in an estimated 7,000 new arrivals in Abyei since 19 April, offering a humanitarian

challenge to agencies and their partners to provide assistance for this unanticipated number. Verification efforts were also underway in Jonglei and Western Equatoria for similar groups of returnees arriving in state-organized movements that had not been co-ordinated with the Joint Return Operation.

Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns

Spontaneous returns tracked by the ADRA/IOM team in Kosti detected a mere 597 individuals passing through the transit hub with principal destinations located in Upper Nile and Southern Kordofan, representing a 50% drop over the previous week. UNMIS/RRR and its partners were actively working on assessing the assistance needs of spontaneous returnees across the south, with special attention to these groups this week in Jonglei, Lakes and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states.

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

- The cumulative total for repatriation of Sudanese refugees since 2005 up to now stands at 278,171 of which 126,919 repatriated under UNHCR's organized and assisted self-return plans.
- UNHCR assisted the return of 3,189 refugees this week. Out of this number, 3,088 returned under the organized voluntary repatriation programme as follows; 2,390 (639 families) arrived in Central and Eastern Equatoria from Uganda, another 694 (192 families) came from Ethiopia to Upper Nile, while 4 individuals (1 family) returned from Tanzania to Central Equatoria. Up to 101 returnees (22 families) were assisted after self-return.

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease outbreaks (from WHO, EP&R-OCHA/Oxfam GB/Medair/UNJLC)

Acute watery diarrhea (AWD) - On 30th April 2008 it was reported that three cases of AWD from SPLA New Site barracks in Juba were treated at the military hospital. An inter-agency assessment (Mohr, WHO, UNICEF, MSF-CH, EP&R) checked for cholera cases and assessed response capacity on 1st May 2008. The AWD was not confirmed but likely diagnosis is acute gastroenteritis. Recommendations for further cholera preparedness were proposed by the inter-agency assessment team to facilitate a proactive approach in managing potential oral-faecal related epidemics.

Meningitis - No new cases were reported in Kapoeta South or Yei for week 17. A state led team investigated the cases and their final report is yet to be received.

Cholera - The Cholera outbreak in Yei has been brought under control; however few cases continue to be seen at the Community Therapeutic Centre (CTC). This week 21 cases, four of which are for children under five years of age have been registered.

Health (from UNICEF)

- UNICEF distributed HIV Test kits; Unigold 05 (20 packs), SD Bioline 03 (30 packs), Gloves 02 (100 boxes), Lancets 02 (200 packs) and equipment; one TV set and one DVD/VCD player to Southern Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission (SSAC) for Jonglei state to establish a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) center that is expected to provide HIV services in Bor, Jonglei state.
- A mop up accelerated measles campaign has been completed in Mayendit County in Unity State. The campaign targeted 45,000 children (6 – 15yrs) and results are yet to be compiled. UNICEF provided, vaccines, funds for training and social mobilization.
- Assorted drugs were supplied to the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) to support Malakal pediatric hospital, Malakia and Bam, Wau Shiluk Primary Health Care centres (PHCs), Detang, Dolieb Hills, Obel 1 & 2, Nagdier Primary Health Care Units (PHCUs) and other health facilities.
- The SMoH – HIV department conducted an awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS through radio Malakal, 10,000 people are estimated to have benefited from the message.
- In Unity, 18 PHCU Kits valued at \$990 were dispatched to Maper County, Health section.

Child Protection (from UNICEF, UNRCO)

- Fourteen social workers, four from Eastern Equatoria State (EES), five from Central Equatoria State (CES) and five from Jonglei State are participating in a social work training that commenced on 23rd April 2008 at Juba University.
- UNICEF, UNMIS/DDR and Ministry of Social Development visited the SC-Sweden Youth Centre in Maluakon in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) and planned to conduct follow up visits of former Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) that were demobilized last month. Three of the children reunified with their families in NBeG are attending the vocational skills training at the centre.
- In NBeG, UNMIS POC visited the reintegration units of SCUUK and discovered that more than 50% of demobilized child soldiers are going back to the barracks. If the DDR programme is not started very soon in the state, it is feared that there will be an increased number of the child soldiers moving back to the barracks.

Nutrition (from UNICEF)

- A community based nutrition session was conducted at Li-rangu Maternal and Child Health centre (MCH), Western Equatoria State and was attended by 73 pregnant women and 24 lactating mothers. The session focused on appropriate foods for children during weaning.
- During Anti Natal Care, 63 pregnant women received Iron Folate for the prevention of anemia in pregnancy in Yambio and Li-rangu MCH.

Water and Sanitation (from UNICEF)

- UWC and UNICEF installed delivery hose pipes on all the five high pressure water points in Juba.
- Four broken hand pumps were repaired in Nzara County, WEQ State thereby re-establishing access to safe drinking water to 2,000 people.

- Relief International completed two boreholes in Manban County with UNICEF support, providing safe water for 1,000 persons.
- ACF repaired 44 water points in Abiemnum, Pariang, Rubkona, Mayiendit and Leer, providing safe drinking water to 22,000 persons.
- 65 kgs of water, sanitation and hygiene materials were dispatched to Rural Water Development - Lakes WASH section.
- Broken down safe water sources were successfully rehabilitated by RWD/IRW in Tonj North County with rehabilitation materials delivered by UNICEF from Wau, reestablishing access to safe water for 2,000 people in Warrap State.
- Assessment of 37 broken down safe water sources to be rehabilitated has commenced in Warrap State. A final assessment report will be shared with UNICEF next week for possible support.
- Two out of 20 broken hand pumps were rehabilitated during the week by RWD – Western Bahr el Ghazal State in Wau County and re-established access to safe water for 1,000 people in the state.
- Twelve broken down hand pumps in Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East and Cueibet counties were repaired.

Education (from UNICEF)

- 45,794 children benefited from distribution of school/educational materials in Juba town, Dolo, wondurba, Ganji, Rokon, Tijor, Lokiliri and northern Bari payams.
- 247 boxes of exercise books and 166 boxes of student kits were distributed to schools in Baggari and Wau South payams in Wau County, WBeG State while 964 boxes of exercise books, 524 boxes of students' kits and 524 boxes of teachers' kits were transported to Twic County, Warrap State.
- 837 boxes of exercise books were distributed to schools in Yirol West County, 94 boxes to Yirol East and Awerial in Lakes State.
- 98 boxes of Teachers' kits were distributed to schools in Yirol West County, 94 boxes to Yirol East and 94 boxes to Awerial.

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Between 23-26 April, UNHCR and UNICEF undertook a joint assessment mission to Pageri, Nimule and Mugali payams in Magwi County. The mission assessed the region with respect to the new villages that have sprung up with refugee returnees, to determine the availability of basic services. The main findings were that the existing learning spaces are not sufficient, teaching learning materials are in high demand, health facilities and services cannot cater for the entire population, number of boreholes is insufficient, and there may be a security risk to children due to the proximity of an ammunition storage site to some children's learning spaces. Joint interventions in these areas will be planned following the finalization of the assessment report.

END

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