



Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 19, 11 - 17 May 2008

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Thousands displaced in Abyei – Humanitarian workers evacuated.
- ✚ Joint Plan returned 25,413 since January 2008 – while spontaneous returns increase by 58% compared to last week.
- ✚ About 30 people left dead – 107 undergoing treatment from suspected AWD/Cholera in Eastern Equatoria State.
- ✚ 191 suspected measles cases reported in Eastern Equatoria state.

I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

Following clashes between SPLA and SAF armies that claimed four lives, thousands of people have been displaced in Abyei. The fighting begun near the town of Abyei on 13 May 2008 and went on until the following day. This led to the evacuation of non-essential humanitarian staff from the area.

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Abyei Emergency

Humanitarian workers are making efforts to support IDPs from Abyei and surrounding areas. This follows the fighting that broke out between the SPLA and the SAF armies on 13 May 2008, leaving to the evacuation of civilian humanitarian staff and displacing thousands of people to neighbouring areas/counties like Twic, Mayom and Aweil East.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

Returns and Reintegration (from UNMIS – Return, Reintegration & Recovery “RRR”)

Returns & Reintegration (from ...)

Joint Organized Return Plan

The return season is drawing to an end as the early rains have just started in most parts of South Sudan making some roads impassable. During the week under review, 434 individuals (109 households) were transported from Khartoum to Unity state. While 484 individuals (187 households) were transported from Equatoria to Jonglei, bringing the total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan to **25, 413** since January 2008.

In Kosti ADRA/IOM reported a total of 412 individuals (86 households) passed through the transit hub in spontaneous movements between

9th and 15th of May, representing a decrease by 58% compared to the previous week. The main destinations were South Kordofan and Upper Nile.

Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns

ADRA/IOM's Kosti team reported a total of **249** individuals, *other organized returns*, from Khartoum to South Kordofan, while on Friday 16, May 2008 a total of 288 individuals (69 households) were waiting at Kosti before getting to their final destinations in Upper Nile and Equatoria.

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

UNHCR reported the repatriation of two convoys totalling 1,249 individuals to Mabaan from Ethiopia during last weeks and they are expecting a 3rd convoy during coming week (19 – 23 May 2008).

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Disease outbreaks (from OCHA-EP&R)

- A total of 191 suspected cases of measles in Northern Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria state have been reported by MoH. A local NGO called DOT has taken samples for laboratory confirmation. The Government of Southern Sudan has also sent a technical team to support local efforts and assist in combating the spread of the disease through treatment and immunization.
- About 30 people are reported to have died and 107 others are undergoing treatment from suspected cholera outbreak in Eastern Equatoria. The suspected cases were detected in Magwi County where 23 are reported to have died in Pajok and 53 others are under treatment. In Awenjebal Boma, seven deaths were recorded and 37 people are under treatment, while in Magwi hospital a total of 17 people are undergoing treatment according reports received through the RCO. A team composed from MoH, SSRRC, and WHO is currently assessing the situation in Magwi and the results from the assessment mission are expected to be shared by the end of the week. The Government of Southern Sudan has deployed an inter-agency multi-sectoral technical team has to support the state health authorities.

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

An inter-agency assessment and coordination team left on 17 May 2008 for Warrap, to assess the humanitarian impact and establish coordination mechanisms following the displacement of thousands of people from Abyei and its surrounding areas, when fight broke out between the SPLA and SAF forces on 13 May 2008

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 and chatora@un.org