

1 September 2011

Highlights:

- Tensions are high in Jonglei State following recent clashes and amid rumours of further inter-communal attacks on the horizon.
- 10,000 persons displaced from Southern Kordofan in Sudan are expected in South Sudan by mid-September.
- Close to 18,000 South Sudanese returnees have arrived through Renk town since the latest wave of returns began on 28 June. Some 75 per cent are reportedly bound for Upper Nile State.

I. Situation Overview

The overall security situation in South Sudan remained relatively calm during the week, although tensions remained. Humanitarian actors focused on responding to those affected by inter-communal fighting in Jonglei, as well as persons displaced into South Sudan from Southern Kordofan. Partners also concentrated efforts on providing emergency support to returnees arriving and transiting in South Sudan. As a consequence of tensions in Blue Nile State in Sudan, bombing of an area east of Kurmuk on the border with Ethiopia was reported from 1-2 September, as well as clashes in Damazine, the state capital. Capacity mapping by humanitarian partners of areas in South Sudan that may receive persons fleeing the conflict is underway, although there is no indication that a large influx of displaced persons is expected from Blue Nile State.

The President of South Sudan, H.E. Salva Kiir, announced the new cabinet line-up on 26 August. The new government was sworn in on 1 September, replacing the caretaker government that has administered the country since independence on 9 July. The new Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management was announced as H.E. Joseph Lual Achuil, who was previously the Sudan Government of National Unity's Minister of Humanitarian Affairs in Khartoum.

II. Returns to South Sudan

Returnee Overview by State*											
State:	Upper Nile	Unity	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Lakes	Jonglei	Western Equatoria	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Total
New arrivals in final destination 24-30 Aug	610	206	78	0	123	0	24	42	597	116	1,796
Previous arrivals to final destination (adjustments)	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	48
Previous Total	54,799	82,432	31,661	66,128	18,726	17,332	19,788	1,112	34,559	9,399	335,936
Updated Total	55,409	82,638	31,739	66,128	18,897	17,332	19,812	1,154	35,156	9,515	337,780
Type of Returnee											
Government Assisted	23,852	32,080	16,770	21,550	7,657	15,627	16,090	638	20,904	8,076	163,244
Spontaneous	16,407	50,558	5,712	43,187	11,240	1,435	3,692	467	14,252	1,439	148,389
Unspecified	15,150	0	9,257	1,391	0	270	30	49	0	0	26,147

* since 30 October 2010. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures are as of 30 August 2011.

Steady movements of returnees continue

Returnee movements of South Sudanese into and through the country continued over the week. An estimated 2,200 returnees arrived by bus to Renk in Upper Nile from Khartoum on 26 August. IOM-supported movements to Juba continued, with a barge convoy of 1,500 returnees arriving in the capital between 29-31 August and another barge carrying some 550 returnees en route to Juba arriving in Malakal on 31 August. The latter barge had been delayed in Renk until 28 August due to insecurity in the Kaka area in Manyo County, which recently experienced clashes with rebel militia groups. Another barge moving approximately 850 returnees from Renk to Melut, Kodok and Malakal in Upper Nile departed on 29 August.

The total number of returnees arriving through Renk since the latest wave of returns began on 28 June stands close to 18,000, of which close to 75 per cent are reportedly bound for Upper Nile State. Of these, some 4,600 have settled in Renk and another 2,000 have been transported onwards. The remainder are reported to be either residing at the transit sites, moving onwards independently, or returning to Khartoum until further onward transport becomes available. Verification exercises of spontaneous returnees also continued over the week, including in Bor in Jonglei. The total number of returnees in South Sudan who have arrived since 30 October 2010 is 337,780.

Humanitarian actors continued to work on resolving challenges in Renk

The initial plan to host returnees in temporary sites in Renk while they await onward transport has proved unsustainable and congestion continues at the transit sites. Partners are working on solutions to decongest Renk and improve the flow of returnees through the town. Advocacy with government to slow down the transport of people into Renk from Sudan is ongoing, as well as advocating for the provision of barges to help move returnees onwards. Humanitarian partners are also working with government on jointly creating and implementing a transport voucher system which would limit the amount of luggage returnees could transport. This system would free up barge space to transport passengers, space that is presently being used to move large amounts of returnees' household furniture and commercial goods. A meeting between the South Sudan and Sudan emergency return sectors is also being organized to jointly plan for future return movements, especially movements where immediate funding is available which can be facilitated by the humanitarian community.

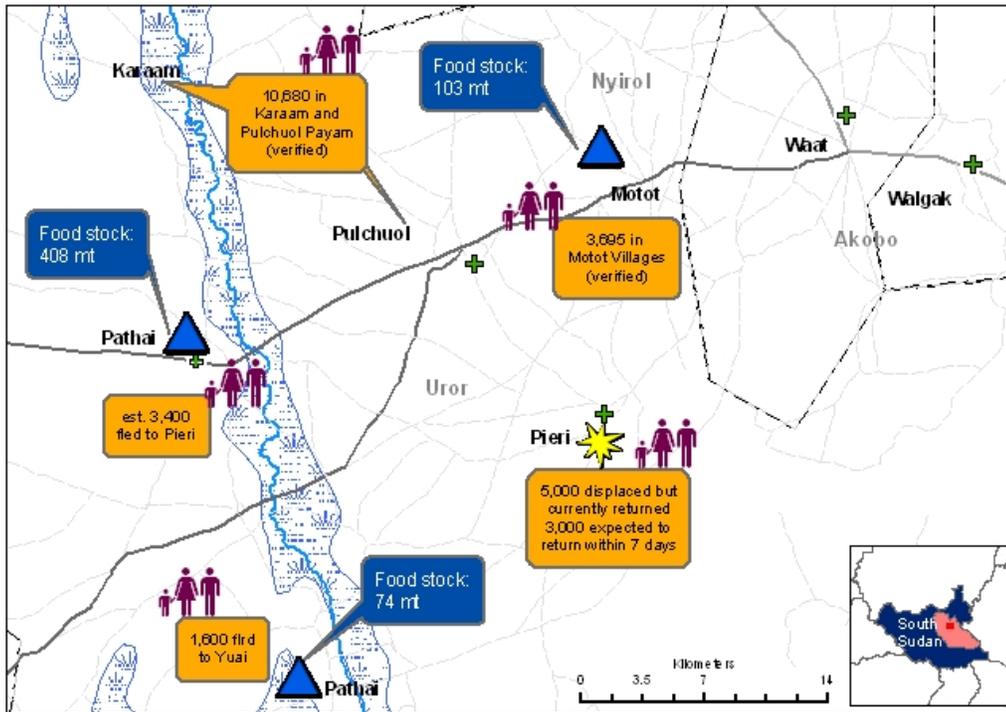
Humanitarian assistance ongoing for returnees in Renk

While partners work to adjust operational planning to improve the flow of returnees through Renk, humanitarian actors continued to respond to needs. Education partners working with the Renk County Education Office established two more temporary learning spaces at the Mina transit site, bringing the total established in Renk in the last two weeks to four, serving over 400 children. Emergency teaching and learning supplies were distributed at the centres and English teacher training is underway. Another 5,000 mosquito nets were supplied to the county health department to be given to children under five years, and pregnant and lactating mothers. Ongoing measles vaccination in Renk has now targeted an estimated 28,000 children, including returnees. For each IOM-supported movement by barge, partners train a number of protection monitors who can report on protection concerns while returnees are in transit.

III. Other humanitarian challenges: needs and response**Security situation tense following inter-communal attacks in Jonglei**

The security situation in Uror County in Jonglei remained tense and unpredictable over the week, following a large-scale inter-communal attack on 18 August. Unconfirmed reports persisted of possible further attacks by both the Murle and Lou Nuer, with rumours of youths amassing on both sides. A company of 130 UN peacekeepers and two UN Military Liaison Officers were deployed to Lekuango in Pibor County on 29 August, to act as a deterrent to further attacks in the area, following inter-communal fighting which took place in April and June. The peacekeepers will remain on the ground for 14 days and will conduct short distance patrols during that time. Several daily low-flying UNMISS flights are also patrolling areas of possible inter-communal tension in Jonglei. Pursuing their protection of civilians mandate, integrated teams of military and civilians from UNMISS have been deployed to three towns in and near Uror County to monitor the situation and work with local authorities to avoid further conflict in the area. An integrated team and troops previously deployed to Pibor remain there. The repeated inter-communal conflict and the activities of rebel

militia groups have reportedly caused the cumulative deaths of more than 1,500 people and displaced over 73,000 people, according to reports by inter-agency assessment teams and local authorities.



Above: Location of people displaced by fighting in Uror County, Jonglei State on 18 August.

The response to those affected by the fighting is being mobilized, although much of the affected area is still rendered inaccessible due to rains, poor infrastructure and insecurity. The distribution of food and other emergency items began on 31 August, with food rations for 15-days and non-food items (NFIs) distributed to some 3,800 persons displaced in Motot payam in Uror County. In the coming days, food targeting 10,680 persons in Karaam and Pulchoul villages in Uror is scheduled to

take place, as well as the mobilization of NFI kits from Juba for some 5,250 persons in Motot. Protection partners have registered 147 children as missing because of the fighting. However, an unverified number of 250 children in Pieri are registered as unaccompanied.

Arrival of people from Southern Kordofan continues

People displaced from Southern Kordofan continued to arrive into South Sudan over the week, though at a slow pace, according to the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR). It is estimated that by mid-September some 10,000 persons may have arrived into South Sudan. New arrivals from Sudan have related terrifying experiences of 5-9 day long walks and indiscriminate aerial bombardment continuing, despite the two-week cease-fire declared by Sudan on 23 August. The overall medical condition of those arriving has deteriorated and expanded medical interventions are needed. Aid workers continued to provide assistance to the displaced including 469 NFI kits, 1,148 plastic sheets and 3.5 tons of food. Development of refugee settlement areas at a safe distance from the Sudan border is ongoing. Humanitarian access to the areas where the displaced are located is being provided on a regular basis by UNMISS helicopters. Without the air access, efforts to reach the affected population would be severely constrained due to poor road conditions as a result of the ongoing rainy season.

Assessment conducted in Upper Nile to area affected by fighting

The security situation in Kaka in Manyo County, Upper Nile remained calm during the week with no further fighting reported, following clashes between rebel militia groups and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 19 August. A security team visited the area on 26 August to assess the situation and reported that some 200-300 persons had been displaced to Melut County as a result of the fighting. Initial reports by UNDSS noted that in addition to the previously reported 89 SPLA and rebel militia group members killed in the fighting, another 10-20 militia were captured by SPLA. Although the area remains a 'no go' area until UNDSS concludes the findings of its assessment, the river corridor for the transport of returnees from Sudan has been reopened, after a barge was stopped in Renk waiting for clearance of the Kaka river stretch.

Further needs identified in Warrap to those affected by inter-communal fighting in Tonj East

A second inter-agency assessment to Tonj East County in Warrap State took place from 26-27 August, following inter-communal fighting which occurred from 12-14 August. The areas visited, particularly Ngapagok and Romic payams, had not been assessed in an earlier mission from 18-19 August, due to insecurity. The area was reported to be calm, with SPLA troops deployed to maintain security. The assessment team recommended emergency food and NFI support for some 700 individuals.

Food security situation expected to worsen

The latest Rapid Crop Assessment conducted between 2 and 15 August by the food security and livelihoods cluster, in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan, shows concerning trends regarding the food security situation across the country. According to the assessment, the best case scenario for agricultural production predicts that cereal production will fall 30-40 per cent in 2011, compared to last year's harvest. The worst case scenario estimates that if floods are experienced above the normal rain levels forecast, the loss of cereal production could be 40-60 per cent, compared to last year's harvest. Northern Bahr el Ghazal is reported to be the most food insecure state in South Sudan, according to the most recent Food Security Monitoring System which was conducted in June, with only one in three persons reported to be food secure.

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