



Highlights

- The southern Sudan referendum started peacefully on 9 January, with no major incidents reported in the south.
- Humanitarian actors continue to focus efforts on response to the continued high level of returns from northern to southern Sudan, with more than 180,000 people having returned so far.
- A number of security incidents affecting convoys of people moving southwards have taken place in South Kordofan.
- The SSRRC and authorities in South Kordofan have independently communicated that no further return movements along the western route via Muglad and through Abyei should take place in coming days.
- New abductions and kidnapping of humanitarian workers have taken place in Darfur.

1. Situation overview

More than 180,000 people have returned from the North to the South since late October, according to tracking by local authorities and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The majority of returns continue to concentrate in already fragile border states, with Unity having received the most returnees, followed by Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and Warrap states. Government authorities and partners have moved quickly to scale up assistance. However, the pace of returns and limited personnel on the ground has negatively affected response capacity. The reporting period brought reports of violence on North-South return routes. Many returnees travelling South continue to face a lack of information on transport departures and overcrowding in certain return areas has stretched local infrastructure.

Humanitarian assistance to the population displaced during December fighting in Darfur continues. The situation in Darfur is calm, but tense, as belligerents remain in their positions although there are no reports of new fighting. But two separate cases of multiple kidnappings have taken place in West Darfur.

2. North-South population movements

The high pace of returns from north to south continued over the reporting period, as the number of new arrivals since October reached over 180,000 people. Most of these returnees arrived after 8 December, the date when registration for the referendum closed. The desire of people to return to southern Sudan in advance of the possible separation from northern Sudan, combined with concerns over potential security risks in the north and uncertainty about post-CPA citizenship arrangements are primary factors driving people to return.

UNMIS has reported that a convoy which left Khartoum on 7 January with some 34 buses carrying returnees (and up to 70 trucks carrying personal belongings), destined for northern Bahr el Ghazal, was attacked by unidentified gunmen on 9 January between Debab and Siteb in Southern Kordofan. Unconfirmed reports indicate that a number of returnees were injured. Reports that some of the returnees may have been abducted or killed during these incidents are being verified. As a result of this attack, the convoy reportedly split with some buses proceeding to Umadara and the majority (some 23 buses) returning to Kadugli via Dilling. On 13 January there were some 750 people in the IOM way-station in Kadugli. Most of the buses that had transported them had left them in Kadugli and returned to Khartoum. These returnees are now stranded. Humanitarian organizations are providing assistance at the way-station and efforts are being made to ensure the safe onward movement of these people, via an alternative route. The trucks carrying the belongings of the stranded returnees are still loaded but the drivers are intending to unload their trucks and return to Khartoum if a solution is not found soon to enable them to continue their journey safely to southern Sudan.

Inter agency missions are scheduled to take place to Umadara and other parts of Southern Kordofan State on 14 January and in the following days in order to verify reports and assess the situation.

In response to these new developments, the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) and authorities in South Kordofan have agreed to suspend further organized returns from Khartoum until security is under control. Meanwhile alternative routes that avoid areas in Southern Kordofan State where tensions are highest are being explored.

Large numbers of returnees continue to be concentrated in border states, with population build-ups in several areas including Aweil Town in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Kwajok in Warrap State. In Upper Nile State, approximately 3,700 returnees remained in Malakal Stadium awaiting onward transport within the state or to various locations in Jonglei State, including the northern counties of Pigi and Fangak, as well as the state capital Bor. State authorities are working to speed up allocation of land for returnees at their final destination to prevent blockages at transit sites and ensure households are able to start the process of resettlement and early reintegration.

In a positive development, the Government of Southern Sudan has adopted a set of procedures covering all aspects of the return and early reintegration process. Coordination mechanisms have been established in each of the ten states and a Returns Taskforce, chaired by the Government of Southern Sudan and based in Juba, has also been created. The Humanitarian Coordinator welcomed this in a meeting in Juba with Vice President Salva Kiir on 7 January, reiterating at the same time his appeal to ensure that returns are well planned and organized, and appropriately managed over the coming months, to ensure smooth running of the process and enable support for vulnerable persons. The Humanitarian Coordinator also held meetings with the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and the Governor of White Nile State and was given assurances that the authorities in northern Sudan are also stepping up their efforts to ensure that the returns process is well managed.

Concerning the movements of Northerners from southern Sudan to northern Sudan, in addition to some 2,000 people who left Upper Nile for White Nile State, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) has reported that a group of more than 3,000 people is moving from Upper Nile State in southern Sudan to Al Muzmum town in Sennar State in the North. The number of these new arrivals is expected to reach 10,000 people, according to the SRCS.

Assembly points in Khartoum

The existing ten assembly points in Khartoum still lack latrines and other basic facilities, such as access to clean water. Information on convoy departures continues to not be provided, leading to crowding in departure points and transit centers. People wanting to move have expressed concern over the lack of information on livelihood opportunities and basic services in southern Sudan. UNHCR is in discussion with the SSRRC to support the registration process.

Kosti Transit Centre

The transit centre remains the main transit hub for returnees moving southwards. Approximately 80 per cent of all returnees pass through the centre. According to IOM, 124,000 Southerners have transited through Kosti since October 2010. According to the international NGO ADRA, there are currently 3,085 people at the centre, of which 1,914 are children.

On 10 January, the first group of returnees traveling by train to Aweil and Wau in southern Sudan, arrived at Kosti train station, 5 km from the Kosti transit centre, with an estimated 379 persons on board. As a result of the security incidents in Southern Kordofan State, the train has remained in Kosti since then, with the passengers remaining on board. Humanitarian organizations are providing assistance to these returnees. A second train is reportedly en route to Kosti.

Meanwhile, UN agencies and NGO partners continue to provide assistance to returnees in Kosti. At the train station, ADRA has built latrines, the SRCS has opened a clinic, and WFP has provided food rations. The NGO FAR also continues to provide coordination and management services, supported by the UNHCR.

Returnees overview (Statistical update for 11 January 2010)

According to information from IOM, ADRA, SSRRC, RCSO and OCHA, the number of southerners that have moved from northern Sudan to Southern Sudan, Southern Kordofan State and the Abyei area since October 2010 is the following:

Southern Sudan	South Kordofan	Abyei Area
182,446	5,210	26,225

3. Southern Sudan

Prospects for food security improves but recent gains could easily be reversed

Food security in southern Sudan is expected to improve in 2011 compared to last year, as a result of better harvests and lower food prices. A FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission conducted from mid-October to mid-November puts 2010 cereal production at 695,000 metric tons (MT), a 28.5 per cent rise compared to 2009. The general positive trend is reflected in improved food consumption, increased reliance on own production as food source, increased reliance on sustainable income sources and reduced use of negative coping strategies such as reducing number of meals and distress sales of livestock. However, despite this positive trend, nearly every second household still has a diet that lacks diversity and energy.

With a projected population of 9.16 million people in 2011, an overall cereal deficit of about 291,000MT is estimated for the year. This estimated deficit is expected to rise to 339,000MT in light of increasing numbers of southerners returning from the north. Despite improvements from last year, some 890,000 people (9.7 per cent of the total population) are currently severely food insecure and an additional 2.4 million people (26 per cent) are moderately food insecure. Main causes of food insecurity during 2010 include floods, civil insecurity – including inter-tribal violence, rebel activity and border tension – and high food prices. The five most vulnerable states are Eastern Equatoria, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Jonglei.

Future prospects depend highly on how the referendum and post-referendum periods evolve. Recent gains could easily be reversed by the following risks: increasing food prices, due to reduced trade flows and increased demand from returnees; a potential escalation of localized conflicts in border areas; and a potential increase in ethnic and intertribal tensions. Most vulnerable are the states bordering northern Sudan, which are also the states receiving most returnees.

Cattle raiding in Lakes State leaves several dead

A spike in cattle rustling involving communities that live along or near the borders separating Warrap, Unity and Lakes states has been reported by UNMIS. From 6-8 January, a joint team comprising the Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO), WFP and SSRRC went to Rumbek North to assess the impact of the cattle raiding incident on 2 January that left 11 people dead and approximately two dozen wounded. The attackers also suffered casualties. As a result of the attack, more than 500 people were estimated to be displaced from the bomas of Amok, Rumbek and Makuac to Alor, Adol and Meen and about 5,000 heads of cattle were looted according to RCSO. One month food ration was distributed to the displaced households on 7 January. Full assessment findings and humanitarian consequences remain pending.

Renegade General Athor and SPLA sign ceasefire agreement

A ceasefire agreement between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and General George Athor Deng's forces was signed in Juba on 5 January in a ceremony chaired by Vice-President Riak Machar Teny. Once the ceasefire has been fully implemented, the humanitarian community will consider how to assist the population of Pigi and Fangak that have been affected by the fighting.

Tension persists in Western Equatoria

Following attacks in late December in Western Equatoria, allegedly by Lord Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, the SSRRC has reported that 2,635 people fled their homes in Maridi County due to the attack or in fear of further

attacks. An additional 250 people in neighbouring Mundri West County also fled their homes in fear of LRA attacks, but have returned to their villages in Bangoro Boma after receiving assurances from the Mundri West County SSRRC Secretary that no LRA was present in the area during his recent visit to Bangoro Boma.

4. Abyei area

Violent clashes in Abyei

On 7 and 8 January, clashes between Misseriya and Dinka were reported, resulting in confirmed casualties. On 12 January, an inter-agency assessment mission composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMIS and the RCSO, visited villages near Makier Abior where the clashes took place. The mission found that most women and children residents of Makier Abior have fled to nearby villages as well as Abyei town. No confirmed numbers of displaced are available at this time.

Returns to Abyei

Returns to Abyei have been divided into three phases since the start of the process on 22 November. According to the RCSO the first phase brought 10,164 verified returnees from Khartoum and other Northern states. The second and third phase reportedly brought 7,665 and 8,396 individuals respectively. These numbers are being verified. No further return convoys to Abyei have reportedly been planned, apparently due to exhausted funding.

5. Darfur

Khor Abeche (Shaeria, Shangil Tobaya and Dar El Salaam)

The overall number of people displaced during the December 2010 fighting in the area of Khor Abeche stands at 43,000. Verification of 18,070 displaced from Khor Abeche and Shaeria took place on 4 January, while the estimated number of people displaced in Shangil Tobaya and Dar El Salaam remains at 25,000.

According to WFPs food distribution lists, 9,653 IDPs remain in the perimeter of the UNAMID Team Site in Khor Abeche.

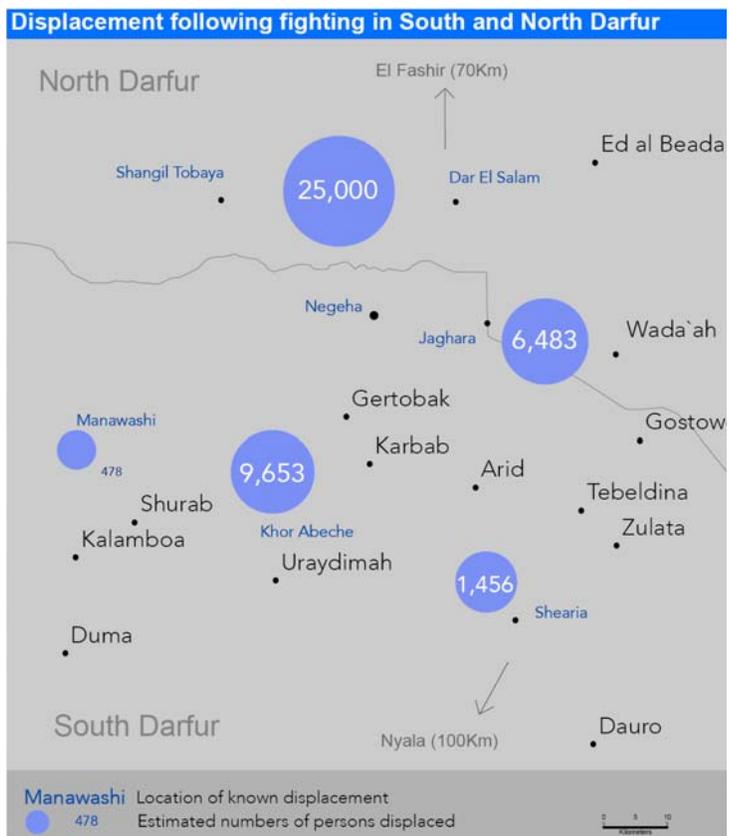
It was also reported that 2,910 new IDPs have arrived outside UNAMID Team site from Khor Abeche, Hashaba and Umm Hathab. Reports are being verified.

According to an international NGO, 124 new IDPs have arrived in El Salaam camp in Nyala.

An inter-agency UNICEF/OCHA joint assessment mission has reported 600 new arrivals in the Dereige camp in Nyala.

A joint government and inter-agency mission to Shangil Tobaya took place on 4 January. Main findings include :

- 95% of the IDPs had received food in the last distribution November-December.
- Emergency health supplies from WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF have been dispatched to a UNAMID clinic, covering approximately 14,000 individuals.



- Emergency nutrition supplies have been dispatched to an INGO in Shangil Tobaya to cover an estimated 3,000 children.
- Water and sanitation program is presently being implemented in Shangil Tobaya.

As of 13 January, humanitarian organizations had not yet secured access to Dar El Salaam.

Zamzam

In Zamzam camp, IOM has reported 376 new IDP arrivals from Shangil Tobaya.

Distribution of winter NFIs by UNJLC and its partners has been completed in El Fasher, Mellit and Tawilla IDP camps, and is ongoing in Malha.

Kalma camp

An inter-agency assessment mission on 12 January found that 120 households, a school and a water well will be affected by the construction of the Nyala – El Dain road and be relocated. To address needs of affected IDPs, UNJLC will start distributing shelter materials on 14 January, while UNICEF and an international NGO will work on the relocation of the school and water well.

Eastern Jebel Mara

An interagency joint mission is scheduled to go to Gulombe in Eastern Jebel Mara 17 January. This follows the 23 December joint UNICEF/UNAMID child demobilization mission to the same location.

Kidnappings

According to UNAMID, three national staff working for an international NGO food distribution team were carjacked and abducted by an unknown group on 9 January along the Sileah – Kulbus road in West Darfur. The three staff were released on 11 January.

In a separate incident in the afternoon of 13 December in Umm Shalaya, on the road from El Geneina to Zalingei, three Bulgarian helicopter aircrew from UNHAS were kidnapped when they landed their helicopter, having been previously shot at.

Contact Information:

For more information, please contact: ochasudan@un.org or visit <http://www.reliefweb.int>