



**United Nations Mission in Sudan  
UNMIS**

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Section:** Return, Reintegration, Recovery

**Unit:** Reports

**Date:** 16 November 2008

**Period:** 1-31 October 2008

**Key activities carried out in reporting period:**

**Returns Overview**

- Although the number of organized return convoys from neighbouring countries remained in decline, this month UNHCR reported that 122 refugees did return under the assisted self-repatriation mechanism. This brought the cumulative total for organized and assisted refugee repatriation to 137,753 by the end of October 2008, of who 60,798 had arrived this year. Figures for organized IDP returns remain unchanged at 28,249 persons so far in 2008 and 81,036 cumulatively. Overall, including the 250,000 spontaneous returnees in this year alone, it is estimated that more than 2.37 million Sudanese have returned home by the end of October 2008.
- Final agreement at the level of the Presidency on the composition of the Abyei Administration was announced this month. It is expected that when the civil administration is in place and the rainy season ends, returns to the area will increase. Similarly in Warrab the peace process between Apuk and Aguok communities is taking a positive direction which could help the return of the backflows from Jur River County in Western Bahr el Ghazal to Gogrial East. However, the general insecurity in Upper Nile resulted in the stoppage of commercial boat movement which had a negative impact on the spontaneous return flow to this State.

**Joint Plan for Returns**

- HAC/SSRRC Policy Committee meeting was held on 22 October, where the upcoming return season was considered. A new focus on reintegration was agreed to.

**IDP Organised return**

- IOM transported this month a total of 103 spontaneous returnees who were stranded at the Juba Port to Torit in Eastern Equatoria. While In Unity State, IOM also assisted the return of 31 qualified teachers, and in Western Bahr el Ghazal 20 qualified returnees have returned this month.

**Spontaneous Returns**

- Small-scale spontaneous returns continued during the month. ADRA in Upper Nile recorded the return of (approximately) 153 spontaneous returnees passing through the transit hub of Malakal. ADRA in Central Equatoria registered 292 individuals who arrived in Juba by barge from various northern States. Also in South Darfur, the Sultans and IDP community reported that at least 124 individuals left Nyala by train to Deain heading to the South. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal an estimated 148 individuals arrived from South Darfur, while in Western Equatoria an unconfirmed number of spontaneous returnees were reported in Yambio County.
- In Abyei the number of spontaneous return has increased in the last few weeks; UNMIS/RRR estimated that the population of Abyei town has reached 6,000 persons, 80% of which are returnees. Abyei specifically witnessed an increase in the number of spontaneous returnees from Agok (45 km South of Abyei) due to the end of the rainy season and the poor living conditions.
- This month the number of verified spontaneous returnees is growing as UNMIS/RRR and partners verified 3,367 spontaneous returnees in Jonglie State, 13,178 in Central Equatoria (Juba Port), 2,773 in Lakes State and 373 returnees in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

**Refugee Returns**

- This month, UNHCR repatriated 122 refugees, of which 95 from Uganda under the assisted self-repatriation mechanism.
- Between 1 January and the end of October 2008, the total number of refugees returned through organized return supported by UNHCR reached **60,798**, of whom 59,217 persons (97%) were organized and 1,581

persons (3%) were under the assisted self-repatriation programme.

- As of the close of the period, repatriation of Sudanese refugees to southern Sudan and Blue Nile had reached a cumulative total of **294,583**, of which **137,753** returned under the organized and assisted self-repatriation programmes.

### **Reintegration activities:**

#### **Food and NFIs:**

- Various reintegration efforts resulted in delivery of food and NFIs in several Southern States. In Lainya County of Central Equatoria 9,677 recently verified returnees should received food rations from WFP by mid-November while UNICEF and FAO will supply NFIs.
- In Wulu County, Lakes State, 2,099 verified spontaneous returnees are to benefit from ERA support while delivery of complementary ERA support of NFIs by UNICEF and SSRRC had been completed for returnees in Rumbek Central County.
- In Unity WFP distributed 1.76 MT of assorted food commodities to the 31 newly returned qualified teachers to Pariang County.
- In Panyijar County Unity state, WVI distributed 300 NFIs kits to flood victims and 235 kits to spontaneous returnees in Pariang County.

#### **Health**

- On 26 October, UNMIS/RRR in **Abyei** organized for TCC-Zam-Con to put two large water tanks in Abyei hospital, one of the most important issues in town.

#### **Education:**

- In South Kordofan, the Ministry of Education (SMoE) with support of UNICEF dispatched 90% of the total requirements of school materials to the localities, INGO Samaritan Purse International commenced the construction of an elementary school for Darfurian IDPs accommodated at an IDP camp in Kauda area (Rashad County).
- In Jonglei, Windle Trust International (NGO) is undertaking an intensive programme tailored to bridge the language gap between returnee children fluent in Arabic and local English speaking youth.

#### **Water and sanitation:**

- In Eastern Equatoria, approximately 50 boreholes were drilled by UNMIS/RRR's implementing partners. In Abyei UNMIS/RRR and UNICEF water/sanitation visited key villages in the northern part of the state to assess water situation. UNICEF will follow-up primarily with water-yard repairs.
- In South Kordofan, MEDAIR has developed a Household Water Filtration System to support communities in getting clean and drinkable water;

#### **Livelihood opportunities:**

- In Lakes and Western Bahr el Ghazal states the Annual Needs, Livelihood and Nutrition Anthropometric Assessment (ALNA) has been conducted to explore issues such as food security, livelihoods, and basic services.
- In South Kordofan, German Agro Action (GAA) is implementing a livestock restocking programme in Lagawa locality targeting returnee women-headed households. Also, Save the Children-US conducted distribution of treadle pumps for women and youth groups and vegetable farms in 5 villages in Kadugli Locality and supplied veterinary kits and bicycles for veterinary services in 4 villages in Kadugli Locality. Save the Children-US conducted Natural Resource Management, Agriculture Extension and Veterinary training sessions in two payams and distributed 25 MT of vegetable crops among 800 households, 300 goats among 75 households and veterinary kits and drugs for 11 veterinary services in the same areas.
- In Western Equatoria, FAO's Sudan Productive Capacity Recovery Program to be implemented in Ezo and Tambura Counties aims at building the capacity of farmers and of the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the restoration of the rural livelihood. Major activities will be the rehabilitation of the Tambura-Wau access road, the rehabilitation of the Ministry of Agriculture office, as well as capacity building.

#### **Demining activities:**

- UNMAO reported on their major achievements in Southern Kordofan (2007-2008) as follows:  
**Mine clearance:** 481,000 square meters cleared and 131 anti-personnel mines disposed; in **Road**

**clearance:** 150 kms cleared with 4 anti-tank mine disposed; **Technical survey:** 20 minefields identified and isolated; **Disposal of explosive ordnances:** Over 2,000 items disposed of in various villages in the State benefiting over 25,000 community members.

#### State-Level Co-ordination and Policy Dialogue

- In **Northern Bahr el Ghazal**, UNMIS/RRR, NGOs and UN agencies attended a meeting with State government officials and the Acting Governor to discuss flood related issues. The state government and SSRRC reported that both in Aweil South and Aweil North County only one town is accessible while 80% of land is under water. The flooding has affected the host communities, the returnees and displaced people while losses in human life were reported. Crops were destroyed. The Acting Governor and SSRRC appealed to all UN agencies and NGOs to provide urgent assistance to Northern Bahr el Ghazal.
- In **Upper Nile**, UNMIS/RRR participated in the monthly NFI coordination meeting where World Vision International verified 200 returnee families in Panykang County from April until now. WVI is planning to provide NFI to 300 families (200 returnees + 100 vulnerable host families). UNMIS/RRR Malakal is working with WVI and WFP to ensure that these returnee families will also receive three months food rations from WFP. An inter-agency mission will be sent to Khorfulus to verify returnees. The mission is postponed until accessibility to the area improves.
- In **Western Equatoria** state, UNMIS/RRR held a coordination meeting with the SSRRC to discuss a case of a Property Restitution conflict involving a female-headed household returnee, recently settled in Bangasu Payam after the failed attempt to recover part of the family house and land in Yambio town. The SSRRC County in Yambio will coordinate efforts to file the case, while UNMIS/RRR will facilitate the referral to Yambio County Commissioner. UNMIS/RRR, HALU/HERR, SSRRC State and Yambio County representatives attended an orientation meeting organised by UNHCR in response to the Congolese Refugees Crisis. UNHCR shared its activities plan, including Refugees' registration and verification in different locations indicated by local authorities. Although the data gathered so far has been presented at the meeting, registration and verification will continue for the next two weeks after which complete data will be available.
- UNMIS/RRR advocated for an information campaign targeting IDPs intending to return from Wau in **Western Bahr el Ghazal** to neighboring States. UNMIS/RRR met with UNICEF and was informed of the availability of USD \$12,000 to support such initiative. Also, UNMIS/RRR met the Minister of Information and Communication and discussed the engagement of the Ministry in such initiative.
- In **Northern Bahr el Ghazal**, UNMIS/RRR met with the State Minister of Finance and Economic Planning and UNDP Technical Support Officer to Local Government to discuss their plans and coordination of support to returns and reintegration this upcoming season. The Minister informed that no plans have been put in place so far and that he intends to liaise with UNMIS/RRR in Khartoum and the state government. He reiterated his government's commitments to ensure provision of an adequate working environment for any humanitarian intervention. The UNDP Technical support Officer to Local Government informed that a "State Planning and Development Committee (SPDC)" has been formed to lead the state's planning and development processes. UNDP also has established sector coordination committees where technical issues and gaps will be discussed while the SPDC will be provided with feedback to allow for better planning. Since sector coordination committees already exist and are headed by the Director Generals of the different ministers, UNMIS/RRR suggested a merging of the two bodies.
- UNMIS/RRR in **South Darfur** met with UNAMID\Humanitarian Office to address the humanitarian needs of Southern Sudan IDPs which agreed to follow-up and start assessment visits to these camps.
- In **Jonglie**, UNMIS/RRR and partners met to review support to 1,773 flood affected individuals and 3,000 returnee families in Khofulus. (WFP believes that these are locally displaced and not returnees from the North and as such, have already received support from WFP.) The list of flood affected population has not yet been approved by SSRRC; assessment in this area is impossible due to the lack of access. Furthermore, UNMIS/RRR discussed support to Northern Jonglei by Upper Nile based agencies with the SSRRC.
- In **Upper Nile**, UNMIS/RRR and partners met to strengthen the tracking and monitoring system in Malakal. Currently, ADRA is registering at the port and bus station and is providing NFI to the returnees. However occasionally SSRRC also produces its own list of returnees. There is a need for a single tracking system.
- On 15 October, UNMIS/RRR met with IOM and SSRRC to harmonize the return figures for spontaneous

and organized returns, and to identify the number of IDP population still in **Western Bahr el Ghazal State** in preparation for the coming return season (for the South to South movement). Also, to verify and assess back-flow of returnees from Gogrial East in Warrap State to Acum Acum, Roc Roc Dong and in Eastern Bank IDP Camp in Jur River -Western Bahr el Ghazal State

- On 16 October, In **Western Equatoria** UNMIS/RRR attended an Emergency Coordination Meeting at the SSRRC office, focusing on the Congolese refugee crisis. UNHCR updated the meeting about the final number of refugees verified in Sakure and Gangura, 188 and 1,770 people respectively. Over 1,000 refugees were reported in James Diko and Kuroko but these places are currently not accessible by road. UHCR also shared information about the presence in Sakure of 1,045 individuals (209 households) Sudanese IDPs displaced by the latest LRA attacks.
- In response to the flood in **Lakes State** many coordination meetings took place. On 16 October, UNMIS/RRR participated in a meeting of UN agencies and international and local NGOs convened by SSRRC to discuss a response to the seasonal flood in Cueibet County which led to population displacement (+1,000) and damaged crops. The meeting resolved that there was an urgent need to dispatch an inter-agency team to the areas affected to assess the immediate needs of the affected people. It is worth to note that during the last return season [2007/8], over 2000 IDPs and refugees returned to Cueibet County.
- Also, on 22 October, a meeting chaired by SSRRC Director and the RCO was held on the flash flood in Cueibet County-**Lake state**. According to the local county authority and SSRRC Secretary, many people were displaced. An assessment mission involving WFP, OXFAM, UNICEF, UNMIS/RRR and UNMO will be conducted in Cueibet County on 24 October. UNMO also reported a flood in Rumbek East County and further population displacement caused by tribal clashes. According to the SSRRC Director, information received from the county on the affected populations is estimated at 2,751 individuals from 17 villages in Yirol East County.
- Subsequently, a meeting of the joint team was also held in **Lake State**, on 27-28 October 2008, to review the findings of the mission. Only three out of the seven Payams were assessed. The most affected payams were still inaccessible. In Abiriu payam, 14 villages were found to be seriously affected. Many people were displaced, while serious damage was caused to houses, animals and crops. Duony Payam is also seriously affected while in Maloupec, the flood water had mostly receded and people are returning to their homesteads. The affected population in Abiriu was estimated to be 725 individuals and in Duony about 740 individuals. The SSRRC's enumerators were requested to conduct immediate registration, which could facilitate the urgent delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- On 29 October, in **Central Equatoria** UNMIS/RRR organized a meeting for the verification of spontaneous returnees in Yei County, to plan the initial steps for verification of the spontaneous returnees that were tracked by IOM. UNMIS/RRR will lead the Verification Task Force to Yei. The team will conduct a one-day trip to Yei on the 3<sup>d</sup> of November, and the actual verification will tentatively be conducted on the 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- In **South Kordofan**, UNMIS/RRR participated in the NFI & ES Sector Coordination Meeting and highlighted the importance of assisting returnees in Kharasana AU with mosquito nets. The agencies briefed on the progress with distribution of NFIs among returnees, IDPs, vulnerable and flood affected population including the number of households served, items distributed, locations, etc.

#### **Assessment/Data-Gathering**

- Throughout October, UNMIS/RRR continued follow-up meetings on data collection for the camp-profile exercise in the **Khartoum** located IDP camps at Mayo, Jebel Awlia, Omdurman el Salam and Wad el Bashir. This month Mayo IDP camp profile was completed and shared with partners. Preliminary results of these profiles pointing to an urgent need for interventions in the area of basic services for the IDPs currently residing in these camps.
- UNMIS/RRR in **Northern Bahr el Ghazal** participated in an interagency assessment of flood affected victims in Aweil South, (7,530 households), Aweil North (4,570 households), Aweil West (6,834 households) and Aweil East (4,600 households). The flood victims include returnees who remain the most vulnerable group in the state and have lost their properties and their crops. After verification of the collected data, humanitarian assistance will begin.
- In **Jonglie**, An interagency mission visited Baidit Payam (Bor County) from 17 to 19 October to assess

the flood situation. Since January to date, 20,520 returnees were able to return to Bor County, the majority of which settled in Baidit Payam. Spontaneous returnees verified in Bor County in September and October who intended to go to Baidit Payam, Jalle Payam and Twic County are now stranded as 15km of road south of Baidit is under water. The team found that the health situation is very poor while the food situation is seriously affecting all but especially the villages of Manyideng, Tong, Makolcui and Akayic. The loss of large number of cattle has seriously damaged livelihoods while the grazing land is still submerged in water causing further harm. The interagency team has established core basic emergency assistance. A quick intervention from the agencies dealing with veterinary programmes and from the Government is also needed.

- UNMIS/RRR, IOM, WFP and SSRRC completed the verification of spontaneous returnees for August 2008 in Rubkona, Pariang and Mayendit counties in **Unity State**. The returnees informed that they have arrived at the end of cultivation season and that as less food may be available during the dry season, they might need assistance until the next rain season.
- In **Jonglie**, UNMIS/RRR led a verification mission to Akobo where 3,323 spontaneous returnees were verified. Three months initial food packages have been issued by WFP. About 70 percent of verified returnees came from Funyundo Refugee Camp in Ethiopia. The team found that most of the schools and health facilities in Akobo County are abandoned due to flood. A shipment of emergency drugs to mitigate the existing medical situation was recommended. UNMIS/RRR has shared recommendations and is discussing way forward with the Ministry of Health and WHO.
- In **Lakes state**, the Joint team (UNMIS/RRR, SSRRC, MOH, MOE, MOPI, WFP and WWI) continued the Annual Needs, Livelihood and Nutrition Anthropometric Assessment in Rumbek Central County. It was revealed that the livelihoods of the returnees and host communities have slightly improved since last review, as security is better, thus allowing residents to construct shelters and engage in other activities. The relationship between returnees and host community is harmonious, returnees have access to land. There is a need for health centre, micro finance project, community empowerment projects, agriculture support such as seeds/tools and training in ox-plough and vegetable gardening.
- On 22 October, UNMIS/RRR in **Blue Nile** sponsored and participated in an interagency (WFP, UNICEF, SMOH and HAC/SSRC) assessment to Gindi where UNMIS TCC established a medical camp providing treatment to 538 patients. Three highlighted findings were of special concern to the team. 53 children have died since August due to malaria and diarrhoea. There is food shortage since July and the community currently survives by eating tree roots. The harvest will be less than expected due to pest infestation and heavy rains. The community has currently no means to secure food until the next rainy season.
- On 23 October, in **Lakes State** UNMIS/RRR, UNMO, Civil Affairs and Security conducted a helicopter visit to Yirol town, Yirol West County to assess the impact of the flood which destroyed properties and livestock in the county. The county commissioner and the SSRRC informed that about 3,000 individuals from Aluak–Luack, Mapourdit and Ador have been affected. The cause of the displacement and the names of the affected locations will be provided to UNMIS/RRR in the near future.
- On 24 October, in **Western Equatoria**, UNMIS/RRR coordinated with UNHCR, HERR and SSRRC a joint mission to Ukuo boma (in Bangasu Payam, 6 km from the DRC border) to assess the impact of Congolese refugees on the long term reintegration of 466 Sudanese returnees. A total of 60 Congolese households were verified and there were indications that more refugees were coming. Ukuo boma has been affected by the presence of refugees. One water borehole that served 2,500 Ukuo's residents now supplies water to more than 3,000 individuals. Food is becoming in short supply as local population shared the stock they had with refugees. Urgent humanitarian assistance to refugees and the local community in Ukuo is needed.
- On 27 October, in **Unity state** following the flood assessment in Panyjiar County the last delivery of another 100 NFI kits was made to Nyal payam. Meanwhile, WFP Food for Recovery program is ongoing in the County, targeting flood victims. The issue of Koch and Guit floods is under discussion with the SSRRC Director.
- In **Upper Nile**, UNMIS/RRR continues to gather updated data for the state-wide Reintegration Strategy document. So far the final draft of the protection component should be soon endorsed by the Protection working group. Inputs for Food and Security components should be submitted by the partners by November 12 while inputs by UNICEF on education, water/sanitation and health will be forthcoming.

### **Operational Planning**

#### **Capacity-Building**

- On 27 October, UNMIS/RRR and DDR in **Abyei** conducted a workshop on the Abyei Roadmap with Boma leaders, local NGO and CBO representatives in Agok. The workshop was well received by the participant.

#### **Sudan Information Campaign for Return (SICR)**

- NSTR

#### **Key Challenges/Priorities:**

- **Follow up monitoring of the situation of those who have returned**
- **Follow up with agencies to identify any gaps in reintegration assistance**
- **Planning of organized return and reintegration programming for the next season**

**Signature head of unit or designate:** Marie-France Heliere

**Signature head of agency/division or designate:**