

12 January 2012

## Highlights:

- Aid organizations estimate that 60,000 people have been affected by inter-communal violence in Jonglei State. Food and other life-saving relief has started to be delivered to some of the hardest hit areas.
- Inter-communal attacks continue to be reported in Akobo and Uror counties in Jonglei State.
- During a visit to South Sudan from 6-10 January, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees appealed to refugees in Yida to relocate to safer locations further from the Sudan border area.

## I. Situation overview

Humanitarian partners focused on the massive emergency response operation to people in need of assistance following inter-communal clashes in Jonglei over the past three weeks. It is estimated that 60,000 people have been affected by the violence. While aid organizations begin to deliver life-saving relief to people in need, a lack of air assets and the limited number of partners on the ground continue to strain the response operation to the large number of people scattered over a vast, remote area. Humanitarian organizations also focused on responding to over 75,000 refugees in Upper Nile and Unity states who have fled fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. Humanitarian assistance also continued to be provided to an estimated 110,000 people displaced from Abyei. US\$20 million has been earmarked for humanitarian operations in South Sudan from the underfunded window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). At the political level, the governments of South Sudan and Sudan are due to meet in Addis Abba from 17-23 January to discuss outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues.

## II. Humanitarian challenges: needs and response

### Continued inter-communal attacks reported in Jonglei State

The security situation in Jonglei remained fluid as inter-communal attacks between the Murle and Lou Nuer continued to be reported in Akobo and Uror counties. On 10 January, unconfirmed reports indicated that Diro and Padoi payams in Walgak were attacked, according to UN Security. Between 10 and 11 January, the Deputy Governor of Akobo reported that Pahor payam had been burned down in another attack. In Uror County on 11 January, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported an attack in the Yuai area killing an unverified number of people and causing people to flee the area. Twelve injured people were airlifted to Upper Nile State for medical treatment. Assessments will take place in the coming days to Akobo and Yuai, to verify the impact of the attacks among those affected.

### Response continues to people affected by Jonglei violence

The Government of South Sudan declared Jonglei State a disaster zone on 5 January and asked humanitarian agencies to accelerate life-saving assistance. Clusters have developed response plans to the crisis. Most of the costs were foreseen in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and there are only a small number of requests in addition to the CAP, the most notable exception being \$5 million for airlifting. A logistics and coordination hub for the operation has been set up in Pibor town and humanitarian organizations are rapidly scaling up their presence on the ground.



(Above: Aerial view of Fertait village which was largely destroyed during recent attacks. Photo: UN/Isaac Billy)

People affected by the violence continued to arrive in Pibor town, with 32,225 people registered for humanitarian assistance as of 12 January by partners on the ground. Some people in this group are reportedly from Likuangle. Relief continued to be delivered to Pibor town, with 3,000 people receiving a 15-day food ration by 12 January. A first six-truck convoy of aid carrying 20 metric tons of food, 1,500 non-food item (NFI) kits, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (WASH), child protection kits and nutritional supplements reached Pibor on 13 January, opening up the road between Bor and Pibor. Almost 2,000 NFI kits have arrived in Pibor to date. Three boreholes were repaired, increasing the number of functioning water points to 18 out of a total of 20. A WASH team and a medical team have been deployed to Pibor, and an NGO with NFI/food distribution expertise is boosting its capacity in the town. Identification and care of vulnerable children is also underway, with 117 unaccompanied children registered as of 11 January, according to the Child Protection Cluster. Initial education supplies have been transported to Pibor including a tent to use as a temporary learning space, four schools-in-a-box and four recreation kits. Two temporary learning spaces and four child friendly spaces will be set up in the coming days.

In Gumuruk, 4,500 people have been registered and the distribution of two-week food rations for 1,500 people began on 12 January. In Likuangle, registration of affected people is scheduled to begin in the coming days, with food distribution also scheduled to start. A food rubhall has been restored. An inter-agency WASH team will be sent to Likuangle in the coming days to assess what WASH support is needed, as all but one water point was destroyed during the attack on the town. In Boma, people have continued to arrive. Distribution of food rations for one month to 2,000 affected people was completed by 12 January. Education partners have registered 250 school-aged children affected by the attacks. While Fertait



(Above: Food distribution begins to affected people in Pibor. Photo: UN/Isaac Billy)

village was largely destroyed (see picture on previous page), the overall level of destruction south of Pibor remains unclear. Jonglei State authorities reported that a large number of affected people are moving south from Bilat towards Boma. Partners are trying to reach these people to assess their needs.

It is estimated that 50,000 to 80,000 heads of cattle were seized in the violence. This represents a serious loss for the affected communities. During lean periods in South Sudan, cattle are sold or exchanged for food. The sale of one cow alone can buy a family three months worth of grain. The movement of such a large number of cattle from one state to another during the attacks increases the risk of transmitting livestock disease, as many different herds mingle under stressed conditions.

Heavy-lift air capacity remains the most urgent need of the humanitarian community in its delivery of lifesaving assistance to those affected by the violence. The remoteness of the hardest hit areas means that many of them are only reachable by air, making the delivery of assistance difficult and expensive.

#### **UN refugee chief appeals to Yida refugees to relocate**

Humanitarian partners continued to encourage refugees in Unity State to relocate to sites at a safer distance from the volatile border area with Sudan. On 8 January, refugee leaders in Yida met with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, who stressed the need for them to relocate for safety reasons. A joint committee comprised of refugee leaders and humanitarian organisations began meetings the following day to review the modalities of relocation. The Unity State Governor has also stressed the need for the refugees in Yida to move southwards. As relocations begin to Pariang and Nyeel, other sites are being identified to provide refugees with more choices for relocation and to accommodate larger numbers of arrivals.

Humanitarian assistance to 23,700 people at the Yida refugee site continued. Between 1-8 January, two-week food rations were distributed to 7,000 people. A one-week food rations were provided to some 650 newly arrived people. The delivery of health services is ongoing in Yida, Pariang and Nyeel. Over 90 tents for shelter and two blocks of latrines were erected in Pariang. A building for an anticipated 564 students from Yida is also being built. In Yida, partners focused on the safety of unaccompanied girls at the site. A separate compound has been set up to ensure they are secure and gender-based violence awareness training is also being conducted. In Nyeel, eight trucks carrying NFIs including buckets, kitchen sets, plastic sheets and blankets arrived during the week.

### **Humanitarian assistance continues to refugees in Maban County**

Refugees continued to arrive in Maban County in Upper Nile State, fleeing ongoing fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile. The Doro refugee site has been receiving 200 new arrivals each day, with the total number of people at the site standing at 28,000 as of 12 January. Eleven thousand refugees are being hosted at the Jammam site. A further 15,000 refugees have been identified at the border area of El Foj, by NGO partners on the ground. In addition, up to 25,000 refugees are reported to be located in other border areas, according to unconfirmed reports from refugee leaders. Demining activities are underway in Bunj and partners will soon start working to clear Jammam of unexploded ordnance. Over the coming days IOM and UNHCR plan to move the refugee population, currently living in El Foj, to the Jammam site which is further away from the insecure Sudan border, following agreement from the refugee community.

Partners continue to provide humanitarian assistance and coordinate activities at refugee locations. Between 6 and 12 January, one-month food rations were provided to 10,253 people at the two main refugee sites. Health partners vaccinated 5,772 children in the past week. Partners also continued to support the Bunj County primary health care centre, by providing surgical interventions including trauma response. The health clinic in Doro is receiving out-patient treatment (OPT) consultations and its maternity facilities are open 24-hours a day, with two international midwives on the ground. Next week, OPT and anti-natal care activities will begin in Jammam. WASH partners have drilled four boreholes in Doro and two in Jammam, where they also deployed a 10,000 litre water bladder. Water is also being trucked to the Jammam site each day. All 28,000 refugees at the Doro site have received an NFI package including plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets. Refugees in the Jammam site will receive a similar package in the coming weeks.

### **Water, sanitation and education assistance delivered to people displaced from Abyei**

Humanitarian organizations continued to provide relief to approximately 110,000 people displaced to the Agok area, Warrap State and other areas in South Sudan during the conflict that broke out in Abyei in May 2011. During the reporting period, food for one month was provided to 3,100 people. Areas of focus of humanitarian partners included education and WASH. Education supplies were distributed to schools hosting displaced children in Agok, including 40 blackboards and 100 buckets and bars of soap. The school supplies will benefit more than 3,600 children. Hygiene promotion activities were carried out in Koluak village in the Agok area and soap was distributed to 621 beneficiaries during the campaign. The supply of safe water in Agok and the surrounding areas hosting displaced people is adequate, according to the WASH Cluster. During the week partners provided WASH supplies for sanitation facilities and hand pumps in Agok, including 15 rolls of tarpaulin sheets, five latrine digging kits and four tool boxes. The construction of 50 latrines in the Agok area by partners continued, with 10 latrines operational. When complete, the 50 latrines will serve 2,000 people.

## **III. Returns to South Sudan**

### **Over 2,300 returnees arrive by barge to Juba**

The three IOM-supported barges that departed Kosti on 19 December 2011 arrived safely in Juba on 6 January carrying 2,364 passengers. The barges left Kosti carrying 2,822 passengers but 458 disembarked at ports along the Nile River along the way. The next barge movement is scheduled to depart from Renk in Upper Nile State early next week and should reach Juba approximately two weeks later. IOM and partners have begun preparations for the next train movements from Khartoum, which are expected to depart before the end of January. The trains will carry South Sudanese to Greater Bahr el Ghazal. The trains will stop in Kosti en route to allow returnees there to board. According to IOM, there are 784 returnees at the Kosti railway station waiting for transport to South Sudan, in particular Greater Bahr el Ghazal. Over 362,000 returnees have reached their final destinations in South Sudan since 30 October 2010. The spontaneous return of people has been slowly increasing since the end of the rainy season, with an average of 400 returnees per week arriving since the beginning of 2012.

Over  
**362,000**  
returnees in  
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 4-10 January	19	0	30	119	67	5	97	206	1,773	375	<b>2,691</b>
Previous Arrivals (adjustments)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Previous Total	58,424	87,298	32,893	68,440	20,616	17,393	20,863	2,032	40,230	11,247	<b>359,436</b>
<b>Updated Total</b>	<b>58,443</b>	<b>87,298</b>	<b>32,923</b>	<b>68,559</b>	<b>20,683</b>	<b>17,398</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>42,003</b>	<b>11,622</b>	<b>362,127</b>
Type of Returnee											
Government Assisted	25,267	32,080	16,869	23,396	7,832	15,627	16,090	1,722	27,716	10,183	176,782
Spontaneous	18,026	55,218	6,797	43,772	12,851	1,501	4,840	467	14,287	1,439	159,198
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 10 January 2012.

### Assessment highlights difficult conditions for returnees as they settle

An inter-agency assessment of returnee conditions at their final destinations in the five counties of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State was carried out from 4-11 January. The assessment found that in the areas where returnees planned to settle, there was a lack of essential drugs in all health facilities, limited access to safe drinking water, an acute food shortage due to poor crop performance and a lack of shelter and NFIs. While these issues also affect the host communities, the vulnerability of returnees means that they have a lower coping capacity and will find it harder to adapt.

#### Contact Information:

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments on the current issue, please contact: [ochasouthsudan@un.org](mailto:ochasouthsudan@un.org)