

Highlights

- Humanitarian actors temporarily relocate from northern Unity State as insecurity heightens.
- The return of 6,000 people from Kosti and Khartoum to southern Sudan organized by the Government of National Unity begins
- Assistance provided to 2,000 people displaced due to fighting in Southern Kordofan
- Full humanitarian operations resume in Kalma IDP camp after a 10 day interruption

1. North-South population movements

Spontaneous returns from northern Sudan continue at low levels, with just under 1,700 people returning over the past week. The total number of new arrivals since October 2010 is now more than 292,000 people.

Returnees overview (Statistical update for 21 April 2011)

According to information from IOM, ADRA, Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC), the Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO) and WFP, the number of returnees in southern Sudan, Southern Kordofan and the Abyei area since October 2010 is as follows:

Southern Sudan	Southern Kordofan	Abyei Area
292,000	5,210	37,727

Kosti

On 19 April, ADRA reported 2,075 returnees at the way station (including 1,175 children). UN agencies and NGO partners continue to provide assistance in water and sanitation, health, nutrition, food and non-food items, education and protection.

The Commissioner of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Kosti on 19 April revealed that an agreement had been signed between the National Centre for Refugee and Voluntary Return (NCRVR) and the Nile River Transport Company (NRTC) to transport returnees from Khartoum and Kosti by barge to southern Sudan. The Commissioner also stated that the Government of National Unity will rent buses for 303 returnees who are heading to Malakal in Upper Nile state. The NRTC will also provide a barge on a weekly basis to transport returnees to southern Sudan.

The NCRVR also signed an agreement with the Railway Corporation to transport returnees in departure points in Khartoum to Kosti from which they will be able to continue their journey by barge to the south.

Joint Task Force on Returns

On 20 April, organized return of 6,000 people from Kosti and Khartoum by the Government of National Unity began with the registration of returnees.

South-North returns

UN agencies and their NGO partners continue to provide assistance to returnees from Upper Nile, south Sudan. The more than 6,500 returnees in Al Hudieb and Al Dub Karya in White Nile State are receiving increased humanitarian assistance in water and sanitation, health care, non-food items, and seeds and tools.

2. Southern Sudan

Humanitarian actors relocate from northern Unity state as insecurity heightens

The security situation in Unity deteriorated over the last week, with a number of conflict incidents reported in Mayom, Abiemnhom, Pariang and Koch counties. After two separate mine incidents occurred on the road between Mayom and Abiemnhom on 19 April, security restrictions on the road were raised again. Boong village in Pook Payam in Mayom County was also reportedly burnt during a clash between militia and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on 19 April, displacing an unknown number of people to the payam headquarters. Additional reports indicated that other communities in and near Mayom town have pre-emptively fled to avoid the insecurity. On 20 April, 14 NGO staff relocated to Bentiu due to the significant deterioration of security in the area. Another 14 NGO staff will be relocated on 21 April with UNMIS forced protection. Efforts to provide food, non-food items, WASH, and health and livelihood support to 752 people displaced by attacks in Mayom County on 17 March were planned for this week, but have again been put on hold due to the security situation.

Repeated low intensity inter-communal attacks in Jonglei

In Jonglei, a trend of low intensity cattle raiding and abductions by suspected Murle perpetrators has been a growing concern for humanitarian actors. Up to 90 incidents of inter-communal fighting have been registered in the area since the beginning of the year. Initial reports indicate that a large group of persons from the Luo Nuer community launched a retaliatory attack against the Murle community in Pibor County on 19 April, with reports of heavy casualties and displacement. Two international NGOs are already in Pibor to provide support, including medical and emergency assistance.

Humanitarian needs high in coping with displaced populations in northern Jonglei

Humanitarian actors continue to assess and respond to civilians displaced in northern Jonglei following the resumption of fighting between SPLA and renegade General George Athor in early February. An ongoing military operation by SPLA troops has resulted in continuing displacements of the population. The situation has required ongoing assessment and response activities in affected areas, straining the capacity of humanitarian actors on the ground. Nutrition surveys by MSF-H in Canal, Khorfulus and Old Fangak have been ongoing since 29 March targeting displaced communities. Results indicate that, while malnutrition is not currently at emergency levels, a significant portion of the surveyed general population is on the threshold. This is of concern as the hunger period starts peaking in May. Displacement and the arrival of returnees are also straining resources within host communities, and any further upsurge in insecurity may further impact food security. The spread of the disease kala-azar, which is endemic in the area, is also of concern. A second assessment mission to Canal, Khorfulus and Mareng is scheduled for 21 April to verify newly displaced persons, and to follow up with food and non-food items to 5,405 displaced in three locations verified in the initial assessment.

Land, shelter and livelihood assistance remain urgent for returnees

In advance of the rainy season, land, shelter and livelihood assistance are currently underway. UNDP is supporting the survey, allocation and distribution of an additional 22,000 plots of land for resident use across Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei, on top of the 2,000 plots already surveyed in Warrap. In Kwajok town in Warrap, all returnees previously residing in schools have now received land and moved to their plots, with over 4,000 people newly resettled in the last three weeks. This has allowed schooling to resume and returnees to begin integrating into communities. In Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal, the government is clearing land for returnees. However, in Aweil town land allocation for civilians stranded in transit sites is still delayed as surveyors are yet to be deployed. Concerns regarding the food security of returnees during the next three months (the lean season) are growing, as the initial three-month supply of food assistance is running out. To address this need, seeds and tools assistance facilitated through FAO should reach 165,000 households throughout southern Sudan by mid-May, including returnees.

Response continues in Pibor County in southern Jonglei

Two assessment missions took place on 8 and 12 April, following clashes near Boma between security forces and civilians on 29-31 March. The latter mission visited Khoradep and Naoyapuru villages in Pibor County, to further determine the condition of people affected by the violence. It is estimated that the 9,300 persons displaced from Nyaipuru village as a result of the clashes have moved to Khoradep, Runit and possibly areas in Eastern Equatoria. Emergency food rations and WASH response is planned for the displaced in Khoradep and Runit this week, while UNICEF is also planning to provide emergency tents for schooling at several locations in Boma Payam.

Insecurity continues to impede humanitarian access on Lakes and Western Equatoria border

The situation along the border area between Mapuordit in Yirol West County in Lakes and Mvolo County in Western Equatoria remains of concern, following ongoing inter-communal clashes between the two communities since February. As a consequence of the fighting, several villages were burnt down and over 34,640 people have been displaced. Despite ongoing efforts by the governors of the two states to calm tensions, there have been reports of new villages destroyed and of the potential formation of a new militia group comprising up to 1,000 men. Humanitarian assistance continues in Mvolo town to 8,961 displaced persons and another 25,680 persons in six locations within Yirol West County. While assessment teams have been able to reach and respond to needs in Mapuordit and Mvolo towns, work is still ongoing to reach people in the villages in-between.

3. Three Protocol areas

Abyei

The general security situation in Abyei area is calm but remains unpredictable. The Acting Sector Commander-Sector VI reported increased proliferation of arms among young civilians within Abyei town. It has been difficult for UNMIS patrols to verify rumours of impending attacks by armed militias due to denial of freedom of movement and limited access to specific areas by unauthorised military forces.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and partners distributed UNHCR non-food items to households from Dungop, Miyen Kor, Guldow, Wunkir and Theytyei who had left their homes following rumours of possible conflict. Households from Wunkir and Thethyei also received food support provided by CRS. Households from Dungop, Miyen Kor and Guldow continue to receive food support through WFP's regular food-for-recovery programs.

South Kordofan

According to UNMIS, following violent clashes in four predominantly Nuban villages within Al Rashad locality on 13 and 14 April some 19 people were killed, about 30 injured, and some 2,000 people were displaced. An inter-agency assessment (OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, ICRC) to the villages was conducted on 14 April and humanitarian assistance was delivered on 19 and 20 April with food delivered to some 2,000 people in the four villages and non-food items to some 250 people that are currently accommodated at a school.

Blue Nile State

The water shortage in Blue Nile State is being closely followed by UNICEF and WFP. A new water yard has been installed and a non-functional water yard near the border with Ethiopia has been rehabilitated, both are providing 100 m³ per day. The Blue Nile State Water Corporation provided two generator sets and two submersible pumps for both water yards. After rendering the two water yards operational, the total amount of water from all sources excluding the water tankering, is 185 m³ (out of a total 200 m³ needed).

4. Darfur

UNAMID operation Springbasket

Operation Springbasket is an initiative of UNAMID and humanitarian organizations aimed at increasing secure access for humanitarian workers to a number of selected communities in Jebel Marra and parts of North Darfur to address the immediate needs of populations and expand humanitarian space. An agreement was reached with the Government and the Sudan Liberation Movement Abdel Wahid faction (SLM-AW) to allow for the provision of

humanitarian aid to fourteen locations controlled by the armed movement (Ein Siro, Tok Jan, Forok, Mulagat, Jebel Elssa, Kutrum, Daya, Sabun, Gorlang Baraje, Sorang, Farga Suk, Feyna, Kaguro, Sortony) and four controlled by the Government (Kutum, Nertiti, Tawila, Talha). The relief packages that will be provided during the operation will be determined by OCHA and humanitarian partners, which will also coordinate the humanitarian efforts on the ground. The operation is scheduled to take place from 27 April to 17 May 2011.

Kalma IDP Camp

As a result of the hostage situation on 11 April, all international NGOs operating in Kalma Camp in South Darfur minimized their activities in the camp until the safety of their staff is assured by the camp community. On 19 April, OCHA and UNAMID visited the camp for discussions with the youth and sheiks and received assurances by both groups that no humanitarians would be targeted and IDP leaders agreed to provide a safe and secure working environment for humanitarian workers within the camp. Humanitarian operations have since resumed in Kalma IDP camp.

New arrivals in IDP camps

On 19 April, OCHA, UNHCR, TDH and UNAMID visited the 450 newly arrived displaced persons who have settled next to Dorti IDP Camp in el Geneina. The leadership of the new IDPs reported that movement to the area had started on a small scale in November 2010 with the majority arriving between March and April 2011. The IDPs originated from Rahad el Berdi, Garsilla, Wadi Salih and Saleah and Eish Bara both in West Darfur. The reasons given for the movement were the inter-Arab tribal conflict of 2011 and the insecurity that followed these clashes.

On 19 April, sheikhs from Umbalout village, 67 kms west of Nyala in South Darfur reported the presence of 372 new IDPs in their village displaced from Shangal Tobaya. According to the sheikhs, the new IDPs have been in Umbalout for the last four weeks and are in need NFIs and food assistance.

Assistance to spontaneous returns

Plans for assisting spontaneous returnees in Nyoro in West Darfur are ongoing. UNHCR and WFP LCU will provide NFIs to the 739 returnees (refugees and IDPs). UNHCR will drill four boreholes and UNICEF and WES will add more water sources if needed. WFP will provide food and FAO has already identified a national NGO to provide agricultural supplies to 1,500 people who have access to cultivatable land. UNHCR will fund the building of a police post and CRS will provide shelter and latrines.

5. Humanitarian Financing

The US\$5.1 million CERF request for the response to displacements in the Shangil Tobaya area has been approved by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The grants will fund the response to people displaced by armed clashes between Government forces and armed movements in the affected areas.

In addition, the Humanitarian Coordinator has approved Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) Emergency Reserve grants totalling US\$1.3 million for the Shangil Tobaya displacement response to complement CERF funding. Bilateral donors have pledged a further US\$ 1.8 million.

Over \$450 million to combat malaria in northern Sudan

Following a donor conference in Khartoum on 19 April, international donors said more than US\$450 million have been allocated to fight malaria, Tuberculosis (TB), and HIV/AIDS in northern Sudan between 2005 and 2015.