

5 January 2012

Highlights:

- A large-scale humanitarian emergency operation is being mobilized to respond to people affected by inter-communal violence in Jonglei State. The key gaps in the operation are the lack of heavy airlift capacity and the need for a surge in relief workers on the ground.
- Since June last year, more than 75,000 people have entered South Sudan, fleeing fighting in Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states according to the UN Refugee Agency.
- The livelihood and coping capacity of more than 3.6 million South Sudanese are at risk in 2012, due to high food prices, continued displacements and insecurity.

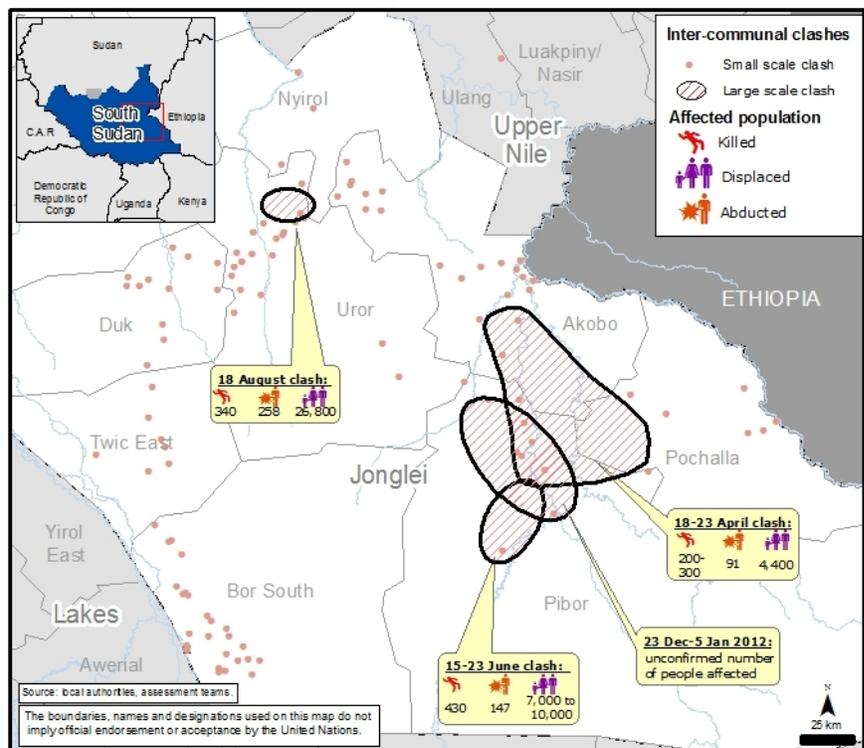
I. Situation overview

A major emergency response operation is being mobilized by aid agencies to respond to 60,000 people estimated to have been affected by inter-communal violence in Jonglei State starting late December. Humanitarian organizations are also working to provide emergency supplies to approximately 22,500 refugees displaced to Yida in Unity State by fighting in Southern Kordofan in Sudan and an estimated 55,000 refugees who have fled to Upper Nile State due to fighting in Blue Nile in Sudan. Assistance is also ongoing to approximately 110,000 people who were displaced to the Agok area, Warrap, Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states following the crisis in Abyei in May 2011. In addition, food security concerns persist, with cluster partners reporting that the livelihood and coping capacity of more than 3.6 million people are at risk due to high food prices, high levels of displacement and insecurity.

II. Humanitarian challenges: needs and response

Large-scale inter-communal violence in Jonglei State

The security situation in Jonglei State remains volatile after inter-communal violence between the Lou Nuer and Murle communities flared in late December. Between 6,000 and 8,000 armed Lou Nuer marched through a series of Murle villages burning homes and seizing cattle, in retaliation for earlier attacks allegedly perpetrated by the Murle. On 23 December, armed Lou Nuer advanced on Lopilod village in Likuangole payam in Pibor County, burning villages in the area. On 26 and 27 December, the village of Likuangole was razed, with houses burnt to the ground, an NGO clinic providing essential medical support to the community looted and destroyed, and all boreholes destroyed. On 31 December, the Lou Nuer reached the periphery of Pibor town, looting and burning a number of huts, including two NGO compounds. In the following days, the armed attackers marched south towards Fertait and Bilait. On 4 January, they began to return north, according to the UN peacekeeping mission, UNMISS. People who had fled Pibor town in fear of attacks started to return in early January when the armed youth moved out of the area.



Security also deteriorated in Jonglei's Akobo County, with three attacks taking place in villages around Walgak from 28 December and an attack in Waat payam in Nyirol County on 2 January which left at least 10 people dead,

25 women and children missing, and an estimated 8,000 people displaced according to a rapid assessment. In parts of neighbouring counties, a number of unconfirmed small-scale attacks have reportedly been carried out, but it is unclear if these attacks are linked to the clashes in Pibor County.

An estimated 60,000 people impacted by the violence

Humanitarian partners estimate that at least 60,000 people have been affected by the latest wave of violence. Thousands of people have already returned to Pibor town, but much of the population still remains in hiding scattered in the bush. The area affected is largely inaccessible by road and humanitarian partners rely on very few air assets. Approximately 50,000-80,000 cattle were seized in the violence, which may affect the livelihood and coping capacity of the population.

The recent inter-communal attacks are the latest in a series of large-scale conflicts between the Lou Nuer and Murle that have taken place over the past year. Fighting between the two communities previously spiked in April, June and August 2011. Prior to the most recent clashes, more than 1,100 people lost their lives and some 63,000 people were displaced by inter-communal violence in Jonglei over 2011, according to reports by local authorities and assessment teams.

A comprehensive emergency response operation is being launched in Jonglei

The humanitarian community is mobilizing a large-scale emergency response operation in Jonglei, focused on the most heavily-affected areas of Likuangle, Pibor, Fertait, Bilait, Walgak and Boma. Health partners continue to assist the injured from affected areas. Over 150 injured people had been airlifted to Juba, Bor and Malakal for medical treatment by 5 January. From 3-5 January, humanitarian assessments were carried out in Pibor, Likuangle, Boma and Walgak, and assessments are planned for Fertait and Bilait. Needs are significant in all areas where assessments have taken place. Preliminary results of assessments indicate that the most urgent needs include high-nutritional food, clean water, health care and shelter. Few implementing partners are based in the area heavily impacted and a surge in relief workers on the ground is required to deliver assistance.

Humanitarian partners on the ground have begun registering those who have returned to Pibor, with over 4,700 people verified as of 5 January and more expected in the coming days. Food and shelter are reportedly the most urgent needs. Humanitarian flights to Pibor resumed on 5 January, enabling the delivery of much needed food and other emergency non-food items (NFIs). Food rations for two weeks were airlifted to 1,000 people in Pibor and further rations are expected to reach 7,000 people in the coming days.

In Likuangle, a rapid humanitarian assessment conducted on 1 January identified the most urgent needs of the people as food and emergency shelter, in particular for 110 people reported to have sheltered in the army barracks during the attack. Rehabilitation of the destroyed water points will be a priority ahead of the return of the people.

In Boma, which is about five to seven days walk from Pibor, people have continued to arrive in the town. Some 1,700 individuals have been registered as displaced as of 5 January. Humanitarian partners who visited the area on 3 January noted that the population was highly vulnerable, with almost all those identified being women, children or injured men. A large number of unaccompanied minors were also reported, as well as women who had lost their children. The key needs identified were food, NFIs, water, sanitation and hygiene. Distribution of food rations for one month began on 5 January to the affected people.

Lack of air assets hampers relief effort

Heavy-lift air capacity is urgently required by the humanitarian community to move essential aid into conflict-affected areas. The humanitarian community has identified this as the key gap in the emergency response operation. The hardest hit areas are extremely remote and only reachable by air, making the delivery of assistance extremely expensive. The logistics cluster is facilitating the movement of life-saving humanitarian cargo from Bor to Pibor and other locations in and around the areas of recent conflict. Requests for over 35 metric tons of food and NFIs have already been received, which will be transported using one Mi-8 helicopter and one HS748 fixed wing aircraft.

Lifesaving assistance continues to 22,500 refugees in Yida

The situation in Yida in Unity State has been relatively calm, although uncertainty remains over insecurity along the border with Sudan. People from Sudan's Southern Kordofan have continued to arrive at the Yida settlement, with over 723 people arriving in the last week of December. Critical assistance continued to be provided to over

22,500 refugees at the Yida site. Fifty metric tons of food was distributed from 27-30 December. Health support is being provided by nine NGO health staff, including two nurses from the refugee community and two from the host community. Health partners met with the Ministry of Health at the end of December to ensure that the clinics continue to receive essential drugs and to discuss the supply chain of medicines. In terms of nutrition, 423 children under five years are participating in a supplementary feeding programme and 156 in a therapeutic feeding programme.

The humanitarian community continued to work to support the voluntary movement of refugees away from the border area. Discussions have taken place with the camp leadership to ensure its involvement and support for the relocation plans. Protection partners held meetings with the Unity County Commissioner and the State Governor to allocate additional alternative sites for the refugees in Yida. Work is also ongoing to improve facilities at the sites already selected. In one of the sites, two new boreholes are operational and the health clinic is functioning well, currently serving the host community. Humanitarian agencies are also looking ahead to activities that can be carried out if and when the refugees begin to relocate, including the provision of livelihoods interventions. A discussion has also taken place with the Unity State Ministry of Education regarding expanding primary and secondary education facilities in the relocation sites.

Protection and other humanitarian relief provided to refugees in Maban

It is estimated that over 55,250 refugees have fled to Upper Nile State from fighting in Blue Nile in Sudan, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). This includes some 32,500 registered refugees, as well as an estimated 22,750 unregistered refugees in Maban County (approximately 20,000 in El Foj, 2,500 in Jammam and 250 in Doro). The civilian character of the Doro refugee camp in Maban, where approximately 28,700 people are located, has been enhanced due to the establishment of a military checkpoint on the road leading up to the camp. This has helped to prevent soldiers entering the settlement. Protection partners in Doro are focused on plot allocation for refugees and held a meeting during the week with refugee community representatives to discuss allocating land to communities based on places of origin. The idea was welcomed by the refugees. At least two more locations on the Jammam to Bunj road were identified as potential settlements to receive the excess capacity of the Doro and Jammam refugee sites. In-depth assessments of the locations will take place shortly, in particular to clarify the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation of the proposed locations, as well as the possible presence of unexploded ordnance.

One-month food rations were distributed to 10,000 refugees in Jamman on 3 January. The health situation continued to improve at the Doro camp, with maternity and in-patient services underway. In addition, the health clinic in El Foj is operating five days a week. Ten thousand bars of soap were delivered to Maban which are planned for distribution in the coming week. WASH support is also being provided to refugees in Maban. Partners have been able to drill three boreholes in the Doro camp, with another one planned for construction. Partners dispatched assorted WASH-related materials to Maban during the week, including empty drums and water pipes.

Humanitarian support continues to people displaced from Abyei

Humanitarian assistance continues to approximately 110,000 people who were displaced to the Agok area, Warrap State and other states in South Sudan during the crisis which broke out in Abyei in May 2011. Protection partners trained 35 protection monitors in Kuajok from 22-25 December, covering issues such as vulnerability, tracking/monitoring and protection concepts. In Agok, WASH partners completed repairs on two boreholes and dug 50 latrines which will serve some 2,000 people. Two water points were constructed in Mading village at the end of December, which will provide clean water for the people displaced and the local community. Humanitarian partners plan to complete the making of 120 traditional grinding pots in 2-3 weeks, to be distributed to displaced persons with specific needs and women-headed households. In Mayan Abun, 150 NFI kits were distributed to vulnerable households.

On 22 December, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of UNISFA by five months, which means it will be operational until the end of May 2012. The mission was established on 27 June for an initial six months. The Council requested that the governments of Sudan and South Sudan withdraw all remaining military and police personnel from the Abyei area immediately and without preconditions, and urgently finalize the establishment of the Abyei Area Administration and the Abyei Police Service, as agreed on 20 June 2011.

Livelihoods of more than 3.6 million people at risk in 2012

As previously reported, South Sudan is likely to have a cereal deficit of around 400,000 tonnes in 2012, corresponding to around a third of the national cereal requirements, according to the Crop and Food Security

Assessment Mission (CFSAM) done in October and November 2011. At least one million people are expected to be unable to meet their food needs in 2012, an increase of more than 100,000 from last year, as projected by the preliminary findings of CFSAM. The food security and livelihoods cluster warned that the livelihood and coping capacity of more than 3.6 million South Sudanese are at risk of erosion, due to high food prices, continued displacements and insecurity. The agricultural sector is one area that was gravely impacted by conflict over the past year, worsening the food security situation, according to the cluster. The cluster also reports that more than 2 million heads of cattle belonging to pastoral households have been threatened by endemic livestock disease outbreaks. These households depend on livestock, milk and meat sales for food security. An outbreak of East Coast Fever in cattle spread across Central and Eastern Equatoria to Jonglei and Lakes states in 2011. The disease has affected 70,000 heads of cattle, limiting their contribution to household food security. There was an 80 per cent mortality rate in the affected herds.

III. 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 28 Dec-3 Jan	107	0	34	32	181	0	45	0	0	0	399
Previous Arrivals (adjustments)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Previous Total	58,317	87,298	32,859	68,408	20,435	17,393	20,818	2,032	40,230	11,247	359,037
Updated Total	58,424	87,298	32,893	68,440	20,616	17,393	20,863	2,032	40,230	11,247	359,436
Type of Returnee											
Government Assisted	25,267	32,080	16,869	23,396	7,832	15,627	16,090	1,516	25,943	9,808	174,428
Spontaneous	18,007	55,218	6,767	43,653	12,784	1,496	4,743	467	14,287	1,439	158,861
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 3 January 2012.

Logistic issues continue to challenge the movement of returnees

Three IOM-supported passenger barges carrying 2,364 returnees coming from Kosti reached the outskirts of Juba by 5 January. Eight luggage barges supported by the Government of South Sudan have accompanied the passengers. Partners are concerned about congestion at Juba port. Barges arriving at the end of November and December had delays unloading luggage due to the presence of other barges at the port. Although the port was recently cleared, the Juba way station is expected to exceed its maximum capacity of 1,000 while returnees wait for their luggage to be offloaded before moving to final destinations in Greater Equatoria. Humanitarian partners are in discussion with the port and government authorities, and the barge contractors to resolve the situation.

As of 4 January, humanitarian partners in Sudan had registered over 100,000 South Sudanese who have expressed a wish to return to South Sudan. Preparations are underway for further movements of returnees by train to Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal State over the coming months. Almost 360,000 returnees have arrived in final destinations in South Sudan since 30 October 2010, with some 400 spontaneous returnees registered to have arrived in final destinations during the week.

Protection, health and WASH support vital for returnees in transit

Protection and health partners have been collaborating on assisting the most vulnerable returnees. Over 400 returnees unable to travel by land have been transported by air from Khartoum to Juba. Many of these vulnerable individuals were waiting in open areas of Khartoum where concentrations of people have been living for months in preparation for their return to South Sudan.

In Renk in Upper Nile State, assistance continues for returnees awaiting transport to final destinations. Health partners report that malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhea remain the common illnesses but that sufficient resources are available to meet needs. Protection partners continue to trace vulnerable groups to ensure that

they receive special assistance. Clean water is available at the Mina transit site and partners are continuing other interventions such as training water technicians and soap distribution. In Jonglei, health partners assisted nine returnees injured in a fire on a barge near Bor that was destined for Juba. The injured returnees, most of whom were children, were treated at Bor hospital. The cause of the fire is thought to have been due to cookfires lit on board, but the barge was not substantially damaged and continued onwards to Juba.

IV. Humanitarian planning and coordination

Internet service to be provided to aid workers in Maban, Renk and Yida

One VSAT terminal arrived in South Sudan during the week and two others are en route. The terminals will enable internet services to be established in Maban and Renk in Upper Nile State, and Yida in Unity State. The emergency telecommunications cluster, in partnership with the Luxemburg Government and Ericsson Response, will set up an internet café with Wi-Fi access in the compounds of UNHCR in Maban and IOM in Renk. In Yida, the VSAT terminal and services will be temporarily hosted at the WFP office in Bentiu until security improves in Yida. The internet services will be provided free of charge by the cluster to aid workers in the three locations.

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