

Highlights

- One humanitarian worker killed and two remain missing in southern Sudan.
- Humanitarian Coordinator meets with the Vice-President of the Government of South Sudan and the Chief of Staff of the SPLA to condemn the incidents and to call on all parties to ensure the protection of humanitarian staff.
- Recent fighting in Unity State causes high levels of displacement.
- Inter-communal violence causes further civilian casualties and displacement in Jonglei State.
- Movement of another 6,000 government-sponsored returns to southern Sudan commences.

1. North-South population movements

Government-assisted returns resumed during the past week. On 27 April, 450 people left Khartoum by train for Kosti from where they will take a barge to Malakal, Upper Nile. Some of the scheduled passengers decided to go to Kosti by road after loading their luggage in the train with some family members. The group will be accommodated at the way station where they will join other passengers going to Malakal. The second departure of returnees from Khartoum will be on 3 May. UNHCR supported CVHW by providing them with funds for meals for the train trip that is expected to take 15 hours. In addition to that, on 23 April, a convoy of 31 buses with 2,796 returnees left Khartoum for Malakal, Upper Nile State, in southern Sudan as part of the government repatriation drive.

The Government of National Unity through its Ministries of Transport and Finance has allocated financial resources and has started moving 6,000 returnees from Khartoum and Kosti to southern Sudan. The movement has a time frame of one month. Priority will be given to returnees going to Upper Nile, and particularly to those who are out in the open in Khartoum.

Registration and verification of the numbers of people who require transportation assistance from Khartoum has begun in all departure points. Training for this verification was undertaken by UNHCR with the participation of the Commission of Voluntary and Humanitarian Work (CVHW), local chiefs and the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC).

Spontaneous returnees also continued to arrive in the South in low numbers, with approximately 3,715 people returning in the past week. The arrivals brought the total number of returnees to the South since October 2010 to 295,925.

Meanwhile, more than 2,000 returnees arrived in Renk and Malakal counties of Upper Nile as part of a returns effort led by the Upper Nile State Government. Some of the returnees reported difficulties upon arrival in Renk County, due to a reported refusal by local authorities to allow them to disembark. Fourteen returnees gave their complaints to the SSRRC State Director in Malakal County and were escorted back to Renk by the SSRRC State Director to address the issue.

In other areas of southern Sudan, efforts to resolve land allocation challenges also continued, with residential land allocation beginning in Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal for 1,700 returnees. An additional 2,800 plots have been made available in anticipation of further arrivals. Stranded returnees in Wau are being prioritised for the land allocation.

Kosti

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) reported that as of 27 April there are 2,164 returnees at the Kosti way station, including 1,239 children.

On 24 April, a government-sponsored barge left Kosti for Juba carrying about 600 returnees. The barge will stop in Shambi and Bor to drop returnees before proceeding to Juba.

Returnees overview (Statistical update for 27 April 2011)

According to information from IOM, ADRA, 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
295,925	5,210	37,727

South-North returns

UN agencies and NGO partners are providing water and sanitation, health care, NFIs and food emergency assistance to some 7,980 northern returnees who arrived from Upper Nile in southern Sudan to Al Dub Karya and Al Hudieb in White Nile State.

2. Southern Sudan

Humanitarian staff and assets attacked in Lakes and Jonglei

The security situation in southern Sudan became increasingly volatile over the week, with a number of clashes between armed groups and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), impacting the protection of civilians as well as the safety of humanitarian workers. A WFP staff member in Duk County in Jonglei was killed on 22 April during an attack by unknown assailants. In a separate incident on 19 April in Lakes, the lives of six humanitarian workers from IOM and WFP were put at risk when SPLA soldiers commandeered the trucks they were driving and forced them to drive into an area of active conflict in Mayom County. The whereabouts of two of the six drivers remain unknown and the humanitarian community is concerned for their safety.

On 27 April, the Humanitarian Coordination, Mr. Georg Charpentier, met with the Vice President of the Government of South Sudan (GOSS) and the Chief of Staff of the SPLA to condemn these incidents and to call on the GOSS and armed groups to respect humanitarian operations and to ensure the protection of all humanitarian staff.

Fresh clashes in Unity displace large numbers of civilians

The security situation in Unity deteriorated significantly during the reporting period, following the intensification of fighting between armed groups and SPLA. Fighting occurred in Mankien on 21-22 April, resulting in the displacement of most of the village's civilian population. Additional clashes occurred in the following days in other parts of Mayom County. Local authorities report that a number of new landmines have been laid along roads in the county and possibly within the Mankien village as well. The full impact of the conflict on civilians is not yet known, however, initial reports indicate that a large number of people were displaced to some eight locations. Humanitarian actors remain concerned about possible protection violations against civilians in the conflict area, as well as the impact of insecurity on the 36,000 returnees who have arrived in Abiemnhom, Mayom and Rubkona counties since October 2010. Initial humanitarian assessments have been conducted in Abiemnhom, which is hosting 300 IDPs, as well as Buoth and Wangkai, which indicated that many of the displaced may be proceeding towards Mayom town. Additional assessment missions are planned, but insecurity is impeding the ability of humanitarian agencies to access the displaced and injured.

Renewed fighting breaks out in northern Jonglei

Renewed clashes between the forces of renegade General George Athor and SPLA troops broke out in Kaldak town in Canal County, northern Jonglei on 23 April. The number of civilian deaths remains unknown and unconfirmed reports indicate that some people also drowned while trying to cross the river to escape. The Ministry of Health has reported that at least 70 wounded have been admitted to Malakal Teaching Hospital since the clashes. The SSRRC reported to an inter-agency humanitarian assessment to the Doleib Hill area in Upper Nile on 27 April that some 500 households were displaced there from Kaldak. In Canal County in Jonglei, additional humanitarian assessments and interventions were conducted during the week, targeting people displaced by fighting between General Athor and SPLA. On 21 April, an assessment was conducted in Mareng and Khorfulus to verify reports of the arrival of additional displaced. Food distribution to people verified in previous assessments was completed in Khorfulus over the week, while further distributions in Mareng have commenced.

Several hundred killed in inter-communal attacks in Pibor in Jonglei

Following more than 45 inter-communal attacks and cattle raids attributed to the Murle during the first quarter of 2011, armed civilians from the Luo Nuer community launched a retaliatory assault against Murle communities in the area between Pibor and Pochalla in Jonglei from 18-21 April. A rapid observation mission to Pibor took place on 21 April, with local authorities reporting an unconfirmed 200-300 people killed and 200 children missing. As of 28 April, humanitarian agencies on the ground in Pibor had registered 3,435 IDPs from 14 bomas (basic administrative units). On 26 April, InterSOS and MFS-B began jointly distributing food supplements and NFIs to affected people. Food distributions are scheduled to begin shortly as well. Additional displacements have been reported in Lekongule, which will be assessed when security allows.

Inter-communal conflict along the Lakes and Western Equatoria border continues

After two months of inter-communal fighting along the Western Equatoria/Lakes border area, reports of continuing clashes were received during the week, including near Mapuordit in Lakes. Humanitarian response is currently underway in both states to assist the 42,738 people displaced in the conflict to date. Food distribution is complete for the 26,203 people in Lakes and 16,535 people in Western Equatoria, verified as having been displaced by the fighting. CARITAS completed distribution of NFIs to 1,316 households in Lakes, and Oxfam distributed NFIs to 1,319 households in Western Equatoria. An additional assessment in Kulu village in Mvolo County in Western Equatoria remains pending.

3. Three Protocol areas

Abyei

Civilians displaced as a result of the January/February attacks in Maker, Today, Noon and Tajalei villages have continued returning to the Abyei area. The Abyei market is gradually picking up, however, there is shortage of basic foodstuffs with most northern traders yet to return. Access constraints also continue to limit the availability of food in the Abyei market.

According to a new report by the Sudan Human Security Baseline Assessment (a project of the Swiss-based Small Arms Survey) with the National Congress Party (NCP) facing multiple internal challenges and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) concentrated on independence, an outbreak of full-scale war over Abyei remains highly unlikely. However, the intensified military deployments around Abyei mean a skirmish could set off a wider conflict, as occurred in 2008, but with potentially far worse consequences, the report said.

South Kordofan

The security situation in the Al Fyad area in Al Rashad locality has returned to normal after the 13 April attack. Provision of humanitarian assistance is ongoing for the 350 households displaced because of the attack. UNICEF dispatched a team of social workers to further assess protection issues. The team revised down the number of the affected and most vulnerable to 181 households.

An assessment conducted earlier by UNHCR in 12 of Southern Kordofan's 19 localities estimated the number of Southerners in Southern Kordofan at 47,000 people. The Protection Sector highlighted that about 30,000 of those Southerners are willing to return to southern Sudan. Approximately 21,000 of them are unable to do so due to lack of resources and need assistance. Of specific concern are some 16,000 IDPs of southern origin in the

Muglad area who have reportedly been harassed and received threats from local communities. They fear that their situation will become untenable after the State elections and particularly after 9 July when southern Sudan is set to become independent.

4. Darfur

UNHCR screening exercise postponed

The UNHCR screening exercise has been postponed for the 585 returnees who are in transit in Nyala on their way to Hashaba, South Darfur. The IDPs demanded that UNHCR provide them with a six-month food ration from WFP before they move to Hashaba, Zalingei. HAC and the West Darfur committee have been asked to meet the returnees and to explain that WFP will provide them with a full return package once they reach Hashaba, their village of origin, as commonly practised in return activities.

Operation “Spring Basket”

The start of Operation Spring Basket, an initiative of UNAMID and humanitarian organisations aimed at increasing secure access for humanitarian workers to Jebel Marra and parts of North Darfur, initially intended to begin on 27 April with a visit to Jebel Marra was postponed to 1 May. It is no expected to start with a visit to Kutum in North Darfur.

Kalma camp

International health NGOs, including International Medical Corps (IMC), Merlin and American Refugee Committee (ARC), have dispatched some supplies to Kalma camp through their national staff. On 26 April, IMC sent some medicines, while Oxfam America sent two barrels of fuel and reported that water pumps in the camp are running normally.

National Immunisation Day in South Darfur

The State Ministry of Health Expanded Programme on Immunisation department reported that the National Immunisation Day was successfully completed in all areas of South Darfur, except for parts of Eastern Jebel Marra (due to insecurity) and Kalma IDP Camp (due to the temporary suspension of international NGO activities in the camp). Humanitarian agencies are prepared to provide a health package, including vaccines, to the population in Gorlambai and Feina in Eastern Jebel Marra under the Spring Basket Operation. In Kalma IDP Camp, the State Ministry of Health has stated that the immunisation campaign will start as soon as international NGOs resume their activities in the camp.

WFP verification exercise for IDPs in Dereige IDP Camp, South Darfur

WFP reported that the verification exercise for the IDPs in Dereige IDP Camp which was scheduled to begin on 27 April was postponed due to demands by IDPs to start the verification exercise with other IDPs camps in Nyala. WFP reviewed their plan, and will start the verification exercise with Otash IDP Camp on 8 May.

Zamzam and Al Salam IDP Camps

UNHCR reported that 16 communal transitional shelters implemented in cooperation with Partner Aid International (PAI) for Zam Zam and Al Salam IDP camps are now complete. PAI are also working on latrines and a clinic in the area of the camp where new IDPs are hosted. UNHCR reported that an estimated 2,955 people require further assistance and UNHCR is coordinating with WFP for food distribution and with the WFP-Logistics Coordination Unit (LCU) for NFIs.