

*This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners.*

## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Tens of thousands of displaced people from the Abyei Area have arrived in various locations in southern Sudan. However, it remains unclear how many of the estimated 110,000 former residents of the Abyei area have fled their homes.
- Food distribution to some 3,000 people has started in Mayen Abun in Warrap State.
- The situation in Abyei remains tense with continued reports of looting in Abyei town.

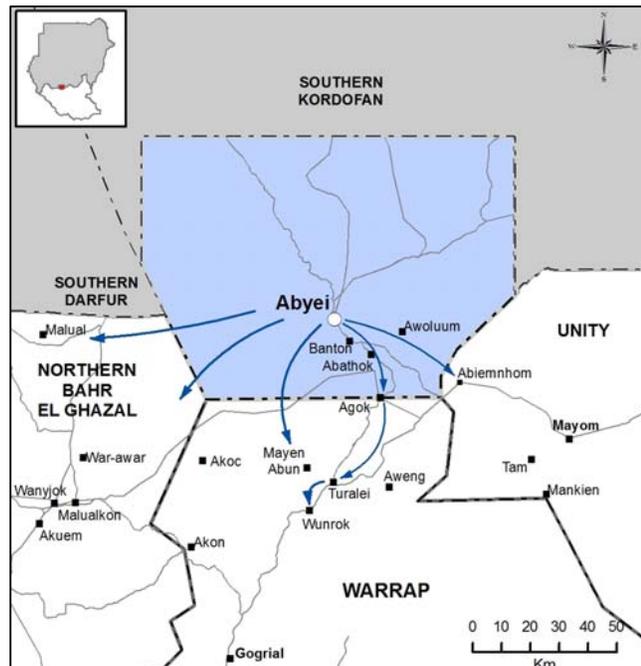
## II. Situation Overview

### Security

The security situation, in and around Abyei, remains volatile. Last night, sporadic gunfire was reported in Abyei town and unidentified gunmen fired at four UNMIS helicopters.

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) maintain their presence in the town and the presence of a large number of Misseriya militia has been reported.

On 25 May, UNMIS and UN aid agencies conducted road and air assessment missions. A road patrol in Abyei town revealed continued looting and burning of tukuls and confirmed that some humanitarian premises and emergency stocks had been looted. The heavy presence of armed men was also noted. The air assessment mission flew over 10 villages north and south of Abyei town, including in between Abyei and Agok. No displaced populations were observed. Burnt tukuls in several villages were reported.



In total, 22 civilians have sought refuge at the UNMIS team site in Abyei town since the outbreak of fighting. Security permitting, UNMIS plans to evacuate them to Turalei.

The situation in Agok is reportedly calm, but tense. Some civilians have started returning to the town, and some NGO activity has resumed. However, Agok market remains empty of basic commodities and fuel. Humanitarian agencies have reinforced their presence further south in Turalei and Wunrok which will provide a rear base for access to surrounding areas with high numbers of displaced people.

### Population movements

Large-scale population movements have continued with tens of thousands of people displaced from the Abyei Area into southern Sudan. It is unclear how many of the estimated 110,000 residents of the Abyei Area have fled south. Large numbers of people continue to move on bush paths parallel to the Agok to Turalei road and further south. Earlier reports indicated some population movement into Unity and now authorities are reporting that people have also moved into Northern Bahr el Ghazal state via Warawar.

Assessments of displaced communities are underway. However, identifying the precise locations and numbers of people that have moved to the south remains very challenging, with many groups still on the move or hiding in the bush. Assessments are also hampered by limited access to the area. Heavy, intermittent rainfall since 20 May has impeded access. The road from Wunrok to Agok is in a relatively good condition however, it is difficult to traverse towards Agok. The road from Agok to Turalei is in poor condition

and continued heavy rainfall will render it impassable. The rainfall has increased the need for urgent provision of safe water, hygiene services and medical assistance to the displaced communities.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Access in the Abyei area remains largely restricted due to insecurity. OCHA is planning additional missions in the area (by air and land) to establish the whereabouts of the displaced people, and to gradually expand the humanitarian access in Abyei. However, due to the very unpredictable situation in and around Abyei town independent humanitarian assessment missions are not currently feasible. An assessment mission to Agok is planned to take place on 27 May.

In southern Sudan, the situation is still unfolding with a continuous influx of displaced people. Initial findings indicate that the urgent needs are food and water. Agencies are focusing on registration and verification of the displaced population. Access to clean water has been reported as an urgent concern, particularly around Agok. The recent heavy rains have already increased the risk of water-borne diseases. The cooler weather also increases the risk of respiratory tract infections especially among vulnerable groups, notably children and the elderly.

In Agok, an NGO clinic reported having a small number of patients in their clinic. A full surgical team is not on the ground, but limited medical capacity remains. In both Turalei and Mayen Abun, health care facilities report sufficient medical supplies and will continue to monitor stock levels. In Turalei, a CCM run hospital will be supported by a new MSF base encompassing a team of surgeons and outreach services. In addition, a health assessment is planned in Turalei for newly displaced people. In Abyei town the hospital is not operational as the medical staff were relocated to Agok in the early hours of the crisis.

WFP has reported that food was delivered to Mayun Abun and that distribution has begun. WFP is providing one month of food rations to 2,944 people. Identification, verification and registration of the displaced population in Turalei and Wunrok is ongoing. The food distributions in that area will begin once verification is completed.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assessments are also underway. On 24 May, in Mayen Abun, 963 households were assessed. There are more than eight functioning boreholes in the area. The water situation was reported to be under control as of yesterday, but latrines and hygiene promotion are needed. As of yesterday, about 1,000 people were in the former returnee site Mayen Agal, which is located between Wunrok and Turalei. The site has two functioning boreholes and three communal latrines constructed during the returnee response. A WASH team travelled this morning to re-install a submersible pump to increase water service level in a Turalei site and verify the numbers of displaced.

### IV. Coordination

Humanitarian partners have established the main coordination hub in Wunrok where the response to displacement to Twic County is being coordinated. Partners are meeting on a daily basis. Assessments and an integrated plan of action have been developed for Majac Aher, in Turalei and Maluit Mayen Abun in Twic County.

In Juba, a special session of the Humanitarian Coordination Forum was held under the chairmanship of the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, attended by senior humanitarian officials in the Government of Southern Sudan, UN agencies, donors and NGOs representatives. The Government highlighted the scale of humanitarian needs resulting from the Abyei crisis and requirements for a cross-sectoral response. Health and WASH particularly in the context of heavy rains, food and non-food-items were emphasized as the Government's top priority. As the aid effort scales up, the importance of ensuring humanitarian access and providing a safe and conducive environment for humanitarian workers and protecting humanitarian assets was also underscored.

In addition, an emergency meeting called by state authorities in Western Bahr el Ghazal was held today and coordination meetings in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Kwajok in Warrap are scheduled for 26 May.

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