I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- More than 76,000 people are estimated to have been displaced from the Abyei Area into southern Sudan. 39,000 have been verified and registered.
- The humanitarian response operation is gaining momentum with aid agencies working hard to meet emergency needs before the rainy season starts cutting off access to parts of Warrap State.
- People displaced from Abyei town and Agok residents are returning to Agok in increasing numbers.

The situation in Abyei town remains quiet but unpredictable. On 31 May, Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) informed that a group of 41 Dinka civilians in Abyei town was under their care. Negotiations started yesterday to arrange their hand over to the UN. On 1 June, the civilians were visited by UNMIS and OCHA and 27 civilians were subsequently transported to the UNMIS base. According to SAF, the reminder of the group will be brought to UNMIS tomorrow.

In the Agok area, parts of the town market have started to open. However, there is a sizable presence of southern security forces and armed civilians on the streets and the situation there is reported to be tense.

Security concerns regarding the vulnerability of displaced populations in Gogrial East and Twic counties in Warrap State to attacks by rebel militia groups operating in neighbouring Unity State. Counties in northern Warrap currently contain the largest number of people displaced from Abyei, and any downturn in security conditions would negatively impact the humanitarian situation and access to the area by humanitarian actors.

The humanitarian operation continues to gain momentum. Food assistance has been distributed to some 54,500 displaced persons and assistance is accelerating in other key sectors. Displacement during the lean season, which stretches from March to August, puts pressure on already limited resources and can weaken fragile coping mechanisms within the host and displaced populations. The availability of basic commodities and fuel in some affected areas in Warrap and other border states has dwindled due to blockages on commercial traffic along key transport routes from the north.

The intensification of the rainy season is one of the most pressing challenges facing the relief effort. Heavy rains have made emergency shelter for displaced groups an urgent priority and raised risks for health conditions, sanitation and the spread of disease, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Aid agencies must deliver assistance and reinforce pre-positioned supplies before rains renders roads in upper Warrap impassable, requiring more expensive and volume-limited deliveries by air.

Population movements

Humanitarian sources indicate that the estimated number of people displaced from the Abyei Area that reached southern Sudan stands at more than 76,000 people. IOM and the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) continue verification and registration of the displaced population. So far, 39,000 IDPs have been registered, of which 34,000 are in Warrap State primarily in Turalei and Mayen Abun, in Twic County. Smaller groups of displaced populations have arrived in Western Bahr el Ghazal,
Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states. People displaced from Abyei town and Agok residents, immediately after the crisis began in Abyei, are returning to Agok in increasing numbers.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

As of 1 June, WFP had assisted 54,588 displaced people from Abyei with 701 metric tons of food. On 1 June 8,444 of the displaced people were assisted with one-month food rations in Mayen Abun, Turalei and Wunrok in Warrap State. A WFP team that travelled to Agok on 31 May and 1 June confirmed a sizeable number of displaced in and around Agok. The team managed to identify 13,632 displaced in Agok town and Madingokthiang which is some 5km from Agok town. Food was delivered to Agok on 1 June and distributions will start tomorrow. Identification and distributions in the Agok area continues.

NON-FOOD ITEMS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

Fuel shortages and rains have caused some delays to the NFI response in Twic County, Warrap State and security access constraints have continued to limit access in Unity State. However, response was underway in Turalei today and is planned for Wau on 4 May. An IOM team arrived in Agok on 1 June to register displaced and distribute NFIs already on the ground provided by partners. In addition to the convoy with NFIs and fuel that departed Juba yesterday bound for Wunrok, Aweil and Malualkon, IOM is dispatching another truck with NFIs from Wau shortly.

Provision of shelter for displaced populations remains an urgent priority. IOM had registered 7,262 households by 31 May and non-food item (NFI) and emergency shelter partners have completed distributions to 3,970 households, including 2,700 households in Turalei. On 1 June, ICRC reported an additional 667 households registered in Akoc (148 households), Panyok (134 households), Akak (201 households), Majak Pagai (184 households). Distribution is expected to take place in the next two days.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

On 31 May a WASH team arrived in Agok to assess availability and status of water points and sanitation, and community needs for water, sanitation, and hygiene. The team will remain in Agok to set up the WASH response. The team brought with them 200 NFI/hygiene kits including soap and a jerry can for immediate distribution in Agok area. Another 200 kits will be shipped to Agok shortly. In Mayen Abun, the hand pump accessed by displaced people has been rehabilitated and is now providing water to 1,000-1,500 people per day. Another borehole in the area will be rehabilitated with a motorised pump in the next 1-2 days. In Turalei, WASH partners are working with the local authorities to motorize the borehole for the displaced. Plans are also underway to start drilling two more boreholes in Turalei on 2 June. In Aniel, only two boreholes have been located. With the onset of rains, it is too late to commence drilling any new boreholes in Aniel.

HEALTH

The situation of the displaced population in Agok has become of increasing importance as other sectors have had difficulties accessing the population and the health cluster is working to ensure health activities continue in Agok where thousands of displaced are thought to be. MSF have two mobile clinics working in Awal and Mathiand as well as a hospital in Agok providing basic health and surgical services. GOAL has two operational clinics in Agok at Awal primary health care unit and Juljok primary health care centre. The Warrap State Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, has assisted the Abyei State Ministry of Health with the provision of one trauma kit for their emergency department. WHO has four field officers ensuring surveillance of priority diseases such as acute watery diarrhea.

Health cluster partners are targeting children under five years for measles and polio vaccination. Health partners are providing vaccinations with the state Ministry of Health and WHO to ensure cold chain and availability of vaccines. Health cluster partners have started mobile clinics in Anyiel, Turalei, Racoyan, Anyiel Kwac, and in Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal. Enhanced disease surveillance in affected areas has been prioritised due to living conditions and the rainy season. The state Ministry of Health and WHO are reaching out to agencies and health facilities to ensure timely surveillance reporting and analysis.
NUTRITION

Nutrition cluster partners continue to screen children for malnutrition in Mayen Abun and Turalei. Admission numbers to nutrition programmes remain high, with approximately 20 children under five years of age admitted daily in both locations. Screening targeting displaced children is also ongoing in other locations including in Aweng, Wunrok, Majak Noon and Anyiel Kuac. In the past week, eight children have been admitted to nutrition programs in Aweng. There have also been six admissions to the stabilisation centre in Wunrok since Sunday 29 May. Nutrition partners are currently working on a plan for blanket supplementary feeding for displaced children under the age of five. The distribution is expected to start in the coming days.

PROTECTION

Family tracing and reunification activities has continued with a total of 57 separated children registered and 34 cases of parents looking for children reported in Turalei and Mayen Abun. Tracing lists are shared on a daily basis with ICRC and Mayardit radio to facilitate tracing and reunification processes. Five children have been reunified and tracing has also been completed for an additional two children. Family tracing and reunification activities are led by UNICEF in collaboration with other members of the child protection sub-cluster including Save the Children, the state Ministry of Social Development, staff and volunteers from two local community based organizations. Save the Children and World Vision have also circulated an updated list of separated children in Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. Fifteen separated children have registered for food through WFP. Newly registered cases are now on the decline.

Save the Children, in collaboration with UNICEF, has established a child friendly shelter in Mayen Abun. Nine volunteers were selected and three teachers identified to support the activities in the center. By 30 May, recreational activities had reached 400 children.

Three information counselors were deployed to Warrap on 31 May from neighbouring Northern Bahr el Ghazal state. A team leader also arrived today. The counselors are meeting with community representatives to identify key concerns and gaps. They will support the communication of key messages to the displaced population, (especially on procedures for registration and obtaining assistance and help to improve the general flow of information in both directions).

LOGISTICS

With ongoing rains, humanitarian partners have reported that roads across Twic County are becoming increasingly muddy and that access may become impossible within a short time. The cluster is working with UNOPS to explore repair options for the Wunrok feeder road which is needed to access warehousing for partners as the ability to repair roads during the rainy season is limited. Assessment of the road is planned for next week to determine repair options.

The convoy with NFIs and fuel to alleviate the fuel shortages in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal states departed Juba on 31 May.

EDUCATION

Informal education activities are being provided through a child friendly space established by child protection and education cluster partners in Mayen Abun. Five displaced teachers from Abyei have been identified and are supporting children in the child friendly space. An education cluster assessment team is now on the ground and is doing further assessments in Turalei and Mayen Abun. Building on initial inter-agency reports, the assessment team will identify the number of teachers and school-aged children affected and establish the impact of the emergencies on the pre-existing schools. Once the assessment is complete and the populations have settled in identified sites, cluster partners will establish temporary learning spaces and rehabilitate any damaged facilities. Some 75 school-in-a-box are prepositioned in Twic County, and further supplies will be dispatched from Wau once partners have a clearer picture on the numbers of learners and teachers affected.
Reports indicate that in addition to the school in Mayen Abun that was reported to be occupied by displaced people on 28 May; a school in Alec is also being used as shelter. Cluster partners are seeking to ensure these schools return to functioning as soon as possible.

IV. Coordination

A high-level delegation comprising Government of Southern Sudan officials, the Diplomatic Corps and the Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for southern Sudan travelled to Agok on 1 June to meet with local authorities to discuss the current humanitarian situation in the Agok area and meet with front-line aid organizations.

Daily coordination meetings continue to be held in Wunrok. Cluster partners are also meeting on a regular basis.

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