

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing fighting in Jonglei State continued to affect civilians, as aid agencies pushed to deliver humanitarian assistance in accessible areas.
- An increase in number of people fleeing Jonglei to Kenya was reported by UNHCR, with about 360 people registered since the start of the year, compared with an average of 45 people per year registered between 2010 and 2012.
- A convoy carrying over 800 returnees from Khartoum arrived in Upper Nile State's Malakal town on 21 March, with a second convoy expected in the coming days carrying an estimated 500 people.

BASELINE INDICATORS

Population (2008) (NBS)	8.26m
GDP per capita (NBS)	\$1,546
Pop. living below poverty line (NBHS)	50.6%
Life expectancy (SHHS)	42 years
Child mortality (SHHS)	105/1,000
Maternal mortality (SHHS)	2,054/100,000
<5 global acute malnutrition (NBS)	18.1%
Adult literacy (NBS)	27%
Net enrolment secondary education (EMIS)	1.6%
Households using improved sanitation (SHHS)	7.4%
Households with improved drinking water sources (SHHS)	68.7%



A child receives a polio vaccination in Rubkona County, Unity State (UNICEF/Sokol).

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Situation overview

Ongoing clashes in Jonglei State continued to impact the civilian population, with an unknown number of people uprooted from their homes. While aid is reaching some communities affected by the violence, insecurity is preventing access to many areas. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported increased numbers of people fleeing Jonglei to Kenya, with about 360 people registered and additional people awaiting registration at Kakuma refugee camp. The registered people are from areas of recent armed activity in Jonglei State. Up to 1,500 people were newly displaced in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Sudan border area, according to local authorities. An inter-agency assessment will visit the area in the coming week to assess the situation. Over 800 returnees arrived in Upper Nile's Malakal town from Khartoum, in the first of two convoys organized by the African Inland Church. The second convoy carrying an estimated 500 people is expected to arrive on 25 March.

Various sources on the ground reported the continued withdrawal of troops from both sides of the South Sudan/Sudan border, in compliance with security arrangements agreed on 27 September 2012.

Challenges, needs and response

Aid reaches communities caught in Jonglei violence

The security situation in Jonglei State remained fragile, particularly in Pibor County, due to continued clashes between the South Sudan army and non-state armed actors. An unknown number of civilians have fled their homes and are on the move as a result of the violence. In Gumuruk, 1,100 residents temporarily fled to the UN mission camp following the violence and subsequent burning of homes. Further attacks along Pibor-Gumuruk road were recorded in the week. The road is a key transport route for delivering aid to communities affected by the insecurity.

Food was distributed to about 5,300 people in Pibor town affected by the burning and looting of homes in the town on 27 January. The previous week, one month's food rations were distributed to about 2,200 people in Pibor displaced from Likuangole, and about 2,500 people from Gumuruk. A planned distribution of food to 2,600 people in Gumuruk was postponed due to persistent insecurity in the area, as was an assessment to Manyabol.

Humanitarian assistance also continued in Akobo East County, to people affected by large-scale cattle-raiding on 8 February. About 3,700 people were provided with household kits, water and sanitation assistance, and hygiene promotion education. School items were also distributed which will benefit over 420 children.

Kenya refugee camp receives Jonglei civilians

UNHCR in Kenya confirmed an increased number of people from Jonglei arriving to the Kakuma refugee camp. About 360 South Sudanese were registered since the start of 2013, and additional new arrivals are awaiting registration. Between 2010 and 2012, an

FIGURES 2013

Violence-related incidents	90
Number of newly displaced people	12,433

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 15 March 2013.

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Coordination & common services	OCHA NGO Sec.
Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency telecomms	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO IMC
Logistics	WFP
Mine action	UNMAS Handicap Intl
Multi-sector	UNHCR IOM
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Shelter and NFIs	IOM WVI
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.16 billion
requested (US\$)

124 million
received (US\$)

10.7% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service, as of 25 March 2013.

average of 45 people per year were registered from South Sudan.

People newly displaced in Northern Bahr el Ghazal

About 1,500 people have reportedly arrived to the disputed Jaac area along the border between Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Sudan, according to South Sudanese authorities. Aid agencies plan to carry out an inter-agency assessment in the coming week to gather further information on the situation and verify the exact number of people displaced.

In the meantime, relief organizations have distributed household items to 1,500 people, set up a mobile health clinic and are providing water and sanitation assistance. The movement of people southwards is likely following the reported recent withdrawal of the South Sudanese military from the Kiir Adem area.

Suspected meningitis cases reported in Warrap State

Two people have died of suspected meningitis and nine suspected cases have been reported in Warrap State's Gogrial West and East counties, according to the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. While meningitis tends to see a seasonal increase during the dry season, an epidemic preparedness and response taskforce has been set up to coordinate response to the disease.

The Ministry of Health developed a meningitis preparedness and response plan for all states, and Warrap has adapted the national response plan. The plan aims to establish an effective mechanism for managing the disease through core activities in case the outbreak is confirmed. Meningitis surveillance has been enhanced at all levels, with over 100,000 vaccines, necessary antibiotics and specimen collection materials prepositioned in all states.

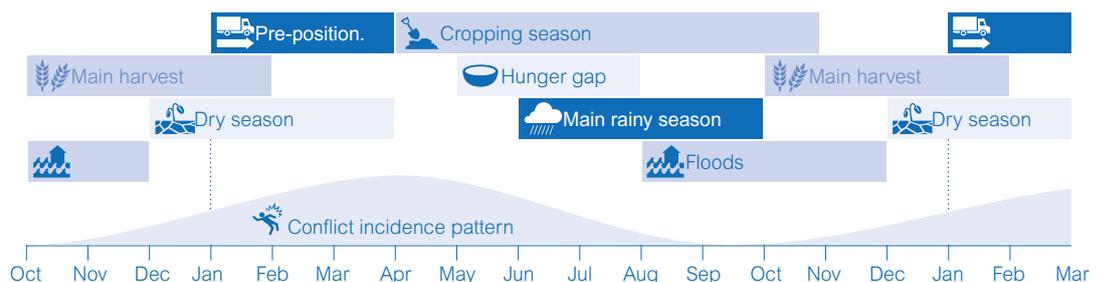
Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis, that can cause severe brain damage and is fatal in 50 per cent of cases if untreated. The most common symptoms are a stiff neck, high fever, sensitivity to light, confusion, headache and vomiting. So far, all specimens tested negative for the fatal type of meningitis. The suspected meningitis cases reported were sporadic, which means that they were not linked to each other. This is positive and indicates the cases do not point to an outbreak.

Polio campaign to vaccinate 3.2 million children

The first round of nationwide polio campaign to vaccinate 3.2 million children was carried out from 19 to 22 March, targeting children under five years during the door-to-door drive. The campaign focused on humanitarian crisis hotspots, such as the refugee communities in Maban and Yida, and returnees stranded in Upper Nile State's Renk. The next round of the four-phase campaign will be carried out from 23 to 26 April.

South Sudan has not reported polio cases since June 2009. This achievement is a result of several rounds of immunization activities implemented by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization and other health partners such as UNICEF lending support in vaccine procurement, logistics and social mobilization strategies.

South Sudan critical events timeline



REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	45,186
Gendrassa	15,269
Jamam	16,071
Yusuf Batil	37,558
Total	114,084

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	913
Pariang	795
Yida	68,997
Total	70,705

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 3 March 2013.

A new refugee camp in Ajuong Thok will open in the coming weeks to ease over-crowding in Yida, which currently hosts about 70,000 people.

Refugee update

Refugees return to Yida following clash

One thousand Sudanese refugees who fled Yida refugee site following an outbreak of violence on 16 March were assisted to return to the settlement during the week. The clash took place between South Sudanese law enforcement officials and armed elements in the site. Local authorities reported three people killed and several injured by the incident. Many refugees returned to their homes to find their belongings had been looted, including blankets, water containers, food and other household items. Aid agencies are working to assess what relief is needed to the people affected.

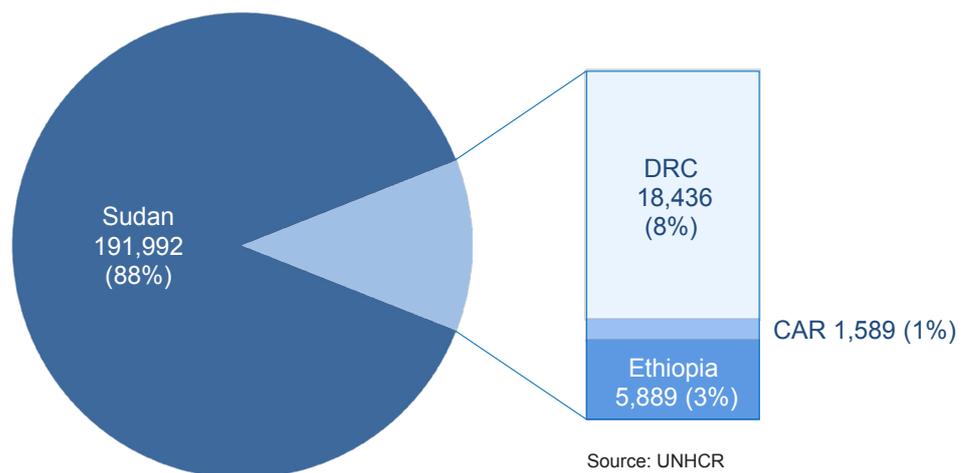


A Sudanese woman carries water in Yida refugee settlement (UNMISS/Perret).

The clash highlights humanitarian concerns about refugees residing close to the insecure border with Sudan, in a highly militarized zone with presence of armed elements, both of which severely compromise the civilian character of the settlement.

A new refugee camp in Ajuong Thok will open in the coming weeks to ease over-crowding in Yida, which currently hosts about 70,000 people. The new site has the capacity to host up to 20,000 people. UNHCR continues to sensitize refugees on the rationale behind the opening the new camp, and the services they will have access to such as schooling and land for farming.

Refugees in South Sudan (by country of origin)



Returns to South Sudan

Over 800 returnees arrive in Malakal from Khartoum

An African Inland Church organized return movement of South Sudanese returnees who had been stranded in open areas in the suburbs of Sudan's capital,

A convoy of returnees arriving to Upper Nile were registered and provided with humanitarian assistance, including food rations for one month.

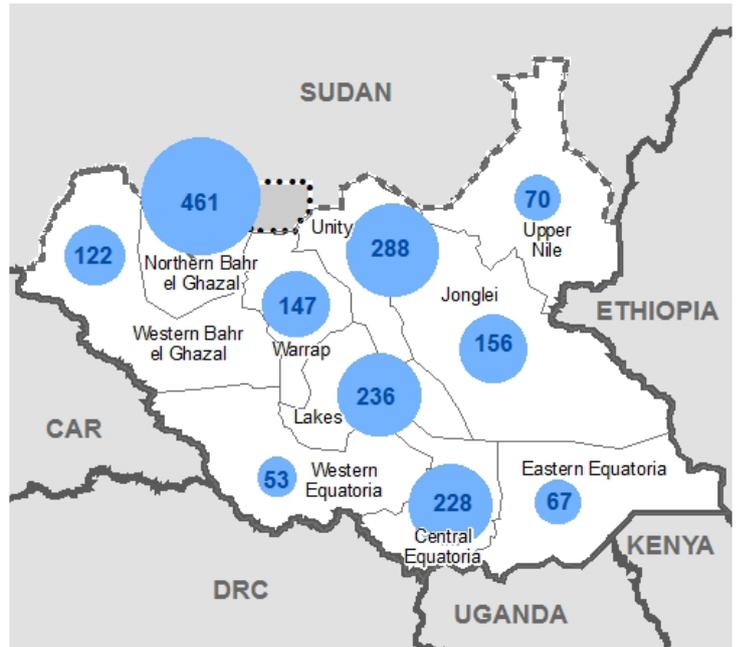
A second convoy of returnees carrying about 500 people is expected to arrive in Malakal on 25 March.

Khartoum, arrived in Upper Nile State during the week. The first of two convoys arrived in Malakal town on 21 March, carrying about 810 people.

Returnees were registered on arrival and provided with humanitarian assistance such as food for one month. Nutrition partners screened about 200 children for malnutrition, with the three found to be moderately malnourished given a nutritional supplement.

Returnees whose final destination was not Upper Nile were taken to the Malakal way station where basic

services such as food and medical assistance will be provided by aid agencies. Partners installed additional latrines in the way station for the new arrivals, and water trucking is being done. Soap has been made available for use and hygiene awareness is ongoing. The second convoy carrying an estimated 500 people entered South Sudan on 22 March and is expected in Malakal on 25 March.



Number of people (1,000s) having returned to South Sudan Feb '07 - Feb '13 (ERS).

Registration identifies 350 returnees recently settled in Unity

A verification exercise in Unity was completed on 15 March, identifying 350 returnees who have decided to settle in the state. The returnees arrived to Koch, Leer and Mayendit counties between December 2012 and February 2013. Humanitarian assistance was provided to the group, including three month's supply of food and household items.

Land allocation underway for returnees in Lakes

Land allocation and the demarcation of plots for about 800 stranded returnees in Lakes' Rumbek Centre County began during the week. Some of the returnees at the Rumbek town way station had been stranded for up to two years. The allocation of land will allow the returnees to establish permanent structures and build new lives in South Sudan.

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. For inputs to the next edition or questions/ comments on the current issue, please contact: ochasouthsudan@un.org

424

Returnees tracked heading to final destinations in South Sudan over the week.

8,630

Returnees arrived in South Sudan since the start of the year

20,713

Returnees stranded in transit unable to reach final destinations in South Sudan.

Source: IOM