



## Highlights

- The slow pace of land allocation in areas of high returns presents a challenge for reintegration of people who are returning to Southern Sudan.
- Suspected Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activity has continued humanitarian impact in Western Equatoria.
- Fighting continues in parts of Darfur.

## 1. Situation overview

Although the pace of returns has slowed down significantly over the last few weeks due in part to the uncertainty about the security situation in Southern Kordofan, the cumulative number of returnees from northern to southern Sudan since 30 October 2010 now stands at 195,928 people, according to IOM figures. Many returnees have preferred to remain in urban areas due to various factors, including the slow pace of land allocation.

Fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and armed groups in parts of Darfur has led to the displacement of more civilians and humanitarian agencies have had some difficulties to access displaced persons to undertake assessments.

## 2. North-South population movements

### Overview: organised returns remain suspended

Returns organized by the Southern Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (SSRRC) remain suspended. Meanwhile, spontaneous returns continue and some returnees who were stranded have been able to continue their journeys.

A convoy of buses with returnees that had been stranded in Kadugli following an attack by Misseriya tribesmen in Siteb on 9 January, arrived in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, last week after a long detour through Pariang and Mayom counties in Unity State. On 30 January, a train previously stranded in Kosti due to the insecurity in Southern Kordofan arrived in Babanusa in Southern Kordofan. The train left Babanusa on 2 February and arrived the same day in Aweil, according to UNMIS. Reportedly, there is another train from Kosti which has recently arrived in Babanusa. However, the exact number of returnees on this second train is yet to be confirmed. IOM has also assisted around 840 returnees stuck in Malakal, Upper Nile, with onward transportation from Malakal Port to Ulang and Nasir port. According to the SSRRC one returnee river convoy was stopped by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers at Baliep in Upper Nile and the soldiers demanded money from the crew. The matter was conveyed to the Governor who has vowed to take disciplinary measures against the soldiers. The convoy was able to proceed without further problems. Barges have also arrived at Juba port over the past week, with some 700 new arrivals.

According to FAR, the total number of persons at the Kosti transit centre as of 2 February is 4,151 individuals. It was anticipated that a barge would leave on 1 February; however the SSRRC has not yet received an instruction to begin loading barges.

### Returnees overview (Statistical update for 2 February 2010)

According to information from IOM, ADRA, SSRRC and RCSO, 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
195,928	5,210	26,270

### 3. Southern Sudan

#### Many returnees have decided to remain in urban areas

Despite the reduced pace of returns, the cumulative number of returnees from northern to southern Sudan since 30 October 2010 now stands at 195,928 people, according to IOM figures. A higher number of returnees than anticipated are choosing to remain in urban areas, largely due to the better services and similarity to their lifestyle in the North. As such, these areas are expected to experience higher humanitarian needs. More acute needs are also anticipated in outlying counties with few services where significant numbers of returnees have arrived, such as Mayom, Leer, and Abiemnom counties in Unity, Twic County in Warrap, Canal and Fangak in Jonglei and Longochuk in Upper Nile. Humanitarian partners remain concerned about the situation in Unity, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States which have received the highest number of returns.

#### Humanitarian needs in returnee areas aggravated by slow land allocation

Of particular concern to humanitarian partners is the slow pace of land allocation by state governments in the south, identified as one of the primary challenges to reintegration of returnees. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting this process by deploying surveyors to boost the capacity of State Ministries of Physical Infrastructure to plot and allocate land. At the same time as delivering humanitarian assistance, UN agencies and NGOs are working with communities to promote livelihoods in areas of resettlement under state authority leadership.

#### The security situation in Unity State remains unpredictable

The past week has been marked by a series of conflict incidents in Abiemnom, Pariang, Koch and Mayom counties in Unity State. Meanwhile, the insecurity and the consequent restrictions on UN movement have affected the movement of humanitarian workers. A meeting addressing the insecurity in the area and to explore how humanitarian assistance would be delivered was held on 25 January between SSRRC, OCHA, RCSO, WFP and IOM. The SSRRC State Director expressed concern that because of the insecurity assistance to returnees had been delayed in Koch County. SSRRC has now completed verification in Koch and food will be distributed shortly.

#### Suspected LRA gunmen continue to threaten civilians in Western Equatoria

Tension has been reported in Western Equatoria due to recent alleged Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activity. On 27 January, suspected LRA gunmen attacked an area about 5 km south of the state capital Yambio and engaged in fighting with the 'Arrow Boys' (community militia group). The fighting continued the following day with the SPLA reinforcing the Arrow Boys. According to UNMIS, two civilians and one LRA gunman were killed in the attack. Two people were reportedly abducted. Other incidents involving LRA have reportedly happened in Tambura on 29 January and three wounded are treated at Tambura civil hospital. UN road movement was suspended for three days following threats of attacks by Arrow Boys on UN convoys. The UN movement restrictions have been lifted after clarifications with state authorities.

### 4. Abyei area

#### Security situation

The security situation in Abyei is calm, according to the UN Resident Coordinator's Support Office (RCSO). Of the total of 1,280 Joint Integrated Units (JIUs) that are supposed to be brought to Abyei following the Kadugli agreement on security arrangements, so far 1,180 have already arrived in Abyei and are stationed at Dokura awaiting deployment within the Abyei area. The remaining 100 will arrive shortly from Kadugli. The deployment of the JIUs within Abyei has been delayed mainly due to logistical constraints.

The "No Go" restriction for Maker Abior imposed by ASC/UNDSS is still in place until the security situation is

deemed appropriate for UN civilian travel.

### **Food prices increasing**

Most basic items are not available in the market in Abyei area and the few that are available are now very expensive with prices having doubled in some cases, RCSO reported.

### **Registration, verification of latest group of returnees**

SSRRC/HAC finalised on 30 January the registration of the 120 buses with returnees that arrived in Abyei last week. The verification of the caseload by WFP with SSRRC/HAC support commenced on 1 February. One of the gaps in responding to the needs of the returnees is the education sector where there is a need for at least 386 new classrooms and 249 teachers for basic schools and 133 classrooms for secondary schools, RCSO reported.

## **5. Darfur**

### **Fighting and new displacement of civilians from Tabit area**

A UNAMID patrol deployed on 1 February to Tabit, 37 km north of Shangil Tobaya, North Darfur, to assess the security situation confirmed that clashes occurred in Tabit vicinity and that Tabit and nearby villages were abandoned. The population reportedly fled to El Fasher and Shangil Tobaya.

According to some IDPs, other villages such as Soog Sabit, Habila and Defaiyn were apparently deserted and people have fled in different directions. A decision was taken to postpone an inter-agency mission to the area last week for security reasons. The accounts of IDPs have therefore not been verified.

### **Shangil Tobaya**

The situation is reported to be calm but tense in Shangil Tobaya. On 30 January, WHO provided assorted medicines and drugs to UNAMID Team Site in Shangil Tobaya to assist in handling the civilian cases seeking health assistance.

According to Dar es Salaam Development Association (DDA), a local NGO, some 210 households have arrived to Shangil Tobay from Hemaida, Khorfula, Tabit, Daley and Hashaba; 60 individuals have arrived from Tangarara; and 20 individuals from Khor Abeche during this reporting period. Out of the 210 households, 109 households have received non-food items and emergency shelter from MSF-Spain. IOM has not yet conducted the verification of the caseload in Shangil Tobaya.

### **Dar es Salaam**

DDA has reported that 200 households have arrived in Dar el Salaam from the surrounding villages following clashes in Tabit. Another 200 households have come from Negai and other villages in South Darfur bringing the total of new arrivals to 400 households. Decisions were taken to postpone two missions planned for 23 and 27 January for security reasons.

### **Tawilla**

Community leaders have informed OCHA that 46 new households have arrived in Tawilla from Konjara Tarni, Tukumare, and Kuto villages following SAF attacks in Tabit area. OCHA and UNJLC will be on mission to Tawilla on 3 February to assess the needs of the new arrivals.

Government security forces have returned to Tawilla a month after handing over control of security responsibilities to SLA/Historical Leadership.

### **Zamzam**

Community leaders have informed OCHA that 1,917 individuals have arrived in Zamzam from Shangil Tobay, Tabit, and Dar el Salaam between 23 January and 1 February. These IDPs have settled in the old camp. In the new extension area, 48 households have arrived from Shearia, 21 households from Khor Abeche, and 105 households from villages between Tabit and Shangil Tobay. IOM is organising a verification mission to the camp.

OCHA has also called for an extraordinary Zamzam Task Force meeting on 3 February to consolidate all population movements and humanitarian assistance to the new IDPs.

**Fighting in Jebel Marra**

NISS confirmed to UNDSS that on 26 January SLA/AW elements attacked a GoS military garrison in Golo. As a result SAF are conducting operations in Jebel Mara. UNDSS indicated the sporadic attacks on villages in Jebel Mara, including Golo and Guldo, by parties to the conflict is making the area increasingly risky for humanitarian operations.

**Visit by Humanitarian Coordinator, Government, and donors on returns in North Darfur**

A delegation from Khartoum comprised of senior Government officials (Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, HAC, MI, NISS, Ministry of Interior and the police), the Humanitarian Coordinator, WFP, Sudanese Red Crescent as well as donors (Arab League, EU and US) visited all three Darfur States from 30-31 January. The Federal Minister emphasized the importance of security for returns as well as durable solutions for IDPs, integration in areas of residence, resettlement and return. In various meetings with State authorities, IDPs and Agency/NGO representatives, participants discussed the need to carry out effective assessments and profiling of returnees as well as the need to ensure sustainability in communities of return. The delegation visited deep field areas such as Barida, Tawilla and Tarofiti villages where they met with IDPs who have returned from camps to their areas of origin.

**Returns**

Following the issuance of a letter by HAC El Geneina to endorse the activation of the Return and Reintegration Working Group (RRWG), UNHCR organised the first RRWG meeting on 1 February. Issues discussed included post return assessments and the Government draft action plan for organized returns in 2011 in West Darfur. The participants agreed that the RRWG meeting will take place every two weeks.