

15 -21 October 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- The health and hygiene situation in refugee camps in Upper Nile remains fragile. Aid workers continue to respond to emergency needs of more than 175,000 Sudanese refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states.
- Registration of people displaced by insecurity in Jonglei State continues, while humanitarian actors are scaling up to respond to those impacted by the fighting.
- Response to people affected by seasonal flooding is ongoing across the country.



A Sudanese refugee boy is checked for signs of malnutrition at the Gendrassa camp in Upper Nile. (UNICEF/Sokol)

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Situation overview

Efforts to control disease outbreaks in refugee camps, particularly in Upper Nile, continue unabated. The Hepatitis E outbreak in September, and the continued risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases such as bloody diarrhoea, indicate that the health and hygiene situation remains precarious. About 175,000 Sudanese refugees are now hosted in sites in Unity and Upper Nile states, while refugee partners prepare for a possible surge in new arrivals in coming weeks and months. Elsewhere in the country, response to people affected by the heavy seasonal rains and flooding continued. Humanitarian partners in Pibor, in Jonglei State, have also continued to register people who have been internally displaced from three different locations. About 3,500 people have been registered so far, but more people are reported to be displaced in the bush.

The Parliaments of South Sudan and Sudan have ratified cooperation agreements reached in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in September. In a statement, the UN Secretary-General urged both countries to embark on the implementation of all the agreements they have signed and proceed immediately with the operationalisation of their Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The parties were also encouraged to continue the process to settle the issue of remaining disputed and claimed areas and the determination of the final status of Abyei.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Humanitarian organizations scale up to respond to Jonglei displaced

The situation in Pibor County, in Jonglei State, remains unpredictable with skirmishes reported between the South Sudan Army, SPLA, and non-state armed actors. Attempts to respond to people affected by the insecurity continue, but humanitarian organizations have struggled to reach people affected by the hostilities, which intensified in late August. Residents from at least three locations are believed to be displaced – some for nearly two months. Seasonal flooding in the area has also compounded the situation, hampering access for humanitarian actors.

Humanitarian organizations continue to work with the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) to register internally displaced people arriving in Pibor town from Gumuruk, Kondako and Likuangole. By 19 October, about 3,500 people had been registered, although residents from Gumuruk (about 1,000 people) have been informed by local authorities that the situation in Gumuruk appears to be calming down, which may allow for returns to take place. Those who have been displaced to Pibor town are mainly sheltering with host communities and regular humanitarian services and assistance by NGOs continue in Pibor town. To further strengthen response planning in the area, the UN Humanitarian Air Services has increased its flights to Pibor to twice per week. OCHA and representatives from four clusters (Non-Food Items and Emergency

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	217
Number of people newly displaced	167,931

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 30 September 2012.

Efforts to control disease outbreaks in refugee camps continue unabated.

BASELINE

Population (NBS)	8.26 million
GDP per capita (SSNBS)	\$1,546
% pop living on less than \$1.25 per day (UNDP)	51%
Life expectancy (Health Survey 2006)	42 years
Under-five mortality (MoH)	135/1,000
<5 global acute malnutrition rate (SSNBS)	18.1%

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency returns sector	IOM UNHCR
Emergency telecommunications	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO GOAL
Logistics	WFP
Non-food items & emergency shelter	IOM World Vision
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

2.4 million

Food-insecure people targeted (4.7 million at risk of food insecurity).

Source: CAP MYR 2012)

Shelter, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Food Security and Livelihoods) have also scaled up in Pibor to support the response.

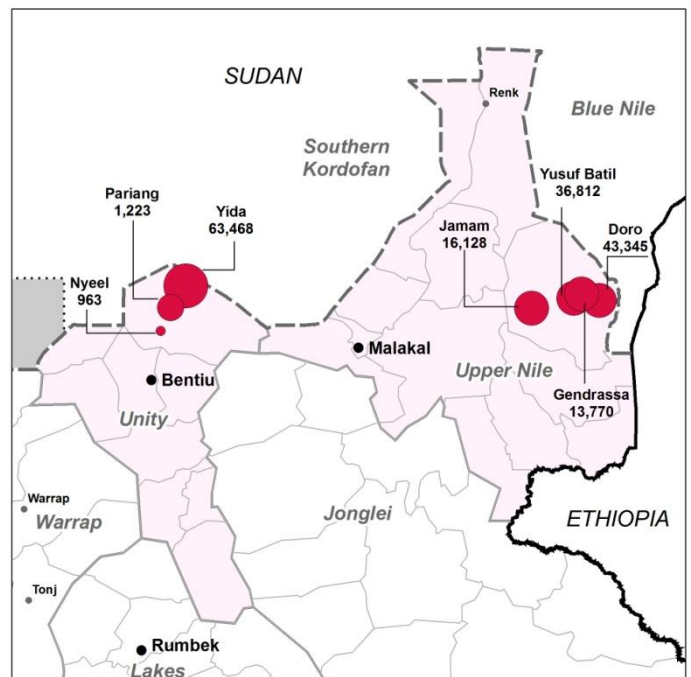
Response to flooding continues across the country

Seasonal flooding has impacted at least 260,000 people this year according to inter-agency assessments, and response to those affected by the heavy rains requiring humanitarian assistance is ongoing. Further assessments have been carried out over the reporting period to determine the effects of flooding and any humanitarian needs. The most affected areas by the seasonal rains this year remain Jonglei, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile states. Most pressing needs for the affected households are household items, food, health services, nutrition assistance, and water, sanitation and hygiene support. Response has been underway to meet some of these needs over the week, most notably in Unity and Upper Nile. However, some areas in Unity remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors and efforts are ongoing to ensure access. In Pibor, which has been affected both by flooding and insecurity, response by clusters has been activated and assistance is being organized.

Refugee update

Health situation in Upper Nile refugee camps remains fragile

Aid agencies continue to provide emergency assistance to about 110,000 Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile's four main refugee sites. The response to the Hepatitis E outbreak, which was declared in September, is ongoing. This outbreak, and the continued risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases such as bloody diarrhoea, indicate that the health and hygiene situation remains precarious. Surveillance for all outbreak diseases continues with regular sample collection for further analysis in Nairobi. According to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, efforts to control the Hepatitis E outbreak will need to be sustained for several more weeks to ensure risks associated with the rainy season and flooding are minimized. The rainy season, which normally ends around November, aggravates the situation as shallow untreated water sources multiply and water becomes contaminated through heavy rains. Domestic animals around the camps and poor hygiene and sanitation practices are also risks that impact on vulnerable people. Five organizations are providing life-saving health services in refugee camps in Maban County in Upper Nile.



Refugee influx from Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states into South Sudan.

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Veterinary mission investigates livestock deaths

In response to the large presence of cattle and other livestock in and around refugee site areas, a mission to set up a livestock management and vaccination programme has arrived in Maban. The mission will also investigate the cause of death of refugee and host community livestock in recent weeks, particularly in Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa. Once mission findings are concluded, animal vaccines will be dispatched to Maban. Refugee

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	43,345
Gendrassa	13,770
Jammam	16,128
Yusuf Batil	36,812
Total	110,055

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	963
Pariang	1,223
Yida	63,468
Total	65,654

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 22 October 2012.

and host community cattle will be vaccinated and hygienic slaughtering procedures and procedures for the disposal of carcasses will be set up. Dogs and other animals in the camp will also be vaccinated against rabies.

A programme to set-up *hafirs* (man-made traditional water reservoirs) is also envisaged. This will prevent refugee owned cattle contributing to the drying up of *hafirs*, normally used by local communities to provide water for their own livestock.

New arrivals in Yida continue

People continued to make the journey from Sudan's Southern Kordofan to the Yida refugee site in South Sudan over the week, with some 280 people registered, more than half of them minors. This is a slight decrease from last week when about 350 people arrived. The majority of new arrivals travelled on foot, while a few used vehicles and tractors. The refugees have cited a lack of shelter and water as key concerns during their journey. The majority of the newly arrived cited insecurity as the primary reason for flight. Over the past week, aerial bombings were reported in particular in Um Durein County and Al Buram County, according to UNHCR. Persisting insecurity has resulted in a lack of basic services in the Nuba mountains, including access to education.

Refugee partners plan for a possible surge in new arrivals

With the dry season about to start in a few weeks, organizations responding to emergency needs of refugees are expecting that the influx of people seeking safety in South Sudan could pick up shortly. UNHCR is preparing for a possible influx of up to 60,000 refugees from Southern Kordofan during the dry season. Planning is underway to identify new refugee sites at a safe distance from the border and to ensure that partners are ready to respond to increased needs in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition, shelter, food and protection.

According to UNHCR, newly arrived refugees have reported that many people have sought shelter from aerial bombings in the mountains and caves in Southern Kordofan. In the event of ground fighting, which is more likely during the dry season, those hiding in the mountains might flee in greater numbers. Another factor impacting on if people choose to stay in Sudan or make the journey across the border is if people who have been able to secure some cultivation in Southern Kordofan are holding out until harvest time, which will take place in late October.

Returns to South Sudan

Returns and onward transport continue by barge and road

About 1,280 returnees have been tracked heading to their final destination during the period 11-18 October. A limited number of spontaneous returnees have arrived at the transit sites in Renk, in Upper Nile, while some have also left heading to various areas within the state. About 14,500 returnees remain in four transit sites in the border town. The preparation for a barge to depart from Renk to Juba has continued and the loading of luggage has been completed. The barge will bring about 1,200 people to the South Sudanese capital in a journey that is expected to take about two weeks. Medical screening and distribution of food will start shortly. RRC and the Africa Inland Church have offered to charter 14 flights to help about 2,000 individuals to return from Khartoum. So far, 484 people have been flown to Juba. Flights are scheduled to resume next week. Next week a road convoy of 307 returnees will also depart from the way station in Juba. The convoy is headed to Rumbek in Lakes, Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Kwajok and Turalei in Warrap.

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.2 billion
requested (US\$)

667 million
received (US\$)

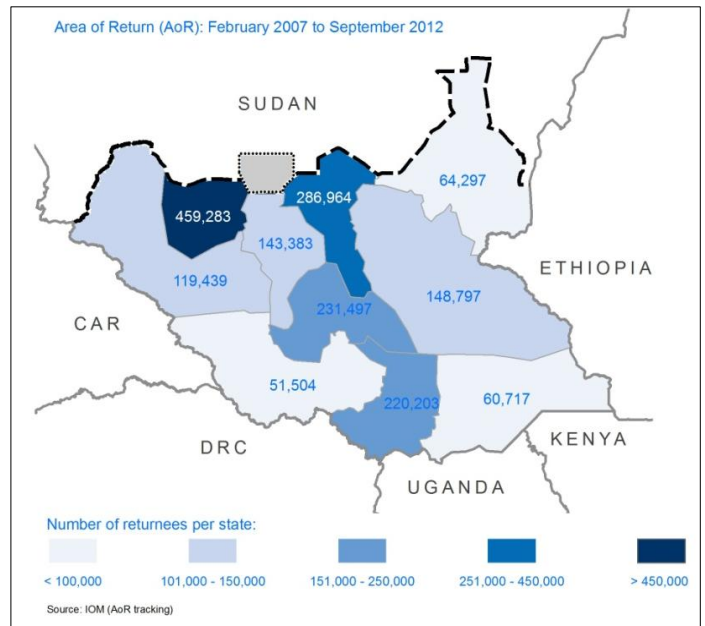
57% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service

Tracking systems show people returning in transit and at final destinations

The Emergency Returns Sector in South Sudan, co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR, maintains two databases tracking returns to South Sudan to provide a comprehensive analysis of return movements and trends. One database, rolled out in 2007, tracks returnees registered at their final destination and provides actual numbers and locations of returnees that have returned, and are settled at their final destination. The information is collected at village level together with close to 500 RRC enumerators. In addition, an en-route tracking system was put in place

late October 2010 to monitor the wave of returns ahead of South Sudan's Independence in July 2011. The en-route information is collected at six tracking hubs along major transport routes across the country. The weekly statistical reports from the Emergency Returns Sector provide only a partial picture of overall returns, but give an important snapshot and trend of return volumes and have been used by humanitarian organizations to plan humanitarian support for people who are stranded or in transit to their final destinations. This year, about 131,200 people have returned to South Sudan, whereas the cumulative figure of returnees from February 2007 to September 2012 stands at about 1.786,000 people according to the Emergency Returns Sector.



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