



1 March 2012

Highlights:

- Insecurity intensified in the border area between Unity State and Sudan's Southern Kordofan State with bombing reported along the western border of Pariang County and the Lake Jaw area.
- The government-led disarmament campaign for Jonglei State is not expected to take place before 15 March, according to the UN peacekeeping mission, UNMISS.
- Food security partners warn that Unity State and parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap, Central Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states will experience an extended and more severe hunger season in 2012.

I. Situation overview

Tensions along the border between Unity State and Sudan's Southern Kordofan flared over the week, with bombing reported along the western border of Unity's Pariang County on 29 February and in the disputed Lake Jaw area on 26 February. No humanitarian impact was reported from either bombardment. Tensions remained high between the governments of South Sudan and Sudan, with oil transit fees and outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues unresolved. Meanwhile in Jonglei State, small-scale inter-communal clashes continued to be reported, and humanitarian partners remained concerned about potential unrest that could result from a voluntary disarmament campaign due to commence in the coming weeks. Humanitarian partners continued to provide relief to 140,000 people affected by the recent violence in Jonglei, some 95,600 registered Sudanese refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states, and some 110,000 people displaced from Abyei.

II. Humanitarian challenges: needs and response

Humanitarian assistance continues amid unrest in Jonglei State

Inter-communal unrest persisted in Jonglei State, with reports of clashes between Murle and Lou Nuer communities occurring on a daily basis, according to local authorities. UNMISS reported that the government-led disarmament process, previously scheduled to start on 1 March, is not expected to take place before 15 March. The campaign, although opening with a voluntary phase, could switch to disarmament by force, which humanitarians fear may lead to clashes between the military and local communities. Volatility could further complicate efforts to deliver much needed humanitarian aid to those affected by the violence that broke out in late December.

An IOM re-registration of people who remain displaced is ongoing, with 25,833 people registered so far in Pibor town, Likuangole town and Langachot. IOM expects to complete the verification exercise and release a final report in the coming week. The information gathered will help humanitarian partners provide needs-based aid to those displaced. Over 170,800 people have received food aid since the start of the crisis, including conflict-affected and other vulnerable people. An estimated 12 metric tons of assorted vegetable seeds, farm tools and fishing gear have been distributed to close to 5,000 people in Pibor, Likuangole, Gumruk and Verteth, helping them grow and source their own food. Over 37,000 individuals have been supported with non-food item (NFI) kits. NFI distribution has occurred in Pibor town, Likuangole, Fertait, Boma town, Yuai, Duk Padiet and Labraab/Lazaach. NFIs and emergency shelter are still top priorities in Likuangole, while Pibor town has pockets of remaining needs. Shelter construction will be urgent for the rainy season, when people are likely to return to Likuangole. Partners continue to mobilize primary healthcare and trauma/surgical care in most of the affected areas in Ayod, Urur, Walgak, Akobo and Pibor counties. Mobile clinics are operating in Labraab/Lazaach, attending to about 300 patients a week. With support from partners, the Pibor County Health Department mobilized four mobile teams to work in hard-to-reach parts of Kong Kong, Fertait, Dorian, Bilait, Lekuangole, and Gumuruk. Security restrictions, poor roads, and limited truck and air assets combine to limit the reach and effectiveness of aid, with parts of the state remaining inaccessible. The rainy season will further constrain humanitarian access.

Bombing and renewed fighting in border area with Sudan threatens Yida refugee security

The security situation in the border area between Unity State and Sudan's Southern Kordofan remains volatile, with bombing reported on 29 February along the western border of Pariang County and on 26 February in the Lake Jaw area, according to UN Security. Although the fighting did not have any reported humanitarian impact,

partners remain concerned about the security of refugees in Yida and the need to maintain the civilian character of the settlement. The Pariang County Commissioner is holding discussions with refugee leaders on mobilizing refugees to move from Yida to Pariang and Nyeel, which are further south. Agencies continue to move new arrivals from the border to Pariang town, where secondary education programmes are being developed.

A Level 2 registration of the refugee population in Unity State was completed on 27 February, with 17,646 refugees identified. Of some 16,000 refugees at the Yida refugee site, close to 70 per cent are under 18 years of age. The measles vaccination campaign conducted in correlation with the Level 2 registration reached 5,995 children aged between 6 months and 14 years. More than 830 patients were treated in the Yida mobile health clinic and about 15,300 refugees in Yida were assisted with food aid over the week. However, according to food security and livelihood partners, food distribution had to be suspended due to the military activity along the border. In Pariang, 754 refugees were provided with food. Close to 460 students in Nyeel are attending primary school in temporary facilities.

Preparations underway for further refugee influx into Upper Nile State

New arrivals of refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State continue to be reported in Upper Nile State, including substantial numbers yet to be verified. In Maban County, the number of refugees continues to increase steadily: 2,287 new arrivals were registered at the Doro and Jammam refugee sites over the week. This brings the total number of registered refugees in Upper Nile to over 78,000 people. Agencies are preparing contingency plans for a possible large influx following unconfirmed reports by refugees that many more communities in Blue Nile are on the move. The continuing trend of new arrivals into Upper Nile is an indication that the situation inside Blue Nile remains volatile. Refugees cite nearby bombardments as well as the fear of bombs as the causes of their flight. Efforts continue to locate over 25,000 refugees reportedly scattered in the bushy terrain in the border area. This number, based on reports from refugees, is yet to be confirmed by protection partners.

Humanitarian partners continue to support the relocation of refugees from border areas to the formal refugee settlements in Doro and Jammam. During the week, 58 children, women and elderly people were relocated from El Shata to Doro, and those in need were provided with food, NFIs and medical assistance. Close to 900 refugees were moved from El Foj to Jamman.

The full caseload of 44,600 people at the Doro refugee site was reached with food aid during the week. Food deliveries to Maban County are underway to cover planned food distribution to refugees at the Jammam site. Levels of watery diarrhea in Doro and Jammam remain high. Health partners have initiated pre-positioning of cholera treatment centres to respond to a possible outbreak, and intensified preventive activities have begun. Referral systems for moderate acute malnutrition in children are also being strengthened. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation in Doro, which has been a major concern of humanitarian partners, has improved with the activation of a 75,000 litre-a-day water purifying system. This has raised the water supply in Doro to a little above acceptable emergency standards. The water supply situation in Jamman is still of concern. No new water sources have yet been found, so all water is supplied by truck from outside the settlement. A hydrological assessment of the site continues, aiming to locate a water supply underground.

Re-registration underway for people displaced from Abyei

A re-registration and re-verification exercise began on 27 February in the Abyei Administrative Area and Warrap State, of the estimated 110,000 people displaced by fighting that broke out in Abyei last May. The exercise aims to determine the exact number of people displaced and their present locations. The situation is fluid and up-to-date details have been hard to determine because many people have been moving from one place to another since the conflict broke out.

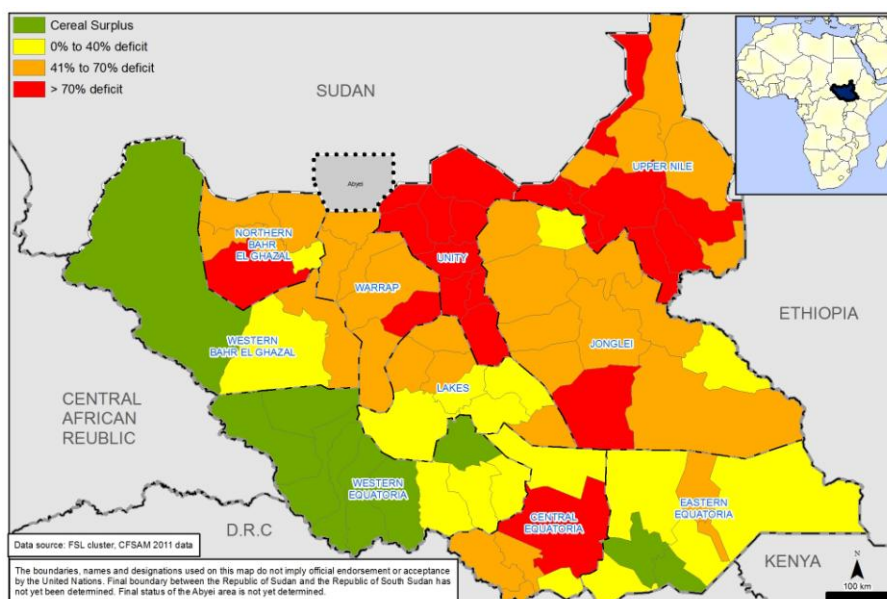
The UN Mine Action Service suspended demining operations in Abyei because of a lack of visas for its workers. Relief agencies are concerned that the suspension of demining will hinder humanitarian access. The threat of mines is a key factor preventing the return of people displaced from the area.

Humanitarian assistance to those affected by the Abyei conflict continues in Agok, Warrap State and other states in South Sudan. Some 48,900 people displaced from Abyei were assisted with life-saving food assistance in two counties of Warrap State between 21 and 27 February. Partners are boosting food security in the eastern payams of Twic County by providing 2,500 households, consisting of people displaced from Abyei and members of host communities, with vouchers to buy seeds for planting. The second phase of the exercise to the other areas in Warrap, will start in April just before the wet season starts. Also in Twic County, child friendly spaces are

operating in six payams benefitting over 5,500 boys and close to 2,000 girls. In the Agok area, 20 child-friendly spaces are benefitting 2,000 children. A polio eradication campaign began on 29 February in Warrap, targeting over 526,000 children under 5 years from the displaced and host communities.

Food security partners warn extended hunger season ahead

Food security and livelihoods partners warn that certain areas in South Sudan will experience an extended and more difficult hunger season in 2012. Unity State and parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei, Warrap, Central Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazal states are expected to have cereal deficits over 70 per cent, according to the Crop and Food Security Assessment mission report released in February. In these areas, partners warn the hunger season is likely to begin in March and extend until September, rather than the usual period of May to August. Households will face significant difficulty obtaining food during this period. Volatile food supply and poor diets are likely to intensify the severity of the hunger season.



Above: 2012 per capita cereal surplus and deficits.

Partners are pre-positioning farming inputs for 282,000 people in four states - Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei and Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Due to funding shortfalls, however, a further 288,000 people in those four affected states will be left without agricultural support, partners warn. These include returnees, people displaced and those who are resource-poor, who need seeds, tools and livestock support to produce food for themselves. Also because of the funding shortfalls, no farming assistance has been planned for Warrap, which has a further 31,000 households in need and unsupported.

Food security and livelihoods partners are enhancing mapping of food supplies, farm inputs and veterinary supplies across South Sudan. They are also locating storage facilities and available personnel to increase capacity on the ground, in efforts to ensure aid agencies have sufficient resources and can respond quickly if and when the food security situation deteriorates.

III. Returns to South Sudan

Returnee Overview by State*											
State:	Upper Nile	Unity	Warrap	Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Western Bahr el Ghazal	Lakes	Jonglei	Western Equatoria	Central Equatoria	Eastern Equatoria	Total
New Arrivals 22-28 Feb	96	0	78	0	138	0	0	0	0	0	312
Previous Total	59,886	87,634	33,124	69,573	21,268	17,402	21,034	2,270	42,594	11,700	366,485
Updated Total	59,982	87,634	33,202	69,573	21,406	17,402	21,034	2,270	42,594	11,700	366,797
Type of Returnee											
Government Assisted	25,317	32,080	16,894	23,499	7,937	15,631	16,090	1,548	26,522	9,886	175,404
Spontaneous	19,515	55,554	7,051	44,683	13,469	1,501	4,914	673	16,072	1,814	165,246
Unspecified	15,150	0	9,257	1,391	0	270	30	49	0	0	26,147

*since 30 October 2010. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures are as of 28 February 2012.

Limited movements of returnees to South Sudan

There were few new arrivals of returnees during the week, with only 300 spontaneous returnees reported entering South Sudan from Sudan. On 1 March, a train left Khartoum with some 900 returnees and was expected to arrive in Kosti on 2 March to pick up another 400-500 individuals, destined for Greater Bahr el Ghazal. The trains had been delayed due to the large amounts of luggage that accompanied the returnees. With regard to the potential large influx of returns in advance of the expiry of the deadline of 8 April for South Sudanese residing in Sudan to leave the country, the situation is at a standstill as neither government plans nor humanitarian funding are yet clear to support the movement. UNHCR estimates that there are up to 500,000 South Sudanese currently living in Sudan. Almost 367,000 returnees have already arrived in South Sudan since the end of October 2010.

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Reintegration remains a challenge for many South Sudanese returning home

The way station and port in Juba currently host approximately 100 returnees who wish to settle in Juba but do not have land and are not originally from the area. With high pressure on land in the capital, finding them suitable plots there is likely to prove difficult, so the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission is in contact with state officials to try to arrange land allocation in the returnees' places of origin. However, this process may take a protracted period of time. The issue highlights the challenges faced by returnees, host communities and the government in regard to successful reintegration.

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