



## Weekly Bulletin Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Week 15, 13 – 19 April 2008

### SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Joint Plan returned 19,557 Sudanese home since January 2008 – up from 16,663 in the previous week.

### I. FOCUS ON STABILITY AND SECURITY

- Central Equatoria State – Some pockets of displacements have been reported in Kajokeji and Lainya counties as a result of activities of organized armed groups. These reports are not verified.

### II. CURRENT ISSUES

#### **Peace making: Messiriya delegation visit to Aweil**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April, a high level Messiriya delegation, led by the Governor of South Kordufan State, Omar Saleiman Adam visited Northern Bahr El Ghazal State (NBeG) to make peace and unity between the Dinka and Messiriya communities. The governors of both states addressed a joint rally where they consistently emphasized the need for peace and unity – ‘peaceful co-existence’ as they put it. There had been reports of clashes between the two tribes in recent months.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND RETURNS

#### **IDPs, Returns & Reintegration (from UNMIS/RRR, RCO)**

##### Joint Organized Return Plan

The total number of individuals returned under the Joint Plan since January 2008 has risen to 19,557 – up from 16,663 last week. The Joint Plan is coordinated and implemented by the Government of National Unity (GoNU), the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and IOM.

During this week, at least 2,361 individuals were transported in four return movements. In the first two convoys, 676 and 197 individuals departed Khartoum for Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile, respectively. In the third, an additional 957 IDPs left the continuing instability in South Darfur for their homes in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. In the fourth of these returns, 531 persons moved back to Jonglei from displacement in the Equatorias.

##### State Organized Returns

Northern Bahr el Ghazal - About 670 families arrived in Malualkon on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008. They arrived on board the first convoy of state

organised returnees to NBeG State in 2008. The people came from four different IDP camps in Khartoum namely, Mandela, Jebel, Jabarona and Hai Yusuf. Most of the people will be resettled in Malualbai, Yargot, Madhol, Baac, Wunlang, Mangartong and Mangok Payams in Aweil East County. A few of the people will go to Gok Machar, Nyamllel, Ariath, Wedweil and Udhum.

However, basic services like water, health, shelter, education and food are currently inadequate to meet the growing demand in the already highly populated payams in Aweil East, North and West counties. The arrival of the returnees might further stretch the already limited services in these communities.

The state government is planning to bring back at least 60,000 returnees from North Sudan before the rainy season starts. As such, more returnees are expected to be repatriated by the NBeG state authorities in the coming weeks. The humanitarian community should be ready to support with food, non-food items, seeds and tools to these returnees.

On 18 and 19 April, a convoy of about 2,500 returnees arrived in NBeG. Breakdown per County is yet to be received from authorities.

During the week under review, ADRA/IOM's Kosti, and field offices team, reported a total of 4,169 individuals on organized return as follows;

SPLM Organized return of 138 individuals from Sinnar/Medani to South Kordofan.

GOSS/State Organized return of 1,451 individuals from Khartoum to Abyei, 1,950 individuals from Khartoum to NBeG State, 595 individuals from Kinana to Warrap State and 173 individuals from Kosti to Melut in Upper Nile State.

Central Equatoria State - About 2,200 IDPs in Labone have been registered to return to Jonglei State. One convoy from Labone departed on 13 April, and two more are scheduled to leave later.

Unity State - A government organized convoy arrived in Pariang County on 13 April with 755 individuals who were reportedly in need of humanitarian assistance. UNMIS/RRR, IOM and WFP visited the area on 16 April to verify the numbers and plans are underway to issue them with tokens prior to WFP registration for food distribution. Pariang has since received a cumulative total of 1,506 individuals through the state organized returns since January 2008.

Upper Nile State - On 13 April the UN8 convoy was attacked at 2:30 PM at Doma (141km from Malakal). No road block was set on the road. The convoy was summoned to a police station and detained for about two hours. A high official of the state as well as an international NGO confirmed that on 13 Apr

2008 at about 1030 hours, an unknown armed group attempted to ambush a truck carrying luggage of an IOM convoy at a location 75km south west of Malakal, an area between Adong and Gallashle.

Warrap State - In preparation for the upcoming Wau – Warrap convoy movements, UNMIS/RRR in collaboration with IOM, UNRCO and SSRRC trained 23 reception committee members in Manlor and Warrap town payams of Tonj North County. The training was aimed at providing reception, protection and advocacy skills for the local authorities and community members to be able to receive and help with the reintegration of their long displaced relatives. Thirteen participants attended the training in Warrap town while ten participants attended in Fraksika (Manlor Payam). The two locations are used as drop off points for Wau – Warrap convoys destined for Tonj North County.

Western Bahr el Ghazal State - On 18 April, WBEG3 convoy arrived at the Wau Way Station at 9:00 am with 676 individuals. They were welcomed and briefed by the State Level Reception Committee team and UN agencies. WFP verified the WBEG3 returnees and issued ration cards.

#### **Self Organized/Spontaneous Returns**

The ADRA/IOM team in Kosti reported a total of 874 individuals (174 households) passing through the transit hub in spontaneous movements between 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April, representing an increase of 12% compared to the pervious week. The main destinations were South Kordofan and Upper Nile.

#### **Refugees, Returns and Re-integration (from UNHCR, UNMIS/RRR, RCO)**

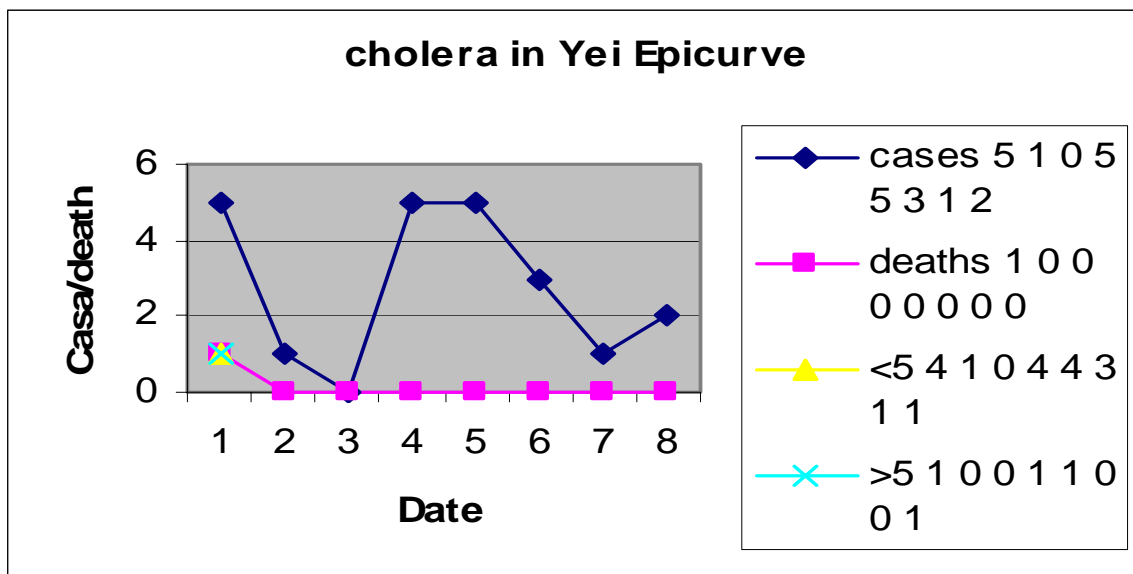
- This week, 4,785 refugee returnees reached home; among them 4,767 persons (1,322 families) were organized, while 18 returnees (5 families) returned on their own, and were assisted by UNHCR at their final destinations. A total 3,199 persons (862 families) came from Uganda to Central and Eastern Equatoria state, 377 persons (143 families) came from Kenya to Jonglei, Lakes and Warrab States and 1,209 persons (644 families) came from Ethiopia to Upper Nile State.
- On 17 April, the Pagak Corridor for road convoys from Bonga Camp in Ethiopia, to Maiwut in Upper Nile was opened. Two hundred and thirty-six persons returned to Upper Nile on that day. Further, returns through this corridor are expected in April. Discussions are ongoing with ARRA in Ethiopia to determine the number that would be repatriated from Fugnido and Bonga camps through Pagak. Some 3,000 individuals are also expected from Sherkole camp in Ethiopia to Bunj in Upper Nile through the Mabaan corridor.

- Currently, an average 3,200 refugees are returning from Uganda to South Sudan every week. UNHCR has now established a field unit in Torit, and 20,000 returns are expected to take place from Uganda to Torit this season. The number of Sudanese refugees repatriated from Uganda under the HCR assisted repatriation programme crossed the 50,000 mark on 18 April when a convoy of 240 people left Palorinya refugee settlement for Nimule. The refugees were given a repatriation package – blankets, sleeping mats, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, water buckets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, soap, seeds and tools – before being transported to their home villages in Eastern Equatoria State on 19 April. UNHCR launched the assisted repatriation programme in May 2006. A further 59,000 Sudanese refugees are believed to have returned home spontaneously from the northern Uganda districts of Moyo, Arua, Yumbe and Adjumani without assistance in the past two years. As of January this year, Uganda was hosting 97,600 Sudanese refugees.

#### IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

##### Health (from WHO, OCHA EP&R, RCO)

- Sporadic cases of cholera were still being reported in Yei during the week with a total of 22 cases and one death. Of this, 18 were children below five years of age. No follow up sample has been sent for analysis. Up to 82% of the cholera cases reported from Yei during the week are for children below the age of five.
- There is a modest increase in the number of counties sending in weekly reports. This could be attributed to the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) training conducted in those counties in the recent weeks.
- Eight cases of meningitis reported in Juba County will be investigated. Detailed information is not yet available.



- MSF have modified the cholera treatment centre in Yei hospital to meet the international standards of an isolation ward. They started working at the centre since April 6<sup>th</sup> and left on April 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition WASH partners will be implementing programmes with ERF support in the area.
- An MOH/WHO/UNICEF joint assessment of Wild Polio Virus in Akobo was completed on 18<sup>th</sup> April. In response, the mop up campaign was cancelled and a new strategy was agreed upon. The strategy targets to carry out two rounds of national immunization days (NIDs) vaccinating children along the border areas and done in coordination with Ethiopia. Dates planned are 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> May (Ethiopia 9-11<sup>th</sup> May) and 4-6<sup>th</sup> June (Ethiopia 6-8<sup>th</sup> June).

### **Child Protection (from RCO)**

- On 10 April, three Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFGs) were demobilized from SPLA barracks in Mapel (Western Bahr el Ghazal State). On the same day, Save the Children Sweden and the State Ministry of Social Welfare re-unified the children with their families in Lakes State counties of Cueibet, Rumbek Central and Yirol West. UNICEF provided basic non-food items to the demobilized child soldiers and the SPLA Brigadier General conveyed his best wishes to the demobilized children.

### **Mine Action (from UNMAO)**

- On 14 April an anti-tank mine was reported on the Juba-Mundri road, 6.4 kilometres west of Rokon. The road reconstruction company HBS informed a nearby de-mining team, who conducted an initial investigation and removed the mine. UNDSS was informed and advised to close this stretch of the road until an investigation and verification of the area are completed. The UNMAO Juba Operations Officer is conducting an independent investigation. Initial reports indicate that the mine may have been brought in accidentally with road reconstruction materials. A full report will be released upon completion of the verification. The road has since been reopened by UNDSS.
- In Yei, General Mine Action Assessments of the routes Pagil to Magok and Magok to Ayod were concluded.

## **V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS**

- Following persistent complaints about the refusal of IDPs in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria State to return to their home state of Jonglei and subsequent tension with the host community, SSRRC and other state authorities undertook a fact-finding mission to Nimule during the week. The aim of the mission was to convince IDPs who had earlier registered to return home during the survey of intentions carried out at the end of 2007. The mission was however unable to convince the people. The findings of the fact-finding mission have been submitted to the state authorities for further action.

**END**

**Disclaimer:** The information in this report is consolidated from OCHA field reports, UN agencies, RCO at state level, NGOs, and other humanitarian partners. The report is subject to availability of data and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified. If you have inputs for the next edition, or questions/comments to the current issue, please contact: [maputseni@un.org](mailto:maputseni@un.org)