



Humanitarian Action in Southern Sudan Report Week 27, 29 June – 05 July 2009

SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS

- ✚ Erratic early rains break cultivation cycle and increase risk of hunger. (*see section II*)
- ✚ Juba County records high cases of malaria – 1,856 in Week 26. (*see section IV*)

I. FOCUS ON SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- *Jonglei State*: The general security situation in Jonglei State remains calm but unpredictable yet no major incidents have been reported during the week. Akobo and Pibor locations were reported to be calm and continue to be monitored closely by observers. No major changes to traffic flow were witnessed along the Sobat River that stretches between Nasir and Akobo.
- *Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)*: The Ugandan rebels continued attacks in Western Equatoria State on 3 July in Yambio County according to local government officials and the SSRRC. Residents of Dimbiro Village near Yambio are reported to be fleeing their homes following last week's reprisal attacks by the LRA. The LRA are raiding villages, killing, and abducting people in typical fashion, state government authorities say.

[SOURCE: UN Security]

II. CURRENT ISSUES

Prolonged dry spells raise concern over increased hunger in Southern Sudan

Whilst the rainy season began with steady and consistent rainfall, a severe dry spell across most of Southern Sudan set in shortly thereafter. The Sudan Meteorological Authority (SMA)'s June 2009 report indicates that some very recent improvements may avert the dry spell. Conditions suitable for planting and early crop development usually occur in June but SMA reports that large delays have happened in an area stretching from Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal to Jonglei and Upper Nile States. The three states have a combined population of over three million people (*Source: 5th Census, 2008*).

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (Fewsnet) in its June 2009 report warned that below-normal rains in May and mid June have affected production in some areas including parts of the Greater Equatoria region. Further to that, poor rains from May through mid-June also signal possible planting delays in many of the June - September/November cropping areas located in the Eastern/Western Flood Plains and Nile - Sobat livelihood zones.

Currently, the food-insecure population remains mostly concentrated in the eastern and north-western parts of Southern Sudan. According to Fewsnet and preliminary reports by the humanitarian community, the most affected population are returnees, the chronically food-insecure conflict affected households and some refugees. A portion of 73,000 displaced people residing in surplus crop producing areas, especially in Yambio, Ezo, Maridi, Yei and Mundri are now food-insecure due to escalating LRA attacks since December 2008. The attacks have disrupted cultivation activities.

The humanitarian community in Southern Sudan will undertake joint assessments to ascertain the extent of the food needs.

[SOURCES: Sudan Meteorological Authority, Fewsnet, FAO, OCHA]

III. POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Returns & Reintegration

- State authorities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal have announced that the movement of state organised returnees has been put on hold until October 2009 following budgetary constraints to transport some 98,000 returnees currently residing in Khartoum.

[SOURCE: WFP]

IV. SITUATION, NEEDS AND RESPONSE BY SECTOR

Common Services and Coordination

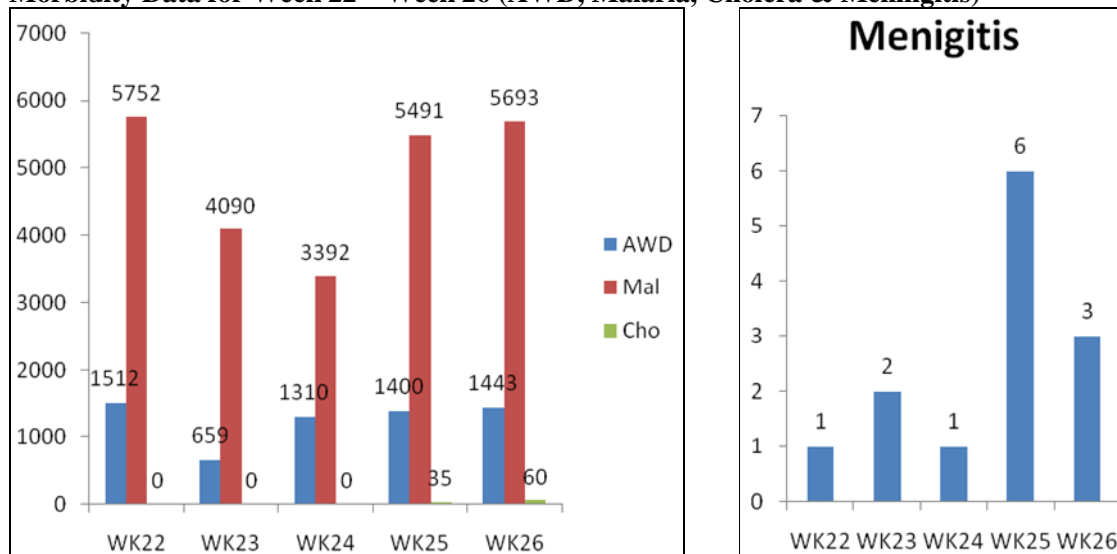
- UNOCHA in collaboration with OXFAM conducted the fifth disaster management and contingency planning workshop in Central Equatoria State between 1st - 2nd July 2009 in Juba. Other state contingency planning workshops were conducted in Warrap, Unity, Upper Nile and NBeG states.

[SOURCE: OCHA]

Disease Outbreaks

- Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)*: During Week 26, Aweil Center reported 402 cases of acute watery diarrhoea. One case of cholera was confirmed through SMART Test from a line-list of 60 suspected cholera cases. Cumulative cases for AWD in 2009 are 21,581 while those for confirmed cholera are 235.
- Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS)*: 5 cases were reported in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State.
- Meningitits*: Cases reduced to 3 in Week 26 from 6 cases during the previous week. The cases were also reported in Torit among children under five. Cumulative cases now stand at 204.
- Measles*: One case of an adult was reported from Nagero, Western Equatoria State.
- Malaria*: High cases of malaria especially in Juba (CES) - 1,856 were reported. The cumulative total as at Week 26 is 74,425.
- Cholera and malaria cases are feared to increase with the current onset of the rainy season.

Morbidity Data for Week 22 – Week 26 (AWD, Malaria, Cholera & Meningitis)



[SOURCE: Ministry of Health - GoSS]

Health

- Critical routine immunization supplies (vaccines and accessories) were delivered by UNICEF to State Ministries of Health in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria State. The vaccines are expected to protect close to 4,530 children under the age of one and pregnant women against deadly vaccine preventable diseases like measles, whooping cough, neonatal tetanus, tuberculosis and diphtheria,

[SOURCE: UNICEF]

Nutrition

- 200 cartons of plumpy nut were provided to treat 315 malnourished children under the age of five for three months at Baleit and Ulang Therapeutic Feeding Centers through the state MoH, in Upper Nile State.

[SOURCES: UNICEF]

Food Aid

- Up to 104,334 beneficiaries in Southern Sudan were assisted with 959MT of food by WFP and its partners during the reporting week. Of the beneficiaries, 45% were received 266MT of food under the Food for Education programme.
- A total of 205.5MT of food have been dispatched by both UNHAS and UNMIS flights to Akobo, Jonglei State beginning 01 July. This constitutes 72% of the total requirement of 285MT. The airlifting of food to Akobo was an alternative way to deliver food to Akobo following the attack on a WFP convoy of barges carrying food aid along the Sobat River in Nasir on 12 June.

[SOURCE: WFP]

Non-Food Items (NFIs) & Emergency Shelter

- *Jonglei State:* Inter-agency verification of conflict-related IDPs and returnees in Waat, Nyirol County and Walgak and Akobo West County has been conducted. Up to 1,179 NFI kits from UNICEF and IOM are on the ground for distribution in Akobo West. On 27 June, 826 NFI kits were distributed to IDPs in Nyirol and Waat.
- *Warrap State:* To assist 2,300 flood-affected individuals (766 households) in Tonj North, IOM will provide essential items for the affected populations to be distributed by WVI.
- An initial inter-agency assessment following flood-related displacements found 3,710 individuals (approx. 614 HH) in Tonj South and 482 individuals (81HH) in Tonj town in need of NFI kits. However, as IDPs are returning to their homes, requirements for NFIs will have to be re-confirmed. WVI is on the ground for re-assessment for NFIs. Upon the completion of the assessment, IOM will dispatch NFI kits.
- *Central Equatoria State:* UNICEF has dispatched 355 NFI kits for Medair to distribute to IDPs who have been displaced in Jabel Lado, following LRA-related clashes.
- Further information on the NFI & ES Sector can be obtained by visiting UNJLC's website at www.unjlc.org/sudan or by e-mailing sudan.juba@unjlc.org.

[SOURCES: UNJLC, UNICEF]

Water and Sanitation

- As a part of the cholera prevention activities at the start of the rainy season, UNICEF supported its partner NGO Caritas with 140 boxes of PUR (water purification tablets) to scale up the hygiene promotion in five bomas of Parajok Payam, Magwi County, Eastern Equatorial State. This will improve access to safe drinking water for 600 households for an additional one month.
- UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of five hand pumps - three in Aweil West, and two in Aweil East County, thereby increasing access to safe drinking water for 2,500 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State.

[SOURCE: UNICEF]

Protection

- The situation of children in both police custody and prison improved as a result of continuous monitoring and support from social workers. Follow up from IDCCL members has been crucial in this endeavor. With UNICEF support, the social workers from the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) provided a session on psychosocial support to children in prison. In another development, the UNMIS medical team continues to visit prisons to provide medical services to both children and women.
- Family tracing and the reunification process was completed for the five children registered by the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC). Demobilization of children associated with armed forces in Duar barracks and their will take place in the following week in Unity State.

[SOURCE: UNICEF]

V. ASSESSEMENTS AND MISSIONS

- Inter-agency assessment reports, humanitarian situation monitoring and gap analysis matrices may be obtained from OCHA EP&R – [ep@southsudan@un.org](mailto:ep@southsudan.un.org).

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