

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian partners are finalizing a response plan to prepare for the possible return of people displaced from Abyei, following the withdrawal of non-UN armed forces
- The Government of South Sudan's new 2012/13 austerity budget heightens humanitarian concerns about rising food insecurity
- Continued influxes of Sudanese refugees and persisting water shortages at refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity states remain key concerns of the humanitarian community

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	170
Number of people newly displaced	164,331

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams.



People returning to Abyei town (OCHA)

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Situation overview

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan was relatively stable during the week, except for the ongoing refugee influx and continued strains on water resources in refugee settlements in Upper Nile and Unity states. Refugees from Sudan's Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states continued to arrive in large numbers, with about 170,000 people having arrived by 24 June. Humanitarian partners also continued to assist nearly 20,000 people affected by March-April border fighting; nearly 200,000 affected by inter-communal violence or rebel militia activity; and an estimated 110,000 displaced by conflict in Abyei last year.

New budget tightens austerity measures

The Government of South Sudan's austerity budget for the 2012/13 fiscal year, which commences on 1 July, reduces expenditures to 6.4 billion South Sudanese pounds for the year, down from over SSP 10 billion in the original 2011-12 budget. The new budget heightens humanitarian concerns that people will be left with less in their pockets to spend on food and basic necessities. Less government funds available for public services suggests there will be an increase in humanitarian needs.

High-level talks resume in Addis Ababa

The UN Security Council welcomed the resumption of talks between Khartoum and Juba on 19 June and the reduction in border violence since April, while also expressing concern about delays in resolving issues between the two sides. Council members also welcomed the withdrawal of unauthorized forces from the contested Abyei area, urging the Government of Sudan to remove its oil police to complete the process.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Tensions linger in Northern Bahr el Ghazal

Tensions continue to simmer in the border areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. Although no fighting was reported since 31 May, troop movements reportedly continued in the border zone. Despite reported heavy militarization on both sides of the border, renewed clashes appeared unlikely because of logistical constraints associated with the rainy season, UN Security reported. The humanitarian response to people displaced continued, although there were no reports of new displacements. An international NGO was affected by attempted forcible recruitment of national staff in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Humanitarian partners plan for return of people to Abyei

Humanitarian partners are finalizing a response plan to prepare for the possible return of the people displaced from the contested Abyei area, following the recent withdrawal of most non-UN armed forces. Since the pullout of Sudanese and South Sudanese forces

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

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	40,289
Jamman	34,871
Yusuf Batil	22,000
K-18 *	10,000
Total	107,160

Numbers in Unity

Yida	58,376
Pariang	2,396
Nyeel	844
Total	61,616

Source: UNHCR

*transitory/temporary site, figures unverified

The Yida refugee site, which currently hosts 58,000 people, is being expanded to accommodate large numbers of new arrivals

from Abyei, 1,200 residents have reportedly returned, according to the UN peacekeeping mission, UNISFA. The small number of returns is said to be attributable to a lack of resources in Abyei, including schools and health services. Relief organizations estimate that up to 30,000 people could return between June and August. UN agencies have reinforced their presence in Abyei town and scaled up operationally. Tracking and monitoring teams have been deployed to Abyei to ensure any returns are voluntary. Humanitarians will continue to provide assistance to people where they decide to settle.

Rapid inflation affects most vulnerable people

The monthly inflation rate in South Sudan reached nearly 30 per cent between April and May, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. The inflation rate is likely to continue rising throughout the lean period for the next three months, when the highest prices are usually registered even in normal conditions. The highest price rises are seen in states bordering Sudan. Sorghum prices have risen 75-260 per cent in different parts of the country since heightened border tensions in March and April, while wheat flour is up from 40 per cent to 230 per cent. Increased numbers of people are likely to require humanitarian assistance as a result, as coping mechanism of households are stretched with people having less purchasing power.

Refugee updates

Water drilling continues in Upper Nile State

The number of Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile State exceeded 107,000 over the reporting period. Providing sufficient safe drinking water for the refugees remained the most pressing issue for humanitarian organizations, although the situation has improved following the drilling of six relatively high-yield boreholes at the Yusuf Batil settlement. Another two boreholes are being drilled in order to cut back on water trucking, which delivers about 40,000 litres of water to Yusuf Batil every day. Increased water supply should also help in reducing gender-based violence, which has reportedly been on the increase at water distribution points. Partners are working to strengthen community mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence. At the K-18 transitory site, water sources are quickly running dry, underscoring the need to speed up the relocation of remaining refugees to better served sites.

Efforts are underway to decongest Jamman by relocating at least 10,000 refugees. Several possible sites along the river in Upper Nile, and in Unity State, are being considered. Talks are ongoing with local communities and authorities to receive refugees from Jamman and another possible 20,000 new arrivals.

Some 220 metric tonnes of household aid was airlifted to refugee sites in Upper Nile over the week, targeting 50,000 people. The assistance included 2,000 family tents, 5,000 kitchen sets, 13,000 blankets, 194,000 bars of soap, 12,000 plastic sheets, and 20,000 sleeping mats, jerry cans and mosquito nets.

Partners discuss Yida expansion to accommodate new arrivals



Sudanese refugees registering at Yida site in Unity State (UNHCR)

The number of refugees in Unity State from Sudan's Southern Kordofan reached nearly 62,000 people by 22 June. Discussions were underway among site planners, local authorities and refugees on expanding the Yida refugee site westwards to accommodate the large numbers of new arrivals. There are about 58,000 refugees in Yida at present. Only 2,396 refugees are located at Pariang and 844 at Nyeel, despite efforts to encourage relocation to these more secure sites. Access to refugee sites is increasingly challenging due to

rainfall and poor roads in Unity State. Pre-positioning of food and other items continues in order to avert shortages during the rainy season.

Returns to South Sudan

Returnees*				By type		
State	Previous total	New arrivals 13-19 June	Updated total	Government assisted	Spontaneous	Un-specified
Unity	88,016	0	88,016	32,462	55,554	0
N. Bahr el Ghazal	72,667	90	72,757	25,076	46,290	1,391
Upper Nile	73,065	42	73,107	25,797	32,160	15,150
Central Equatoria	53,459	0	53,459	37,348	16,111	0
Warrap	36,899	174	37,073	17,664	10,152	9,257
W. Bahr el Ghazal	25,224	210	25,434	10,882	14,552	0
Jonglei	21,576	10	21,586	16,090	5,466	30
Lakes	17,475	0	17,475	15,704	1,501	270
Eastern Equatoria	13,654	0	13,654	11,833	1,821	0
Western Equatoria	2,682	0	2,682	1,960	673	49
Total	404,717	526	405,243	194,816	184,280	26,147

*since 30 October 2010. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures as of 19 June 2012.

Returnee movements slow down

The pace of return of South Sudanese from Sudan was slow during the week, following the completion of recent organized movements and the onset of the rainy season. Just over 500 returnees reached final destinations and a few other movements were in process. Nonetheless, returnees continued to be tracked in Renk in Upper Nile State en route to final destinations, with over 800 people reaching the town and over 500 spontaneously departing between 13 and 19 June. The International Organization for Migration began registering returnees for a barge movement from Renk to Juba, due to carry some 2,500 people. This will help decongest Renk, which currently hosts some 18,000 people in transit. Over 405,000 returnees have arrived in South Sudan since the beginning of the organized returns programme in October 2010.

Onward movement continues from Juba transit site

The National Teacher Training Institute site outside Juba has emptied substantially since the peak of the recent Kosti airlift operation. Just over 2,000 returnees are estimated to remain at the site, with 874 individuals going to Torit, Eastern Equatoria State, on 22 June and 225 to Western Equatoria State on 23 June in IOM-organized onward transport movements. Other returnees moved out of the site spontaneously in smaller groups from the first days of the airlift, while partners constructed additional shelter and latrines.

The majority of those still remaining, however, are not yet willing or able to move onwards. The most common reasons given are the lack of land or community ties in final destinations, and the lack of resources to move. Some people also report that they await their luggage from Kosti. The majority of those remaining cite final destinations in the Greater Equatoria region. Further transport assistance will be provided for the remaining people at the transit site when they are ready to move.

The movement of a barge carrying 2,500 returnees will help decongest transit sites in Renk County

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