

20-26 August 2012

HIGHLIGHTS

- The health situation at the Yida refugee site in Unity State continued to be critical, with 14 people reported to have died over the week, according to UNHCR.
- Inter-agency humanitarian assessments continued in multiple flood-affected states across the country.
- The food security situation showed a slight worsening compared to June last year, according to the 7th round of the Food Security Monitoring System covering June to July.

2012 FIGURES

Conflict incidents	200
Number of people newly displaced	164,331

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 15 August 2012.

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%



Families relocate to high ground due flooding at Nyal village in Panyijjar County, Unity State (VCD)

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Situation overview

The humanitarian community continued to be gripped by the refugee crisis, with some 170,000 Sudanese having fled into Unity and Upper Nile states to seek humanitarian assistance because of fighting in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, which broke out in June and September 2011. Aid agencies on the ground are working tirelessly to meet growing health and nutrition needs, and to reduce mortality numbers. Relief organizations were also focused on responding to communities affected by seasonal flooding. Multiple assessments and response operations are underway in many states across the country. Partners also continued to provide humanitarian assistance to people displaced from the contested Abyei area, of whom over 75,000 people so far are estimated to have received a full food basket for August.

The resumption of high level negotiations between the Governments of South Sudan and Sudan on unresolved Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues is reportedly being postponed until after the funeral of the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia Meles Zenawi, according to media reports.

Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

Humanitarian assessments and response underway in flood-affected areas

Seasonal flooding continued to affect several states across the country. Eight of Jonglei State's eleven counties have been affected by widespread flooding, according to local authorities. Humanitarian assessment teams have been able to assess five counties so far, with access to the remaining areas restricted because of the rains. Airlifting of emergency humanitarian supplies has been carried out in an effort to reach areas inaccessible by road. Mosquito nets, medical supplies, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items were flown into Lankien in Nyirol County, in response to an inter-agency assessment carried out from 22-24 August, which identified some 4,500 people displaced by the flooding.

In Duk County, an inter-agency assessment from 8-10 August revealed close to 10,000 people affected by flooding. Medical supplies were provided to those affected and other assistance is underway.

Up to 1,400 people in Uror County were identified as flood-affected. The Government and humanitarian organizations delivered over 3 tonnes of medical supplies as both regular and emergency supplies for the county. Water and sanitation supplies were also delivered, benefitting over 500 people. In Ayod County, 13,000 people were affected by flooding, according to an assessment carried out from 22-24 August.

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In Unity State, reports of flooding increased over the past two weeks. However, due to access constraints assessments will take place in limited areas, and will focus on community level interventions and flood monitoring. An inter-agency assessment was carried out in Rubkona County on 24 August, and identified water, sanitation and hygiene as the key needs. A hygiene outreach campaign will run for one month in the county, and a hygiene and sanitation awareness radio programme will run for three months. Humanitarian assessment teams will visit Panyijiar County next week to assess the impacts of recent flooding.



Houses under water due to flooding in Nyal village, Unity State (VCD).

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal's Aweil South County, the response operation is well underway to assist people affected by heavy rains. WASH partners rehabilitated five water pumps. The relocation of 274 households displaced by flooding in Aweil town began. Temporary land for the relocation was allocated, and WASH partners installed water points at the relocation site. The construction of sanitary facilities is underway.

Security situation in Jonglei tense following clashes

Relief organizations are concerned about possible humanitarian impacts that further insecurity in Jonglei's Pibor may have on the local community.

The security situation in Jonglei State's Pibor County was tense following clashes between rebel militia forces and the South Sudan army (SPLA) in Likuangole, Pibor County, on 23 August. An unconfirmed number of people were reported to have fled the area as a result of the fighting, but no further information on the numbers displaced has been received. Relief organizations are monitoring the situation and are on standby to provide aid, if needed. Relief agencies are concerned about possible humanitarian impacts that further insecurity may have on the local community. Partners are also concerned about reported human rights violations committed on civilians, allegedly committed by SPLA, during the ongoing civilian disarmament in Pibor County.

Food security situation slightly worse than the same time last year

Child malnutrition reached the highest levels since June 2010 based on MUAC, with 20 per cent of acutely malnourished children being in the 6 to 59 months old category, according to FSMS.

The food security situation shows a slight worsening compared to June last year, according to the 7th round of Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) covering June to July. Child malnutrition reached the highest levels since June 2010 based on MUAC, with 20 per cent of acutely malnourished children being in the 6 to 59 months old category, according to the report.

FSMS reported that half the households assessed are food insecure, and 14 per cent are severely food insecure. The food security situation worsened in Warrap, Upper Nile, Greater Bahr el Ghazal, and Western and Central Equatoria compared to last year. Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states showed some improvement from June 2011.

However, significantly different values and trends were found among states. The main limiting factor relates to food access. The expected seasonal food security deterioration for this time of the year is aggravated by the trade closure between South Sudan and Sudan, and the increased food demand in areas of high returnees. High fuel prices, a weakening of the local currency against the dollar and the scarcity of certain staples in markets has intensified already existing food access problems.

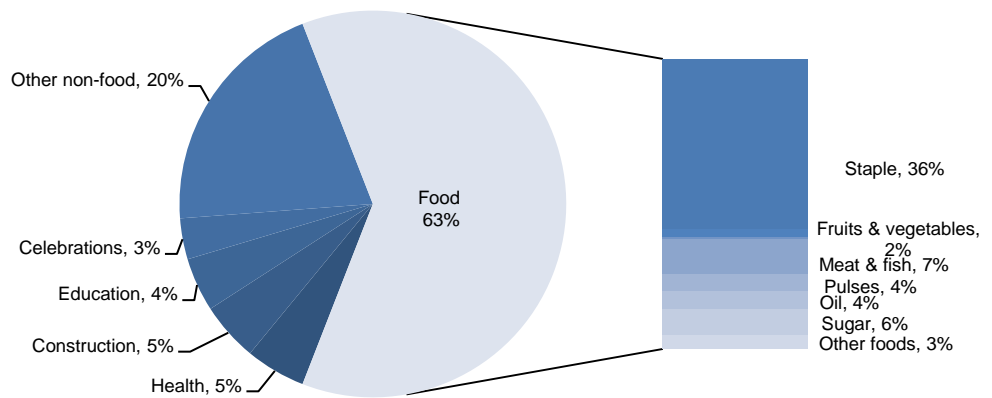
High food prices remain the shock most frequently reported by households; on average households are spending 63 per cent of their budgets on food commodities, compromising spending on other basic services. The situation is not expected to improve until the new harvest, end of rainy season, and/or the reopening of the border between South Sudan and Sudan.

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

Surveyed household expenditure breakdown



Source: Food Security and Monitoring System

Food and other assistance continues to Abyei population

Humanitarian assistance continued to be provided to people from the contested Abyei area, many of whom are still displaced since May 2011. Over 120,000 of the Abyei population continued to be provided with food assistance in the Abyei area, and in Warrap, Greater Bahr-el-Ghazal and Unity states. Food distribution continued in the month of August, with reports estimating that over 75,000 people received a full food basket so far. Humanitarian partners also distributed 78 of 140 metric tons of seeds to people displaced, reaching some 9,000 of a targeted 14,000 households. Distribution continued to reach the rest of the people identified in need. 30,000 agricultural tools were also delivered to Agok over the week.

2.4 million

Food-insecure people targeted (4.7 million at risk of food insecurity. Source: CAP MYR 2012)

The health situation at the Yida refugee site continued to be critical with malnutrition and malaria rates high, and mortality rates above emergency thresholds.

Refugee update

Health situation critical at Yida refugee site

The health situation at the Yida refugee site – which is host to some 62,000 people from Sudan’s Southern Kordofan – continued to be critical with malnutrition and malaria rates high, and mortality rates above emergency thresholds. Fourteen deaths were reported over the week, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The major causes of death were diarrhea and malaria. Health organizations continued to work around the clock to improve health assistance to refugees. A strategy is in place to prevent an outbreak of cholera, although no cases have yet been confirmed. The prevention plan includes comprehensive health education in the three sites hosting refugees in Unity.



Mothers and their children queue at the stabilization center in Yida (UN RCSO)

REFUGEES

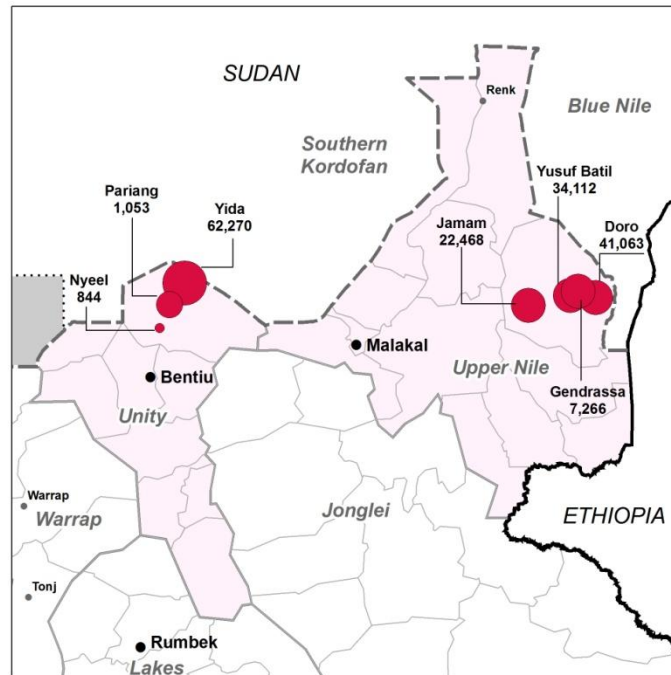
Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	41,063
Jamman	22,468
Yusuf Batil	34,112
Gendrassa	7,266
Total	104,909

Numbers in Unity

Yida	62,270
Pariang	1,053
Nyeel	844
Total	64,167

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 26 August 2012.



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

Humanitarian organizations continued to improve water and sanitation assistance at the refugee sites, in an effort to stem hygiene-related diseases. Seven motorized boreholes are operational, enabling each person access to nine litres of water per day. However, the internationally recommended water levels are 15-20 litres per person per day. To increase access to water, a newly drilled borehole will shortly be connected to the water reticulation system, and a ninth borehole is being drilled. Meanwhile, the chlorination of about 4,000 buckets a day continued at water distribution points, to reduce water contamination. The distribution of new water containers is also ongoing.

To increase latrine coverage, 56 latrines were completed during the week, bringing the number of family latrines in Yida close to 1,000, and the number of communal latrines to 100.

Returns to South Sudan

Number of stranded returnees in Renk slowly reducing

Barges organized by humanitarian partners carrying some 2,700 returnees from Upper Nile State's Renk to Juba and points in between, arrived in Jonglei's state capital, Bor, during the week. About 130 returnees disembarked on 22 August, and 400 people disembarked from latter barges in the convoy arriving in Bor on 26 August. The first barge of the convoy was expected to reach Juba by 27 August, with the remainder set to arrive by the end of the week.

In the preceding weeks prior to the barge movement, humanitarian partners noted a slow but consistent decrease in the number of returnees stranded in Renk. There are 14,000 returnees currently in Renk, down from 18,000 at the start of August. From 17-23 August, 80 individuals were tracked in Renk, while over 300 were tracked departing Renk spontaneously. Overall some 500 returnees were tracked heading to their final destination from 17-23 August.

In Sudan, humanitarian partners completed manifesting some 700 extremely vulnerable returnees and their families awaiting transport to South Sudan in the open areas around Khartoum. The returnees have stated Greater Bahr el Ghazal as their final destination. They will be flown to South Sudan with support from humanitarian partners, upon the completion of registration of further extremely vulnerable individuals in other areas of Sudan.

Health concerns on barges in transit

The health of passengers on the ongoing barge movement from Renk to Juba was of concern. At least two people passed away during the journey, according to the International Organization for Migration. Twenty-six others were admitted for treatment in Bor, primarily for diarrhea, malaria and respiratory infections. Seven of that group were

IOM estimates that 113,576 people returned to South Sudan from Sudan since January 2012.

**Consolidated
Appeal
FUNDING****1.2 billion**
requested (US\$)**577 million**
received (US\$)**50%** fundedSource: Financial Tracking
Service

discharged and continued to Juba on the barges, while the remainder stayed in Bor for treatment.

To address health needs on barges, all passengers are medically screened prior to departure for their fitness to travel. Medical personnel including a doctor, nurses and midwives accompany the returnees, and drugs are often replenished at stops along the way, including in Malakal, Shambe and Bor. For the barges from Renk to Juba medical staff conduct inspections in Malakal and Bor. Health partners are investigating why such health issues occurred in this convoy, with the aforementioned preventative measures in place, to ensure that they can be minimized in future movements.

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