

24-30 September 2012

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Seasonal flooding between June and September has affected over 258,000 people - at least triple the number of people impacted in 2011, according to inter-agency assessments.
- The overall health of refugees in Upper Nile State reportedly improved during the week, with reduced rates of new cases of Hepatitis E identified in camps in Upper Nile State.
- Breakthrough agreements on oil, trade and security between South Sudan and Sudan likely to improve food security and economic conditions for South Sudanese.

### 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%



Sudanese women and children wait for treatment for malnutrition at Yida refugee camp in Unity State (UNHCR).

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## Situation overview

Humanitarian organizations continued to respond to flood-affected communities across South Sudan, with the number of people affected by seasonal flooding between June and September reaching over 258,000. This is triple the number of people affected over the same period in 2011. In Jonglei State, aid organizations are on standby to respond to displaced populations from Pibor County, as sporadic fighting between the South Sudan army and rebel militia continued over the week. The response to the Sudanese refugee crisis continued, with reduced rates of new cases of Hepatitis E reported in camps in Upper Nile State.

### Breakthrough agreements reached on oil, trade and security

Agreements were reached between the Presidents of South Sudan and Sudan on 27 September in Addis Ababa, on oil, trade and security, after days of closed-door AU-mediated talks. The demilitarization of the border area paves the way for trade to resume between South Sudan and Sudan, and is likely to improve food security and lower prices, especially in border areas. The resumption of oil production will kick-start South Sudan's struggling economy, and strengthen people's purchasing power. The UN Secretary General hailed the agreements, saying that they provided vital elements in building a strong foundation for a stable and prosperous future between the two countries. The UN chief lauded both Presidents 'for demonstrating the statesmanship that made a comprehensive agreement possible, and for having once again chosen peace over war'.

The UN Security Council called for the full implementation of the agreements, and for further agreements to be reached on unresolved issues including the status of Abyei and at least five other disputed areas.

## Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

### Flooding affects triple the number of people than in 2011

At least triple the number of people have been affected by seasonal flooding across South Sudan compared with last year, and double the number of counties have been affected, according to inter-agency assessments carried out by humanitarian partners. Between June and September, flooding affected over 258,000 people and reached 39 of the country's 79 counties. Flooding over the same period in 2011 affected close to 79,000 people and 16 counties, according to inter-agency assessments and local authority reports.

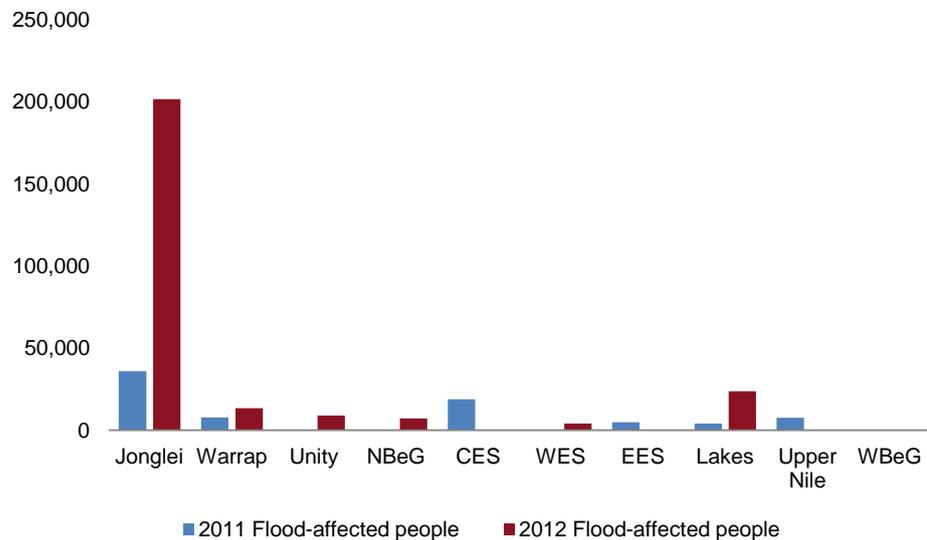
The impact of the floods this year has been more severe than last year, with Jonglei the worst affected state. Flooding has impacted over 201,000 people in Jonglei, according to inter-agency assessments.

So far flooding across the country has resulted in significant displacement of the population, and the destruction of houses, crops and basic infrastructure, particularly

Some 258,000 people have been affected by seasonal flooding between June and September, compared with 79,000 people in 2011.

roads. Access to flooded areas remains a challenge to providing relief to communities in need. The reported heavy rains causing flooding may be linked to a mild-to-moderate El Niño, expected to affect the region from September to December. El Niño is a climate pattern that causes extreme weather such as floods and droughts.

**Number people affected by flooding in 2011 and 2012**



The only NGO-run medical facilities in Likuangole and Gumuruk have been suspended due to insecurity, leaving up to 90,000 people without medical assistance.

**Insecurity persists in Jonglei State’s Pibor County**

Tensions remained high in Jonglei State, as fighting continued into its third month in Pibor County’s Likuangole town, between the South Sudan army and rebel militia, according to UN Security. Fighting also continued in nearby Gumuruk town, with most of the civilians reportedly having fled across the Gumuruk River away from the violence.

While the fighting has not yet spread to Pibor town, civilians were reported to be leaving the town due to the possibility of a military confrontation between the South Sudan army and rebel militia.

The only NGO-run medical facilities in Likuangole and Gumuruk villages have been suspended due to the insecurity, leaving up to 90,000 people deprived of essential medical assistance. All international NGO staff remained relocated from Pibor town since last week, due to the increased insecurity and flooding. Humanitarian organizations are monitoring the situation to assess when it is safe to return.

**Refugee update**

**Reduced cases of Hepatitis E in Upper Nile**

Improvements in the overall health of refugees in camps in Upper Nile were reported during the week, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The overall number of new cases of Hepatitis E, which broke out in refugee camps in Upper Nile last month, has begun to decrease. This is reportedly linked to intensified community sensitization, active case identification and improved water availability. Fifty-seven new cases were reported in Yusuf Batil camp over the week. In total, 19 people have died from the virus to date.

In Upper Nile State’s Yida refugee site a general decline in clinic admissions was reported over the week, with more patients discharged than admitted. Cases of diarrhea continued to decrease but high levels of respiratory tract infections are reported.

**2012 FIGURES**

Conflict incidents	208
Number of people newly displaced	167,931

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

## REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	42,996
Gendrassa	12,290
Jamam	17,543
Yusuf Batil	34,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,941</b>

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	963
Pariang	1,223
Yida	64,285
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,471</b>

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 26 September 2012.



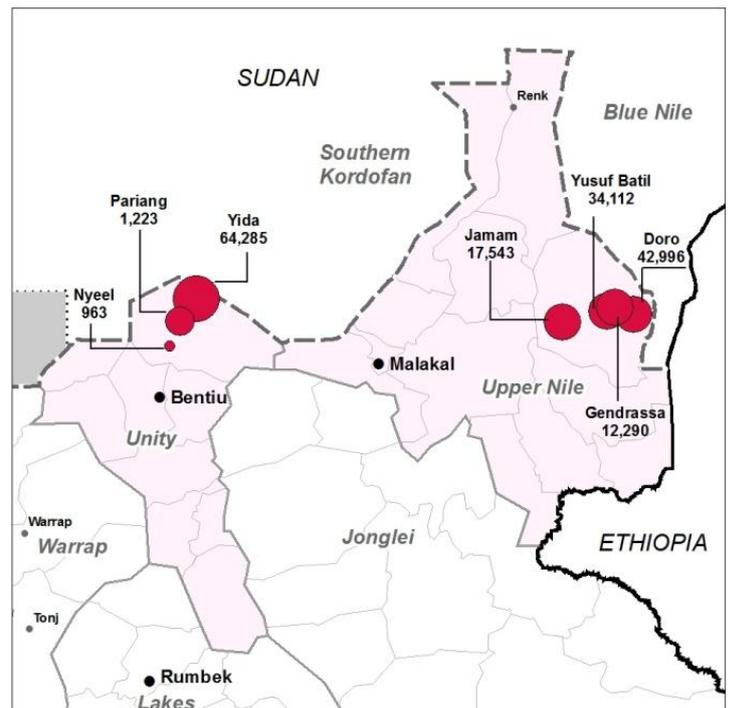
Photo: Fatima gave birth to her sixth child after three days of difficult labor in Unity State's Yida refugee camp. Both mother and child are in good health and have been resting at an IRC-run clinic (UNHCR).

While the estimated global acute malnutrition levels (GAM) in refugee sites in Upper Nile (9-16 September latest data available) remain above the emergency threshold level of 15 per cent in three of the four sites, overall there has been a downward trend in the rates from July to September. For example, Yusuf Batil camp, which hosts most of the new arrivals, the GAM rate is currently at 21.6 per cent, a significant decrease from 39.8 per cent in July. The decrease in all sites is thought to be attributable to intensified nutrition

programmes carried out by humanitarian organizations, as well as a consistent supply of nutrition products for both preventing children from becoming malnourished and curing those that are identified as malnourished.

### Clash in Upper Nile camp highlights tension with host community

A fight between a refugee and a member of the host community in Maban County's Gendrassa refugee site during the week led to a sizable confrontation. The camp is home to over 12,000 Sudanese refugees who have fled fighting in Blue Nile State. One person is confirmed to have died in the clash, according to UNHCR. Humanitarian organizations and local authorities mobilized to diffuse the tension and reconcile the two communities. However, the incident reflects a broader tension among local residents over the increased refugee population. Dialogue with local communities is being intensified to share information on projects designed for host communities, and plans to set up new sites outside Maban County for future refugee arrivals.



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

*Initiatives are ongoing to strengthen relations between refugee and host communities in Upper Nile State.*

*IOM estimates that over 126,000 people returned to South Sudan from Sudan since January 2012.*

## Returns to South Sudan

### Spontaneous movements of returnees continue

Almost 1,200 South Sudanese returnees were tracked in transit heading unassisted to their final destinations during the week, the largest group being over 600 people who arrived in Unity State's Bentiu by boat from Malakal. Those unable to travel to final

**Consolidated Appeal****FUNDING****1.2 billion**

requested (US\$)

**630 million**

received (US\$)

**54%** funded

Source: FTS

destinations were immediately sent to the transit site to reside until further movement becomes easier at the end of the rainy season. Humanitarian assistance is being provided at the site, with returnees in need provided with food, shelter and basic services while they wait.

Flights carrying returnees from Sudan's capital Khartoum that began on 19 September were suspended during the week, while modalities for the movement are organized by Sudan. The flights were being organized by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the African Inland Church, the South Sudan Embassy and the Sudanese IDP Centre.

**Framework agreement signed on the status of nationals**

As part of the agreements signed by the Governments of South Sudan and Sudan in Addis Ababa on 27 September, a framework agreement was reached on the status of nationals of each country in the other. According to the agreement, nationals of each country will enjoy the freedoms of residence, movement, economic activity and property in the other state, to be overseen by a joint committee of the two countries. Commitment to accelerate cooperation on providing identification and other documents to facilitate the four freedoms was also made, as well as to resolve security and border demarcation issues. While the movement of returnees may increase if the border reopens to trade, the opportunity for South Sudanese to exercise the four freedoms in Sudan may also encourage them to remain living there.

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](mailto:ochasouthsudan@un.org)