

HIGHLIGHTS

- Up to 8,000 people were reportedly newly displaced in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State in the past month, due to cross-border tensions between South Sudan and Sudan.
- Humanitarian assistance was underway in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, to people in Wau town affected by an outbreak of protests and violence in mid-December.
- A reported increase in aerial bombardments in Sudan's South Kordofan resulted in an increase of students arriving to Yida refugee camp in Unity State.

BASELINE INDICATORS

Population (2008) (NBS)	8.26 m
GDP per capita (NBS)	\$1,546
Pop. living below poverty line (NBHS)	50.6%
Life expectancy (SHHS)	42 years
Child mortality (SHHS)	105/1,000
Maternal mortality (SHHS)	2,054/100,000
<5 global acute malnutrition (NBS)	18.1%
Adult literacy (NBS)	27%
Net enrolment secondary education (EMIS)	1.6%
Households using improved sanitation (SHHS)	7.4%
Households with improved drinking water sources (SHHS)	68.7%



Refugees from Sudan's Blue Nile State fill up at a water point in Doro refugee camp, Maban County (UNICEF/ Sokol)

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Situation overview

Aid organizations concentrated largely on responding to communities affected by insecurity in several hotspots across South Sudan. Up to 8,000 people were reportedly uprooted from their homes in the past month because of cross-border tensions between South Sudan and Sudan, affecting Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. In neighbouring Western Bahr el Ghazal State, relief agencies were focused on providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by inter-communal violence in mid-December. In Warrap State, cattle-rustling violence killed 16 people in Tonj East and North counties. On the refugee front, humanitarian organizations continued to provide life-saving assistance to over 170,000 Sudanese refugees seeking safety in camps in Unity and Upper Nile states.

In political developments, the Presidents of South Sudan and Sudan agreed to implement September cooperation agreements on oil, border demarcation and security issues, after two days of talks hosted by the African Union (AU) in Ethiopia's capital on 5 January. The talks were the first since the two heads of state signed agreements in September on outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues, which have not yet been put into effect. Both sides have agreed to abide by AU timelines due to be announced by 13 January.

Challenges, needs and response

Insecurity displaces 8,000 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal

Northern Bahr el Ghazal State has seen a surge in the number of people displaced in recent weeks, in the wake of escalating border tensions between South Sudan and Sudan. About 8,000 people have been newly displaced over the past month, according to the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. The majority of those displaced are located in Maker Anei and Jar Akol in Aweil East County, and Wachum and Jaac in Aweil North County. The humanitarian consequences of such displacement are of concern to aid organizations, particularly in light of reported troop build-up along both sides of the border.

As a measure to strengthen the humanitarian response to the recent wave of displacements, an inter-agency rapid needs assessment was undertaken in the Maker Anei and Jar Akol areas of Aweil East on 3 January. The assessment revealed over 2,000 people newly displaced. The group is largely comprised of women, children and the elderly. Emergency shelter, water, health and nutrition support were identified as the key needs.

Humanitarian assistance underway in Wau

Inter-agency humanitarian assessments were carried out from 31 December to 4 January in Western Bahr el Ghazal's Wau town, following an outbreak of protests and violence in mid-December. The assessments focused on identifying the protection and basic needs of those affected by the fighting. About 250 of the affected 630

FIGURES

Conflict incidents	314
Number of newly displaced people	183,426

Source: OCHA based on reports from local authorities and assessment teams. Figures as of 31 December 2012.

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Coordination & common services	OCHA NGO Sec.
Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency telecomms	WFP
Food security & livelihoods	FAO/WFP VSF-B
Health	WHO IMC
Logistics	WFP
Mine action	UNMAS Handicap Intl
Multi-sector	UNHCR IOM
Nutrition	UNICEF ACF
Protection	UNHCR NRC
Shelter and NFIs	IOM WVI
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Medair

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.2 billion requested (US\$)

792 million received (US\$)

67% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service

people received household kits containing items such as blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and water containers. With regards protection, the assessments mapped out individual and residential areas with psychosocial needs.

The security situation in the north of Western Bahr el Ghazal State remains unpredictable, following reported air attacks on 2 and 3 January in northern Raja County. Humanitarian consequences of the attacks have yet to be verified, as UN Security has declared north of Raja County a 'no go area' to UN humanitarian workers until a security assessment is carried out.

Cattle-raiding in Warrap State causes death and displacement

Cattle-rustling in Tonj East and North counties in Warrap State on 3 January killed 16 people and injured 17, according to local authorities and partners on the ground. An unconfirmed number of people were reportedly displaced to several villages in Tonj East. A rapid inter-agency humanitarian assessment is planned from 9-12 January to assess the needs of the people displaced by the insecurity. In the meantime, partners on the ground are providing health support to the injured.

Resumption of UN air movements to Gumuruk

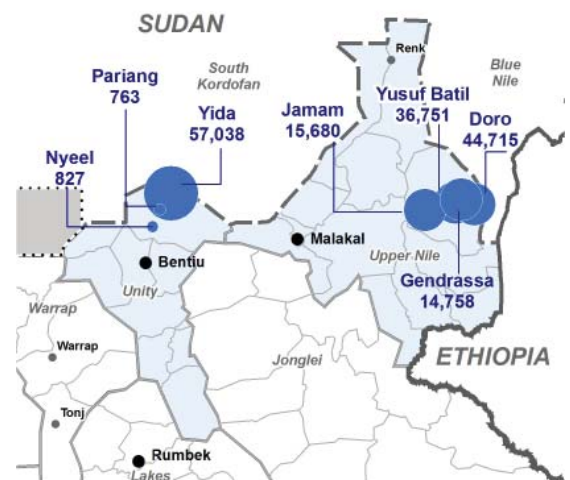
In Jonglei State, insecurity and poor road conditions continued to restrict the provision of humanitarian assistance to people affected by fighting in Pibor County over the past months. In Gumuruk, aid agencies are planning to assist some 6,800 people who have returned following hostilities between the South Sudan army and non-state armed groups in September. Distributions were delayed after UN air movements to Pibor County were temporarily put on hold due the shooting down of a UN helicopter by the South Sudan army on 21 December. With the resumption of UN flights to the area in early January, humanitarian actors are hoping to see increased humanitarian access to assist people in Gumuruk.

Refugee update

Bombing in Sudan increases student arrivals in Yida

About 50 students and three teachers arrived in Unity State's Yida refugee site, having escaped air bombardments in Sudan's South Kordofan at the end of December. Aid organizations reunited 30 of the students with relatives in the settlement. Shelter materials and other household items were provided to the new arrivals. The total number of new refugee arrivals over the last week of December was 917 people, slightly lower compared with the previous week. The majority of new arrivals (62 per cent) were under 18 years and were largely female, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).

Insecurity and a lack of food and other basic services were cited by the refugees as the primary reason for fleeing their homelands. Single men interviewed by humanitarian partners indicated they came to Yida to build shelters for their families, while others sought food assistance. In addition to a lack of basic services in their places of origin, shelter is also becoming a problem for



Refugee arrivals from Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states into South Sudan (UNHCR, as of 6 January 2013).

REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	44,715
Gendrassa	14,758
Jamam	15,680
Yusuf Batil	36,751
Total	111,904

Numbers in Unity

Nyeel	827
Pariang	763
Yida	57,038
Total	58,628

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 6 January 2013.

1.7 million South Sudanese have returned home from Sudan since February 2007, when relief organizations began tracking movements.

refugees as most homes were destroyed in the bombing. The majority of health facilities have been abandoned due to the absence of medical practitioners who also fled the conflict areas.

Refugees said they experienced increased aerial bombing over the past weeks. Vehicles were reportedly also being targeted, restricting movement onwards to safer areas. Refugees also cited the obligation to pay local chiefs with food or money to receive travel permits allowing them to cross the border into South Sudan.

Detailed refugee registration in Batil site

A Level II registration of refugees was completed in Upper Nile State's Batil settlement on 31 December. The year-end figure stood at about 37,000 people - with some 600 individuals registered during the final week of the year. The detailed registration will enable relief organizations to provide better targeted humanitarian assistance, as more detailed information will be available about the people in need.

The lower registration figures over the past several days are due to family add-ons coming to join their relatives and those who missed the earlier registration, rather than whole communities arriving.

Returns to South Sudan

Low numbers of returnees in transit

A low number of returnees arrived into South Sudan from Sudan over the week, with the Emergency Returns Sector tracking 248 people having reached final destinations across the country. 137 spontaneous individuals were tracked having reached final destinations in Unity State during the week. The returnees were traveling from Sudan's capital Khartoum and from Upper Nile State, where they had been stranded. Humanitarian partners provided the returnees with food rations on arrival.

Some 264 returnees were registered as stranded at Malakal way station in Upper Nile, who are unable to move to final destinations by their own means.

Just over 154,000 South Sudanese have returned to final destinations across the country since the start of 2012. Since February 2007 to date, over 1.7 million individuals have returned to South Sudan, as registered through IOM's Area of Return tracking system.

Overview of returns to South Sudan

State	Previous total*	New arrivals 28 Dec- 3 Jan	Total stranded	In transit	Updated total
Upper Nile	26,210		19,577		45,787
Central Equatoria	19,534		314		19,848
Warrap	17,627	29			17,656
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	12,892	44			12,936
Jonglei	12,384				12,384
Unity	11,836	137			11,973
Eastern Equatoria	10,634				10,634
Lakes	9,692				9,692
Western Bahr el Ghazal	7,318	38			7,356
Western Equatoria	4,680				4,680
Total	132,807	248	19,891	1,230	154,176

*since January 2012. Contains only verified IOM data unless otherwise noted. Figures as of 3 January 2013.

A barge carrying returnees from Renk to Juba is due to arrive in the South Sudanese capital on 9 January.

Barge carries 1,250 returnees to Juba

A barge carrying approximately 1,250 people from Upper Nile’s Renk to Juba passed through Bor on 4 January. The barge is due to arrive in Juba port on 9 January, when humanitarian partners will be on hand to register the returnees, and provide assistance and onward transport to those in need.

There are thought to be about 19,000 returnees still stranded in Renk, reliant on humanitarian assistance. Some of this group has been stranded for more than a year.

Extremely vulnerable returnees flown to Lakes

The first group of extremely vulnerable individuals flown to Lakes State from Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal arrived on 28 December. The group was the first to arrive in Rumbek since the resumption of flights from Wau. An inter-agency assessment was carried out on the small group, who were provided with a reintegration package containing food and household items.

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. For inputs to the next edition or questions/comments on the current issue, please contact: ochasouthsudan@un.org

South Sudan critical events timeline

