

27 August – 2 September 2012

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The pace of arrival of Sudanese refugees has slowed considerably compared with previous months. Some 250 people were reported arriving to Unity and Upper Nile states during the week, down from June and July when an average of 2,000 people were arriving a day.
- Assessments and response continued to flood-affected communities across the country, with Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap the worse affected states.
- Over 2,000 returnees arrived by barge to Juba, from Renk in Upper Nile, where they had been stranded for many months.

### 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.

*Nine of South Sudan's ten states have been affected by heavy seasonal flooding so far in 2012.*



A barge carrying returnees arrives from Upper Nile into Juba (IOM)

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## Situation overview

The emergency response operation to provide humanitarian assistance to some 170,000 Sudanese refugees in Unity and Upper Nile states continued, with focus on improving water, sanitation, hygiene and health conditions in the refugee sites. The humanitarian community also concentrated efforts on assessing and responding to flood-affected communities across the country, with Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states the most heavily affected areas. Aid organizations reached 3,600 people in Western Bahr el Ghazal State displaced by conflict in May, with humanitarian workers spending five days on the ground in Firka providing emergency assistance. Humanitarian partners were in Juba Port to receive over 2,000 returnees who arrived by barge during the week, after being stranded in Upper Nile's Renk for many months. Vulnerable returnees received relief items on arrival to the capital after the three-week journey on the barge.

## Humanitarian challenges, needs and response

### Flood-affected communities continue to be provided with relief

The annual flooding season saw an increase in reported flooding as August proceeded. However, most floods so far have not warranted major humanitarian interventions due to their predictable and localized nature. The humanitarian community has responded where the impact of flooding has outstripped community and local government capacity, with focus on support to health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions. Nine of South Sudan's ten states have been affected so far, with Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap the most heavily hit areas.

In Jonglei State, inter-agency assessments have been carried out in Ayod, Bor, Nyirol, Pochalla and Uror counties, and assessments are ongoing in Akobo, Pibor and Twic East. So far, assessment teams have identified over 68,000 people affected by the floods. Medicine, food and household items have been delivered to affected communities, and latrine construction and hygiene sensitization is underway. Access to affected communities is the key challenge in carrying out assessments and delivering assistance to people in need. The Logistics Cluster will provide a helicopter to Bor next week, for support in aid delivery.

Flooding has reportedly affected seven of the Unity State's nine counties. The latest inter-agency assessment was carried out in Guit County on 31 August, where WASH and household items were identified as the key needs of the flood-affected communities. Partners are mobilizing a response to the assessment.

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, the response continued to people affected by flooding in Aweil South County. Over 600 households whose homes were destroyed by the floods were allocated temporary land. Some 280 households at the relocation site were provided with emergency food. Health partners established a mobile clinic to increase access to

## 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%

## 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

## 2.4 million

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

health services for households at the site. About 82 per cent of patients who visited the clinic suffered malaria-related conditions. A special malaria sub-group has been established to focus on worsening malaria prevalence.

### Aid reaches hard-to-access communities in Western Bahr el Ghazal

Some 3,600 people displaced by conflict to Firka, north of Raja in Western Bahr el Ghazal State, were reached with aid over the week. The people were displaced by a reported aerial bombardment in May, but access has since been restricted since because of insecurity, poor infrastructure, heavy rains and restrictions imposed by the authorities. The humanitarian team spent five days on the ground assessing those in need and providing humanitarian assistance.

As a last resort to reach the communities in crisis, the Logistics Cluster helicopter was mobilized to deliver over 5 metric tons of emergency medical supplies and 363 kits containing household items. Eleven medical and logistics MSF staff were also carried by helicopter to conduct a measles vaccination campaign, which vaccinated 935 children aged between 6 months and 15 years. The team distributed 2,500 mosquito nets, and 10 cartons of the nutritional supplement 'Plumpy Nut' to malnourished children under five.

### Humanitarian partners concerned by recent insecurity in Jonglei

The humanitarian impact of recent insecurity in Jonglei State following clashes between the South Sudan army (SPLA) and a rebel militia group continued to be closely monitored by humanitarian partners for population movement, and resulting assistance that may be required. According to the UN peacekeeping mission (UNMISS), the civilian population in Likuangole fled the town because of the fighting. Humanitarian agencies are prepared to assess the area as soon as the security and access situation improves.

### People continue to return to Abyei in low numbers

People displaced from the contested Abyei area continued to return home, albeit in small numbers. Just over 4,700 people returned to the Abyei area, north and south of the River Kiir/Bahr el Arab, between 5 July and 30 August, with the intention of staying there, according to the Emergency Returns Sector. Some 110,000 people fled from the area following an outbreak of violence in May 2011, and the majority is still displaced.

A population movement and needs assessment was carried out by protection partners during the week, in areas hosting displaced communities in Warrap State's Turalei and Mayen Abun. According to the 190 households interviewed, 70 per cent expressed their willingness to return to their places of origin, north of the River Kiir/Bahr el Arab. Fifty per cent claimed they would only return when the overall security and political situation in Abyei was resolved. Over 40 per cent planned on returning at the end of the rainy season, while 9 per cent cited they would return once their shelter was restored and/or when the community began returning.

## Refugee update

### Slowed pace of new refugee arrivals

The pace of new arrivals of Sudanese refugees into Unity and Upper Nile states has slowed considerably in recent weeks. In the past week, only 53 new arrivals arrived into Upper Nile from Sudan's Blue Nile State, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). In Unity State, just over 200 refugees arrived from Sudan's Southern Kordofan. The rate is down considerably from June and July, when the average number of new arrivals into Unity and Upper Nile combined was 2,000 people per day. The main reason for the reduced numbers, according to UNHCR, is seasonal flooding which is preventing people traveling by road, and crossing riverbeds that are usually dry. Insecurity in their places of origin is also reportedly a reason they are not able to reach South Sudan.

## REFUGEES

Numbers in Upper Nile

Doro	41,063
Jamman	22,042
Yusuf Batil	34,112
Gendrassa	7,743
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,960</b>

Numbers in Unity

Yida	62,608
Pariang	1,051
Nyeel	844
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,503</b>

Source: UNHCR, figures as of 2 September 2012.

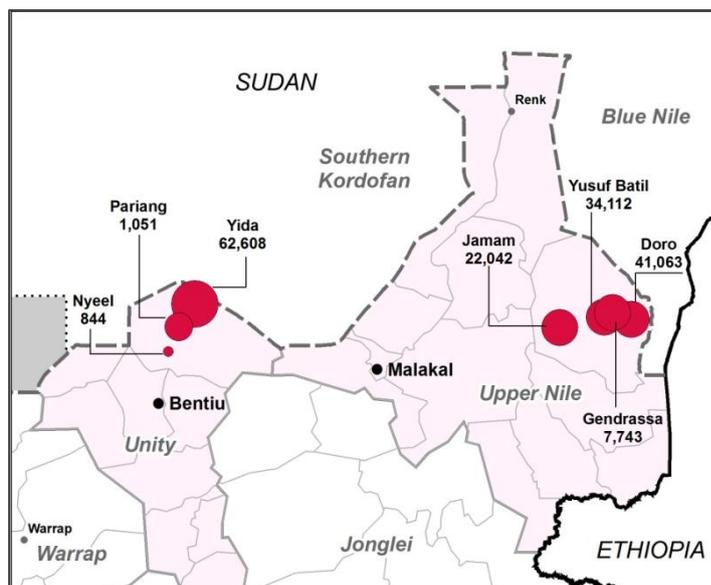
*The current water supply in refugee sites in Upper Nile State is considerably higher than in previous months.*

*Assessments undertaken in refugee sites in Upper Nile signal high numbers of animal deaths due to livestock diseases, while improper disposal of carcasses and waste is reported to greatly affect water and sanitation, and pose hygiene problems to refugees.*

## Water supply situation for refugees improves in Upper Nile State

The water supply in Upper Nile State has improved from an average supply rate of about eight litres per person per day to 13 litres per person per day in the four refugee sites in Maban County, although Jamman settlement, where natural water sources are especially scarce, remains low. The internationally recommended level of water is 15-20 litres per person per day. The current water level is a considerable improvement from previous months,

where at the lowest point the average per capita amount of water supplied was recorded at between six and seven litres per person per day. While the bulk of water in Upper Nile is supplied by boreholes, some is brought to the sites by water trucks. However, a tax on local contractors and private vehicles in Maban County is proving counterproductive, and a number of tankers may withdraw soon. This would hamper water supply efforts. As part of the initiative to increase sanitation coverage in Jamman, 87 latrines have been constructed of a planned 150 latrines.



Influx of Sudanese refugees into Unity and Upper Nile states from Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan.

## Heavy rains continue to impede access to refugee sites

Heavy rains continued to restrict access to refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity. In Upper Nile's Maban County, the road connecting Jamman to Batil settlements recently collapsed because of the rains. However, logistics partners carried out emergency repairs to the road and it was reopened within two days. The three refugee sites in Unity State have also been seriously affected by rains, due to the swell-up of seasonal rivers. Humanitarian movement and action is currently heavily dependent on air transport which is costly and limited, in terms of its ability to deliver bulky items and to transport humanitarian workers. Efforts continued to repair and improve airstrips, and set up helicopter landing pads.

## Livestock concerns in Upper Nile refugee settlements

The influx of agro-pastoralist Sudanese refugees with their livestock into Upper Nile State's Maban County has raised issues relating to livelihoods safety nets, hygiene, water and sanitation, and natural resources management, according to food security and livelihoods partners. Most of the refugees' livestock has not been vaccinated, subjecting it to disease vulnerability. Assessments undertaken signal high numbers of deaths due to livestock diseases, while improper disposal of carcasses and waste is reported to greatly affect water and sanitation, and pose hygiene problems to refugees. High livestock numbers among the refugees and host community is putting pressure on grazing resources of water, pasture, wood and space. This may heighten tensions over resources during the dry season. Food security and livelihood partners have organised a field mission to Maban County from 1-5 September to assess the situation.

## Returns to South Sudan

### Over 2,000 returnees arrive by barge to Juba

*IOM estimates that about 122,000 people returned to South Sudan from Sudan since January 2012.*

The IOM-supported convoy of barges carrying returnees from Upper Nile State's Renk to Juba arrived during the week. On 27 August, 1,400 people arrived on the first part of the convoy, followed on 31 August by about 900 individuals arriving with the second part of the convoy. On arrival, returnees were registered and those in need received blankets, mosquito nets and food supplies.



Returnees arrive into Juba Port after a three-week barge journey from Upper Nile.

Partners organized the transport of over 300 returnees who arrived in Juba to Lakes and Greater Bahr el Ghazal states on 28 August, as well as the further movement of returnees who disembarked from the barges in Bor to receive medical treatment. Those who require temporary accommodation before proceeding to final destinations are staying at the Juba way station and receiving assistance from relief organizations. 1,500 returnees were tracked heading to final destination between 24-30 August. Over 122,000 returnees have now arrived in South Sudan in 2012.

### Consolidated Appeal FUNDING

1.2 billion requested (US\$)

602 million received (US\$)

52% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service



Aid workers assist an elderly lady disembark the barge carrying her to Juba (IOM).

### Returnees stranded or in transit assisted throughout the states

Humanitarian organizations continued to assist returnees stranded and in transit. In Unity State, close to 1,000 people temporarily residing in the Bentiu port area are to be moved to a more suitable transit site already established a short distance from town. There they will be provided with one month of food rations to help them through the rainy season, while partners work

to resolve onward transport and land allocation issues. These returnees are largely bound for insecure or inaccessible counties.

In Jonglei, over 500 returnees who disembarked barges travelling south from Upper Nile in late August have received food support, and over 100 of the group have also received household items. Partners also flew two returnees from this barge movement to Juba who were in urgent need of medical care. Food and household items were also provided to almost 1,000 returnees in Jonglei's Akobo. In Lakes State, the Rumbek way station is being expanded to better accommodate the 319 individuals residing there, as it was originally designed to host only about 200 people.

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)