

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the 27 and 28 May. The next report will be issued on 30 May.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The first phase of the humanitarian operation in the south is underway, focused on identifying the location of the displaced and responds to critical humanitarian needs.
- At least 39,000 are currently estimated to have arrived in the South from Abyei, concentrated in Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states.
- Needs among the displaced remain high, particularly in food, water and shelter, while humanitarian access to displaced groups is also a major challenge.

II. Situation Overview

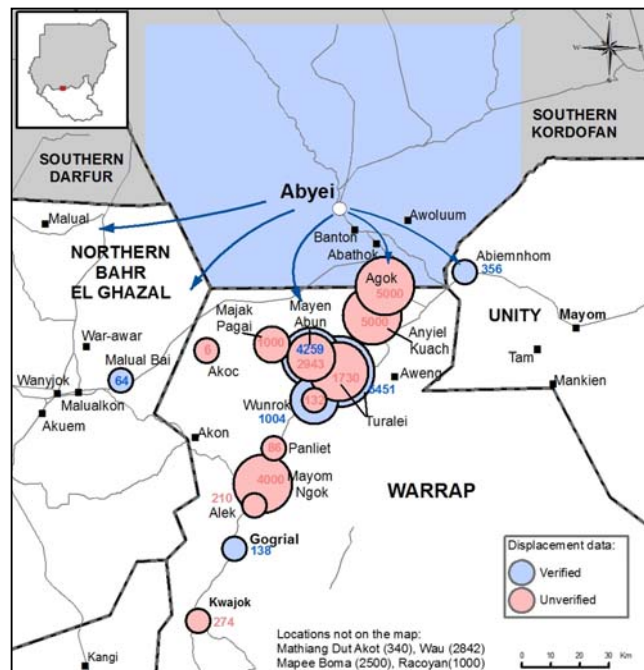
In Abyei, reports of sporadic gunfire, looting, and burning of tukuls have continued although at lower levels than reported earlier in the week. Further south, Banton Bridge at the Bahr el Arab/Kiir river is reported to have been destroyed. The security situation has continued to prevent humanitarian assessments in Abyei town and the surrounding villages.

The first phase of the response operation in southern Sudan is ongoing, focused on efforts to locate displaced groups still on the move or in the bush, verification of displaced, initial assessment, and response to the most critical humanitarian needs. Aid agencies in the south continue to reinforce their presence in Wunrok, the operational hub for response in Warrap State, as well as further southwards in Kwajok and Turalei.

Despite efforts, humanitarian needs among the displaced population remain high and there are concerns of a further downturn as the rainy season progresses. Requirements in food, water, health, and shelter are particularly urgent. Additionally, the sudden influx of people has put heavy strain on local populations, with the increased burden on existing commodities and basic services affecting both displaced persons and host communities alike. Food and shelter needs remain a key priority. The health and protection status of displaced groups is also a core concern, with partners on the ground focusing on vaccinations, nutrition support, protection monitoring and reunification of families separated en route from the Abyei area.

Humanitarian access to the displaced and host communities has become a major challenge to the response effort, with a series of factors impeding the free movement of relief supplies and personnel. Insecurity and the intensification of rainfall have reduced mobility in affected areas. Fuel shortages across the south are also posing a logistical challenge to the ability of aid agencies to move supplies. Interference with and looting of relief supplies by the military have also been reported, in one case resulting in the serious injury of a relief worker.

On 27 May, a high level mission to Turalei, comprising Government of Southern Sudan officials, the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, UN humanitarian agencies and donors met with local authorities and visited an area where many displaced had gathered. The response effort underway was also assessed. Despite significant progress being made, a need to further accelerate the rate of delivery was highlighted.



Population movements

Reports of newly arrived people continue in various locations in the south, mainly in Warrap State, but also in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity states. Partners are currently estimating that at least 39,000 people have already arrived, but this number is expected to rise. As of 27 May, IOM had confirmed 17,512 people displaced in the south. This includes some 5,200 people not yet registered or verified.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

As of 28 May, WFP assisted 9,377 displaced people with one-month food rations in Mayen Abun, Turalei and Wunrok. However, today only distributions in Wunrok could take place because of rains. On 27 May, distributions started in Madingjokthiang targeting some 3,000 displaced people. Distribution figures for this location are not yet available. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, an inter-agency team completed the verification of displaced from Abyei in Wau town. Food distributions to the 2,842 verified displaced started yesterday.



NON-FOOD ITEMS AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

By 28 May, the non-food item (NFI) and emergency shelter cluster had verified 3,800 households in Mayon Abyun, Turalei, Wunrok, Kwajok in Warrap and Abiemnom and Aweil in Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states respectively. Distribution is ongoing to 1,000 households in Mayon Abyun and 46 households in Aweil East. The kits distributed include collapsible jerry cans, tarpaulins, blankets and soap. In addition, the displaced people are being provided with mosquito nets, sleeping mats and a kitchen set.

The ability to transport stocks to replenish those used and meet urgent needs at sites of distribution remains a concern, particularly the availability of fuel for transport. Fuel shortages in Wau have already delayed transport of stocks that was meant to replenish supplies in Twic County. However, despite this, distribution of 800 kits that were transported from Wau on 27 May started today. In Abiemnom in Unity, insecurity has continued to hamper efforts to support some 64 households. In addition to the kits distributed today, a further 6,000 kits are pending dispatch from locations in Wau, Alek, Kwajok, Turalei and Maluakon.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster partners have continued to assess and respond to water and sanitation needs in sites of arrival and areas of anticipated arrival, with a focus on upgrading borehole pumps with motorized water systems.

Two broken boreholes in Turalei have been repaired and partners are working to repair sanitation facilities in Majak Aher where displaced people are expected to arrive shortly. In Majak Aher, a team is also setting up a submersible (motorized) system to improve water flow at the site. A team, including a WASH technician has been deployed to Akoc in western Twic County to conduct an assessment, make repairs to non-functioning boreholes and distribute soap and water containers.



HEALTH

New trauma cases have not been received by the health cluster since 23 May and response efforts are focused on primary health care services. The MSF surgical team that was relocated from Agok has returned to the facility in Agok today. This has allowed the hospital to re-open surgical facilities. Assessment of the need for a mobile clinic in Agok is underway with the deployable team also able to do NFI distribution. In addition, WHO have four field surveillance staff who arrived in Agok today to support disease surveillance.

Primary health care services and referrals are ongoing at 11 facilities across Twic County, including distribution of mosquito nets and vaccinations. There has been no increase of disease amongst patients, but a steady increase in the number of people reporting respiratory tract infections has been noticed.

Assessments are underway in Gogrial, Alek, Tanyiel, and Wunrok to see where best to provide mobile clinic support including vaccinations. The State Ministry of Health with support from WHO is preparing for the deployment of a mobile clinic team in the eastern part of Twic County. Training on communicable diseases in emergencies and disease surveillance will be conducted for health workers in both the host and displaced populations in the coming week. The local authorities are also working to ensure cold chain facilities are in place so that vaccinations can be administered.



NUTRITION

The nutrition cluster is working closely with public health teams in Turalei and Mayen Abun to integrate nutrition screening and referral of malnourished children into nutrition programs. Between 23 and 27 May, the cluster screened 500 children in Mayen Abun and admitted 40 children to nutrition programs where they will receive nutrition support. Three malnourished children were admitted to Wunrok Stabilisation centre. A further 200 children have been screened in Turalei and 42 children were admitted to nutrition programs.



PROTECTION

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has identified lack of information to displaced persons as a key concern and is dispatching a team of information counselors to Turalei on 30 May. In the meantime, UNHCR has continued to identify vulnerable people and needs, including the lack of clothes. In response to this need UNHCR is sourcing clothes from Japan and Uganda for urgent distribution to the area.

Clinical management of rape (CMR) kits are being dispatched on Monday to Twic County by UNFPA after a delay in dispatch due to flight cancellations.

Child Protection teams, composed of members from Save the Children, World Vision, UNICEF, local authorities and community organizations have established two tracing points to deal with the high numbers of children separated from their families. One is stationed in Mayen Abun near the church where the child protection team has taken the cases of nine separated children and one unaccompanied child. The other tracing station was established next to the local radio station in Turalei where the cases of seven separated children are being followed. The tracing activities are being supported by the local radio station. Save the Children reports that many children are presenting as withdrawn and traumatized.



LOGISTICS

The availability of fuel needed for transporting emergency relief items and humanitarian personnel has been identified as a major priority. The logistics cluster is exploring options for enhancing fuel availability in sites such as Wau and maintaining a constant supply chain. Trucks carrying fuel as part of the common transport service are scheduled to depart Juba shortly to provide key locations including Wau, Aweil and Wunrok with fuel.

The cluster is also identifying additional common warehouse space. Storage has been identified in Turalei and Aweil in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. A site and partner is still being sought in Wunrok. The common storage in Wau and Alek are operational and are utilized to store NFI items needed for the response. In addition, negotiations with UNOPS/UNMIS engineering corps are ongoing to do a rapid assessment of all airstrips in Twic County and repair three air strips in the next six weeks. To support emergency flights for staff UNHAS will also assess Turalei and Wunrok airstrips.



EDUCATION

The education cluster is assessing the situation and cluster partners have met with the Education Director in Twic County to discuss priority needs and gaps emerging from the influx of displaced people. As many as 1,000 people have been reported to be sheltering in and around the school in Mayen Abun and the cluster is looking at alternative shelter options for the displaced. The cluster is also identifying child friendly spaces and temporary learning spaces in Turalei and Mayen Abun. The cluster recognizes that capacity in the education sector is weak in Warrap. Save the Children and UNICEF are working closely with the State Ministry of Education to plan a more in depth assessment of education needs in the coming week and to register learners and teachers.

IV. Coordination

Humanitarian partners in the south are coordinating phase one of the response operation, focused on locating displaced groups and responding to the most critical needs. Second phase planning is also underway with a view to developing in-depth cluster assessments geared towards meeting medium term needs among the displaced and host populations.

In Juba, a Humanitarian Coordination Team Juba satellite met on 28 May in order to share real time information about the humanitarian situation, address current response challenges, and update planning scenarios. Steps to ensure strong coordination at the state level have continued in Warrap State, with a health task force established in Kwajok and daily coordination meetings continuing in Wunrok.

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