

This update is produced by OCHA South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 28 July to 14 August.

KEY MESSAGES

- The hospitals/health facilities in Renk have limited resources and are struggling with the existing caseload of returnees. Any sharp increase in the number of returnees would upset arrangements currently in place. This is of concern given the spike in measles cases imported from Sudan.
- Comparing the Renk-Malakal onward transportation assistance (OTA) against Joda border new arrivals, the ideal goal of outflows outpacing arrivals remains a top priority.
- The food security outcomes will likely deteriorate for returnees and host communities as they face significant food consumption gaps, and resort to negative coping mechanisms. Additional resources are critical to ensure humanitarian partners provide at least a minimum level of assistance upon arrival, during transit and in places of final settlement.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The influx into South Sudan of people fleeing conflict in Sudan continues unabated. Details on the caseloads are to be found on the UNHCR-IOM [dashboard](#).
- Protection actors continue to receive reports of refugees, and returnees assaulted during their flight from Sudan.
- Many areas of return are experiencing significant humanitarian needs (e.g., food insecurity, displacements, etc.) and facing serious humanitarian risks (e.g., severe flooding).
- The nutritional status of returnees, especially children and breastfeeding mothers is of concern. Investing in prevention programmes is a priority to consider.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & RESPONSE

Renk, Upper Nile State

Critical humanitarian needs:

- High consumption of medicines and food insecurity are among major pressing needs, especially as returnees stay longer in the transit centres than initially planned/intended. Needs continue to outpace available resources.

Responses & Gaps:

- In total, 61 emergency reproductive health (RH) kits were allocated to 32 organizations, of which 17 kits were allocated for Renk to cover 5,800 people in need for the next two months. An estimate of 22 RH kits is required to cover the needs of about 42,320 returnee women and girls in the next six months.
- Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals on 26 June, partners have distributed a total of US\$ 768,122, including \$626,987 to 52,351 new arrivals in Renk. According to FEWS NET, returnees are relying on remittances.
- Individual protection assistance (IPA) was provided to 38 individuals and their families by the Protection team.
- PSEA dialogues were conducted with 77 leaders of community structures in Renk and at the Wunthou/Joda border.
- 1,779 children received measles antigen vaccines at the Abayok clinic and Wunthou clinic.
- 120m³ of water produced daily by partners. 100m³ daily is delivered by water trucking to transit centres and supported by GOAL with 75m³ of clean and safe water.
- Official approval secured to utilize the land for the transit centre extension and related works have commenced.
- A women's support network comprising 40 women has been established at the Renk Transit Centre.
- 2,117 returnees settled in Wadakona need food, emergency shelters and livelihood support in the medium term.

Malakal, Upper Nile State

Critical humanitarian needs:

- Stock replenishment of 17,000 dignity kits and 62 RH kits is needed urgently.
- Urgent need to support overwhelmed gender-based violence (GBV) service delivery points and health facilities.
- The Bulukat Transit Centre lacks adequate capacity to host the continuous flow of new arrivals coming from Renk.
- Very limited capacity at Malakal Civil Hospital to cater for individuals with serious health conditions.

Responses & Gaps:

- 19,648 returnees, of whom 10,806 from Malakal, were assisted with integrated maternal and RH services and GBV prevention and response services. This covered 40 per cent of estimated needs, leaving a gap of 60 per cent.
- Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals on 15 July, partners have distributed a total of \$768,122, including \$129,708 to 4,801 new arrivals in Malakal. Lack of adequate supply of non-food items continues to force returnees to use the cash they receive for food to meet other non-food needs.

- IPA was provided to nine individuals and their families by the Protection team.
- Ongoing conversion on the need for increased coordination among protection actors for protection cases across multiple locations to ensure a continuum of care as individuals are moved from the border to other locations.
- 61 caregivers and family members in the Bulukat Transit Centre were provided with psychoeducation by MHPSS.
- 85 individuals received routine vaccines and 63 women of childbearing age were vaccinated against tetanus.
- 2,346 cash vouchers worth 44,808,600 SSP were provided to returnees in Malakal airport to facilitate their OTA.
- Additional 16 communal shelters were set up at the Malakal Reception Centre to increase the capacity to 10,000 individuals. Two more blocks of latrines have been constructed to cater for the increasing numbers of returnees.
- Health partners have initiated measles awareness sessions following an observed hesitancy among new arrivals to report suspected cases.

Paloich, Upper Nile State

Critical humanitarian needs:

- Lack of access to the returnees' site at the Paloich airport due to heavy rains calls for urgent action, including relocation to a more accessible site to enable the provision of comprehensive humanitarian services.

Responses & Gaps:

- Eight emergency RH kits were allocated to a partner providing health interventions in the transit centre to cover 4,421 persons for three months. An estimate of nine RH kits is required to cover about 17,313 returnee women and girls.
- Following the measles outbreak in mid-July and the prevalence of acute watery diarrhoea, humanitarian partners have opened a clinic within the site, with one isolation ward and have continued to provide nutrition support to the vulnerable people.
- Construction of two additional communal shelters at the Bulukat Transit Centre to accommodate about 80 individuals. CCCM has supported the creation of internal access roads within the transit to ensure accessibility to service points.

Aweil, Northern Bar El Ghazal State

Responses & Gaps:

- A partner supporting Malulakon Hospital distributed nine RH kits to support 17,313 women and girls against an estimated need of 31,163 kits to cover all those in need.
- PSEA awareness sessions were conducted by the Protection team with returnees during general food distribution, reaching 85 individuals, while 130 returnee children received measles antigen vaccines during the reporting period.
- WASH/non-food items kits were distributed to 117 households and dignity kits to 25 women and girls at the Majokyinthiou point of entry in Aweil East. However, funding gaps prevent the provision of a full-scale response in areas of return in Aweil.

Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal State

Response & Gaps:

- Health facilities providing medical assistance received 17 RH kits to cover the needs of 5,800 women against an estimated need of 35 kits to cover all those in need. Besides, 1,793 vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits and 394 vulnerable individuals received non-food items.
- 19,648 returnees from Wau assisted with integrated maternal and RH services as well as GBV prevention and response services. This covered only 27 per cent of the needs. To cover the gap, \$227,000 is required.
- 61 vulnerable individuals were referred to services by the Protection teams in Wau.

Rotriak, Unity State

Critical humanitarian needs:

- GBV service delivery points and health facilities are overwhelmed and require urgent support to expand and scale up to meet the needs of returnees and refugees.

Response & Gaps:

- 57 vulnerable individuals were referred to services by the Protection team.
- Registration and verification of 800 households in Rotriak through the DTM tracking manifest, a joint effort of Shelter/Non-Food Items, Protection and WASH clusters.
- After consultations and engagement with the local authorities in Rotriak, a 100mX100m space has been allocated for the construction of 10 communal shelters and an information desk.

Bentiu, Unity State

Responses & Gaps:

- 19,648 returnees, of whom 6,877 are women, were assisted with integrated maternal and RH services as well as GBV prevention and response services. This covered 34 per cent of estimated needs, leaving a gap of 66 per cent.
- 1,088 women and girls participated in women and girls' friendly spaces activities, while 1,793 vulnerable women and girls received dignity kits and 394 vulnerable individuals received non-food items. Of the total number of women and girls reached, 1,146 were from Bentiu. This covered 33 per cent of the estimated need, leaving a gap of 67 per cent. To cover this gap, \$534,000 is required for the extension of life skills education, income generation activities, provision of GBV prevention and response services and procurement of medical supplies.
- 144 vulnerable female returnees were provided with menstrual hygiene items. More menstrual hygiene kits are still needed to meet demand, and full dignity kits are also needed for many women and girls.

Abyei, Abyei Administrative Area

Responses & Gaps:

- Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals on 8 July, partners have distributed a total of \$768,122, including \$11,447 to 7,656 new arrivals in Abyei. Insecurity along the Amiet-Abyei road remains a challenge for the safe movement of new arrivals and humanitarian staff.
- 35 vulnerable individuals were referred to services by the Protection teams in Abyei.

All locations above

RISK MANAGEMENT / CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- Continuing arrivals and prolonged stay at the transit centres increases GBV risks. Strengthening of existing services (women and girls' friendly spaces, case management, safe houses, SRH etc.) in Malakal, Bentiu and Wau is required.
- Suspected cases of human trafficking, especially children in the Bulukat Transit Centre in Upper Nile State. Protection teams are following up as appropriate. This calls for an urgent need for preventive measures: a) awareness-raising amongst returnees on recognizing red flags for potential trafficking; and b) capacity-building of humanitarian staff on counter-trafficking measures.
- CCCM team to work on a site plan should local authorities request an expansion of the Bulukat Transit Centre.
- In Malakal particularly, over 1,000 returnees have camped at the Transit Centre, claiming Malakal is their destination. The government has no plans yet to address this. Some funds meant for the construction of shelters in Abyei have been reallocated to Malakal since there is no need for the same in Abyei. Discussions are still ongoing with the government on the expansion of the Transit Centre. More resources could be needed to construct additional shelters.

LOGISTICS

Critical humanitarian needs:

- Limited cargo transport options are hampering the ability to move emergency supplies to Malakal and Bentiu.
- In Northern Bahr El Ghazal, returnees take longer to reach Kiir Adem due to poor road conditions caused by rains.
- Lack of telephone network in some areas hinders some operations, including reporting and synchronizing of data.

Responses & Gaps:

- The Logistics Cluster airlifted 15MT of health, WASH and general logistics to Renk and Malakal on behalf of six humanitarian organizations. The Cluster also airlifted 13MT of emergency telecommunication equipment to Renk.
- Partners dispatched high-energy biscuits by air to various locations including Renk, Maban, Yida and Aweil for distribution to new arrivals from Sudan. They also dispatched two mobile storage units and other non-food items to Renk to establish SCOPE registration centres. As of 9 August, partners transported 1,100MT, representing 40 per cent of the planned requirements for the Sudan response.
- As of 10 August, some 5,800 households (about 16,000 refugees and asylum-seekers) benefited from OTA.



COORDINATION

- Inter-agency coordination structures have been established in all major receiving areas and sectoral meetings take place at national and sub-national levels regularly. In areas of return, humanitarian partners, through the cluster approach and in line with the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, are providing initial humanitarian assistance to those returning.



FUNDING

- UNHCR/IOM Appeal amount: \$96.1M. The reported amount received: \$35.5M = 37 per cent (reported via the refugee funding tracker - UNHCR).

IMPACT OF THE SUDAN CRISIS ON SOUTH SUDAN

- The conflict in Sudan has impacted trade between Sudan and South Sudan, with a 47 per cent decline in the amount of sorghum traded in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. This decline is even more significant considering the high level of demand in South Sudan for sorghum in the second quarter, which corresponds to the lean season. The reduced level of imports from Sudan is one of the key factors contributing to a sharp spike in the food basket cost since the beginning of the Sudan crisis in areas bordering Sudan by a range of 30 to 81 per cent.
- The food basket cost in these areas ranged from \$20.2 to \$24 – up to 27 per cent above the average cost (\$18.9) across all monitored markets.

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The SITREPs are available on: unocha.org/south-sudan | reliefweb.int