



WEEKLY AREA COORDINATION UPDATE

2 DECEMBER 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

- **SECURITY SITUATION CONTINUES TO WORSEN IN UPPER NILE AND JONGLEI.** (para. one)
- **INTERAGENCY MISSION TO RED SEA AND KASSALA STATES.** (para. 19)

SUMMARY OF OVERALL SITUATION

1. The security situation continues to worsen in Upper Nile State. There have been reports of fighting among the South Sudan Defense Forces (SSDF) aligned with rival Nuer clans in the area of Gualguk (northwest of Nasir). There have also been reports of Janjaweed presence in some SSDF garrisons located along the eastern bank of the White Nile, south of Malakal. A UN security assessment mission arrived in Malakal at the end of November to conduct an assessment of the area around Malakal, Akoka and Renk, and of the Sobat Corridor (Malakal to Nasir). Finally, it has also been reported that the SPLM/A-controlled village of Duk Padiet (Jonglei State) has suffered several raids in the last few months. These raids, allegedly conducted by GoS-supported militia, have resulted in several killings and abductions of children.

2. The security situation around Bentiu (Unity State) remains fragile. Within a space of eight days at the end of November, about eight people were killed and four children were wounded as a result of shooting incidents in Bentiu, which involved random firing of weapons by drunken militia. UN vehicles continue to be stopped by militia requesting payment of taxes. Although it has been made clear to the militia that the UN would not succumb to paying taxes, the militia requests have led to significant loss of time in delivery due to lengthy negotiations. The "arrest" of humanitarian workers and consequent demands for money to be paid for their release has appeared to cease in recent days.

3. The new Wali of Bahr el Jebel State, Major General Clement Wani Konga, arrived in Juba on 25 November. The Wali stressed that one of his top priorities would be ensuring that civilians had freedom of movement and freedom of speech. He noted that the security establishment had been conducting unnecessary arrests, detentions and harassment of civilians; practices he was hoping to end. The Wali proclaimed another major priority would be to rid the state of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).



MONTHLY AREA COORDINATION UPDATE

OCTOBER 2004

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are indications of a deteriorating security situation in parts of the Upper Nile and Unity State. (1, 2, 16, 30)
- Areas in Greater Bahr el Ghazal have less capacity to absorb returnees this year. (4)
- Demolitions, replanning policies and deteriorating conditions in camps in greater Khartoum need to be addressed by the government, UN and NGOs. (7, 21, 24, 25)
- OCHA, FAR, IOM, and MSF-F are carrying out a survey assessment in the IDP camps and squatter areas of greater Khartoum. (35)
- Pibor is in urgent need of food assistance. (8, 31, 37)

I. OVERALL SITUATION

1. The security situation in Unity State remains unpredictable with some recent incidents possibly pointing to a negative trend. During October the State experienced four major security incidents involving various militias, a few of which caused civilian casualties. Local militia also continue to raid for cattle, which adversely affects the population, creates an increasingly insecure environment and also provides the potential for armed skirmishes among the various militia groups.

2. Although the security situation remains calm in Malakal, there are reports of tensions between the Government of Sudan (GoS) militias and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in other parts of the Upper Nile such as Kodok, New Fanjak and Atar. International NGOs report of increased artillery and arms in Robot, close to the Sobat Corridor, and unconfirmed reports indicate movement of GoS supported militia troops, who are linked to the Southern Sudan Defense Force, in the Upper Nile State.

3. Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) activities in East Equatoria have caused 4,000 people from Motti, Iyodo, Ifutu, and Khartoum to flee to Torit. The Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF), the Sudanese People's Armed Forces (SPAF) and the Equatoria Defense Force (EDF) have been chasing the LRA, causing more insecurity in the region. The Sudan Landmine Information and Response Initiative (SLIRI) has reported three landmine incidents in Bahr el Jebel this month. The military is cooperating with SLIRI in de-mining areas near reported incidents.