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Operation Lifeline Sudan (Southern Sector) Joint UNICEF-World Food Programme Situation Report 31 August 1990

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OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN
(SOUTHERN SECTOR)

JOINT UNICEF/WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

SITUATION REPORT

31 AUGUST 1990

This report is in two parts:-

- A. UNICEF General Emergency Relief Supplies.
- B. Food Movement and Logistics (WFP).

A. UNICEF GENERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES

1. Funding

Despite acknowledgement of and verbal support for the work of UNICEF in this area, known as the non-food sector, donor contributions have been slow. Consequently, health and medical programmes including immunization are under threat of being reduced or discontinued. Substantial and rapid donor response is vital if this is to be avoided.

2. Highlights

2.1 Nasir District

As with an increasing number of areas, (see last sitrep) just completed assessment points to acute food shortages throughout the Nasir District. Stocks of maize are exhausted. Milk production is very low due to low rates of calving among a cattle population hit by disease. Populations have resorted to eating leaves and grasses. Crop failure is predicted to be almost total.

Nasir district stretches for some 200 kms along the Sobat River, a tributary of the Nile. Heavy rains have caused extensive flooding, with the River some six feet higher than usual. Large numbers of people are reportedly travelling in groups are heading East towards Displaced Persons' camps in Itang on the border with Ethiopia. A family of 15 told UN staff of their having walked some ten days from Malakal. The seven children of that family were obviously malnourished and anaemic. Their stock of food - a bag of leaves and a small cat-fish.

Villages in the area reported a group of 35 children travelling together. To-date, hundreds are estimated to have passed through Nasir on their way to Itang. And the Chief of the Village of Ulong reports that almost half of his village has left in search of food.

UNICEF supplies (18,000 kgs of fishing lines and 25,000 hooks), are under delivery to Akon and Nasir. This will enable the people in the area to take advantage of large stocks of fish in the Sobat River. Despite the presence of these stocks, lack of fishing equipment posed a problem. A second consignment has arrived in Nairobi and will shortly be sent to the field.

Schools are functioning, but many teachers have left the area because of the food shortage. Some 17 schools are in operation but with vastly reduced attendance due to long distances between homes and schools and lack of food at school. An answer to this problem could be the introduction of Food for Work and School Meals programmes.

2.2 Priority Needs in the Nasir/Sobat District

1. Distribution of fishing lines/hooks and nets, as there is a high protein food source readily available.
2. Provision of emergency food - maize, UNIMIX and high protein biscuits - particularly for hospital and schools.
3. Continued medical supplies for clinics and hospital.
4. Accelerated EPI and cattle vaccination.
5. Vegetable seeds for schools in the area.

2.3 Chukudum District

NGOs operating in Chukudum report almost total crop failure in the lowlands. They estimate an at-risk distressed population of between 25,000-30,000 civilians. Malnutrition is on the rise and some food trucks are being diverted to meet immediate needs. This food will be distributed to the lowland people as populations in the highlands seem to have been able to take advantage of the sporadic and uneven rains at the higher altitudes.

Not only is malnutrition reportedly on the rise but also upper respiratory infections and other primary health care diseases. TB is also a problem with 50% infection rates being reported in some areas.

In response, a UNICEF/WFP assessment mission is currently in the field looking into food, agriculture and health care needs. Already, limited medical supplies are being delivered and ways of establishing a primary health care structure being investigated.

3. Subject Areas

3.1 Health (General)

UNICEF/OLS medical assessment teams undertook assessment missions to Akon, Nasir, and Lasu, near Kaya where displaced civilians are reported to be in need and at grave risk.

3.1.1 Akon District

Akon is a small town in northern Bahr El Ghazal, between River Lol in the north and River Kuom in the south and 60 Km east of Aweil. Population, 50,000 approx. Akon and Mayen-Abun are extremely isolated.

The objectives of the assessment in Akon were:-

1. To carry out a nutritional survey in order to get reliable data on the nutritional status of the under-five population.
2. To identify existing health facilities and health staff capable of providing basic health cares to the population.
3. To identify main health problems in the area.

Bad nutritional status among children is reported from some almost inaccessible areas. This leads to increased vulnerability to diseases and increased mortality in places where no permanent medical, nutritional or EPI programmes have been set up, due to access and logistical problems.

Wide random sampling was difficult. Villages visited were among those accessible by vehicle in three directions from Akon. All children aged 1-5 and between 75 cms and 115 cms were included in the survey. 185 children were involved. The weight, height and upper arm circumference were checked in addition to other criteria used.

3.1.2 Results - weight for height

	>80% adequate nutritional status	70-80% moderate malnutrition	<70% severe malnutrition	Total
Number	173	11	1	185
%	93.5	6	0.5	100

No oedema recorded.

3.1.3 Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

	>13.5cm adequate nutritional status	12-13.5cm moderate malnutrition	<12cm severe malnutrition	Total
Number	164	19	2	185
%	88.5	10.5	1	100

3.1.4 Interpretation

With only 6.5% of moderate or severe malnutrition by the weight/height method (11.5% by the MUAC which is estimated to be less accurate), the nutritional situation in this limited survey of accessible areas can be considered good, however, changes in the nutritional status of children need to be watched in conjunction with the results of this year's crops.

3.1.5 Medical Assessment

Together with the weight and height measurements, all children underwent a quick medical check-up for the following criteria:-

- Anemia (A)
- Eye signs: (simple conjunctivitis, trachoma or signs of Vitamin A deficiency)
- Scabies or other skin infection (Sk)
- Splenomegalie (S)
- Abdominal distension (AD)

The high incidence of spleen enlargement among the child population is linked to a high prevalence of malaria in the area.

Anemia too might be a consequence of repeated malaria attacks or of intestinal parasite infestation.

Health problems in the area include;-

1. Guinea worm disease
(which seems highly endemic to the area, and frequently complicated by infection or arthritis).
2. Chronic cough
(possibly related to tuberculosis).
3. Venereal disease
(mainly gonorrhoea).

In addition, there have been reports of rabies, meningitis in Pan Acier and Mayen Abun, black water and hemorrhagic septicemia, north of the River Lol. There is no medical doctor in the area.

Health staff walk to Akon to collect their monthly supplies. The population of Mayen Abun and Akon areas have no access to hospital facilities. The nearest hospital is in Leer or Yirol a distance of several hundred kilometres.

Most diseases endemic to the area are water transmitted e.g. guinea worm, intestinal parasites, acute diarrhoea, etc.

The introduction of a system of obtaining clean water in the area is vital to the treatment of these diseases.

3.1.6 Displaced

There have been reports of distress among returnees, into the area from Southern Kordofan, where they had been displaced. The resident population affected by last year's drought are unable to support the new arrivals.

3.2 EPI

3.2.1 Kapoeta

Immunization figures, 22 July - 20 August 1990 = 5716

Under-fives	3683
Women of child bearing age	2033
Total	<u>5716</u>
	====

3.3 PHC

3.3.1 Kapoeta

UNICEF/IRC refresher courses continue. A six week refresher course for CHWs just completed involved 10 trainees. This follows a similar course involving 14 trainees held at Chukudum.

3.4 Hospital Care

3.4.1 Kapoeta

Some 22 trainees have also completed a thirteen-week hospital attendants' training course conducted by AMREF with UNICEF support.

3.5 Water

3.5.1 Kapoeta, Lafon and Pageri

The NGO Medic continues its training courses for handpump technicians, the most recent being a one week course conducted for ten trainees who have since returned to Lafon and Pageri. This programme is yielding immediate results, as to-date some forty handpumps have been repaired in Kapoeta, Lafon, and Pageri.

3.6 Rainfall, Crop Performance and Food Supply

3.6.1 Torit District

Due to late and inadequate rainfall, and poor harvest, there is a shortage of food in the following areas:

	<u>Area</u>	<u>Reason for deterioration</u>	<u>Food situation</u>
(i)	S. Bari	Late arrival of rains and drought	Very Critical
(ii)	Pageyi, Nimule, Madi	Inadequate rainfall	Critical
(iii)	Opar	New Settlement for returnees from Juba, Uganda without resources	Very Critical
(iv)	West Acholi Magwi Panyi Kwara Oboo	Inadequate and late arrival of rains	Critical
(v)	Lafon	Total rain failure	Very Critical
(vi)	Eastern Torit Chahari Lod- wara Bira, Romula Latome	Drought and late arrival of rains	Very Critical
	Korilnglis	Inadequate rainfall	Critical

In Lafon where farmers have replanted three times, the situation is critical. Over 10,000 people out of 22,000 have moved to Torit and Kapoeta in search of food.

Some 100,000 people will be affected in these areas. Some 6000mt of maize, plus beans and oil is required. Catholic Relief Services and World Vision International are also studying the situation with a view to intervening.

CRS and UNICEF have supplied gauges to monitor rainfall. These have been installed at Tombour-S. Bari, Parajok, Magwi, Arapi-Pageri and Torit. More are to be acquired for other areas.

Despite these crop failures, it is recommended that should it rain continuously in July-September, additional seeds be provided.

3.6.2 Prospects for Surplus Food in other areas

Despite the gloomy situation in some areas, an improved food situation is predicted in some areas at higher altitudes limited in part by attacks by birds which have destroyed sorghum. However, the following areas should have food surpluses which could provide seed for the future for seed surplus (see map).

<u>Area</u>	<u>Type of crop 1st season</u>
Talanga	Maize, Beans, Onions
Parajok	Maize, Sorghum
Katire	Maize
Imatong	Maize Beans
Isoke	Sorghum
East and West Lopit	Ground nuts
Torit	Serena
Kyala	Local Sorghum (Losingo)

Quantities could be in the region of 15,000 - 20,000 by 91 kg Bags or (2000 MT) of food; most of which could be used in a proposed Seed Banking Programme.

3.7 Seed Banking

A team of Agricultural Experts from UNICEF, CRS and SRRA is working out a plan for a Seed Banking Project to purchase and take advantage of surplus seeds. The aim is to generate as much as possible locally grown and produced seeds to save on large seed imports, reduce delivery time, and capitalise on adaptability. Procurement of such seeds should start in October 1990.

3.8 Agricultural Farm Inputs Monitoring Survey

A full report is expected early September 1990, but here are a few preliminary results:-

- (i) Almost all agricultural inputs designed for Torit and Kajo Keji arrived safely and in good condition with properly documented delivery notes and way-bills. While some of the main stores lacked the stationery for full registration of inputs, every effort was made to keep proper documentation of receipt of the inputs.
- (ii) Nearly all items (98%) which left the main stores for Primary and Secondary distribution centres had proper documentation and their receipt properly acknowledged by receiving authorities.

- (iii) In Torit, while the quality of the "Sorghum" was good, it turned out to be a mixture of many varieties of sorghum together with Serena, and even Sudan grass. In future, quality and purity of the seeds must be carefully screened.

3.9 Cattle Vaccination (Amalgamated Programme)

3.9.1 Torit

For the last 6-7 years Livestock in Torit has been decimated due to disease, displacement of people and raiding. Such areas have been deprived of meat, milk and milk by-products and the plough-oxen which had been used for land preparation. The cattle population of Torit District could be in the range of 50,000 - 60,000 head, way below pre-war figures.

A cattle vaccination programme is in progress along with the EPI programme and a campaign to supply clean borehole water to people through pump repairs. This three-way linkage with the welfare of the child as a focal point is receiving tremendous support especially in child immunization, because of the greater understanding of the concept of more milk for the child from disease free cattle after vaccination. Since the launching of the programme on 12/6/90 cattle in the following areas and numbers have been vaccinated.

<u>AREA</u>	<u>NUMBERS</u>
1. Murahathika	1349
2. Hidonge	788
3. Tirangore	600
4. Haforiare	1362
5. Lafon	5668
6. Hilieu	957
7. Loudo	104
8. Loronyo	2965
9. Longelet	449
10. Lohiri	968
TOTAL	<u>15,210</u> =====

UNICEF provides a veterinarian, staff and air support, World Vision contributes transport, and the ICRC vaccines.

B. FOOD MOVEMENTS AND LOGISTICS (WFP)3.10 Monitoring3.10.1 Bor

A mobile monitoring/evaluation team is to be based in Bor to evaluate distribution of food within the UN-3 month plan.

3.10.2 Kajo Kaji/Kaya

Conflicting reports on the situation in the Kajo-Keji/Kaya area has prompted WFP to initiate an assessment of the area. The team was due to arrive in the area on 28 August.

3.11 Logistics3.11.2 Lease (Hire) of Fleet

14 trucks delivered 309 mt of maize and 41 mt of beans to Kajo-Keji. One truck with 25 mt of maize is still in transit. 5 trucks delivered 116 mt of maize and 9 mt of beans to Lassu.

The second leased fleet convoy is scheduled to depart this week with 70 mt for Ngangala, 150 mt for Tibari and 250 mt for Bor.

3.12 Air Operations

Skyline Iberia has to-date logged 79 flights and airlifted 2274.64 mt of maize and 10 mt cement to Juba from Entebbe as of 26.08.90.

3.13 Road Operations3.13.1 WFP Convoys

1. Yambio (Awad): - Balance enroute, 68.5 mt. Transporter has been instructed to uplift an additional 70 mt for Yambio to compensate for the 70 mt from this contract off-loaded in Aru.
2. Aru (Awad): Balance of 4 trucks with 103 mt still enroute.
3. Tibari (Outspan): 149 mt held in transit in Torit did not move last week due to a bridge being washed out. Uplift expected this week.

3.13.2 WV Convoys

World Vision (WV) is currently loading 100 mt vegetable oil, 100 mt of beans

OPERATIONSPersonnel

Below are details of international staff outposted:-

UNICEF

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Location</u>
Vincent O'Reilly	Chief of Operations	Irish	Nairobi
Carlton James	Info/Media Co-ordinator	Guyanese	Nairobi
Anthony Owereko	Operations Officer	Ghanaian	Nairobi
Marie Louise Bohlin	Admin/Personnel	Swedish	Nairobi
Muhammed Parvez	Supply/Logistics Officer	Bangladeshi	Nairobi
Detlef Palm	Programme Coordinator	German	Nairobi
*Michele John	Project Officer Health	French	Nairobi
*Thomas McKnight	Project Officer EPI	American	Nairobi
*P. Scott-Villiers	Project Tracking Officer	British	Nairobi
Humphreys Were	Resident Project Officer	Kenyan	Torit
Myint Maung	Resident Project Officer	Burmese	Kapoeta
Tibebu Haile- Selassie	Resident Project Officer	Ethiopian	Bor
Adrian Pintos	Asst. Project Officer	Argentinean	Bor

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Location</u>
Ruth Oloo	Agricultural Monitor	Kenyan	Nasir
Tom Sampson	Agricultural Monitor	British	Bor
John Waite	Agricultural Monitor	British	Mobile Convoy Leader
Ian Lethbridge	Monitoring/ Tracking Unit Officer	Australian	Kapoeta

*These staff members although based in Nairobi spend 70% of their time in the field (South Sudan/Lokichogio).

World Food Programme

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Location</u>
Nils Enqvist	Regional Logistics Co-ordinator	Swedish	Nairobi
Marian Read	Head of Admin. & Finance	Canadian	Nairobi
Ferdinando Zanuzzo	Consultant	Italian	Nairobi
Louis Imbleau	Consultant	Canadian	Nairobi
A.S. Villiers	Liaison Officer with SRRA	British	Nairobi
J-L Siblot	Logistics/ Procurement Officer	French	Nairobi
Helen McGowan	Admin. Assistant	British	Nairobi
Ben Martinson	Officer-in-Charge	Canadian	Kampala
Steve Young	Airlift Ops	British	Kampala
Ahmed Bennis	Coordinator Leased Fleet	Moroccan	Kampala
Renato Ricciardi	Finance Officer	Italian	Kampala
Egil Herdan	Logistics Officer	Norwegian	Kampala
Sam Mbuya	Stores Supervisor	Kenyan	Kampala
Yves Trabac	Field Officer Convoy Monitor	French	Kampala
John Horsey	Ferries/Road Convoys	Kenyan	Kampala
Lucien Mallet	Food Monitor	French	Kampala
Cyrus Guthua	Asst. Convoy Monitor	Kenyan	LFC

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sammy Mutua	Asst. Convoy Monitor	Kenyan	Loki
Nigel Spencer	Convoy Monitor	British	On leave
Peter Wood	Engineer-for-road-work assessment	American	On leave
Dick Steuart	Field Officer/ Airlift Ops	American	Loki
Russ Ulrey	Logistics Assessment Officer	American	Bor
Douglas Johnson	Mobile Monitoring Asst. (under recruitment)	American	Bor
Bo Wiberg	Logistics Officer	Swedish	Bor
Clive Spencer	LFC	British	Bor/S. Sudan
Ronald Mbehelo	Food Monitor	Kenyan	Bor
J-F Darcg	Field Officer	French	Yambio

LFC = Leased Fleet Convoy