

# Sudanese Development & Relief Agency (SUDRA)

## Emergency Crisis Committee Appeal Phase 1- Interim Report March 11, 2014

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### Executive Summary

The humanitarian needs in South Sudan remain critical. UNOCHA report of 6 March indicates that 4.9million people are in need of humanitarian assistance with 758,400 being currently provided assistance out of a target of 3.2 million. Hampering the delivery of relief aid is the fluid security situation, resulting in the limited operations of the major humanitarian agencies.

SUDRA's response is ongoing. We have completed the provision of food to 3000 displaced children in Awerial, and we expect to provide food to a further 20,000 in Awerial (by March 31), 9,000 people in Magwe county in Nimule (by March 31), 6,473 people in Lolugo 2 camp in Juba (by March 31), and approximately 15,000 people in Renk (by April 15). Currently food provisions are prioritized, as the needs assessment indicated the health needs are partly met by the ECSSS clinics in some target areas, and MSF centers in other areas.

With the delivery of the above relief services, 100% of the designated funding (either received or pledged) by SUDRA for the Phase 1 appeal would have been expended. We eagerly await the remittance of some pledged funds. Upon receipt of any further donations, we would programme those funds to meet the needs. However, we have begun the planning of Phase 2 activities, including trauma healing & counseling, justice & reconciliation, rehabilitation & resettlement, advocacy and continued relief activities as needed.

### Activity Report

SUDRA's original plan was to reach a total of 44,000 displaced persons or 5,500 households through food distribution, while providing drugs and medical care to a further 20,000 children. Our original budget was USD 1,042,591 to meet these planned targets. Details of these plans are available in our Phase 1 appeal documents.

We have thus far received US\$ 271,446, with additional pledges of US\$278,085, totaling US\$549,511 (or 53% of our Phase 1 budget). Of the funds we have received, we have already expended US\$75,000 in the provision of wet food to the Awerial, and will expend US\$454,866.40 in the procurement and delivery of food for Awerial, Nimule, Renk and Juba. This leaves us a balance of US\$19,644.40 which we will use for monitoring and administrative expenses,

including internet provision at the new SUDRA offices, the 6-month salary of the finance officer and facilitating the ECC meetings.

As described in the chart below, our work plan includes the priority areas identified in the original proposal, but with a scaled down response to reflect the funding levels. We have added Renk as a target area, as we agreed that flexibility would be required to meet evolving needs. As we received current assessment information from our parishes of moving populations and growing unmet humanitarian needs, we have added the need to provide food rations to Renk.

Geographic Area	Activity	Total # of direct participants		Budget allocation	Status
		Male	Female		
Awerial	Wet food distribution	1,500 children (approx.)	1,500 children (approx.)	US\$76,000	Complete
Awerial (church compound)	2 weeks dry food rations	8,000	12,000	\$176,801	To be complete by March 31
Juba (Lolugo 2 camp)	2 weeks dry food rations	2,589	3,884	US\$91,065	To be complete by March 31
Nimule (Melijo camp)	2 weeks dry food rations	3,600	5,400	US\$127,000	To be complete by March 31
Renk	2 weeks dry food rations	6000	9000	US\$60,000	Currently being assessed

Of these target populations, vulnerable groups including women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities are given priority. The specific needs of women and men, as well as marginalized groups were identified during the assessments. Persons with disabilities and elderly people have been identified and will be delivered food directly to where they seek shelter.

The final report, due April 25, will have the exact participant data based on these registration lists. SUDRA has a standard registration form, which contains no reference to faith or ethnicity.

We continue to network with other agencies to find opportunities for partnership, through our participation in the Health Cluster and NGO Forum meetings. Our discussions with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) are ongoing, and we have sent in a proposal for NCA to provide some food and non-food items to our target areas, but also to use their connections with the World Food Programme (WFP) to negotiate food supplies. Our earlier partnership with UNICEF was delayed due to the crisis, but we have since worked with UNICEF to appoint a coordinator to provide trauma counseling for displaced children to the IDP areas of Bor, but have also asked UNICEF to extend the programme to our target areas in Awerial and Nimule as well.

## **Challenges & Recommendations**

We have been challenged by the limited funding of the appeal. Given the scale of the initial media attention along with the consistent encouragement and prayers from our Anglican friends, we had hoped to be able to meet more of the humanitarian needs. We are however moving forward by renegotiating contracts with food suppliers, and working with the local diocesan teams and local IDP communities for a scaled back response. We are facing some criticism at the community level of raised expectations. As we plan ongoing activities, our projected Phase 2 workplan will be based on the realistic funding experience of the Phase 1 appeal thus far.

One of the anticipated risks was rapid inflation, which we wanted to address by bulk procurement. There are signs the market in Juba is recovering and we are doing most of our procurement work in Juba rather than in the up-country markets where supplies are still extremely limited. For the response in Nimule, we anticipate local procurement to avoid the high transport cost – we are exploring procurement in Uganda, as it has been an option that one of our NGO partners has used in the past. Emergency food shipments are being given priority at border crossings over commercial traffic, and we have generally not had any difficulty in securing duty exemptions or priority customs clearances.

We continue to prepare for the early onset of rains (last year the rains started in March). Lologo 2 camp in Juba will be accessible during the rains, although the Melijo camp would be unreachable from Nimule, and thus we are prioritizing the Melijo camp response.

## **SUDRA Capacity**

SUDRA continues with one programme staff, although advertisements have been placed for a Finance & Administration Officer, along with a Programme Officer. We hope to recruit these two positions by the end of March. Christian Aid has seconded two of their staff on a rotational basis to provide additional support for activities related to the Nimule and Juba response up to the end of May.

The Emergency Crisis Committee continues to provide valuable oversight on the overall strategy, but also technical guidance through the three sub-committees:

- Finance management and procurement
- Distribution, logistics and monitoring (of implementation by dioceses)
- Health and trauma healing

We continue to be heavily supported by the local diocesan teams, previously trained in disaster risk reduction, in the implementation of all activities. Along with these local diocesan teams, communities themselves are involved in the registering of IDPs.

Archbishop Daniel Deng and the Emergency Crisis Committee continue to welcome additional capacity and technical support from our Partners to work with SUDRA and ECC teams in finance, reporting and other areas.

As we will replicate this process in other areas, we provide a description of the process involved in the distribution of food supplies to 3,000 children in Awerial:

*Following the approval of the Emergency Crisis Committee, the Logistics Subcommittee supervised procurement of food supplies. A bidding advert was placed in the newspapers. Out of a receipt of 20 bids, a short list of 3 vendors was selected. Price is the main determining criteria, although other considerations included the ability of the vendor to make immediate delivery, SUDRA's previous history with the vendor, and whether or not the vendor could provide multiple items. The Subcommittee then visited the 3 vendors to ensure quality of the products, quality of the delivery vehicles, and the overall viability of the operations.*

*Finally a vendor is elected and SUDRA developed a contract that included stipulations for the replacement of any items that are found to be unsuitable. The contract stipulates that half the agreed payment is provided on pick-up of the shipment and the other half on the safe delivery of the items. The contract also stipulates the vehicle owner's liability for lost or damaged items where the loss or damage was the result of the vehicle owner's negligence.*

*At time of the delivery and prior to loading the shipment headed for Awerial, SUDRA staff spot-checked at least 5% of the food items for quality and signs of damage or infestation as well as ensuring that the expiration date of each bag is later than the end of the project. We did not have any problems, although our procedures indicate that any problematic items will be replaced immediately and if a significant portion of spot checked items are found to be unsuitable, the contract will be cancelled and another vendor will be selected from among those who have already submitted bids. SUDRA staff accompanied the shipment to Awerial.*

*Once we arrived in Awerial, the goods were offloaded under the supervision of the local Diocese of Awerial team. The team supervised the counting of all items and compared it with the documentation at the time of loading in Juba.*

*Once off-loaded, the items were stored inside church property with concrete floors. Access to these store rooms was controlled by the Diocesan Emergency Coordinator. Since the Awerial response included cooking the food in nine different locations, some of the items were immediately distributed to a site supervisor, who was generally a Mothers Union leader. The Mothers Union mobilized teams to prepare, cook and distribute the foods at all nine locations. The cooked will is prepared to provide approximately half a child's required food intake – 644 calories. It was determined that at this time most children are able to access one meal per day from other sources and should be able to acquire the remainder of their nutritional requirements from other sources such as friends or volunteer caregivers, extended family, or other feeding programs.*

*The diocesan teams, along with members from the IDP community, selected the 3,000 participants on the basis of need and vulnerability with priority given to children who arrived in Awerial without any parents or guardians, primarily to children under age 5. As there were additional rations available, children with a single parent were added from youngest to oldest.*

*The diocesan team will prepare the room with guidance from SUDRA.*

*This case study provides an illustration of the strength of the Church with a long history of mobilizing volunteers to support the vulnerable in times of emergency and has developed systems for responding to a crisis.*

## Phase 2 Planning

In the initial planning of the Phase 2 response, the Emergency Crisis Committee has resolved to build on the experience and resources of the church to develop medium-to-long term activities. These include:

Continued relief to meet the ongoing needs

Rehabilitation in collaboration with existing departments

- Income generation with business training, in collaboration with the Mothers Union
- Education of children, in collaboration with the Education Department
- Health, Water, Sanitation & HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with the Health Commission
- Agricultural Activities (distribution of seeds and tools) directly by SUDRA

Trauma Healing & Counseling, in collaboration with the Justice Peace and Reconciliation Commission (JPRC). The activities are prioritized in Bor and Twic East in Jonglei State ; Malakal, Korfulus and Baliet in Upper Nile State; Bentiu, Pariyang, Leer and Mayom in Unity State; Nimule and Milijo in Easter Equatoria, and Juba. Second priority shall be given in Gumruk, Akobo, Pibor and Duke in Jonglei State Kodok, Maliut, Renk, Akoko and Rom in Upper Nile State and in Awerial in Lake State. JPRC is a church department chaired by Bishop Samuel Peni with two staff, Nelson Fitch and Jane Pogo. The JPRC already has a Plan of Action, into which the Emergency Crisis Committee's activities will fall.

Advocacy, in collaboration with JPRC. JPRC will conduct training-of-trainers for Bishops and leading church members to further train parish priests, MU workers and others staff to advocate for the voiceless. One example of this activity is already being implemented in Nimule, where there is tension between the host community and the newly arrived IDPs. Given historic border tensions, the host community (mainly Catholics) is wary of the church to provide food distribution as it may encourage IDPs (mainly Episcopalians) to permanently settle in the area. ECSSS and SUDRA have been working ecumenically with both host and IDP communities on peaceful coexistence

## Human Interest Story

In early March, SUDRA and NGO partners visited the Nimule area to assess the situation and determine the need. Discussions with religious leaders, women's groups, local chiefs, displaced persons and government authorities were held over a 3 day period. The focus of the visit was the Milijo transit camp, near the Uganda border, where 9,000 individuals had registered, mainly from Bor and Awerial.

*A mother expressed that her child that is used to taking milk cries all the time as boiled sorghum is not accepted by the child.*



*An elderly woman expresses concern over the diversity and availability of food and says that their situation is getting worse.*



In Milijo camp, *Medicins Sans Frontiers* has been facilitating the provision of treated river water on to the camp residents on a near daily basis. Sanitation facilities are not available in the camps, although

UNHCR has constructed public latrines in Nimule town (about 30km away) where other IDPs have found shelter. Merlin and Care are providing medical care through mobile clinics. However, food remains a shortage – camp residents spoke of the hospitality offered by their host communities in sharing food. The host community expressed their own concerns over the limited availability of food for their own families with the influx of displaced persons.

It is with the results of this assessment, that SUDRA has identified the need to provide dry food rations to 9,000 people in Milijo camp in Magwe County.



*Temporary Shelter by the IDPs in Milijo Camp*

