

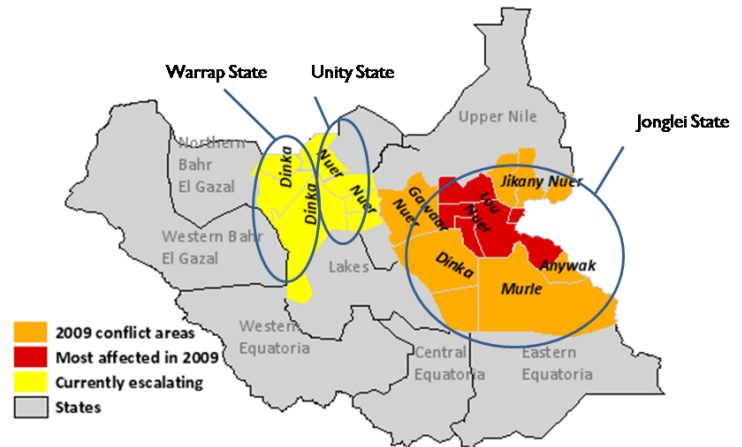
## SOUTHERN SUDAN Food Security Alert

January 22, 2010

### Escalated conflict during 2009 significantly increases food insecurity in 2010

The food insecure population in south Sudan has significantly increased since the beginning of the year following escalated inter-tribal/clan and cattle-raiding conflicts during 2009, combined with poor rainfall and crop performance across the country. The areas of most concern are Jonglei State, with the largest number of conflict incidents and 105,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) by mid-January 2010, and the border area between Warrap and Unity states (Figure 1). Heightened conflict in 2009 was a major factor in driving the high and extreme levels of food insecurity in some parts of the country, and it is expected to continue to have a significant impact on food security over the coming months. With the dry season beginning in January, and the next harvest in conflict-affected areas not expected until September, additional food assistance may be needed up to September. In addition, it is critical to monitor ongoing conflict and the impacts on food security and the delivery of food aid.

**Figure 1.** Locations of ongoing and newly escalating conflicts and corresponding ethnic groups



Source: FEWS NET

Conflict was abnormally high in 2009, displacing 350,000 people and causing 2,500 deaths through November (refer to Tables 1 and 2 for further information on the groups involved in conflict and impacts on population displacements). In the past, conflicts were mostly seasonal, were inter-tribal/clan-based, and were often triggered by competition over resources. During 2009, conflict was more prolonged than usual and did not follow typical seasonal patterns. While the precise drivers of the conflicts are unclear, the increase in conflict may be related to a large presence of arms among civilians.

Conflicts in Jonglei State, typically the center of conflict in south Sudan, escalated during January–March 2009, and continued through the year. Conflict in this area has also affected the Akobo woreda of Ethiopia’s Gambella region, displacing 24,000 people. The conflict has had numerous impacts on food security. Over 100,000 people did not cultivate during the 2009 cropping season because they were displaced from their homes, and as a result, they will be highly food insecure this year. For households that were not displaced, conflict levels reduced the area under cultivation, and restricted the flow of goods to the few markets that serve the area, resulting in increased prices of staple foods. Conflict over grazing areas has also reduced access to grazing and to animal products. Combined with poor rainfall performance, below-normal water levels that have reduced fish availability, and the burden of hosting the IDP population, most areas of Jonglei state are highly food insecure.

Conflicts in Jonglei will persist due to ongoing hostilities among the many tribes, namely the Dinka, Murle, and Nuer. High tensions in shared grazing areas are likely to cause fighting and potentially deny grazing to some livestock, thus affecting milk availability. The same applies to fish because some grazing areas also serve as fishing grounds. Delivery of food aid that is currently planned to mitigate current and projected short falls could be severely affected by continued conflict. Last year, conflict occasionally disrupted delivery of humanitarian aid when vehicles (barges) transporting aid were attacked along the Sobat River which marks the boundary between Jonglei and Upper Nile states.

In the border area between Warrap (Dinka Tribe) and Unity (Nuer Tribe) states, conflict has rapidly escalated since the end of December and has continued into January, resulting in more than 200 deaths and displacing 32,000 people. Although a detailed assessment on the impact of conflict on food security has not been conducted in this area, it is likely that the conflict, combined with below-normal yields, and chronic food insecurity, especially in Gogrial and Twic Counties, points to

*The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) issues alerts to prompt decision-maker action to prevent or mitigate potential or actual food insecurity. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.*

increased food insecurity in this area. These areas were projected to be food insecure beginning in February-March, but the current levels of conflict and associated losses point to rapidly deteriorating conditions.

The 2010 outlook is grim, especially for the next six months. The continued presence of arms and an extended dry season are likely to exacerbate conflict conditions. The forthcoming elections in April 2010 could exacerbate current conflict even further. Given the outlook for continued conflict and increasing levels of food insecurity, the highest priority is to increase monitoring the impact of conflict on food security conditions for households in the affected areas. Furthermore, it is critical that the food pipeline remains healthy through September–November, when most households in conflict-affected areas are likely to harvest crops, assuming that they will have cultivated.

**Table 1.** A summary of various conflicting groups during 2009, by state: a potential monitoring tool

<b>Jonglei</b>		<b>Lake State</b>		<b>Upper Nile State</b>	
<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>
Murle – Dinka	Tribal	Dinka and Jur (Wullu)	Tribal/livelihood	Dinka - Shilluk	Tribal/border
Murle –Lou Nuer	Tribal		Tribal	Lou –Jikany	
Lou – Dinka	Tribal	Dinka-Nuer	Disarmament		
Lou –Gawaar	Clan	SPLA – Dinka	Tribal		
Lou – Dinka	Tribal	Dinka and Mundari			
Lou – Jikany	Clan				
<b>Warrap</b>		<b>Unity</b>		<b>East Equatoria</b>	
<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>
Dinka - Nuer	Tribal	Nuer – Dinka	Tribal	Toposa – Buya	Tribal
Dinka	Clan	<u>Potential</u> Nuer - Misseriya	Livelihood	Toposa – Didinga	Tribal
				Torit and Ikotos counties	Tribal
<b>Western Equatoria</b>		<b>Central Equatoria</b>		<b>Western Bahr El Gazal</b>	
<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>	<i>Group/Area</i>	<i>Type of conflict</i>
All areas	LRA	Bari – Mundari	Tribal	Raga	LRA attacks starting October 2009
Ambororo pastoralists and local population	Livelihood				

Sources:UNDSS

**Table 2.** People displaced by conflict as of November 2009

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of displaced people as of Nov '09</b>	<b>Number of conflicts incidents as of Dec '09</b>
Jonglei	104,000	116
Western Equatoria	76,000	58
Upper Nile	58,000	31
Lakes	32,000	51
Warrap	31,000	18
Central Equatoria	28,000	12
Eastern Equatoria	14,000	51
Unity	4,000	43
Western Bahr El Gazal	1,000	8
Northern Bahr El Gazal	0	0

Sources: WFP, UN-OCHA & UNDSS