**Southern Sudan: Food crisis and violence on the rise in 2009**

Escalating tribal violence, incursions by the Ugandan rebel group the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), high food prices and poor rainfall have left 1.5 million people in need of food aid.1

**LRA violence**

The LRA is a rebel movement formed in the late 1980s against the Government of Uganda. Its fighters crossed the borders into Southern Sudan in 2005, then into the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and now are making incursions into the Central African Republic.

The LRA increased their attacks following a joint military operation by the DRC, Uganda and Sudan against the LRA in December 2008. Civilians are being killed, injured, abducted and raped; villages are pillaged and burned.

The humanitarian crisis is exacerbated by the influx of Congolese fleeing the LRA attacks in DRC.2

**Inter-tribal conflict**

Inter-tribal violence is far more intense and of a very different nature than in previous years. The massacres in 2009 in civilian settlements – and not just raids on cattle camps – surpassed traditional skirmishes, with women and children intentionally targeted.1

**High food prices**

Sorghum wholesale prices (Sudanese pounds per MT)3

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Apr 09</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<td>1,200</td>
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**Typical season in Southern Sudan**

- Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
- Dry season
- Hunger season
- Livestock return home
- Flood season
- Livestock move to pasture areas

**Poor rainfall reduced the harvest in 2009, prolonging the hunger season from Aug to Oct.**

- “Where there was peace, there was no rain...”
  - Governor of Jonglei State

- “...where there were good rains, there was insecurity.”
  - Governor of Jonglei State

**Disclaimer:**

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 30 Dec 2009

Data sources: UNCS (international boundary), OCHA (admin boundary), FEWS (livelihood & food security zones), ACLED (incidents), OCHA (incidents in Sudan), IRIN (incidents9)

References:

3 UNDP. Reduction of Resource Based Conflicts among Pastoralists and Farmers. 28 Dec 2003.
4 IRIN. Sudan: Increasing hunger could fuel conflict in south. 16 Nov 2009.
5 MSF. Facing up to reality – Health crisis deepens as violence escalates in Southern Sudan. Dec 2009.