

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian organizations will target some 5.8 million people across South Sudan with humanitarian assistance and protection in 2017.
- Displaced people arrive in Kodok and in Aburoc following clashes on the western bank of the River Nile in and around Wau Shilluk.
- Displacement, loss of property and violations against civilians reported by people displaced by fighting in parts of Nasir.
- High needs reported amongst the conflict-affected population in Ngo Halima and Ngisa in the Greater Baggari area, in Wau County.



Displaced people in Jikmir. Photo: WVI

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FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.89 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	1.5 million
No. of people assisted in 2016 (as of 31 Dec)	5.1 million

FUNDING

\$14.7 million
funding received in 2017

0.9%
of appeal funding received in 2017

\$1.6 billion
requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$1.6 billion needed to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 5.8 million people

Humanitarian organizations have appealed for US\$1.6 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 5.8 million people across South Sudan under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

“The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated dramatically due to the devastating combination of conflict, economic decline and climatic shocks,” said Mr. Eugene Owusu, the Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan. “In 2017, we are facing unprecedented needs, in an unprecedented number of locations, and these needs will increase during the upcoming lean season.”

Humanitarian organizations estimate that some 7.5 million people across South Sudan are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2017. Since the conflict began in December 2013, about 3.4 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

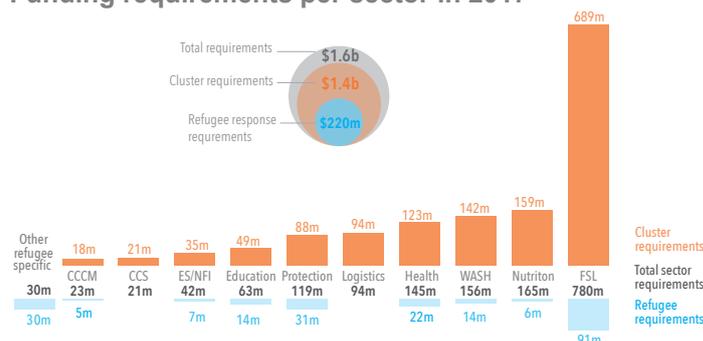
Horrendous atrocities have been reported, including widespread sexual violence, and food insecurity and malnutrition have skyrocketed. According to food security experts, the risk of famine is real for thousands of people in conflict-affected communities and food-deficit areas.

“With needs rising rapidly, we have rigorously prioritized the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan to target those who most urgently require assistance and protection,” said Mr. Owusu. “It is imperative that this appeal is funded early, and funded fully, so that the aid workers deployed across South Sudan can respond robustly and rapidly.”

In South Sudan, humanitarian organizations use the window of opportunity provided by the dry season to deliver supplies by road. When the rains set in, usually in May, most roads become impassable and supplies must be delivered by air. This multiplies the cost of the humanitarian operation, which is one of the largest and most complex in the world. Swift action during the dry season is therefore imperative.

“In 2016, we reached more than 5 million people, but the crisis deepened and spread as conflict continued. In 2017, we are determined to reach more people, but we urgently need the funding to do so,” said Mr. Owusu. “I appeal to the international community, which has given so generously to this young country, to support us now. If we fail to act swiftly, lives may be lost.”

Funding requirements per sector in 2017



CCCM: Camp Coordination and Camp Management; CCS: Coordination and Common Services; ES/NFI: Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items; FSL: Food Security and Livelihoods; WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Some 7.5 million people across South Sudan are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2017.

Humanitarian organizations are concerned about the safety of displaced people and aid workers in areas affected by the ongoing offensive on the western bank of the River Nile.

Over 33,000 people are displaced in Nasir, with payams such as Kuerengke reportedly completely deserted.

A total of 137 aid organizations –including 62 national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which is a 55 per cent increase from 2016; 63 international NGOs; and 12 United Nations entities– aim to implement projects under the 2017 HRP.

Read more: *HRP* -- <http://bit.ly/2ksqRYO>; *Humanitarian Needs Overview*-- <http://bit.ly/2le1gCv>

Upper Nile: Thousands arrive in Kodok and Aburoc following clashes

About 18,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have reportedly arrived in Kodok and over 13,500 in Aburoc, Fashoda County, following continued advances by armed forces on the western bank of the River Nile in Upper Nile.

In Kodok, the situation remains fluid, with people displaced from Wau Shilluk and elsewhere reportedly arriving and departing on a daily basis. IDPs in Kodok are reported to be sheltering in schools, churches and other public facilities. In Aburoc, IDPs are sheltering with the host community and in public spaces, while an unconfirmed number of IDPs are also reportedly staying with host communities in Lul and Orinyi, located along the Nile between Wau Shilluk and Kodok.

There are 12 humanitarian organizations in Kodok providing emergency services to people displaced to the area, including: distributing clean water, nutritional supplements, sanitary items and vital household items; re-supplying vital medicines; and undertaking health consultations, including with the war wounded. Family tracing, reunification activities and protection monitoring are also ongoing. In Aburoc, three humanitarian partners are on the ground and a multi-sector assessment is being planned. Delivery of essential humanitarian supplies to the area is underway to support the scale-up of the response and partners are planning to deploy additional staff to both Kodok and Aburoc.

The conflict has constrained humanitarian access to affected areas. Despite negotiations, humanitarian partners have been unable to access Wau Shilluk since fighting first escalated on 25 January. Humanitarian assets in Wau Shilluk have reportedly been looted and vandalized. However, partners have not been able to verify this information.

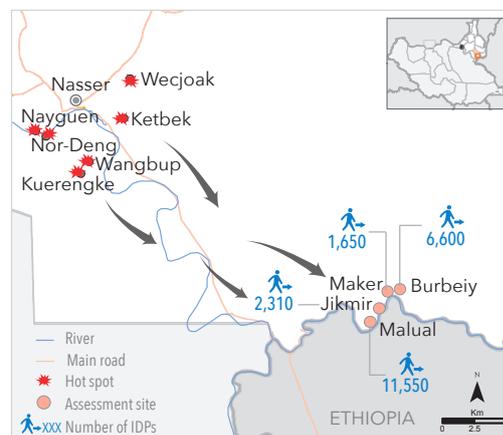
Humanitarian organizations are concerned about the safety of the displaced and aid workers in areas affected by the ongoing offensive and have called on parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians.

Partners find high needs after Nasir fighting

An inter-agency rapid needs assessment (IRNA) to Jikmir has found displacement, loss of property and reports of violations against civilians in the aftermath of fighting in parts of Nasir, Upper Nile.

On 2 January, fighting between government and opposition forces broke out at Ketbek spreading to Nor-Deng, Wecjoak, Kuerengke, Wangbup, Nayguen and Wathmalual, resulting in displacement of the population from these areas. The first attack reportedly took place during the morning hours as people were going about their daily chores.

People reportedly fled towards the south-east and north-east of Nasir, with a large number of IDPs concentrated in Burebey, Nyienyog, Malual (Makak) and Koap (Jikmir). Some people also fled to neighbouring Ulang. Based on consultations in four locations, the assessment team estimated that over 33,000 people are displaced in Nasir, with payams such as Kuerengke reportedly completely deserted.



Homes were reportedly looted and razed during fighting in Nasir in January 2017.

The assessment team was told that homes had been looted and razed during the fighting. Ten people, including six children, were reportedly killed during the attack on 2 January, while more than 20 children were reported to be missing or separated from their families. The majority of the IDP population were women and children. There were also elderly, including people with specific needs, amongst the IDPs.

People from locations attacked on 2 January reportedly fled with nothing, while others in locations that were subsequently attacked carried minimal food and non-food materials. Many IDPs settled in Malual cattle camps and under the trees in Burebeiy. The host community has generously provided some household items and other support to the IDPs. However, IDPs reported needing cooking utensils, water containers, mosquito nets and shelter.

Some IDPs reported losing livestock in the fighting, while most were able to flee with their cattle and goats to the cattle camps. IDPs reported that they were fishing and eating wild leaves following their displacement; while some were depending on their livestock for milk, meat and selling to buy food.

Malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea were the most common diseases reported amongst IDPs. The inter-agency team carried with them two weeks' supply of emergency medication for Jikmir, which is the main referral centre for IDPs. More drugs have been requested and mobile community health workers are providing basic medication to IDPs in the displacement sites.

Humanitarian activities were disrupted in Madeng as a result of the fighting. However, aid workers relocated to Jikmir, where they are now providing assistance and support to the IDPs.

Western Bahr el Ghazal: Needs high in Greater Baggari

High needs have been reported amongst the conflict-affected population in Ngo Halima and Ngisa in the Greater Baggari area following an inter-agency mission to the two locations outside Wau town in Western Bahr el Ghazal on 27 January.

The inter-agency team estimated that there are 8,600 people in Ngisa and 7,500 in Ngo Halima. Displaced people reported that they were living in the open or in temporary grass-thatched shelters in the bush due to fear of attacks on the towns. Women reported that they avoided travelling to Wau town due to incidents of sexual and gender-based violence on the road and at checkpoints. There are no functioning schools in Ngisa. In Ngo Halima, one school is functioning with only one teacher and without scholastic materials.

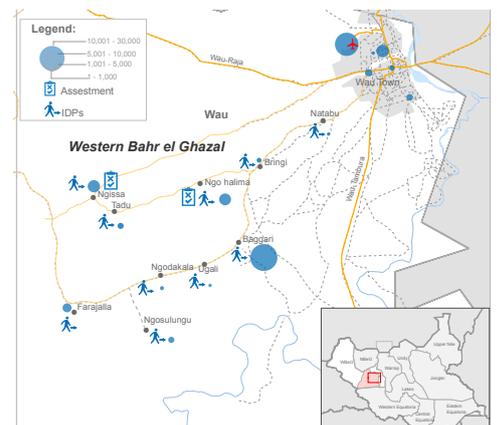
Due to food scarcity, many people reported eating only one meal a day and resorting to the collection of wild yams for their survival. The community planted groundnuts, but they dried out before harvest time. Access to farm tools and seeds is limited. Reportedly, some people are selling charcoal, firewood or grass to buy food items from the local markets.

There is only one functioning primary health centre located in Ngo Halima, run by a volunteer doctor from the locality and some nurses. The centre relies on emergency drugs supplied by humanitarian organizations. In Ngisa, the health facility was looted and is no longer functional, forcing people to walk for between two to three hours to access health care services in Ngo Halima. The most common diseases in the area are malaria, skin and eye infections, and respiratory diseases.

During the assessment, 224 children under age five were screened, of which 15 were found to be severely acutely malnourished and 77 were moderately acutely malnourished. Aid workers delivered nutritional supplies, vital vaccinations and soap in both locations during their mission.

Since June 2016, humanitarians have had only

Displaced people in Ngisa and Ngo Halima reported that they were living in the open or in temporary grass-thatched shelters in the bush due to fear of attacks on the towns.



Since June 2016, humanitarians have had only sporadic access to areas outside of Wau town, where 38,800 people are estimated to be displaced.

Approximately 172,000 people are displaced in Leer and Mayendit counties, where recurrent conflict has caused food insecurity and malnutrition to rise exponentially and cholera to spread.

The hotline to report suspected cholera cases is 1144.

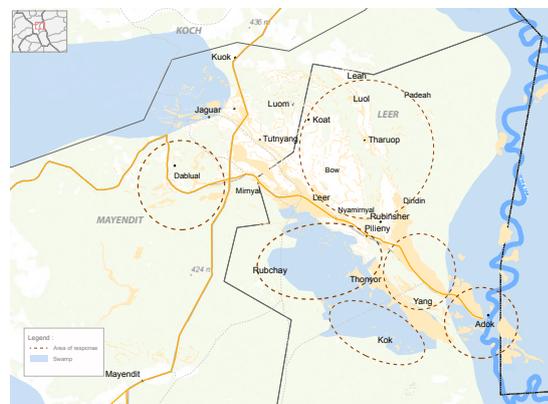


sporadic access to areas outside of Wau town, where 38,800 people are estimated to be displaced in the Greater Baggari Area – including in Biringi, Ngo Halima, Tadu, and Ngisa – and Mboro, and are in dire need of assistance and protection. Following assurances received from the Governor regarding unhindered humanitarian access, partners are planning to return to the area in the coming days.

Unity: Aid workers scale-up response in areas facing rising needs

Humanitarian organizations are scaling-up their response to acute humanitarian needs in Leer and Mayendit counties in central and southern Unity, where repeated conflict and displacement have caused food insecurity and malnutrition to rise exponentially and cholera to spread.

In Leer County, the majority of civilians remain displaced in the southern swamps and islands where they fled due to protection concerns. Aid workers are delivering life-saving health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and nutritional services to multiple locations across the county, utilizing low-key, mobile and innovative interventions that minimize risks to civilians while ensuring that they receive assistance. Programming is reaching thousands of vulnerable families, through the distribution of health backpacks, water filters, household items (plastic sheets, blankets and mosquito nets) and fishing kits. Partners are also providing nutrition, WASH and health services to an estimated 1,300 people seeking refuge near the UNMISS Temporary Operating Base in Leer town. Food distributions are ongoing in three locations in Leer County, targeting 71,400 people.



In Mayendit, thousands of civilians that fled south from Leer continue to be hosted in Mayendit town and many more remain displaced in remote locations. In southern Mayendit, partners have been able to establish static services, including health, nutrition, food and livelihoods, WASH, protection and non-food items. However, in the northern areas of the county, partners have had to utilize mobile response strategies to reach people who are often on the move. Food distribution in four locations of Mayendit is targeting 106,000 people.

Humanitarian organizations are scaling-up the response to the precarious health situation in both Leer and Mayendit, as well as in Panyijjar to the south, with cholera having been reported in all three counties. In Mayendit, 201 cases, including four deaths, had been reported as of 15 February, 95 cases, including three deaths, had been reported in Leer and 456 cases, including 21 deaths, in Panyijjar.

Partners have delivered cholera kits to the affected areas to support response activities. Cholera risk assessments are underway in Leer, Mayendit and Panyijjar to facilitate complementary vaccination of high-risk populations using oral cholera vaccines. However, security concerns have remained a significant impediment to the implementation of sustained and comprehensive cholera investigation and response activities in Leer and Mayendit.

Approximately 172,000 people are displaced in Leer and Mayendit counties, which have seen some of the worst fighting since the conflict in South Sudan began in December 2013. Most recently, fighting was reported in Leer County in December 2016.

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