In the 100 days since the start of the conflict in South Sudan, over one million people have fled their homes. Aid agencies estimate that 803,200 are currently displaced within the country; sheltering across 174 different displacement sites. Another around 254,600 have fled to neighbouring countries.

Of the 3.2 million people aid agencies aim to assist by June 2014, one million have so far received some form of assistance. This includes people internally displaced and other communities vulnerable to hunger and disease. Aid agencies launched a new rapid response model in the last week of March to reach displaced communities in remote locations, with operations starting to assist some 50,000 people in Melut County, Upper Nile State and Akobo, Jonglei State.

Halfway through the Crisis Response Plan, relief activities were only 30 per cent funded. More resources are needed to reach the over two million people who have not yet received help by June.
Crisis worsening food security

The current crisis in South Sudan risks reversing gains in food security made over the last year, according to food security partners.

South Sudan’s food security outlook was the best in five years before the crisis. For example, the number of food insecure people had declined to 33 per cent in October 2013 compared to 40 per cent in 2012. The widespread displacement of people, loss of food stocks and disruption of livelihoods system may push millions of people into hunger. The situation may be worse in hardest hit states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity, which also had higher levels of severe food insecurity before the crisis.

It is now estimated that 3.7 million people are at high risk of food insecurity across the country, including 1.1 million people in the emergency phase and 2.1 million in the acute phase. Partners aim to assist up to 3.2 million out of the 3.7 million most vulnerable people by June.

Efforts to support food production are affected by delays in the distribution of farming inputs due to continued insecurity. Ongoing fighting has also disrupted preparations for the current planting season, which started in mid-March and runs until mid-June. However, for communities along the Nile and Sobat rivers, livelihood partners are providing fishing kits to enhance food availability.

An estimated 78 per cent of South Sudan’s rural population relies on various aspects of agriculture for their livelihoods, including cropping, livestock, forestry, fisheries and agriculture-related wage labour.

Disease prevention stepped up

Insecurity limited access to communities in need of health and other essential services in some parts of the country. The destruction and looting of health facilities in conflict affected areas has further affected delivery of health services to communities.

Considering the current living conditions in sites of displacement, health partners are deeply concerned about the risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera. Suspected cases of measles continued to be reported from displacement sites in Bentiu, Juba, Lankien, Nasir, Yida, and Yuai.

Some 54,208 people in displacement sites in Juba and in Mingkaman, Lakes State, have been reached with a second round campaign of Oral Cholera Vaccination. In addition, 33,244 people were vaccinated against meningitis in Mingkaman.

To respond to these threats, health partners have stepped up efforts to minimize threats of disease outbreaks in displacement sites. Partners have increased social mobilization and health promotion efforts in all internally displaced people’s camps in response to threats of outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases.
A nationwide mass measles campaign is planned for April targeting Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria.

Health partners are concerned that funding gaps from will affect delivery of health services, especially during the rainy season when the likelihood of outbreaks of waterborne diseases will be high. Health activities in the Crisis Response Plan are currently only 16 per cent funded.

**Insecurity delays supplies for refugees**

Insecurity has affected delivery of supplies to meet urgent needs and pre-positioning of stocks for the refugee operation in Upper Nile State.

Delivery of relief supplies to refugee camps was challenged by insecurity with ongoing hostilities along the transport routes. As a result, during the first week of March refugees in four camps in Maban County received only ten-day rations of pulses and oil and have not been able to receive cereals and salt for more than one month. Refugees relied on leaves and wild fruits to supplement their meals before the distribution began.

On 22 March, 15-day food rations were distributed to refugees in Kaya camp, and those in Gendrassa and Doro camps received seven and five-day food rations, respectively. In Yusuf Batil camp, food distribution also started by the end of the month. Due to insecurity constraints along road transport corridors, most of the food was delivered through airdrops.

While severe acute malnutrition cases with kwashiorkor have decreased, food shortages continue to put the vulnerable (children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly in particular) at risk of malnourishment. On 19 March, the governments of Ethiopia and South Sudan authorized the re-opening of the Gambella Corridor for transport of humanitarian commodities by air, river and road to South Sudan.

**Aid operation continues in Abyei**

The security situation in the Abyei region deteriorated during March. There were growing concerns that the increasing presence and movement of armed elements in the two communities could potentially have severe security implications.

At the beginning of March, clashes among the two communities have been reported in some areas bordering the buffer zone defined by the UN peacekeeping mission in Abyei.
The people who had returned to the areas north of Abyei town have fled fearing new violence. As of 5 March, most of Abyei town inhabitants had relocated south of the River Kiir/Bahr El Arab, joining their relatives that had maintained another residence in the displacement area fearing renewed insecurity. As of end of March, people are returning back to Abyei town but not yet to the areas north of the town.

The aid operation continued in Abyei region and bordering areas in South Sudan for more than 100,000 people affected by the 2011 violence. Food distribution for the month of March continued targeting about 81,000 people inside the Abyei region. Some 45,000 people are estimated to remain displaced, of whom 25,000 are outside the Abyei area. Additionally, some 2,800 displaced people from Abiemnom County in Unity State continue to be assisted in the Abyei area.

To strengthen food production, livelihoods partners conducted training for farmers on pest control and management to minimize loss of crops due to pest attack and damage that can be caused by pesticides.

Partners have also rehabilitated five water pumps across the Abyei region. This restored safe water supply to at least 1,250 people. Additional latrines were constructed in eight primary schools in the south of River Kiir/Bahr El Arab within in and around Agok town. This was to enhance access to latrines in these areas as more pupils returned to Agok from Abyei town and surroundings following the clashes on 1st March. Partners in the Abyei region have drafted an Abyei strategy to improve coordination and optimize the support to Abyei from South Sudan and Sudan.

$63m allocated through humanitarian fund (CHF)

Close to $63 million has been allocated to aid agencies through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) so far in 2014. A standard allocation which had been agreed in November 2013 for disbursement in early January, was reoriented towards new, life-saving priorities after violence broke out in December. Just under $43 million were channeled towards NGOs and UN agencies with presence on the ground and capacity to scale up operations.

In March 2014, the CHF made an emergency reserve allocation of $20 million to the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and the Non-Food Items and Emergency Shelter Cluster, to provide urgently needed seeds, tools, fishing gear, household items and shelter materials in conflict-affected states. These items will help improve living conditions and protect livelihoods, reducing the risk of hunger later in the year.

In the first three months of 2014, seven UN agencies, 40 international NGOs and 11 national NGOs have received CHF funding. Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom have contributed resources to the CHF in 2014. Timely and predictable contributions to the CHF are essential to enable organizations to respond to the unfolding crisis.