Highlights

- An estimated 707,400 people are displaced inside South Sudan. Another 149,700 people have fled to nearby countries.
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, declared the South Sudan crisis a “Level 3” global emergency on 11 February.
- Aid agencies adapted their pre-positioning strategy to focus on pre-positioning in least affected states and secure sufficient supplies in Juba for conflict-affected areas.
- The Crisis Response Plan is nearly 18% funded, leaving a shortfall of $1.05 billion. Funds are urgently needed for the core pipelines and frontline services.

Situation overview and trends in displacement

The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, declared the crisis in South Sudan a Level 3 emergency, in recognition of the growing needs in the country. The declaration will trigger more resources from UN agencies and NGOs, and fast-track administrative procedures for the response.

Of the estimated 707,400 people displaced within South Sudan, aid agencies had reached around 302,500 with assistance. The lead agencies for the core pipelines were finalizing their plans to pre-position supplies ahead of the rainy season. The focus will be to pre-position aid in the least conflict-affected states. For the most affected states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile, supplies will mainly be held in Juba to be transported in limited quantities on demand. Some stocks will also be pre-positioned in the UNMISS bases in these states. With regard to access, humanitarian organizations are able to work in most parts of the country, though operations in

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.
conflict-affected states often require extensive negotiations on safety assurances. Five counties in Jonglei and Unity states have been inaccessible to aid agencies for the past three weeks because of active hostilities, though every effort is being made to resume activities and re-deploy to these locations as soon as possible.

**Funding**

Relief organizations require US$1.27 billion by June to provide assistance to 3.2 million people affected by the crisis. So far, donors have contributed $222 million to the Crisis Response Plan, which is 17.5 per cent of total requirements.

The largest needs in the Crisis Response Plan are for food security and livelihoods ($655 million), the multi-sector response to refugees and returnees ($136.5 million), water, sanitation and hygiene ($102 million) and nutrition ($83 million). So far, the Logistics, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, and Food Security and Livelihoods clusters are the most funded sectors.

**Humanitarian needs and response**

**Central Equatoria State**

The situation in Juba and the rest of the state remained calm. Humanitarian partners focused on improving health conditions in the Juba UN bases. Cluster munitions were found by mine action partners on the road between Juba and Bor, highlighting the access challenge posed by mines and unexploded ordnance for civilians and aid workers.

**Jonglei State**

The security situation in the state remained relatively calm. There were growing reports of pockets of people displaced outside Bor town, where access for aid workers is currently restricted due to the fluid security situation. Negotiations are underway on how to reach these groups, who are reportedly in urgent need of assistance.

**Lakes State**

The response continued to an estimated 84,000 people displaced in Minkaman and surrounding areas of Awerial County, including registration to confirm the number of people needing assistance.

**Unity State**

For the first time since the crisis started, food assistance and household items were distributed to people in need outside the UN base in Bentiu town. The southern counties of the state remained inaccessible for humanitarians, though plans were underway to travel to Leer County in the coming week, depending on the security situation.

**Upper Nile State**

Malakal town remained largely empty of civilians, amid reports of clashes to the south and west of the town, and rumours of increased mobilization in other parts of the state. Several casualties have been brought to the Malakal Teaching Hospital in the past days. People displaced by violence continued to arrive in Malakal. Aid agencies will deploy a team there to assess and respond to needs of camp management and coordination. Site planning to move the area hosting civilians in the UN base continued, to mitigate the risk of flooding during the rainy season.

**Warrap State**

The response to displaced communities in the state continued, with food distribution completed for some 4,800 people in Man-Angui on 12 February.

**Camp Coordination and Management**

Response:

- Over 123,670 people have been registered across eight states.
- The cluster carried out training to partners in Twic County on camp management principles.
- Community mobilization in displacement sites in Juba and Bor continued to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. Mortality surveillance and health monitoring systems are in place.
• Preparation continued of the new civilian area outside UN House, to help decongest UN bases.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

• Humanitarian access to sites outside UN bases is limited, especially in Jonglei and Unity states.
• Partners to ensure that site planning and preparations are in place to respond to new arrivals of displaced people in Twic County that are consolidating to two sites.
• Tensions are mounting in areas hosting civilians in UN bases.

**Education**

**Response:**

• Education partners continued to provide learning spaces, psychosocial support, training on life skills and lifesaving messages to displaced children and education actors in UN bases in Bentiu, Bor and Juba.
• One new temporary learning space was established in Bentiu, benefitting 231 children.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

• There is a continuing need for access to education services for students affected by the conflict, including learning spaces, teaching and learning supplies, and training on life skills and psychosocial support for teachers and education personnel.
• Advocacy is needed for the vacation of occupied schools to ensure schools are accessible for learners. Some 37 schools are currently occupied by displaced people or armed forces.
• Insecurity continued to pose a major constraint to partners in assessing the needs of affected host communities and people in other hotspot areas, including assessments of damaged schools.
• There is a lack of space to set up learning spaces due to congestion in displacement sites.
• A stronger presence of credible education partners is needed with good logistical and surge capacity.

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

**Response:**

• Food partners have reached 227,115 people with food assistance since the start of the crisis.
• Distribution of emergency livelihood kits, with over 1,100 fishery kits and 935 vegetable kits, targeting displaced and host communities, will be ready for distribution in Eastern Equatoria next week.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

• Distribution of basic food and nutrition supplies continued but more is needed, especially as new needs are assessed. Assistance should be targeted towards displaced people congregating in rural areas who have not been absorbed by host communities.
• The resumption of food production by displaced communities is vital. Support to protein-rich food production is key to containing malnutrition among displaced communities. Agricultural inputs are needed before planting begins in March.
• Need to minimize environmental damage that increased concentrations of displaced people are putting on fragile natural resources, for example by using fuel-efficient stoves.
• The crisis has increased insecurity along commercial supply corridors and has led to the flight of private sector actors, market fragmentation, and food and fuel price inflation.
Health

Response:
- Healthcare services scaled up with more immunization programmes, reproductive health and inpatient/secondary care provided.
- Mortality rates of children under five years in Juba and Bor remain above emergency thresholds, but are slightly declining and expected to improve further as partners continue to scale up interventions in health, nutrition and WASH.
- Health promotion outreach started in the UN Tongping base. Some 200 people in urgent need of healthcare were identified and referred to the health facility. Many of these referrals were children affected by communicable diseases.
- A measles campaign vaccinated 13,747 children in Malakal, Upper Nile State.

Needs, gaps and constraints:
- Health promotion is needed to encourage people to seek healthcare services early in displacement sites, and on the appropriate management of diseases.
- Surgical services for patients with trauma and obstetric complications are still urgently needed in Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Upper Nile.

Nutrition

Response:
- Partners conducted a malnutrition screening in Malakal reaching 4,313 children (2,112 male and 2,201 female) of whom seven (3 male and 4 female) suffered from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 11 (5 male and 6 female) from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- Also in Upper Nile State, some 716 displaced children in Melut were screened for malnutrition, of whom 31 suffered from SAM and 69 from MAM. In Rom, 574 pregnant and lactating mothers were screened, of whom 145 had SAM and 115 had MAM. Among 105 children screened in Rom, 21 had SAM and 25 had MAM.
- In Kalthok, Lakes State, 225 children (105 male and 120 female) were screened for malnutrition. Ten pregnant and lactating women were counselled on infant and young child feeding practices.

Needs, gaps and constraints:
- Partners need security clearance from authorities for charter flights to airlift supplies to locations such as Akobo, Lankien and Waat in Jonglei State. This slows down the response.
- Storage/warehousing facilities are needed, especially in Awerial County, Bentiu, Bor and Malakal, as the previous ones have been destroyed. This is likely to hamper the cluster’s pre-positioning strategy.

Protection

Response:
- Gender-based violence (GBV) assessments were conducted in the UN base in Bor and in the town. Partners worked to mainstream GBV prevention in camp management and sector responses.
- The psychosocial response strengthened to over 2,145 displaced children living in UN bases. 90 children were reunified with families in Minkaman and Nimule.
- The cluster worked with UN Police in Bentiu to conduct patrols between the UN base and town to facilitate safe movement of civilians.
- In Bor, a protection partner established women’s peacekeeping teams and community police.
- In Juba, partners worked to strengthen community dispute resolution.
- A guidance note on care and protection of children in emergencies was issued in light of increased reports of trafficking of children.

19,735 People reached with nutrition activities since 15 December

183,000 People reached with protection monitoring or other services since 15 December
Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Only four locations have fully funded response plans to respond to gender-based violence.
- Family tracking exercises have become more challenging because of the nature of displacement, including across borders.
- With partners strengthening field level activities, field coordinators are essential to support state-level coordination mechanisms and expansion of protection work by civil society.
- Funding outside of hotspot areas remained a challenge. However, given the nature of displacement, partners are attempting to re-establish 'regular' programmes to increase areas of programming.
- Partners working in UN bases observed increased tension among displaced communities and increased outbreaks of violence. It is engaging with all actors to find constructive solutions to de-escalate tensions.
- Displacement along the Sobat River in Upper Nile State raises concerns for onwards displacement with the onset of rainy season.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Response:

- Over 8,500 households were reached with household kits.
- In Jonglei, NFI assessments were carried out in Lankien, Uror and Waat.
- Distribution was underway of shelter and household kits in Yirol. In Awerial, distribution is planned for 9,000 households in surrounding areas of Minkaman.
- Some 2,300 households received household kits in Malakal as distribution continued in the town.
- Pre-positioning of household items and emergency shelter is ongoing in Bentiu and Bor for 2,000 households in each location.
- Some 8,500 households were reached with household kits in Nimule.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Access continued to be hampered by insecurity and resulting logistics constraints in some areas. Assessing needs is complex, stocks and transport assets have been looted or are vulnerable to looting in some locations, and air and road access is limited both in terms of security and availability of assets.
- Capacity and humanitarian access is needed, and sufficient secure accommodation for relief staff in the states. Standards cannot be met due to the restricted secure land inside UN bases, and the remote and dispersed nature of most displacement.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- WASH partners are responding in three new locations in Twic County, bringing the overall WASH response to 18 locations across the country.
- Two more sites have seen water supply increase to meet the international SPHERE standard of 15 litres per person a day, bringing the total number of locations reaching this standard to seven sites.
- Meeting the SPHERE standard for sanitation (one latrine for every 50 people) is still proving challenging - so far it has been met in five sites. In all sites, partners are focused on ensuring sanitation facilities are gender separated and equipped with adequate handwashing facilities. Bathing facilities are increasingly being constructed across sites.
- Hygiene promoters are being trained and sent out to share clear messaging on safe hygiene practices so that displaced communities living can protect themselves from illness.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Needs must be met to reach up to 300,000 additional displaced people and to improve response in existing sites so that people receive a WASH package that meets SPHERE standards. A survey has been initiated by the Global WASH Cluster Rapid Assessment Team to assess the capacity response of the WASH partners and to identify gaps and needs of the WASH partners.
- The WASH Cluster Core Pipeline continues to need supplies; procurement and pre-positioning is ongoing.

55,049 Families reached with household items and/or shelter support since 15 December.

220,800 People reached with water, sanitation and hygiene assistance since 15 December.
- The Cluster needs two surge coordinators to act as roving sub-national coordinators, to strengthen response in key locations.
- Experienced partners are needed, in order to negotiate access and work in remote, insecure areas.
- There continues to be funding gaps for many partners as the scale up continues, and initial injections of emergency funding is expended.
- Humanitarian space needs to be improved to ensure consistent access in and out of current locations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key locations</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Water per person/day</th>
<th># of latrines</th>
<th>Latrines/users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bentiu</td>
<td>2,781</td>
<td>20 litres</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1/57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bor</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>13 litres</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>1/39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juba (UN House)</td>
<td>15,744</td>
<td>15 litres</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>1/58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juba (UN Tomping)</td>
<td>27,517</td>
<td>16 litres</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>1/106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malakal</td>
<td>21,568</td>
<td>7 litres</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>1/85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minkaman</td>
<td>74,051</td>
<td>13 litres</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>1/248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nimule</td>
<td>35,261</td>
<td>2 litres</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1/321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The emergency SPHERE standard for access to clean water is 15 litres per person and day. The sanitation standard is 1 latrine per 50 users. Source: WASH Cluster

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