Displacement spikes following insecurity

Close to three million South Sudanese have now fled their homes and are either internally displaced or have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since December 2013. This includes an estimated 1.87 million people who are reported to have been internally displaced since December 2013. Of these, about 204,500 were sheltering in United Nations Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites as of 10 November, a more than 20 per cent increase compared to the number seeking shelter in the PoCs at the end of June (169,400).

Large spikes in internal displacement have been reported in the Greater Equatoria region, where fighting has driven tens of thousands of people from their homes since July. In Central Equatoria, the number of displaced people more than doubled from July (71,000) to October (143,000), following insecurity and sporadic fighting in multiple locations. The worst affected areas have been Juba and Yei counties. In Yei town, killings, rapes, abductions and restrictions on civilian freedom of movement by armed actors continue to be reported.

In addition to South Sudanese who have been internally displaced, more than 10,000 refugees - from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan - who were living in Lasu camp in Yei County, were forced to flee in September following attacks at the camp. Most of the refugees are now thought to be sheltering in bushy areas near the border with DRC.

Internal displacement in Eastern Equatoria has risen more than threefold - from about 46,000 in August to about 158,000 in October – following insecurity and clashes in Budi, Ikotos, Kapoeta South, Lafon, Magwi and Torit counties. In June 2016, there were only around 7,800 people internally displaced in Eastern Equatoria.

In Western Equatoria, the number of displaced people doubled from about 66,000 in August to more than 124,000 in October. Most recently, fighting in Li-rangu,Yambio County, on 10 and 19 November has triggered displacement of hundreds of people. Some sought shelter in the compound of a non-governmental organization and a church in Yambio town, while others fled to the bushes. Fighting also erupted in Ezo on 8...
November, forcing many people to flee their homes. According to the authorities in the county, hundreds of civilians fled to DRC and CAR, while others hid in bushes and at a Catholic church in Ezo town.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled South Sudan to neighbouring countries, with more than 320,000 people leaving since 8 July, the majority of whom are women and children. This has brought the number of South Sudanese refugees arriving in neighbouring countries since December 2013 to over 1.1 million.

Scale-up of response in the Equatorias continues

Humanitarian organizations continue to scale-up their response to the needs of displaced people and affected host communities in the Equatorias, despite numerous challenges.

In Central Equatoria, distribution of food to more than 51,700 people in Yei town was completed on 9 November and partners are currently providing food to special cases that were not reached during the distribution. In addition, some 25,000 children and women of child bearing age have been vaccinated. Malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers have received nutrition supplements and work is underway to establish a stabilization centre to treat Severe Acute Malnutrition cases.

However, access to areas outside of Yei town remains extremely limited and a high-level mission that planned to bring medical supplies to a village along the Yei-Maridi road was blocked from exiting Yei on 11 November.

In Western Equatoria, humanitarian organizations completed an assessment in areas hosting IDPs in Yambio on 12 November and an inter-agency team visited Mundri West, East and Mvolo counties on 30 October to assess the humanitarian situation. There are estimated to be more than 109,100 people (35,985 in Mundri West, 39,146 in Mundri East, and 33,979 in Mvolo) affected by fighting and insecurity in the three counties, and many people have fled into the bushes in fear of further attacks. Movement to some areas has been restricted by armed actors, and flare-ups in fighting have affected the response. In Mundri East County, five international aid workers were relocated from Lui on 11 November due to insecurity caused by fighting between armed actors. Advocacy is on-going with parties to the conflict to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to people in need.

Civilians flee fighting in Unity

Growing insecurity in Unity has caused thousands of civilians to flee their homes in search of safety in recent weeks, with clashes reported in Leer County – including in Adok, Pilleny and Thonyor – and Rubkona County – including in Nhilladiu.

On 15 November, 19 aid workers were relocated from Jazeera in Rubkona County to Bentiu after clashes between armed actors erupted in Nhilladiu on 12 November. The light-base humanitarian camp in Nhilladiu, where the aid workers were staying, was looted during the fighting, while shops and some homes in the area were also reportedly looted and burnt.

In Leer County, about 700 displaced people remain at the UNMISS base in Leer town, while thousands of others have fled further into the swamps following attacks in recent weeks. Houses in Thonyor and Adok villages have reportedly been burnt and destroyed, and there are unconfirmed reports of attacks against civilians in the islands and swamps. Partners estimate that some 15,000 people have arrived into southern Mayendit over the past month seeking refuge and assistance.

Humanitarian organizations continue to respond in accessible areas. On 16 November, some 3,800 displaced people received food assistance in Kwaich, Guit County, while

Advocacy is on-going with parties to the conflict to ensure unhindered humanitarian access to people in need.

Thousands of people have fled their homes in Unity amidst renewed clashes.
some 6,000 people in Mayendit have received food assistance and new arrivals are being provided with vital non-food items.

**Experts warn of ‘escalating food crisis’ in 2017**

Food security experts have warned of unprecedented levels of food insecurity in the early months of 2017 following poor harvests, conflict and dysfunctional markets.

At the height of the 2016 lean season in July, some 4.8 million people - more than one in every three people in South Sudan - were estimated to be severely food insecure. Surveys (SMART) carried out during or after the lean season showed a significant deterioration in the nutrition situation in many areas compared to 2015, with nine SMART surveys finding a Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence by Weight-for-Height of more than 25 per cent, well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

Even following seasonal harvests, partners estimate that some 3.7 million people are food insecure - representing an increase of one million people compared to the same period last year – and food security experts warn that the benefits of the harvest will be short-lived.

Livelihoods have been decimated by conflict and economic decline. Livestock have been looted, killed or exposed to increased disease, while crops have been destroyed and planting has been delayed due to violence, displacement and unfavourable weather.

About 50 per cent of all harvests have been lost in areas affected by violence, and many farmers have been unable to plant for the second season due to insecurity. The Greater Equatoria region, which is responsible for over half of the country’s net cereal production, has been severely impacted by the recent violence.

After sharply increasing in July, food prices have declined slightly in recent months largely due to increased trade flows and arrival of the harvest. However, cereal prices remain well above the norm, with the retail price of sorghum in Juba 596 per cent higher than last year and 1,177 per cent above the five-year average.

According to FEWSNET, food security is expected to deteriorate to extreme levels from February to May 2017 in northern parts of South Sudan, with central and southern Unity and Northern Bahr el Ghazal of greatest concern. If humanitarian assistance is limited as the lean season approaches, some households could exhaust their capacity to cope and face catastrophic food insecurity.

Read more:

**More than 3,100 cholera cases reported, mostly along the River Nile**

The cholera outbreak, which began in South Sudan in June 2016, has now surpassed the 3,100 case mark, with 3,145 cases and 44 deaths reported by 17 November.

Communities along the River Nile are worst affected and account for 91 per cent of reported cholera cases. A total of 2,874 cases and all 44 deaths from the outbreak have been reported from eight counties straddling the River Nile: Awerial, Duk, Fangak, Juba, Leer, Pageri, Pigi and Terekeka. Rubkona is the only county affected by the outbreak that is not along the Nile.

Juba has the highest number of cases (1,990 - 63 per cent of the total), while Terekeka, has the highest case fatality rate (CFR). While the overall CFR for the outbreak is 1.4 per
2016 cholera cases by sex in South Sudan

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(MOH/WHO, Nov 2016)

2016 cholera cases by sex in South Sudan

OCHA Operations Chief concerned about deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan

OCHA’s Director of Operations, John Ging, has expressed concern regarding the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan following a visit to the country from 9 to 12 November.

Addressing journalists at a press conference in New York on 16 November, Mr. Ging noted that the escalation in fighting, food insecurity and economic challenges were alarming: “The gravity of the situation that the people of South Sudan face cannot be overstated” he said.

During the visit, Mr. Ging met with humanitarian partners, Government officials and the diplomatic community. He also visited people affected by the conflict in Juba and Yei.

Mr. Ging expressed shock at the plight of the population in Yei: “I listened with sorrow to women who recounted their traumatic experiences. Their stories were amongst the worst that I have heard,” he said.

While lauding the dignity of the people of South Sudan in the face of such difficult circumstances, he emphasized that people “are expecting the international community to step up” and stressed that “we have to, all of us, somehow mobilize.”

Mr. Ging praised the commitment and courage of aid workers in South Sudan, particularly the staff of non-governmental organizations who remain on the frontline of humanitarian action, noting that South Sudan is now one of the most dangerous places in the world for humanitarians.

Read more: UN News Center story -- http://bit.ly/2g1WHqf

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: www.reliefweb.int

percent, in Terekeka it is 36.4 per cent. The second highest CFR (8.7 per cent) is in Duk in Jonglei.

New cases continue to be reported in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, with 24 cases recorded in Rubkona county in the week up to 17 November. Cases have been reported mostly among infants and new arrivals from Leer, Mayendit, Koch, Panyijiar and Guit who missed the oral cholera vaccination campaign at the PoC in 2015. More than 90 per cent of the reported cholera cases in Bentiu PoC were not vaccinated.

Health organizations are supporting the Ministry of Health to respond to the outbreak and investigate and treat suspected cases. Twenty-three oral rehydration points have been established across the country. Cholera prevention messages are being passed through house-to-house visits, community meetings and school sessions. Since the beginning of the outbreak, more than 155,000 households have received commodities, including soap, water purification tablets and sachets as well as oral rehydration salts, and more than 1.4 million people have been reached with cholera messages in all the affected areas. A mass vaccination campaign was conducted in October in Gurei, Juba.

However, ongoing fighting and fresh displacement remain an impediment to the implementation of sustained and comprehensive cholera investigation and response activities in Leer and Mayendit counties.

The hotline to report suspected cholera cases is 1144.

"The gravity of the situation that the people of South Sudan face cannot be overstated" - OCHA Operations Chief