SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 4 April 2020, South Sudan confirmed its first case of COVID-19. Since then, cases have continued to rise, with 35 confirmed as of 30 April.

The newly formed Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) is now grappling with the outbreak of the virus within its borders. It also comes at a time when humanitarian needs are exceedingly high, driven by the continuation of localized violence during the dry season and uptick in conflict in other locations.

Monthly Highlights

- 31,632 individuals reached with health promotion messages
- 26,173 individuals attended and received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services
- 154,158 internally displaced persons (IDPs) supported with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services at the PoC sites in Bentiu, Malakal, and Wau
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

**EBOLA**

Due to the ongoing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, IOM continues to maintain preparedness activities in Yei, focusing on health screenings in 10 PoE sites; health and hygiene promotion; water, sanitation, and hygiene support; and displacement tracking.

- **43,823** individuals screened at IOM-managed EVD PoE sites in April, yielding **ZERO** case alerts with a cumulative total of **2,280,416** travelers screened since September 2018.

**COVID-19**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM is carrying out preparedness and response activities, focusing on health screenings; risk communication; health and hygiene promotion; water, sanitation, and hygiene support; and displacement tracking. As an active member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Point of Entry (POEs), IOM supported the selection of 16 prioritized areas for COVID-19 PoEs. An assessment is planned to Renk, one of the 16 prioritized areas, but has been delayed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

- **10,480** individuals screened at IOM-managed COVID-19 PoE sites in April.

**MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**

A total of 26,173 individuals attended and received MHPSS services in the Wau PoC, Hai Masna, Jebel Kheir, and Wau town (Western Bahr el Ghazal); Malakal PoC, Assosa and Malakiya in Malakal town (Upper Nile); and Bentiu PoC (Unity).

In Malakal, IOM conducted a training for newly elected community leaders that focused on the MHPSS referral pathway, available services in the PoC, MHPSS considerations during COVID-19, and psychological first aid (PFA). To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and promote income generating activities for vulnerable women in the PoC, 18 MHPSS beneficiaries were trained on the production of cloth masks.

COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement activities continued in Wau PoCAA, Hai Masna, and Wau town, reaching 11,607 individuals (8,723 women; 2,884 men). In addition, 40 MHPSS beneficiaries (37 women; 3 men) produced 200 cloth masks in the PoCAA, Jebel Kheir, and Hai Masna. In collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MoGCWS), IOM held a dialogue to clarify the roles of protection partners in the PoCAA, as well as to discuss IDPs moving from collective sites to host communities.

**LOGISTICS**

- **3,109** metric tons of humanitarian cargo delivered this month.
- **50** humanitarian organisations supported.
- **5,8881** metric tons of humanitarian cargo transported this year.
CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM’s Camp Management (CM) continued to lead discussions with stakeholders and partners on updating Protection of Civilians (PoC) site Contingency Plans for COVID-19, to assess scenarios and plan for the continuity of critical humanitarian services in anticipation of operational challenges inside of PoCs. Additionally, IOM CM trained community structures on COVID-19 infection, prevention, and control measures, and engaged them on disseminating CCCM endorsed messages to support informed decision-making processes in Bentiu and Wau PoCs.

IOM CM also continued to track COVID-19 rumours and perceptions, as well as raise awareness on COVID-19 prevention through various activities, including the distribution of IEC materials, radio talk shows, and disseminating information using loudspeakers. As co-lead for the Communication and Community Engagement Working Group (CCE WG), and in conjunction with REACH and Internews, IOM supported the release of the first ‘COVID-19 South Sudan Rumour Tracking Overview’, which analyzes rumours that were tracked by partners in displacement sites and hard-to-reach areas.

IOM CM also continued to de-congest Wau PoCAA through a shelter mapping exercise, through which 299 empty shelters were identified and will be reallocated to the most vulnerable households living in crowded shelters. Furthermore, IOM is tracking 555 households that voluntarily registered to leave PoCAA and is supporting partners to ensure these families are monitored for any follow-up assistance. IOM CM care and maintenance teams continued preparations for the rainy season inside of PoCs. In Bentiu, de-silting of the retention basin continued in ponds 1, 2, and 4 using heavy machinery. In Malakal, IOM care and maintenance crews completed drainage upgrading activities, including renovating drainage side slopes and decommissioning collapsed drainage channels.

CCCM CLUSTER

During April, the Cluster supported revisions to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) through the COVID-19 addendum. During the HRP revision process, the Cluster engaged with CCCM partners to harmonize non-COVID-19 responses in all displacement sites, as well as ensure that a common approach is used to disseminate awareness raising messages for COVID-19.

In Western Bahr el Ghazal, the Cluster engaged in discussions with the church administration to prevent eviction and advocate for protection measures at four collective centres in Wau, namely Cathedral, Lokoloko, St. Joseph, and Nazareth. However, the rapid timeline of the site closure prevented humanitarian partners from conducting adequate protection assessments for those departing the site, including the provision of assistance packages. The circumstances did not permit coordinated site closure that respects CCCM guidance to ensure safe and dignified voluntary return.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

IOM continued to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to over 154,158 IDPs at the PoC sites in Bentiu, Malakal, and Wau. The WASH EP&R missions responding to impact of flooding in 2019 had to be withdrawn in Jonglei and Warrap following the movement restrictions put in place by the Government due to COVID-19. Once restrictions are relaxed, the WASH EP&R team will resume the missions.

IOM commenced construction of two permanent handwashing facilities in market areas in Wau and continued to maintain 444 handwashing stations, including 148 in Malakal PoC and humanitarian hub, 265 in Bentiu PoC and humanitarian hub, six at the water supply facility site in Wau PoC, and 25 in the IOM office. In addition, IOM continued COVID-19 awareness raising and hygiene promotion activities, reaching 104,235 individuals in Bentiu and Malakal PoC, and in Wau, Twic, Juba and Magwi.

This month, IOM provided safe drinking water to 86,936 individuals residing in the following sites

- 10,755 individuals in Wau PoC
- 27,924 individuals in Malakal PoC
- 48,257 individuals in Bentiu PoC

15 boreholes drilled:
- 2 in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State
- 8 in Twic, Warrap State
- 5 in Juba, Central Equatoria State

These 15 boreholes provide clean drinking water to 8,000 individuals
RAPID RESPONSE FUND

With support from the USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, partners continued with the implementation of projects. Six new projects commenced in April, implemented by Community Initiative for Development Organization; Youth Empowerment and Development Aid; South Sudan Development Agency; Women Aid Vision; Action Africa Help International; and Save the Children. Due to travel restrictions and precautions related to COVID-19, there were no monitoring visits in April.

ONGOING RRF PROJECTS

**Community Aid for Relief and Development** - Emergency WASH support interventions among the most vulnerable and floods affected People of Jalle and Baidit payams of Jonglei State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 13,400.

**Ark for Humanity** - Emergency livelihood flood response support, with agricultural outputs through direct distribution to 3,000 households in Lopa/Lofan County. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 18,000.

**Kueng Community Development** - Provision of livelihood kits to support 4,617 floods affected households in targeted Payams of Aweil South, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 27,702.

**Vétérinaires Sans Frontières, Germany** - Life-saving livelihood assistance in the form of flood recession farming and agricultural production enhancement for flood-affected populations in Cueibet County, Lakes State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 12,000.

**Help Restore Youth South Sudan** - Provision of emergency livelihood kits to flood victims of Aweil West County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 13,572.

**Youth Empowerment and Development Aid** - Provide life-saving NFI assistance to vulnerable displaced persons in Terekeka County. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 13,500.

**The Rescue Mission** - Provision of emergency WASH services to the population affected by floods in Kuda (Dola payam) Juba county, Central Equatoria State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 7,403.

**Community Initiative for Development Organization** - Response to NFI needs of displaced population in Nyori payam in Yei county. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 3,300.

**Save the Children** – Livelihood-based Rapid Response to flood-affected people in Aweil East. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 46,242.

**Norwegian Refugee Council** - Rapid response for floods to affected populations in Aweil North. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 13,500.

**Relief International** - Rapid response support provided to 15,000 flood-affected households to increase food security through training, distribution of vegetable crop seeds and fishing kits in Greater Maban, Upper Nile State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 90,000.

**CARE International** - Emergency support for Measles outbreak through reactive mass campaign in Jebel Borna, Pibor County, Jonglei State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries are 21,500.

**Human Aid for Community Organization** - Emergency WASH services for flood affected communities of Wangbour and Wangkei Payams, Mayam County, Unity State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 24,000.

**Touch Africa Development Organization (TADO)** - Provision of emergency shelter and NFIs to respond to floods affected and other vulnerable populations in Nasir County, Upper Nile State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 10,000.

**LiveWell** - Provide emergency essential health services to address the immediate health needs of vulnerable IDPs affected by the massive floods in Pibor and Pochalla Counties, Jonglei State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 10,704.

**Universal Network for Knowledge & Empowerment Agency (UNKEA)** - Emergency health response to flood affected persons in Ulang and Nasir Counties, Upper Nile State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 48,000.

**Smile Again Africa Development Organization** - Emergency food security and livelihood support to flood affected households in Terekeka County. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries are 16,992.

**Women Aid Vision** - Emergency GBV response and prevention services for conflict-affected population in Yirol East county of Lakes State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries are 19,922.

**Action Africa Help International -** Emergency Livelihood support to 15,000 flood affected Households in Maban county. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 90,000.

**South Sudan Development Agency** - Provision of emergency NFI/ES response in Melut to most vulnerable IDPs, returnees and hosts communities affected by floods and conflict, Upper Nile State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 9,240.

**Support for Peace and Education Development Programme** - Emergency food security and livelihood support to flood affected vulnerable households in selected payams of Juba County. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 21,000.

**Polish Humanitarian Action** - Provision of emergency WASH services to displaced persons in Adior and Malek payams of Yirol East County, Lakes State. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 20,300.
PROTECTION/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

IOM’s GBV team supported GBV mainstreaming sessions for COVID-19 risk communication for GBV partner staff from Active Youth Agency (AYA), as well as for IOM WASH staff in Juba, Magwi, Twic, Wau, and Yei. The training focused on methods to integrate GBV risk communication into COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) WASH activities. In partnership with IOM, AYA conducted three capacity building sessions for 31 AYA staff and community volunteers (10 women; 21 men) on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), case management for intimate partner violence, and COVID-19 GBV risk communication.

Through support from IOM, AYA distributed 845 dignity kits to women and girls in Juba. The distribution was combined with messages on menstrual hygiene management, COVID-19 prevention, and GBV awareness. In Juba, 1,483 community members were reached with GBV messages on the consequences of GBV, available services, and prevention of COVID-19. In addition, 65 women and girls participated in GBV awareness raising and COVID-19 prevention sessions at the women and girls’ friendly space (WGFS) in Juba. On 23 April, IOM and AYA conducted a radio show on City FM in Juba to educate the public on violence against women and girls, services available for GBV survivors, and COVID-19 prevention measures.

In April, IOM’s protection team engaged organizations for persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Wau and Juba on COVID-19 risk communication messages to discuss barriers faced by persons with disabilities. In addition, IOM provided handwashing facilities for six OPDs in Juba and the Disability Union in Wau.

In Abyei Administrative Area, the IOM protection team sensitized community leaders, including women leaders and youth, on PSEA, disability inclusion, protection mainstreaming, and COVID-19 risk communication, reaching 225 individuals (118 women; 107 men). In addition, the IOM protection team identified persons with specific needs and provided referrals for cash assistance and NFIs.

MIGRATION HEALTH

IOM continued to provide primary health care services in eight static and five mobile health facilities in Rubkona, Wau and Malakal counties, attaining the following results:

- 38,022 individuals received outpatient consultations
- 31,632 individuals reached with health promotion messages
- 620 children received measles vaccinations
- 270 deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants
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IOM deployed its health rapid response team (RRT) to Kajo Keji to provide emergency primary health care services in Jalimo, Bori, and Kinyiba health facilities. A total of 3,826 outpatient consultations were conducted in the month of April. The IOM Health rapid response team will be present in Kajo Keji for a total of three months. IOM also deployed a RRT team to Aburoc, Upper Nile, to provide emergency primary health care services. A total of 759 outpatient consultations were conducted, 49 children were immunized, and 29 mothers received antenatal care (ANC).

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

As Technical Advisor, IOM supported a discussion between members of the Taskforce on Anti Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants and the Minister of Interior to endorse the terms of reference (ToR) of the Taskforce. The ToR guides the strategic planning of the Taskforce in response to the growing concerns of Trafficking in Persons. In addition, the Taskforce validated the assessment on the prevalence, scale, and nature of trafficking in persons in South Sudan. The study commenced in December 2019, and the report is expected to be published by June 2020.

IOM continued conducting key informant interviews for IOM’s study on remittances and diaspora mapping. In addition, IOM initiated a collaboration with Diasporas Action Australia to map South Sudanese diasporas and their skills that can be capitalized for the development of South Sudan, through skills transfer or investments. The study will be used to inform the development of policy proposals on remittances and diaspora engagement.
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

DTM teams continued monthly biometric authentication activities across 18 displacement sites and host community settings during World Food Programme food assistance distributions for a targeted 287,755 individuals, of whom 273,549 individuals were authenticated. In Wau PoCAA, 1,590 individuals deregistered from the biometric registration system received voluntary return assistance. These individuals are expected to return to their areas of habitual residence.

DTM published the Mobility Tracking Round 7 narrative report. The report emphasizes the shift of internal displacement in the country, which was previously attributed to the national conflict, to new displacements due to communal clashes throughout 2018 and 2019, as well as high levels of flooding at the end of 2019.

As part of COVID-19 preparedness activities, DTM prepared weekly briefs on mobility restrictions within, to, and from South Sudan. Combining flow monitoring data and updates received from focal points, DTM identified key points of entry, transit hubs, and IDP sites, through which information was gathered on the existence of preparedness measures, such as movement restrictions, fever screening, handwashing stations, and risk communication. In parallel, DTM expanded its joint analysis work with other humanitarian partners, working with WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and REACH to map population flows at risk of COVID-19 transmission that lacks access to functional health facilities. DTM has also been actively contributing to prioritization discussions at the COVID-19 PoE TWG, NAWG, and other inter-agency initiatives aimed at utilizing different data sources for better analysis of mobility patterns in the context of COVID-19 response.

Reports released this month

Biometric Registration
- DTM Biometric Registration Update (March 2020)
- DTM Biometric Registration Update: Akobo East And Ulang (Feb 2020)
- DTM Biometric Registration Update: Mayendit (Aug 2019)
- DTM Biometric Registration Update: Leer (Dec 2019)
- DTM Biometric Registration Update: Koch (Aug 2019)

Event Tracking
- DTM Event Tracking: Canal/Pigi, Jonglei State (March 2020)
- DTM Mobility Tracking Round 7 Report

Flow Monitoring
- DTM Pibor UNMISS AA Site Flow Monitoring Summary (9 March - 12 April 2020)
- DTM COVID-19 Mobility Update 1
- DTM COVID-19 Mobility Update 2
- DTM COVID-19 Mobility Update 3
- DTM COVID-19 Mobility Update 4 (13-19 April 2020)
- DTM UNICEF UNHCR REACH COVID-19 Inflows from Affected Areas in Neighbouring Countries
- DTM UNICEF UNHCR REACH COVID-19 Inflows from Neighbouring Countries
- DTM Flow Monitoring Registry Mobility Network

Population Count
- DTM Bentiu PoC Site Population Count (January 2020)
- DTM Bentiu PoC Site Population Count (March 2020)
- DTM Wau PoC AA Site & Collective Centres Population Count (March 2020)
- DTM Wau PoC AA Site & Collective Centres Population Count (April 2020)
SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

IOM supported 320 flood-affected households in the Abyei Administrative Area through the construction of apron/shelter footings around their shelters to prevent water entering the shelter. Additionally, IOM constructed 112 individual shelters for IDPs in Kolom that were living in government buildings and open spaces since January. IOM S-NFI supported 555 households that voluntarily registered to leave Wau PoCAA due to COVID-19 risks through the provision of multi-purpose cash grants. In addition, the S-NFI team supported IOM CCCM and WASH teams in Wau to decommission four IDP collective sites that were closed. In areas of return in Wau, IOM reached 580 households through information sessions on housing, land, and property, and legal counselling.

S/NFI CLUSTER

The S-NFI Cluster reached 70,752 individuals with S-NFI assistance, mainly in Wau, Pibor, Pochalla, Canal/Pigi, Akobo, and Nyirol Counties, and in Abyei Administrative Area. The S-NFI Cluster completed the strategic review for the SSHF 2020 First Standard Allocation (SA1). Four partners were selected to implement multi-sectoral projects in Wau, Malakal, Bor South, and Magwi Counties. In addition, five partners were selected to implement single-sector projects in Akobo, Pibor, Nasir, Yirol East, Ayod, Fangak, and Rubkona Counties.

CORE PIPELINE

IOM Pipeline continued its vital role in supporting the ongoing emergency response in all flood-affected areas, and in April supported partners’ flood response efforts in seven counties (Luakpiny/Nasir, Bor South, Mayom, Melut, Juba, Pochalla, and Akobo) through the provision of WASH and S-NFI supplies. IOM continued dry season prepositioning, with approximately 188.2 metric tons transported to response locations and prepositioned to logistics hub locations in Bor, Rumbek, Malakal, and Wau to support WASH and S-NFI partner responses.

TRANSITION & RECOVERY

In collaboration with the Abyei Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), IOM identified three farm groups to support crop selection, provision of seeds, simple farm tools, and mentoring. Through IOM’s cash-for-work programme, 10 beneficiaries (3 women; 7 men) constructed fencing for the Abyei Boys Primary School. The beneficiaries were identified in consultation with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and school administration. IOM is also rehabilitating Abyei Girls Secondary School and Majobong Primary School.

Peacebuilding initiatives continued in the Abyei Administrative Area, through which IOM organized a dialogue for 165 participants, representing all sub-clans of the Misseriya community. The meeting brought together Chiefs and grassroots community members to discuss challenges faced by the delay of the peace process. Following this meeting, IOM supported Misseriya Chiefs to organize a forum attended by 200 participants to disseminate information and discuss the need to negotiate access to water and pasture at the onset of the dry season. In coordination with the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), IOM supported a peace dialogue between 23 Ngok Dinka and Misseriya Chiefs in Todach; a peace agreement was not reached. The peace dialogue is set to resume at the end of this year.

To support the continuation of functional adult literacy (FAL) activities in Wau, IOM developed COVID-19 training materials for integration into the home-based programme. In coordination with IOM’s implementing partner, Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), IOM developed peace messages for at-risk youth in Wau and conducted meetings to understand the challenges youth returnees face when integrating into their community. In addition, IOM conducted remote supervision and mentoring on conflict mitigation for livelihood groups in Bussere and Bazia Jedid. In Bentiu, IOM completed the construction of a Milk Bar, which will support youth socio-economic empowerment activities.
“This place you see here was all water, no one was here, said twenty-five-year-old Nyandier Manding, a resident of Awal village in the Abyei Administrative Area. “My houses were filled with water, and most of my items were carried away,” She added. Nyandier lost almost everything when her huts were destroyed by water due to heavy rains in July 2019. Nyandier and her two children took refuge at a nearby school, which is located on a slightly raised area. Last year heavy rainfalls extended into December, causing flooding and a lot of damage in Abyei, forcing more than 16,000 people to flee their homes with no food, shelter, and clean water.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) responded to this natural disaster by distributing life-saving items like food stuff, non-food items as well as providing water sanitation and hygiene support to 16,711 people during and in the aftermath of the floods.

IOM S-NFI team assessed the affected communities to find ways of mitigating the damage caused by the floods to avoid future losses.

“I am very happy about the work. I am no longer worried about my house getting filled with water. Although my house is on a slightly raised area, water was still able to find its way inside. I know with the raised aprons, my house is safer, and there it is unlikely that water will seep into the house when the floods come again,” said another resident of Awal village, Rac Juac, whose house is located near River Kiir. I will continue to work on the aprons and fill them in case they get washed away by the running water, Rac added.

Nyandier and Rac are among the 6,580 households benefiting from the Cash for Work programme under the Flood Response project supported by Canada International Development Agency (CIDA), United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Cash for Work assistance will support the flood-affected communities to meet other basic needs in preparations for the rainy season.

This article can be found here, on the IOM South Sudan website.
Programme Activities

- WASH
- HEALTH
- S/NFI
- DTM
- CCCM
- MHPSS
- TRD
- MMU
- RRF
- LOGS/CTS
- OFFICES / STATIC PRESENCE
- INFECTIOUS DISEASE POINT OF ENTRY SCREENING SITES

IOM South Sudan Operations are funded by