

**SOUTH SUDAN**

Nairobi, 2 March 2021

**SITUATION**

Protracted conflict and negative impact of floods, COVID-19 and desert locusts has contributed to an extended and complex humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. Since the year 2021 began, people in South Sudan continued to suffer with high humanitarian needs.

On February 19-2021, the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS) released a new report documenting an alarming increase in localized violence. According to the report, “vast swathes of South Sudan have witnessed a massive escalation in violence perpetrated by organized tribal militias”. During 2020 more than 2,000 civilians were killed in local conflicts, which were being “weaponized and turbocharged by external actors acting in their own economic or political interests” according to David Shearer, Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan. The CHRSS claimed the level of localized violence may be higher than during the country’s civil war, which began in December 2013. Though there is commendable peace process now, but the transitional government has been unable to address the underlying causes of inter-ethnic conflict, including competition over power and resources. Delays in establishing state governments and appointing governors has created a leadership vacuum, which is being exploited to manipulate long-standing hostilities between rival ethnic communities.

Intensified with natural disasters, massive floods have left hundreds of thousands of people displaced in states of Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Bahr el Gazal, and parts of Greater Equatoria leaving the affected population with little or no means to survive. The flooding crisis alone has severely affected an estimated 800,000 people, devastating homes, livestock, crops, functional markets, schools, health facilities, waterpoints and sanitation infrastructure. (NCA-GPAA Floods Assessment Report, November 2020). COVID-19 localized and community transmissions are rapidly increasing with 7,098 confirmed cases and 87 deaths (WHO,2021/2/25). This has caused significant social-economic impact evidently seen by escalating food prices combined with negative income shocks, GBV and increase traumatic mental health cases and psychosocial-(MHPSS) problems amongst the communities in South Sudan. The desert locust-considered the most destructive migratory pest in the world invaded communities in parts of Central and Eastern Equatoria states and massively and fed on large quantities of any kind of green vegetation, including crops and pasture for livestock which has impacted negatively on food security and livelihood. This situation finds the country in an already fragile state where high levels of acute food insecurity has been driven by conflict, insecurity, flooding, population displacements, declined crop production, pests & diseases, economic crisis, limited access to basic services and secondary effects of COVID-19 especially to livelihoods.

The complex humanitarian situation reveals that over 8.3 million about one- third of the total population in South Sudan are estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2021 according to the findings reflected in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO,2021). This is an increase of 800’000 people from 7.5 million people in need in 2020 (OCHA, 2021). Current figures indicate 1.62 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 125’000 IDPs in protection of civilians’ sites (PoCs), 2.19 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries and 301’000 refugees in South Sudan. This internal and external displacement caused by disaster complexities has perpetrated alarming humanitarian needs as 5.8 million people are already acutely food insecure, 483’000 malnourished women and 1.4 million malnourished children (IPC, Dec 2020-Mar 2021). In December 2019, UNHCR reported at least that 236,764 people have so returned following the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in October 2018.

Funding is urgently needed to scale up response to reach communities affected by the combination of Conflict, floods, COVID-19, and desert locust tremors.

**NEEDS**

The Conflict, Floods, COVID-19, and Desert Locust affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sufficient food- (Food Security)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safe Shelter and Basic Non-Food Items (Shelter/NFIs)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basic Education Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Safe Drinking Water, as well as Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure (WASH)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Livelihood Activities/DRR-Resilience Building
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection Services/MHPSS & GBV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict, floods, desert locust and COVID-19 affected people with vulnerabilities; more specifically children, women, elderly, IDPs, Refugees and Returnees who have unmet critical basic needs. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

#### **STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Through its Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHDM) is coordinating and providing humanitarian access
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	OCHA is coordinating, providing information and negotiating humanitarian access, UNHCR is providing protection to refugees & IDPs as well as returning IDPs and Refugees, WFP provides food and nutritional needs, and UNICEF providing health, nutrition, WASH, protection services for crisis affected children and their mothers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	ACT Forum members - NCA, DCA, FCA, LWF, Christian Aid, PRDA and other humanitarian actors are coordinating, conducting needs assessments, fundraising, and responding to acute needs with currently available resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Helps conflict-affected communities in South Sudan become self-sufficient and reunites families. Visit places of detention, support health care facilities, and promote respect for international humanitarian law.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	The UN-Peacekeepers (UNMISS), South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) and Police are providing protection and access to humanitarian workers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	PRDA, ADA, SUFEM, CARD, ECSS-SUDRA are in partnership with ACT members, other humanitarian actors with capacity to respond, implement and reach the crisis affected population.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Are active in media visibility, advocacy, and fundraising efforts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) is coordinating with other faith actors to mobilize support, humanitarian access, advocacy & peaceful co-existence of host and affected communities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Philanthropy groups	Providing local donations and in-kind support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	Provides information and hosting of affected-displaced populations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Provides local labour force and information

The complex emergency response in South Sudan is currently being coordinated by UNOCHA. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Government, UN Agencies, NGOs, Partners, Faith-based- groups, CSOs, Host & affected communities) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members have been working in South Sudan since the time of the CPA-(2005) providing services to vulnerable communities and now planning to help people affected by the complex humanitarian crisis with lifesaving needs and resilience building activities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members work in areas affected by the conflict, floods, COVID-19, and they are currently assessing the impact of these disasters to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members are currently monitoring the situation and are preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance members are also monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in Food Security & Livelihood, Nutrition, WASH, Shelter & NFIs, DRR, MHPSS, GBV, Education and Protection Services and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide sufficient food, adequate nutrition, safe shelter & NFIs, livelihood activities, safe drinking water, sanitation & hygiene infrastructure, GBV/ protection and education services to ensure that the crisis affected persons' basic needs are met.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict, floods and COVID-19 are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Nancy Ette ([nancy.ette@actalliance.org](mailto:nancy.ette@actalliance.org)).**

For further information please contact:

Forum Coordinator, **Alex Gupirii** ([alex.gupirii@nca.no](mailto:alex.gupirii@nca.no))

ACT Regional Representative, **Elizabeth Kisiigha Zimba** ([elizabeth.zimba@actalliance.org](mailto:elizabeth.zimba@actalliance.org))

ACT Regional Programme Officer, **Caroline Njogu** ([caroline.njogu@actalliance.org](mailto:caroline.njogu@actalliance.org))

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>