Thousands of people fled insecurity and alarming hunger in parts of Unity State to seek refuge and assistance in the UN base in the state capital, Bentiu.

Cholera continued to spread affecting 2,488 people, including 59 killed by the disease, with outbreaks confirmed or alerts received from seven out of 10 states as of 30 June.

Thousands of displaced people living in flood-prone areas were relocated to new or better sites to improve their living conditions amid ongoing rains.

The revised Crisis Response Plan seeking $1.8 billion to assist 3.8 million people with lifesaving aid by the end of 2014 was launched on 14 June.

Needs continued to grow in South Sudan during the month of June. In Unity State, the situation deteriorated with thousands of people fleeing clashes or anticipated fighting to seek shelter at the UN base in Bentiu.

Hunger also drove more displaced people to the Bentiu site, many with children arriving in malnourished conditions. Towards the end of June, the under-five mortality rate in the Bentiu site was around 3 deaths per 10,000 children per day - well above the emergency threshold of 2/10,000 per day. Of 7,565 children screened for malnutrition in the site on 25 June, 4.9 per cent were found to suffer from severe acute malnutrition, and 15.9 per cent from moderate acute malnutrition. Unity State also experienced a growing landmine threat with four confirmed antitank explosions since March. In Upper Nile State, the security situation remained unpredictable amid fears of armed attacks.

Some 639,600 people in remote parts of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states were assisted through rapid response operations since March. On 29 June, the first two of four barges carrying relief supplies left Juba, Central Equatoria State for Malakal in Upper Nile State. Moving cargo by barge between the two states costs 11 times less than by air.

In 2014, partners aim to reach 3.8 million people who are in severe humanitarian need with lifesaving aid. These include around 1.5 million people who have been forced from their homes since mid-December 2013.

Planning figures for the aid operation until December 2014

- 3.9 million people face alarming food insecurity
- 1.5 million people displaced inside South Sudan
- 835,000 people seek refuge in neighbouring countries
- 270,000 Sudanese refugees remain in South Sudan

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Around 1.5 million people have been forced to flee their homes (Credit: Jacob Zocherman/ OCHA)
Cholera control efforts ramped up

As of 30 June, 2,488 cholera cases had been reported in South Sudan including 59 deaths. The case fatality rate was at 2.4 per cent which is above the emergency threshold of one per cent. Cholera outbreaks or alerts were reported in seven of 10 states highlighting fears of the spread of the epidemic since it was first declared in Juba on 15 May.

Cholera spread fast in Eastern Equatoria State’s Torit area where the number of cases rose from 46 to 363 between 23-29 June. Schools in the state were temporarily closed for two weeks to contain the spread of the disease. In the Bentiu displacement site, where over 45,000 people are seeking shelter, a cholera alert was issued as three suspected cases were detected in the site. The epidemic remained active in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Western Equatoria states.

Most cholera cases were reported in Juba County, Central Equatoria State

Partners strengthened cholera surveillance, case management and diagnosis. Oral cholera vaccination (OCV) campaigns reached 97,980 displaced people by June with 20 cholera treatment centres and oral rehydration points set up countrywide. Partners expanded water and sanitation hygiene response activities among at-risk communities across Juba through household distributions of oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets and the setting up of hand-washing stations in key public locations. Toll free mobile phone numbers and ambulance services were availed for early cholera reporting and hospital referrals.

Education key in displacement sites

The crisis has affected internally displaced women, men, girls and boys differently. Adults and community leaders, sometimes, leave displacement sites in search of income leaving adolescent boys, who are afraid of violence outside the camps, behind.

In several displacement sites, due to the absence of traditional justice and role model mechanisms, boys and young men are vulnerable to criminal activities, alcohol and drug abuse. This exposes girls and women to a higher risk of sexual and gender based violence. Idleness may also increase the risk of boys being recruited into armed groups. Thus the need to boost educational opportunities.

Since January 2014, over 9,000 children have been recruited into armed forces and groups. During a visit of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children in
78 schools remained occupied by armed groups or displaced people.

Thousands of displaced people were relocated to new or better sites to improve their living conditions.

The number of people sheltering in UN bases rose to over 100,000 towards the end of June.

Aid agencies worked to improve access to water and sanitation services in congested displacement sites.

Armed Conflict to South Sudan, the Government formally renewed its commitment on 24 June to the Action Plan signed in 2012 to end the recruitment and use of children in the country’s national security forces.

Partners are supporting emergency education activities including life skills, psychosocial and recreational activities and have established 285 classrooms and trained around 1,730 teachers (female: 593, male: 1,139) for over 96,420 learners (female: 40,508 male: 55,918). However, the continued occupation of schools by armed groups or displaced people is a challenge. Some 78 schools in South Sudan remained occupied in June. Partners are conducting the “Education Cannot Wait in South Sudan” advocacy campaign emphasizing the need to prioritize education during the crisis.

Relocations gain momentum

The relocation of displaced people from congested and flood-prone sites in UN bases to improved locations continued in June. In Malakal, over 11,000 people were moved into a new expanded site from a flood-prone area. In Juba about 670 people were relocated from the Tomping site, which is hosting about 14,493 people, to the Protection of Civilian 3 (PoC3) site near UN House, which will host up to 13,000 people. In Mingkaman, Lakes State, some vulnerable families were relocated to a new site starting 20 June.

The relocations come amid growing numbers of people seeking shelter in the UN bases. As of the end of June, over 101,300 people were sheltering in the UN bases, the highest figure since the start of the crisis.

The relocations are aimed at improving living conditions for displaced people and to avert a health crisis. Rains have worsened living conditions in some displacement sites where aid partners are working amid challenges to improve access to water and sanitation services. In the Bentiu displacement site, aid agencies were providing one latrine for every 100 people as of 30 June against the emergency requirement of one latrine for every 50 people. Water access was around seven litres per person per day compared to the recommended 15 litres per person per day.
Crisis Response Plan launched

On 14 June, the humanitarian community in South Sudan launched a revised Crisis Response Plan to respond to the worsening crisis in the country. The plan has three main goals: 1) to save lives, 2) to prevent a famine, and 3) to avert the loss of a generation of children and young people due to the conflict. Partners aim to assist 3.8 million people by the end of 2014, most of whom are in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

The plan sets out the key planning parameters for the humanitarian operation. Up to 1.5 million people could be displaced within South Sudan by the end of 2014 and over 800,000 others may flee to neighbouring countries. Recent surveys show that over seven million people may be food insecure. Of these, 3.9 million face alarming levels of food insecurity risking hunger, malnutrition and disease.

Aid agencies will focus on reaching the most food insecure communities, internally displaced people and refugees in South Sudan with resources being directed towards addressing the main causes of avoidable deaths: acute respiratory infections, acute watery diarrhea, malaria, malnutrition, measles and violence.

As of 30 June, 42 per cent of the $1.8 billion needed to implement the Crisis Response Plan had been secured leaving a shortfall of about $1.04 billion.

To download the revised Crisis Response Plan, follow this link: http://tinyurl.com/petr3c4

This report was prepared by the OCHA South Sudan office in collaboration with humanitarian partners. For inputs to the next edition or questions/comments on the current issue, please contact: ochasouthsudan@un.org