Hostilities between state and non-state armed actors, and intense inter-communal violence, have led to a humanitarian crisis in South Sudan’s Jonglei State. Aid agencies estimate that over 100,000 people have been affected by the latest wave of violence in Pibor and Pochalla counties, which broke out in March 2013.

RESPONSE TO COMMUNITIES

Humanitarian access has been severely challenging since the recent spate of violence broke out in eastern Jonglei State in early March. However, in recent weeks there has been progress by aid agencies in negotiating access to areas where civilians are located. From 14 July, relief organizations reached civilians in Dorein and Labrab areas in Pibor County for the first time since the recent wave of hostilities. Up to an estimated 25,000 people were identified in urgent need of food, healthcare, shelter, water and sanitation. In Bor town, medical partners received over 256 people between 14 and 17 July, who were injured in fresh clashes in northern Pibor County, the majority of whom were treated for gunshot wounds. Medical assistance is being provided by health partners. The recent violence has also caused people to flee to Bor town (602 people), Central Equatoria (6,789 people) and Eastern Equatoria (568 people).

The map below provides a snapshot of key humanitarian actions since 14 July, and violence-related incidents since January.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Tens of thousands of people fled to the bush following the recent insecurity, and remain hiding in hard-to-reach areas, cut off from access to food, clean water and healthcare.

In addition, ongoing hostilities have made it difficult to travel into insecure areas, further restricting access to communities in crisis.

The rainy season, which runs from about May to October, is severely restricting road access. Limited air assets are available to assist people in need.

Flood-affected people in Jonglei by county in 2012

65% of total flood affected population in South Sudan are in Jonglei State.

POPULATION

Since the start of 2013, about 23,000 people have fled Jonglei State to the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia (14,000), Kenya (6,000) and Uganda (3,000), where humanitarian assistance is also being provided.