

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Insecurity and poor rains threaten harvests from the current cropping season.
- Food insecurity reported in Mvolo, many people surviving on wild food.
- Youth hard hit by the South Sudan violence and humanitarian crisis.
- Fighting and insecurity disrupt provision of humanitarian assistance and displace thousands in Upper Nile.
- Looting of humanitarian compounds and supplies increased in July.

## FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.89 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	1.97 million
No. of people severely food insecure (June-July 2017)	6 million

## FUNDING

**\$1 billion**

funding received in 2017\*

**63.2%**

of appeal funding received in 2017

**\$1.6 billion**

requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

\*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>). Additional pledges have been announced but not yet recorded.



A child receives deworming tablet in Mvolo. Photo: CMMD

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## South Sudanese refugees in Uganda pass 1 million mark, partners urge access

The number of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda has reached one million with majority arriving in the neighbouring country in the last 12 months. More than 85 per cent are women and children.

This represents an average of 1,800 people crossing into Uganda every day for the last 12 months. In addition to the million there, almost a million South Sudanese are being hosted by Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic.

Partners in Central Equatoria's Yei County estimate that more than 25,000 people crossed to Uganda in the second week of August following an increase in road ambushes by opposition forces along Kaya-Yei road. The heightened insecurity in the border villages of Yei County, forced the people to flee in fear of retaliatory attacks.

For months, humanitarian actors have experienced access denials by both government and non-state armed actors. In particular, a long standing denial by non-state armed forces to access civilians in Kupera and Mukaya (Yei County) remains a key concern. Continued access denials by armed actors to areas outside of Torit (Eastern Equatoria) and Kajo-Keji (Central Equatoria) are depriving thousands of people of much needed relief aid. Partners continue demand free, safe and unhindered access to all areas where people are in need.

Read more: *UNHCR press release* -- <http://bit.ly/2wi7eHz>

## Insecurity, poor rainfall compounding South Sudan's food crisis

Increasing insecurity combined with late and poor rains are reducing harvests from the current cropping season, compounding South Sudan's food crisis, latest analyses indicate. South Sudan's food insecurity has reached unprecedented levels, with some 1.7 million people—the highest ever number—on the brink of famine in June and July. Some 6 million people estimated to be severely food insecure. Earlier in the year, robust humanitarian response arrested the localized famine in Mayendit and Leer counties declared in February. However, 45,000 people are classified in catastrophe Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 5 in Leer, Koch and Mayendit counties in Unity and Ayod County in Jonglei.

According to early warning analysis by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), Emergency level of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) will persist as fighting continues to affect humanitarian assistance and trade flows. The analysis published in August said conflict is disrupting typical agricultural activities in all regions of South Sudan with regions known for producing staple crops hardest hit.

*Conflict disrupts typical agricultural activities in all parts of South Sudan. Regions known for producing staple crops are hardest hit.*

In Greater Equatoria, considered one of South Sudan's breadbasket regions, households expect harvests to be significantly below average in conflict-affected counties given that insecurity restricted normal planting, the analysis said. Conflict continues to have the same impact in many parts of Greater Upper Nile and Greater Bahr el Ghazal.

The analysis estimates 10,000 people on isolated islands stranding the border between Unity and Jonglei as being of greatest concern. Recent field assessments verify that some island locations remain inaccessible to humanitarian and it is expected populations on these islands lack access to emergency assistance.

A separate crop assessment report conducted by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also provides a general outlook on the rainfall and crop conditions in 30 counties in South Sudan during the March – July 2017 cropping period. Findings of the assessment indicate that despite the favourable rainfall prediction of normal to above normal, the rainfall over most of the cropping areas started late and inadequate amounts in many places up to the end of May. This led to late planting of crops and may result in harvesting delays.

In Central Equatoria, most of the rural farming population is displaced due to insecurity, particularly in Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajo Keji counties, and some parts of Juba County. For instance, in Yei town cultivation is carried out in the vicinity of the town, since far away fields are not accessible due to insecurity. Most of these areas have also faced dry spells of two or three weeks in April. The depressed rainfall observed in Mvolo and parts of Mundri caused water stress, resulting in poor pasture and poor prospects of crop productivity. Counties most affected by prolonged dry spells include areas within Wau, Jur River, Kapoeta South, Kapoeta East and Gogrial West among others. Many farmers in these areas were forced to replant their fields.

According to the crop assessment, Malakal, Manyo and Renk counties of Upper Nile are the latest to be affected by the ongoing outbreak of the fall armyworm, in addition to Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria, Jonglei, and Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal. The pest is said to be attacking maize crops in Eastern and Western Equatoria (Nzara and Tambura) and feeding on young sorghum plants in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Read more: FEWS NET update -- <http://bit.ly/2i1pL5f>

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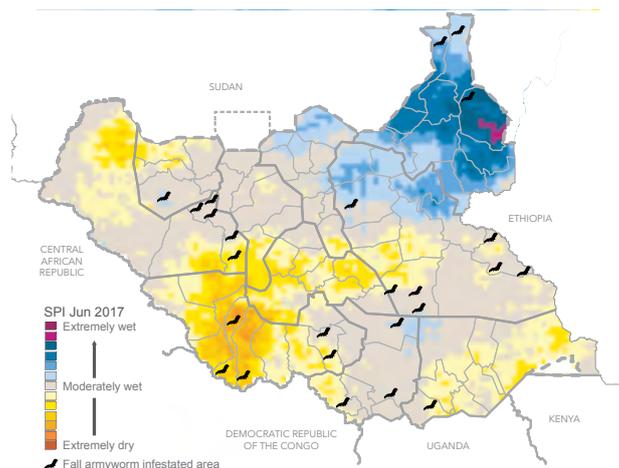
## Mvolo: partners find deepening food crisis

Findings of a joint assessment conducted in Mvolo County, Western Equatoria, indicate a deepening food crisis exacerbated by increasing insecurity and poor rainfall and widespread crop failure.

Humanitarian partners conducted an initial rapid needs assessment in Kokori, Bogori and Yeri villages of Mvolo County between 28 July and 2 August. The assessment team found that food stocks in the area have been depleted and many people are surviving on wild fruits. Market performance is also poor with no food items in Mvolo and Yeri. Prices are high and people have low purchasing power due to the current inflation.

During the mission, 2,529 children under age 5 were screened for malnutrition. All the severe and moderate acute malnourished children received treatment. Nearly 2,000

### June rainfall pattern and fall armyworms infested areas



Map: OCHA. Sources: ICPAC, UNOSAT, CHG and FAO

children under age 5 were also dewormed. In addition, 1,871 children under age 5 were given vitamin A supplements. Some 570 pregnant and lactating women were also screened for malnutrition.

Lack of clean water was also reported as a significant challenge across Mvolo County. Of the 37 boreholes in the county, only 17 were functional. In Kokori only two boreholes are functional serving more than 5,000 people in the area.

## South Sudanese youth bearing the brunt of conflict

As the world marked International Youth Day on 12 August, young people have been especially hard hit by the violence and humanitarian crisis facing South Sudan. Many must work to help support their families, yet face one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. Mass displacement, separation or loss of parents, and the breakdown in community infrastructure leave this group vulnerable to engaging in risky and violent behaviours, including forced recruitment into armed forces, inter-communal fighting and gender-based violence.

When asked in different surveys, youth have indicated willingness to continue their education and training. For example, in interviews in Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site earlier this year, youth noted that having access to education or vocational training would help them envisage a future for themselves outside of a PoC context. Without access to secondary education and facing idleness, adolescents living in PoC sites are exposed to tremendous risks, from the threat of joining gangs to experiencing gender-based violence.

The most common causes of illness and death among youth in PoC sites are related to violence, early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, alcohol, tobacco and drug use and, increasingly, the effects of poor mental health. Boredom, uncertainty about the future, identity and vulnerability together with the cognitive, physical and emotional development are features found among young people.

Taking into consideration the needs of particular age group, humanitarian partners in South Sudan are working to ensure that young people are consulted and involved in issues that affect them, especially in PoC sites. Apart from providing opportunities for young people to engage and advocate for issues that are important to them, partners are enhancing the activities where youth skills can be improved and utilized, the provision of youth-focused education and protection services and the support of youth physical and emotional well-being.

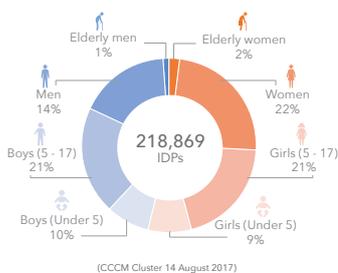
Through mental health and psychosocial support programmes, adolescents can attend support groups at the Bentiu, Malakal and Wau PoC sites. Guided by facilitators from the community trained in providing age-appropriate and culturally sensitive psychological support services, the group sessions give adolescents a chance to share experiences and provide peer support, as well as engage in positive recreational activities and learn skills such as problem-solving and sewing.



Adolescents learn to weave at Malakal PoC site Photo: IOM

*Leading causes of illness and death among youth in PoC sites include violence, early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, alcohol, tobacco and drug use.*

**Displaced people in PoCs by sex and age**



## Looting deprives thousands of food aid

Looters in South Sudan have stolen more than 670 metric tons of food aid in July, enough to feed thousands of people in a country where 6 million, half of the population are hungry. The food items were taken in six major looting incidents of warehouses and trucks in transit in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Warrap. Looting incidents spiked during the month with 15 incidents reported across the country compared to seven and

*More than 670 metric tons of food aid looted enough for thousands of people in a country where half of the population are hungry.*

*At least 42 looting incidents of vital humanitarian warehouses, trucks in transit and assets have been reported in South Sudan since January 2017.*

*27 aid workers were relocated from Bunj, Maban County, due to inter-communal fighting.*

five in June and May respectively.

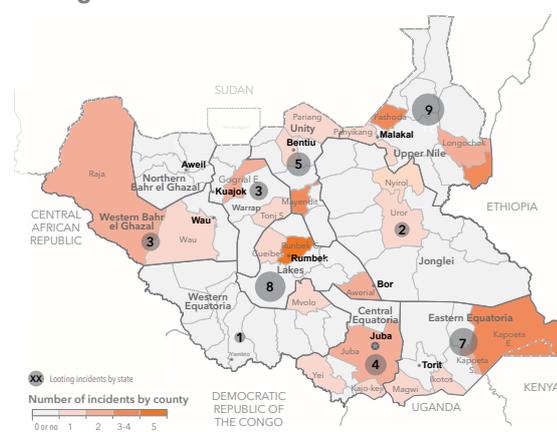
In Longochuk County, through the integrated rapid response mechanism, partners air-dropped 290 metric tons of food items in Mathiang, Upper Nile on 2 July, ahead of the a planned general distribution. The government offensive in the area forced aid workers to relocate and local authorities to flee, leaving the food behind. Several NGOs in Mathiang, Maiwut and Pagak also reported that their compounds and assets were looted and vandalized by civilians and armed groups during fighting in the areas in July and August. In Bentiu PoC site, a partner reported that their nutrition centre was looted and vandalized by youth groups during inter-communal fighting in the area.

In Rumbek Centre County, three trucks carrying some 77 metric tons of food items, including cereals and cooking oil, were looted by residents of Mayom village on 9 July. The food items were being transported for pre-positioning in Rumbek North County in preparation for general food distribution cycle.

In Tonj East County, a warehouse containing some 245 metric tons of items was looted by some unknown people at Ngapagok village on 19 July. As a result of this incident, partners suspended all ongoing and planned distribution in Tonj East. In Kapoeta East, a humanitarian contracted truck carrying a total of 17 metric tons of food commodities en route to Kapoeta East County which stayed overnight in Naoypak at the home of a local chief due to bad road condition was looted by the local community. A similar incident was reported in Namuropus village in Kapoeta East County on 15 July where a humanitarian contracted truck carrying 19 metric tons of food items was also looted by the local community.

Since January, there have been 42 looting incidents of vital humanitarian warehouses, trucks in transit and assets reported in multiple locations in the country. Humanitarians have expressed concern to the government of the increased looting incidents in the country and asked for their support in the investigation and the recovery of food commodities as well as holding the perpetrators accountable.

Looting incidents in 2017



## Upper Nile: Insecurity disrupts response

Fighting and insecurity in Maban and Maiwut counties, Upper Nile, are disrupting provision of humanitarian assistance and displacing thousands.

In Maiwut County, fighting between government and opposition forces resumed on 27 July in Maiwut town and spread to border town of Pagak in the following days. Most citizens have reportedly left Pagak and have taken refuge across the Ethiopian border. Reportedly, people who crossed the Ethiopian border prefer not to register as refugees, hoping that soon they will be able to soon return to South Sudan. Humanitarian organizations already relocated staff from the area in early July due to increasing insecurity. There are also reports of looting of humanitarian compounds in Maiwut and Pagak towns.

On 2 August, inter-communal clashes were reported at Kilo 10 between Mabanese and Dinka youths at a border between Melut and Maban counties. Some 27 aid workers were relocated on 4 August from Bunj, Maban County, due to the heightened tensions. Humanitarian activities in the area, which host four refugee camps, were temporarily disrupted.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)