

HIGHLIGHTS

- Aid agencies provide assistance and protection to over 5.4 million of people in South Sudan.
- Renewed fighting in multiple locations of Jonglei and Unity forces thousands of people to flee their homes, with some crossing to Ethiopia as refugees.
- Funding appeal for US\$1.5 billion launched to support refugees fleeing the worsening humanitarian situation in South Sudan.
- More than 18,000 people receive food, health and nutrition assistance in Wau's Great Baggari area, as humanitarian access to the Western Bahr el Ghazal region continues to improve.
- South Sudan declares the end of its longest and largest cholera outbreak, with no new cases of cholera reported in over seven weeks.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.9 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	2.4 million
No. of people food insecure (Jan-March 2018)	5.1 million

FUNDING (2018)

\$65.8 million
funding received in 2018*

3.8%
of appeal funding received in 2018

\$1.72 billion
requirements for South Sudan 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>).



UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock (L) and UNHCR head Filippo Grandi launching a regional appeal for US\$1.5 billion for South Sudanese refugees on 1 February. Photo: UNHCR.

In this issue

- 5.4 million people assisted P.1
- Fighting in Jonglei, Unity P.2
- Refugee Response Plan P.3
- Cholera outbreak ends P.3
- Baggari response continues P.4

Aid agencies assisted 5.4 million people in South Sudan in 2017

Aid agencies provided humanitarian assistance and protection to over 5.4 million people in need in South Sudan, out of a total of 6.2 million people initially targeted under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan. Over 5 million people were reached with life-saving food assistance and emergency livelihoods support, in a year when South Sudan faced the worst food crisis since the country's independence in 2011.

In the first half of 2017, hunger and malnutrition reached unprecedented levels after famine was declared in Mayendit and Leer in February, with some 100,000 people facing starvation there and a further one million people classified as being on the brink of famine.

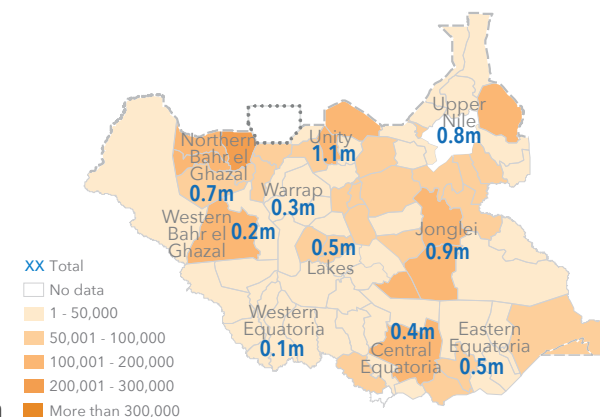
Due to early warning and robust action, humanitarians stopped localized famine by June 2017. Yet, country-wide, 5.1 million people (48 per cent of the total population) are currently classified as severely food insecure, with 20,000 in Humanitarian Catastrophe status, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projections.

Malnutrition also worsened compared to the same period in 2016, with surveys showing malnutrition rates in most communities well above the World Health Organization's emergency threshold of 15 percent, and more than 30 percent of the population malnourished in several counties. More than 1.1 million children under the age of five are forecast to be malnourished in 2018, including nearly 300,000 severely malnourished and at a heightened risk of death.

In other forms of response during 2017, more than 2 million were provided with access to improved water sources. Almost 2 million people benefited from child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) services as well as mine awareness education. Nearly 900,000 people were assisted with emergency shelter and vital non-food items, including blankets, hygiene kits and mosquito nets.

In addition, around 900,000 children under the age of five, and pregnant and lactating women with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), were assisted with emergency nutritional assistance, and around 400,000 children were supported with access to education in emergencies

Number of people assisted in 2017



Map: OCHA.

Due to early warning and robust action, humanitarians stopped localized famine by June 2017.

through established, rehabilitated or constructed learning spaces.

Over 2.5 million were provided with health assistance and more than 600,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were assisted with camp coordination and camp management services. More than 200 humanitarian partners were supported with logistics services, including transportation of aid workers and cargo.

In 2017, a total of US\$1.19 billion was received by humanitarian partners out of US\$1.64 billion originally requested by the HRP. The three best-funded sectors were the Food Security and Livelihoods (US\$467 million), Nutrition (US\$101 million) and WASH (US\$50 million). As the conflict in South Sudan enters its fifth year in 2018, the humanitarian crisis has continued to intensify and expand. With the compounding effects of ongoing offensives, widespread violence and a deteriorating economic situation, 7 million people – more than one in two across the country – will need humanitarian assistance in 2018.

Fighting forces thousands to flee to Akobo

Fighting between government and opposition forces in multiple locations of Jonglei, has forced thousands of people to flee their homes, with some crossing to Ethiopia as refugees. From 9 to 26 January 2018, armed clashes were reported in parts of northern Jonglei, including Yuai, Pultruk, Payai, Kuer-nyuon, Pieri, Waat and Walgak in Urur, Nyiroi and Akobo counties.

Reports indicate that the fighting left several civilians dead and homes burnt, and forced thousands of people to flee mainly to Akobo and to a lesser extent to Bor. In the last week of January 2018, the authorities in Akobo reported the arrival of over 9,000 people, mainly women and children. Many of those who arrived in Akobo said they had trekked over 100 kilometers through bushes and forded rivers and streams for days.

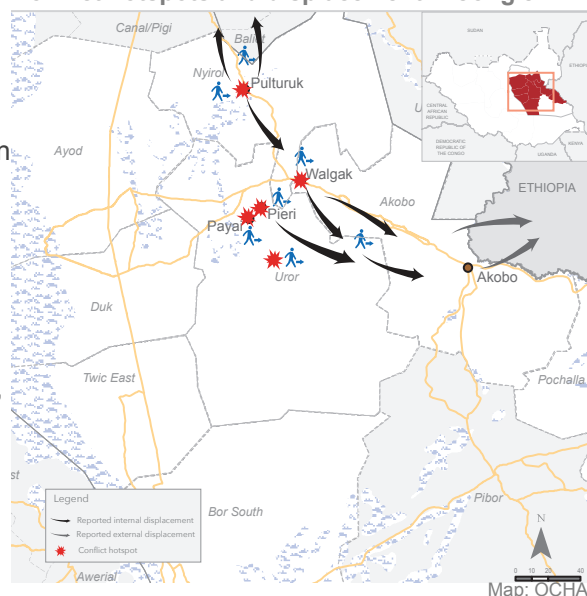
The displaced, currently being hosted by the local community in Akobo town, and some of them sheltering in schools and a church, also reported being forced to flee alleged indiscriminate targeting of civilians and razing of homes by military forces. Humanitarian agencies and authorities in Akobo reported urgent needs including food, nutrition, water, and shelter following a rapid assessment in the first week of February. The Bor Protection of Civilians site has also registered 60 new arrivals fleeing around Walgak, Tanyang and Podoch in Akobo County.

Elsewhere, in South Sudan, clashes were reported between SPLA and SPLA-iO forces in Bieh, Buaw and areas near Koch town, Koch County on 12 January, forcing the relocation of five aid workers from two humanitarian organizations. Reports indicated that entire villages in some areas of Bieh and Buaw, Koch County, still lay in charred ruins in the wake of prior fighting, with the civilian population having fled. Local authorities reported lack of food, medical supplies and clean water after aid agencies were forced to suspend response activities in the area in the last two months. A biometric registration exercise conducted by partners in December 2017 found 4,344 displaced people in Koch town.

On 2 February, several clashes between government and opposition forces were reported in different locations including Buaw, Bieh, Ngoiny, Buoh and Mir-mir, Koch County. As a result of the fighting, some civilians were forced to flee their homes and six aid workers were also relocated from Koch town to Bentiu.

The fighting in different parts of Jonglei has displaced over 9,000 people, mainly women and children.

Conflict hotspots and displacement in Jonglei



Regional Refugee Response Plan launched

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, launched a funding appeal for US\$1.5 billion earlier this month to support refugees fleeing the worsening humanitarian situation in South Sudan and for US\$1.7 billion for people in need in the country during 2018.

With the conflict now in its fifth year, nearly 2.5 million South Sudanese have fled the country to six neighboring countries including Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic.

Conflict and insecurity have now forcibly displaced 1 in 3 of the country's population - either within South Sudan or across borders. Inside the country, 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The number of refugees is projected to cross the 3 million mark by the end of this year, making South Sudan Africa's largest refugee crises since the Rwanda genocide.

"The human cost of the South Sudan conflict has reached epic proportions," said Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. "If the war doesn't stop, refugee numbers will rise from 2.5 to 3 million in 2018. The conflict is purging South Sudan of the people who should be the greatest resource of a young nation. They should be building the country, not fleeing it. For as long as the people of South Sudan await peace, the world must come to their aid."

Uganda, the largest host with over a million refugees, could end up hosting a further quarter million refugees more. Refugee numbers could exceed the one million mark in Sudan. Nearly 90 percent of the forcibly displaced are women and children and nearly 65 per cent are under 18. Women have reported rape and other forms of violence, the killing of their husbands, and the abduction of children during flight. Despite this, funding for the South Sudan refugee crisis remains dismally low, with only 33 per cent of the required funds sourced in 2017.

Humanitarian needs in South Sudan continue to escalate at an alarming rate. Nearly 7 million people, including two million internally displaced, remain in need of urgent assistance and protection across the country. Many are at risk of disease malnutrition. Many children are unable to attend school or receive adequate medical care, and are often without shelter.

"The conflict in South Sudan has taken a brutal and deadly toll. Many millions have fled in fear for their lives. They now require our support," said Mark Lowcock, while visiting Kakuma, Kenya together with the High Commissioner.

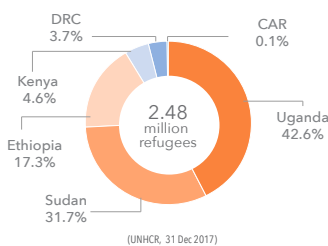
South Sudan declares the end of its longest cholera outbreak

South Sudan declared the end of its longest and largest cholera outbreak on 7 February, with no new cases of cholera reported in over seven weeks. The fight against cholera in South Sudan has involved a range of partners working together to enhance surveillance, deploy rapid response teams to investigate and respond to cases, provide clean water, promote good hygiene practices and treat cholera patients.

To enhance outbreak response efforts, the government worked with the European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Health Organization (WHO), securing 2.2 million doses of the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) from the GAVI-funded global stockpile. In 2017 more than 885,000 people at higher risk of cholera were immunized in the first round and nearly 500,000 people also received a second round of the vaccine. Due to security challenges, not everyone was able to receive the recommended two doses, which would significantly decrease their risk of being affected by cholera.

"Cholera is a virulent disease which spreads when hygiene and sanitation are

% of South Sudanese refugees in the region



The outbreak was declared on 18 June 2016 and spread to many parts of the country, including the South Sudanese capital Juba.

inadequate,” said Evans Liyosi, WHO Acting Representative to South Sudan. “I congratulate South Sudan for resolving to tackle cholera with determination. But cholera is endemic to South Sudan and many risk factors remain. It is important to maintain the ability to detect and respond to new cases.”

The outbreak was declared on 18 June 2016 and spread to many parts of the country, including the capital Juba. By the time the last confirmed cholera case was discharged on 18 December 2017, over 20,000 suspected cholera cases and 436 deaths were reported. The country is dealing with several complex health emergencies, with 5.1 million people in need of health assistance.

18,000 people assisted in Wau’s Baggari

More than 18,000 people have received food, health and nutrition assistance in the Greater Baggari area, as humanitarian access to the Western Bahr el Ghazal region has improved over recent months.

An inter-agency humanitarian response and assessment mission, conducted in Mboro and Farajallah from 26 January to 1 February, delivered food assistance to 18,147 people (5,897 in Mboro and 12,250 in Farajallah).

During the mission, partners delivered nutrition, medical, education, non-food items and emergency shelter as well as WASH supplies for those in need.

They also screened children and pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition. The assessment team reported that the nutritional situation in the areas has improved, with GAM rates of about 2.8 per cent in Mboro and 3.6 per cent in Farajallah.

In December 2017, partners opened a clinic in Farajallah, Greater Baggari and hired five community health workers to operate the facility. Humanitarians visit the clinic on weekly basis to refill supplies and vaccines, maintain the cold chain and provide capacity-building and technical expertise. According to partners, the number of patients treated on a weekly basis in the health facility has significantly increased. More than 970 health consultations were carried out in Farajallah since December. Many people arrive at the clinic exhausted and dehydrated, some walking as long as four hours from remote areas, like Congoulesi.

In addition, partners undertook Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in Mboro and Farajallah to repair boreholes, conduct hygiene promotion and form water management committees. Plans are underway to conduct outreach missions to reach further into the remote areas to offer much-needed services, as access continues to open. Humanitarians have experienced severe challenges in accessing people displaced outside of Wau town, including the Greater Baggari area since mid-2016, where over 20,000 people are estimated to be displaced and in critical need of humanitarian assistance. Although accessibility of the area has improved in recent months, it remains inconsistent.

Despite these advances in the response, partners continued to face access challenges in meeting the urgent needs of the vulnerable people in Baggari area. On 8 January, humanitarian mission to Baggari was temporarily denied access near Wau town at a checkpoint. The issue was later resolved. However, consistent and predictable access is critical to prevent further deterioration of humanitarian conditions in Baggari area.



IDPs in Farajallah Baggari, Wau County. Photo: WFP/Lara Atanasijevic.

Despite the response, partners continued to face access challenges in meeting the urgent need of the vulnerable people in Baggari area.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at: www.reliefweb.int