

South Sudan Crisis

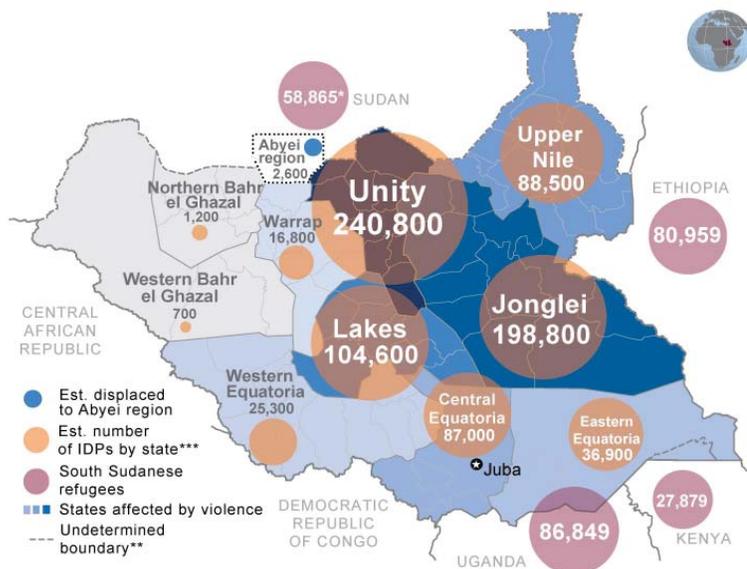
Situation Report No. 29 (as of 27 March 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 21-27 March 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 3 April 2014.

Highlights

- Over one million people have been forced from their homes by the conflict, including 803,200 displaced within South Sudan and 254,600 who have fled to neighbouring countries.
- Partners launched a multi-sector rapid response mechanism, aiming to reach people in hard-to-access locations in the coming three months.
- Multi-sector aid response started in Akobo, Jonglei State, Melut, Upper Nile State and Nyal, Unity State.
- With three months left to implement activities, the South Sudan Crisis Response Plan for January to June was only 25 per cent funded, with large gaps affecting priority sectors such as protection and WASH.



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. **Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and Republic of Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. *New arrivals from South Sudan (NOT REFUGEES). ***Verification of the IDP figures is a work in progress.
Data Sources: OCHA, UNMISS, IOM, UNHCR, RRC and partners. OCHA South Sudan, 27 Mar 2014.

4.9 million

Estimated people in need of humanitarian assistance

3.2 million

People to be assisted by aid organizations by June 2014

1 million

People provided with humanitarian assistance*

803,200

People internally displaced by violence since 15 December 2013

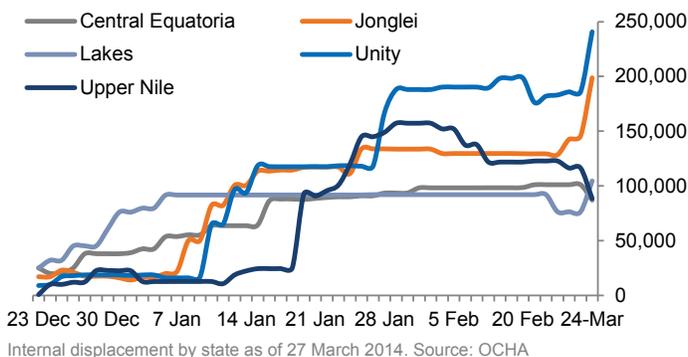
* This includes people internally displaced, refugees from other countries sheltering in South Sudan and other vulnerable communities who have received assistance since January 2014. This does not mean that the needs of these people have been comprehensively met.

Situation overview

In the 100 days since the start of the conflict in South Sudan, over one million people have fled their homes. Aid agencies estimate that 803,200 are currently displaced within the country; sheltering across 174 different displacement sites. Another around 254,600 have fled to neighbouring countries.

Aid agencies launched a new rapid response model during the week to reach displaced communities in remote locations, with operations starting to assist some 50,000 people in Melut County, Upper Nile State and Akobo, Jonglei State.

Halfway through the Crisis Response Plan, relief activities were only 25 per cent funded. With the resources available, aid agencies have reached some one million people - around a third of the people to be assisted by the end of June.



Internal displacement by state as of 27 March 2014. Source: OCHA

For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

www.unocha.org/south-sudan

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

Humanitarian response

People continue to move in and out of displacement sites. Between 6 and 24 March, the estimated number of people internally displaced increased by over 100,000. Some 174 sites reportedly have concentrations of displaced communities. Approximately 24 sites that hosted displaced people earlier in the crisis are now reportedly empty. There are displaced people in all ten states of the country, though numbers are very low in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal. While displacement figures have spiked in Jonglei and Unity states, they have decreased in Central Equatoria and Upper Nile. This possibly reflects the continuing stream of people leaving these states to seek refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

Regarding the humanitarian response, partners scaled up assistance to 20,000 people displaced in Dethoma, Melut County, bringing food supplies and household items, and enhancing water and sanitation support. Response operations also commenced in Akobo, Jonglei State, to support up to 30,000 people and in Nyal, Unity State, to assist up to 35,000 people.

In Unity State, aid agencies registered 20,000 people for food distribution in Mayom town. These people have reportedly returned to Mayom after being displaced into surrounding rural areas in December and January. Some 16,000 people were registered on 15 islands in the Nile River between Bor, Jonglei State and Mingkaman, Lakes State. Partners in Western Equatoria reported that over 20,000 people have been displaced to the state. Most live with host communities and are not in immediate need of assistance.

A new mechanism for responding quickly to needs

Remote and dispersed displacement sites currently make it difficult to reach many of South Sudan's conflict-affected people. Adapting to the new context, humanitarian partners have launched an Area Rapid Response Mechanism, by which multi-sector teams deliver standard assistance packages in high priority locations, to kick-start the response in areas where there are no partners on the ground, or enhance ongoing activities where existing partners are struggling to respond to large-scale needs. The purpose is to maximize available human and logistical resources, and ensure as much response as possible arrives in hard-to-reach locations where aid agencies may not have consistent presence or access.

So far, the new mechanism has been deployed in Akobo, Jonglei State, Melut, Upper Nile State, and Nyal, Unity State. The prioritization of geographical areas and sectors for response is decided by the Inter-Cluster Working Group. Donors are encouraged to engage with OCHA and clusters to support multi-sector response models.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Response:

- Displacement tracking matrix (DTM) exercises were completed in Bor and Mingkaman, and were in progress in Bentiu, Malakal and Melut. Headcounts were carried out in various sites to better capture displacement trends and numbers of displaced people in sites.
- Wherever possible, CCCM partners try to engage outside UN bases or other organized settlements, for example in the islands between Bor and Mingkaman.

244,152

People reached with camp management and coordination services

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Site preparations and improvements ahead of the rainy season remains a key need. Planning for site improvements in the new protection of civilians area in Juba (POC3) is almost concluded. The cluster is also looking into possibilities to support site upgrades in Awerial County, Lakes State, to prepare for people staying there through the rains.
- Gaps remain acute in most displacement sites, including due to overcrowding.
- Security and lack of resources remain a significant constraint to carry out necessary work, particularly in Malakal.
- Stronger coordination is needed with other clusters to address critical gaps, particularly the Food Security and NFI clusters on the issue of fuel in PoC sites and the need for grinding mills.

Education

Response:

- The cluster has so far provided services to 18,143 of the targeted 204,100 people to be assisted by June. Emergency learning spaces are operational in 14 displacement sites.
- Since mid-February, 148 school tents, 1,361 school in a box kits, 1,226 blackboards and 929 recreation kits have been distributed to education partners around the country, for use in conflict-affected communities.

18,143

People reached with education activities

- Over 1,530 children, including 730 girls, benefitted from education materials distributed in Abiemnhom County, Unity State. Another 249 children, including 153 girls received similar materials in Rubkhona, where 385 children, including 228 girls, also gained access to early child development facilities. Some 50 teachers were trained.
- Four new temporary learning spaces were constructed in Awerial County, Lakes State, benefitting 967 children, including 275 girls.
- In the UN Topping base in Juba, 258 children, including 120 girls, accessed emergency education classes and 21 teachers were trained.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Lack of space to set up emergency learning spaces in displacement sites hampered the response. The cluster is working with CCCM partners to address this.
- Delays in payment of Government-employed teacher salaries affected the provision of learning activities in the field. For example, teachers are reluctant to teach in emergency learning spaces in Awerial, as no additional allowances are paid by aid agencies. The cluster is working with state and county education officials to find a solution and deploy teachers to emergency learning centres.
- Some 59 schools remained occupied by displaced people or armed forces. Thirteen schools previously occupied have been vacated thanks to advocacy by education partners, who continue to work with national and local authorities, and with communities to vacate the remaining schools.
- The cluster's activities are only 15 per cent funded. The funding gap impacts all areas of activities of the cluster.

Emergency Telecommunication

Response:

- On 19-21 March the cluster went to Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal to do maintenance on security telecommunications equipment there.
- An assessment was conducted in Bor to determine the internet connectivity needs of partners. Aid agencies are planning to stay within the UNMISS base for the time being. As such, the cluster will maintain the connectivity solution already in place in the base.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Procurement of information and communication equipment remained a challenge, due to delays caused by the conflict and lack of readily available and suitable supplies.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Response:

- As of 27 March, food partners had reached about 502,180 people under the emergency operation in conflict-affected states. Food assistance was also provided to 335,700 other food-insecure people, including refugees and displaced people in areas not directly affected by violence.
- Food airdrops have so far been conducted in Maban, Upper Nile State and Ganyel, Unity State.
- Fishing kits were distributed to 4,150 families in five counties in Warrap State.
- Vegetable kits were distributed has reached 20,000 families in Central Equatoria State.
- The cluster is working with national authorities to conduct Food Security Monitoring System surveys in the seven states where there are no active hostilities. Data collection is completed and data entry has begun.
- Emergency Food Security Assessments are being conducted in the three states most affected by crisis.

502,180

Conflict-affected people reached with food assistance

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Support to protein-rich food production - vegetables, livestock and fish - is key to containing malnutrition among displaced communities.
- The crisis has increased insecurity along commercial supply routes causing private sector actors to flee the country and market fragmentation. Food and fuel price inflation is making availability and affordability a challenge.
- Access constraints, including insecurity, require a flexible approach to delivering assistance, focusing on rapid distributions and pre-positioning in strategic but accessible hubs.
- Lack of funding and pipeline pre-positioning have delayed implementation of some activities, including livelihoods support. Cluster members are working with donors and other stakeholders to overcome this constraint.



Health

Response:

- To prevent an outbreak of cholera, some 54,200 people have been reached with the second round of oral cholera vaccination in UN Tomping in Juba and Mingkaman, Lakes State.
- In Mingkaman, 33,244 people have also received vaccination against meningitis.
- Health partners stepped up community awareness campaigns on communicable diseases, including cholera, in displacement sites.
- To date, 6,053 patients with wounds sustained in the conflict have been treated, including 314 who have been assisted with medical evacuations.
- Over 13,100 health consultations were recorded during the week, bringing the total since the start of the crisis to 175,575.
- Around 173,450 children have been vaccinated against measles, and 126,400 against polio.

675,258

People in conflict-affected states reached with health services

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Secondary healthcare remains a gap in Bentiu, Bor and Malakal. In Bor, a partner has conducted an assessment and is in discussion with the Ministry of Health to reestablish services. Minor repairs to the hospital are being carried out. In Malakal, the situation is still fluid but an assessment will be done soon to restore services in the hospital. In Bentiu, surgeons and other staff are being deployed by the Ministry to support surgical services.
- Funding gaps remain for support to Bor hospital; primary healthcare in the UN base in Bor; and primary healthcare in the UN base in Malakal. The cluster is exploring options for filling this gap with donors.
- Mental health services remain an important need. A mental health specialist has been deployed who is currently liaising with partners to discuss the way forward.



Logistics

Response:

- The cluster facilitated the airlift of 84 metric tonnes of supplies on behalf of seven humanitarian organizations to Akobo, Bentiu, Ganyiel, and Paloich over the past week.
- The current air operations fleet consists of two fixed-wing cargo plane and one Mi8 helicopter. The cluster is reviewing the needs of partners to adapt or revise the operations strategy to ensure adequate and efficient logistics capacity, and is planning to have a fleet of three Mi8 helicopters and two fixed-wing cargo planes.
- The cluster will maintain the airlift staging hub in Juba (UN Tomping) and also use Rumbek as a base for air operations as it is closer to many of the key response locations and accessible by helicopters (this is to optimize airlift capacity and the number of rotations).

84

Metric tonnes of relief cargo transported on 20-27 March 2014

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- River access via the Nile continued to be restricted due to insecurity.
- There have been reports of increased checkpoints for aid convoys in locations in Unity, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria Western Equatoria states.
- Limited inter-agency storage is a constraint in some locations. Eleven additional mobile storage units are expected to arrive in the next two weeks.



Mine Action

Response:

- In Bentiu, clearance of the town and surrounding roads continued in order to facilitate humanitarian access.
- UNMAS has confirmed a mine strike along the Bentiu - Guit road and are surveying roads in the areas, creating safe corridors for humanitarian access as requested.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Age and gender-sensitive risk education messages are needed to all those affected by the conflict, especially for civilians sheltering outside UN bases.
- Explosives disposal and clearance efforts are needed outside Bor and Bentiu to facilitate access.

Nutrition

Response:

- Cluster partners have so far reached 182,290 vulnerable people with nutrition activities, of the 821,076 to be supported by June.
- Partners mobilized to respond in parts of Unity State where there had previously been gaps, including by launching targeted supplementary feeding in Panyijiar County. Some 200 malnourished children in Nyal were admitted for out-patient treatment. In Mayendit, 100 patients were admitted for out-patient treatment of acute malnutrition.
- There are currently six in-patient units in areas with high numbers of displaced people, taking care of malnourished children with medical complications. These are in the UN bases in Bentiu, Bor, Juba (UN Tomping and UN House), and Malakal, as well as in Mingkaman, Lakes State. This does not include other such units in parts of the country less affected by violence.

182,290

People reached with nutrition activities

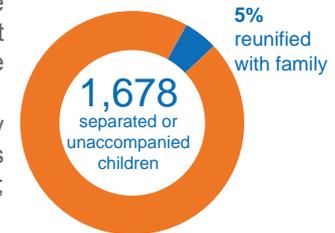
Needs, gaps and constraints:

- While a number of locations (e.g. Akobo, Bor South, Mayendit, Melut, Nasir, Nyal, and Pibor) are now opening up, some partners are still unable to send some staff to certain field locations, due to safety concerns related to ethnic background of staff. This affects programmes in Akobo, Bor and Waat in Jonglei State and Mayendit in Unity State.

Protection

Response:

- The cluster has reached 320,000 displaced people with protection services, of the 1.6 million people to be assisted by June. The number of people reached does not yet include host communities who also benefit from services on offer, and who are included in the overall target.
- Of 22 organizations working on child protection, 14 are providing child-friendly spaces, 13 offer identification, documentation, tracing and reunification services and 14 work on awareness raising. Two organizations are present in Unity State; five in Jonglei and five in Upper Nile.
- Since the start of January, 17,162 children and 5,343 adults have been reached with emergency child protection services. Since December, 87 unaccompanied or separated children have been reunited with their families, of 1,678 identified as needing reunification (5 per cent). Over 60 child-friendly spaces have ongoing activities in nine states, including in 20 displacement sites.
- Four case workers have been deployed to support the response on gender-based violence (GBV) in Bor. Some 30 health promoters were trained on preventive GBV messages. Such messages are also targeted at mothers who come to the clinics for nutrition activities.



Source: Protection Cluster

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- There is a need to strengthen child protection coordination at the state level. The cluster is discussing the possibility of a roving coordinator.
- The current funding gap for child protection activities, which will deepen in the coming months, must be addressed. Two organizations will end some of their activities in March; two in April; five in June; one in July; five in August; and four in September. An advocacy strategy for increased funds has been developed by the sub-cluster and disseminated.
- There is a need to increase access to psychological first aid training to frontline workers in different sectors. Discussions are ongoing with partners to provide this.
- There is still a gap of a GBV specialist in Malakal. Though GBV prevention message were disseminated, greater community involvement and participation is required to strengthen positive community support networks.

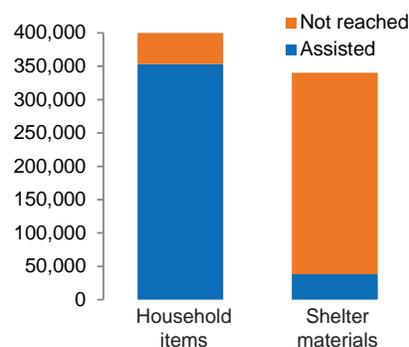
Shelter and Non-Food Items

Response:

- The cluster has provided household items to over 353,000 people, out of 400,000 to be assisted by June. Progress on shelter support has been slower; 38,430 people have received shelter materials, of 340,000 to be assisted by June.
- In Melut, the cluster started pre-positioning of household kits for 2,000 families, and an assessment team is in the field to gauge needs.
- Emergency shelter kits were distributed to 148 families in UN House.
- Pre-positioning of supplies was ongoing in Malakal.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Due to delays in the relocation of displaced people from UN Topping to UN House, distribution of mosquito nets and soap was put on hold and will start as soon as the relocation is completed.
- Access continues to be hampered by insecurity, causing logistics constraints in some areas. Flight scheduling is also presenting challenges for teams ready to deploy for assessments or distributions.
- Air and road access is limited both in terms of security and availability of assets. This has prevented pre-positioning in some key areas and will delay response in others.
- Rains have begun already in many areas of the country, and shelter response is dependent upon site upgrades, decongestion efforts and ground-works happening first, to improve the flood/drainage/standards conditions, so response is seriously delayed on the shelter end. Pre-positioning of shelter materials is, however, ongoing.



People reached with Shelter/NFI support since December 2013. Source: Shelter/NFI Cluster

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- The cluster has so far reached some 247,001 people displaced by conflict across over 20 displacement sites. The total number of people who have received WASH services from over 50 cluster partners in emergency and recovery contexts since the start of the year is currently not known. The cluster's target is to assist 2.6 million people by June.
- Partners have managed to achieve (or come close to achieving) global emergency standards for water supply in nine sites and for sanitation coverage in eight sites. The standard is 20 litres of water per person and day, and 50 users per latrine.
- In displacement sites, partners are also supporting child-friendly spaces, temporary learning spaces and health facilities with WASH services. Across all sites, bathing facilities and hygiene promotion activities are also being implemented to ensure safe hygiene practices and to further mitigate against the outbreak of infectious diseases.

247,001

Displaced people reached with WASH services

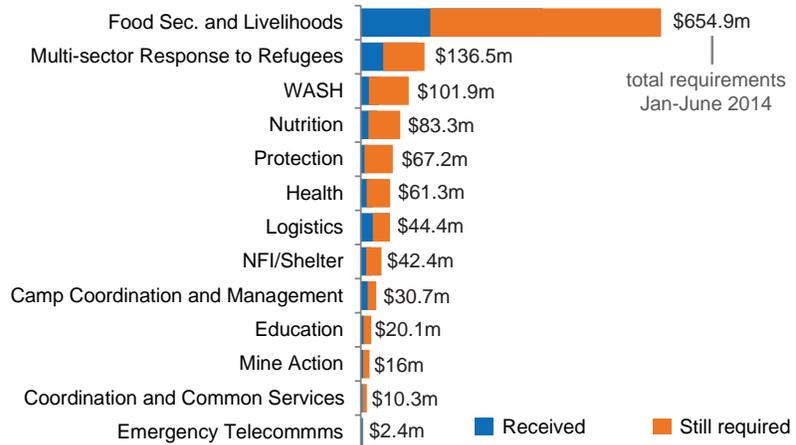
Needs, gaps and constraints:

- There is a major shortfall in funding for the WASH core pipeline and for frontline services. Without the funding still required by June, partners may not be able to reach the 500,000 displaced people targeted in the Crisis Response Plan, let alone the other over two million vulnerable people also targeted. The WASH Cluster is currently meeting with partners to discuss resource mobilization needs which will allow the cluster to highlight specific gaps. In the meantime, donors are asked to contact the WASH Cluster Coordinator to discuss funding priorities.
- With the rainy season fast approaching, partners are running out of time to implement preparedness measures, especially upgrading displacement sites. Partners are working hard to upgrade sites to ensure WASH infrastructure is flood proof. In UN Topping in Juba, the ongoing major concern about lack of space to construct a sufficient number of latrines is being resolved.
- In addition to funding, it is crucial that WASH agencies provide experienced personnel, able to implement large WASH projects in difficult-to-access locations.

Funding

The South Sudan Crisis Response Plan covers the period January to June 2014. With only three months left to implement planned activities, the plan is only 25 per cent funded, though additional pledges have been received for livelihoods activities. The funding gap is an obstacle to clusters' plans to scale up activities - especially in hard-to-reach areas which can only be accessed by air, increasing transport costs.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service of new contributions or pledges.



Funding status by cluster as of 27 March (in millions of US\$). Source: Financial Tracking service, fts.unocha.org

Background on the crisis:

Violence broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on 15 December 2013 and quickly spread to several other states. Within weeks, thousands of people had been killed or wounded in the violence, and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes. Despite the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement on 23 January 2014, fighting between Government and opposition forces has continued, especially in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, where towns and rural areas have been ravaged by the violence. The crisis has led to a serious deterioration in the food security situation, and some 3.7 million people are now at high risk of food insecurity in the coming year.

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