



Children playing with their caregivers at a nutrition site in Yambio.
Photo: UNICEF/South Sudan/Hill

Reporting Period: January to December 2020

South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 152



Highlights

- According to the food security Integrated phase classification (IPC) analysis released in December 2020, during the period December 2020 to March 2021, about 5.8 million people (48.3% of the population) are projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, of which 1.8 million people are projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity while 11,000 people are likely to face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Pibor Administration Area.
- During the reporting year, a total of 198,394 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs with a cure rate of 94.9 percent, a death rate of 0.3 percent and a defaulter rate of 3.0 percent, above the acceptable minimum SPHERE standards.
- According to the Ministry of Health, 3,540 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and 63 deaths were recorded in South Sudan as of 31 December 2020. UNICEF continues to support risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) as well as infection prevention control interventions.
- As of 31 December 2020, a total of 1.5 million children and young people attending pre-school, primary and secondary education were reached through radio learning programmes and television broadcasts. Through the support of Education Cluster partners and the government, the schools were re-opened in October for candidate classes. As of the end of December 2020, a total 1,700 schools were operating providing education support to 110,000 girls and boys in Grade 8 (G8) and Senior 4 (S4) classes across South Sudan.

Situation in Numbers



4.1 million
children in need of
humanitarian assistance
(UNICEF HAC, December 2019)



7.5 million
people in need
(OCHA, HNO-November 2019)

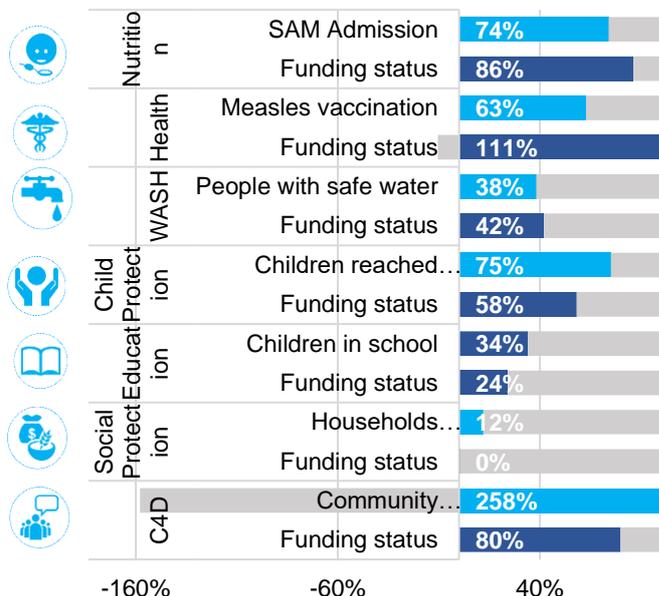


1.7 million
Internally displaced people
(IDPs)
(OCHA, HNO-November 2019)

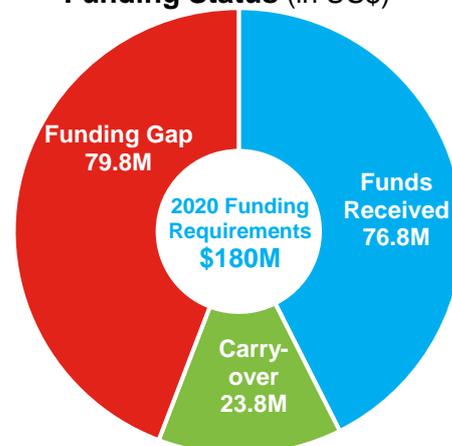
2.24 million
South Sudanese Refugees in
neighboring countries

(UNHCR Regional Portal, South Sudan Situation 30 September 2019)

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status



Funding Status (in US\$)



UNICEF Appeal 2020
US\$ 180 million

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In 2020, UNICEF appealed for US\$180 million to provide of life-saving services for women and children in South Sudan. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions that were received; however at the end of the year, the 2020 HAC still had a funding gap of 44 per cent. Without adequate funding, UNICEF and partners will be unable to continue the scale up and implementation of integrated programmes as well as the provision of critical and protective services for women, children and men displaced by conflict and flooding, affected by gender-based violence, facing life-threatening diseases (including COVID-19), and impacted by extreme food insecurity in 2021.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

While the year 2020 may be remembered as an *annus horribilis* globally, it was an extremely difficult year for many children and women in South Sudan. Flooding in 2019 in Greater Upper Nile and Bahr el-Ghazal carried over into 2020, while the rainy season started very early, leaving a short dry season, affecting livelihoods as well as UNICEF's ability to pre-position supplies. The COVID restrictions imposed in March and April also hampered service delivery and recovery activities following the flooding; and absorbed logistics capacity and attention. While South Sudan has not been significantly affected in terms of mortality and morbidity by COVID19, the global oil price collapse in early 2020 erased most government revenue, and with that, hope that social services would see a larger budgetary contribution from the government. Following this, inflation set in, and the national currency lost 60% of its value on the open market. However, there have not been any changes to the official rate, thus reducing purchasing power of many workers receiving incentives from humanitarian agencies. The loss in purchasing power of course also severely hurt household income and cut down on households' ability to access health services, which might be free, but often still require some outlays, in transport, additional medication sourced from commercial pharmacies, and lost time. Inter-communal violence, mostly in the form of cattle raiding and spilling over into revenge killings, have been driven by flooding and loss of livestock, as well as other underlying political, economic and demographic factors. A process started in 2020 of re-designation of Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites to IDP camps, reflecting the changing protection needs and security situation in the country. This will allow the humanitarian community to prioritize assistance based on needs rather than status and will improve the effectiveness of our support.

As of 31 December 2020, a cumulative total of 3,540 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 63 deaths had been recorded in South Sudan with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.8 per cent. During 2020, women and children in South Sudan were faced with multiple risks which include flooding, localized conflict, drought and disease outbreaks including COVID-19. An estimated 1,034,000 people were affected by floods during the rainfall season. Jonglei State had the worst effects impacting 404,000 people. Due to the impact of COVID-19 control measures, approximately 2 million children in primary and secondary levels did not attend school during the second and third quarter of the year. UNICEF launched a radio-learning programme to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on learners.

According to the IPC analysis released in December 2020, about 5.8 million people (48.3% of the population) were projected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, of which 1.8 million people were projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity during the period December 2020 to March 2021, while 11,000 people were likely to face Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Pibor Administration Area during the same period. Pibor was severely affected by late floods in 2019, and early floods in 2020. The nutrition situation is critical, with 53 counties (68%) of the total being classified as IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 3 and above during the period November 2020 to March 2021. Out of this, 29 counties were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 4, and 24 counties were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 3. Of the counties in IPC AMN Phase 4, nearly 80% are in Greater Upper Nile followed by Greater Bahr el Ghazal. About 1.4 million children under five years of age are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, including 313,391 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. The estimation of the caseload was based on seasonal historical data of food security and nutrition monitoring systems, SMART nutrition surveys and the admission trends for 2020.

The reporting period was also marked by reports of localized disease outbreaks, mainly the vaccine-derived polio virus type 2 (cVDPV2) and an increase in measles cases. Since the beginning of the year and up to the end of November, 1,115 measles cases and 10 deaths were reported in South Sudan, with all cases affecting children under five years of age. To reduce the risk of measles, the second phase of the measles follow-up campaign commenced on 15 November 2020. The Ministry of Health guided a campaign aimed to vaccinate over 690,000 children aged 6-59 months against measles in 25 counties in Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states.

The formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity took place in February 2020. The ceasefire has been held in most parts of the country since the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in 2018 however there has been limited progress on some key components of the agreement. One key area where there has been limited progress is the unification of the country's armed groups under one army. A total of nine of the ten states have Governors that were

appointed, which has removed some of the political vacuum that had occurred earlier in the year. However, many appointments are outstanding at County level, and this has affected service delivery in many areas. One state does not have a Governor, this has led to an increase in political tensions and armed conflict in that area. There has been an increase of sub-national violence, particularly in Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Lakes and Upper Nile states. In addition, intercommunal violence and cattle raiding also increased, particularly in Jonglei. The National Salvation Front (NAS) which remains a non-signatory to the revitalized peace agreement was involved in the majority of the fighting with rival groups, including in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria. Crime continues throughout South Sudan and is the most frequent type of security incident recorded in 2020 with over 1,400 events recorded by the UNICEF Security team¹. In no order, murder, theft, armed robbery, gender-based violence, revenge killings, looting, compound intrusions are common occurrences.

Nutrition

UNICEF in partnership with nutrition implementing partners continued to provide preventive and curative nutrition services to children and women in South Sudan. From January – December 2020, a total of 198,394 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated in inpatient and outpatient therapeutic programs (74% of the target). Compared to the same period last year (2019), the SAM admission rate was reduced by 19.5%. Many factors including localized conflict, displacements, suspension of facilities, flooding and adaptation changes due to COVID-19 are associated with the reduction in SAM admissions in 2020. In addition, the high numbers in 2019 themselves contributed to lower needs in 2020. The performance indicators of SAM treatment were above the acceptable minimum Sphere standards, with a cure rate of 94.9 per cent, death rate of 0.3 and defaulter rate of 3 per cent. During the same period, infant and young child feeding counselling services reached 1,633,085 pregnant women and caregivers of children 0-23 months (>100% of the target). The nutrition programme activities have been implemented in all states following adapted guidelines for nutrition services delivery in the context of COVID-19.

Health

UNICEF continued to work closely with the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and other partners to support life-saving emergency integrated primary health care services in all the 25 counties of Jonglei and Upper Nile States targeting an estimated 1.8 million people. The support also includes the distribution of essential drugs and medical equipment to 191² health facilities as part of efforts to improve the quality-of-service delivery and support of emergency preparedness and response interventions at both national and state levels. In 2020, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in the vaccination of 339,076 children aged 6 – 59 months against measles through reactive campaigns and rapid response mechanisms. UNICEF continued to work with partners to deliver essential health services within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in health facilities supported by UNICEF in Jonglei and Upper Nile, including through the implementation of COVID-19 prevention and adherence to stringent infection prevention and control (IPC) measures. During the reporting period, 670 posters and 84,623 brochures on COVID-19 home based care were printed for distribution to the Provision of Essential Health Services Project (PEHSP) health facilities and Boma Health Workers (BHWs) in Upper Nile and Jonglei states to enhance case management of mild to moderate COVID-19 cases under home isolation.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) and with the technical support of WHO, organized a training on emergency preparedness and response. A total of 24 members of the state rapid response teams (SRRT) were trained in Upper Nile and Jonglei States to strengthen the two States' capacity on alert management (detection, verification and reporting), outbreak investigation and initial response to public health emergencies. UNICEF and partners also supported the planning and implementation of preventive oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaigns planned and implemented in Bor and Pibor in response to the high risk of cholera following the recurrence of flooding in Jonglei and Upper Nile. The first round of the OCV campaign in Bor was completed with a coverage of 80% and preparation is ongoing for the 2nd round. Meanwhile the campaign is planned to be rolled out in Pibor in January 2021. UNICEF field offices in Bor and Malakal also took part in the identification and prioritization of at-risk counties for heightened surveillance to prevent importation of cholera from neighboring regions of Ethiopia that reported a cholera outbreak in November 2020.

In 2020, UNICEF through partners provided curative consultations to 1,780,755 individuals (815,526 male and 965,229 females including 812,471 children under the age of 5 and 968,284 children over 5 years through static Health Facilities, rapid response mechanisms and Boma Health initiatives. Most children and adults received consultations for malaria (33%) followed by pneumonia (16%) and diarrhea (11%). In 2020, UNICEF and its partners distributed 268,925 long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITNs) to 134,463 families which included 537,850 children and pregnant women through health posts, community outreach and rapid response mechanisms to support malaria prevention efforts.

¹ Whilst the UNICEF Security section attempts to record and verify each incident, it is not possible to obtain accurate statistics due to, in part, that events are not recorded, or information has not been received. This may skew the overall figures collected.

² After almost a year of discussion with local authorities, it has been impossible to handover two health facilities from MSF to Livewell (PEHSP-Implementing Partner). These two health facilities were removed from PEHSP List.

WASH

From January to December 2020, the WASH programme provided safe water, basic sanitation and hygiene services to the vulnerable and affected individuals in host communities, protection of civilian sites (PoCs) and internally displaced people (IDPs) in collective sites. As a result, a total of 305,981 people have so far been provided with access to safe drinking water through water trucking, construction of new and the rehabilitation of non-functional water facilities. UNICEF also continued to provide support in the operation and maintenance of water yards, surface water treatment (SWAT) systems and urban water systems. Likewise, a total of 102,704 vulnerable individuals have so far been supported with access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction and rehabilitation of emergency communal latrines and household latrines. In relatively stable communities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria community led total sanitation (CLTS) is being implemented as the approach to improve the sanitation coverage. Follow up is being conducted for the previously triggered village in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria to establish communities that have attained open defecation free (ODF) status, to date, a total of 305 villages with 205,706 people have been reported to have achieved ODF status. It has also been reported that a total of 344,764 of the targeted population have been reached with key hygiene promotion messages. A total of 371,721 individuals have benefited from the distribution of core-pipeline supplies and WASH NFIs which include jerricans, buckets, soap and water treatment chemicals. The WASH Section continues with the roll out of infection prevention and control (IPC)/WASH activities through partners in different locations across the country including in prioritized health facilities in Bor, Torit, Rumbek, Wau, Malakal, Yambio; and PoCs in Juba, Bor and Bentiu.

To date, a total of 737,748 people have been reached with critical WASH supplies which include soap, buckets and water purification tablets to reduce the risk of COVID-19. In addition, a total of 102 health facilities are being supported with IPC services. During the reporting year, triage and screening areas were set up in 34 health facilities. A total of 75 health facilities were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and 527 health workers were trained on IPC measures. A total of 2,531,060 people were reached with hygiene promotion and COVID-19 prevention and control messages on a weekly basis in IDP camps/ (PoCs) /refugee settlements, communities and other public places. A total of 363 hand washing facilities were established in communities and health facilities and 90,105 people were provided with locally fabricated cloth masks. Through the support of the WASH Cluster partners a total of 49,354 children who were admitted for SAM treatment in outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTPs) and stabilization centres (SC) were discharged with WASH/Hygiene Kits. In addition, over 2,273,000 people were provided with access to safe water.

Education

In 2020, UNICEF supported 248,456 children and young people (144,104 boys and 104,352 girls) to enrol and benefit from essential education services for pre-primary, primary, (formal and through accelerated learning) and secondary education. In addition, a total of 892 teachers (705 males and 187 females) were trained on basic pedagogy and learner-centred methodologies, to provide education in emergencies (EiE) services. The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent closure of schools in South Sudan requires new approaches to teaching and learning to minimize the risk on learners and their teachers. UNICEF and partners supported the Ministry of General Education and Instructions (MoGEI) to adopt distance learning programmes through radio programmes. To date, a total of 1.5 million children and young people attending pre-school, primary and secondary education were reached through radio learning programmes and Television broadcasts of which, 921,935 children and young people (553,161 boys and 368,774 girls) were reached with essential learning supplies such as exercise books, pens, pencils and old curriculum textbooks to support radio learning programmes. Through the support of Cluster Partners and Government, the schools were re-opened in October to provide education support to candidate classes. In total 1,700 schools were operating to support education of 110,000 girls and boys in G8 and S4 classes across South Sudan as of 31 December 2020. UNICEF also supported the capacity gap assessment of Community Education Centres (CECs) and National Teacher Training Institutes (NTTIs). This was completed as a strategic step to institutionalize teacher training, school supervision and sustained follow-up of teacher training graduates. To strengthen MoGEI's capacity in sector management and planning, UNICEF supported the execution of the second General Education Annual Review (GEAR) as a key strategy to assess how the education sector is progressing, against the General Education Strategic Plan (GESp) priorities and targets.

Child Protection

During the reporting period January to December 2020, children continued to be disproportionately affected by the multi-dimensional crisis and were exposed to multiple protection risks which include recruitment by armed groups, family separation, psychological distress, violence and exploitation in 61 most affected counties. UNICEF and partners reached 95,487 children (49,732 boys and 45,755 girls) with non-focused psychosocial support (PSS) activities in child-friendly spaces, schools and other community-based interventions in Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile states. A total of 545 unaccompanied and separated children (286 boys and 259 girls) were registered across the country of which, 59 children (34 boys and 25 girls) were reunified with their primary caregiver or preferred guardian by UNICEF and partners. UNICEF and partners continued to provide gender-based violence response, prevention and social norms and risk mitigation interventions and reached a total of 83,641 beneficiaries (27,365 girls, 15,683 boys, 23,360 women and 17,233 men). These were reached with gender-based violence prevention, response and risk mitigation messages despite the programmatic access challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 32,099 people (16,975 girls, 15,107 women and 17 boys) received case management, psychosocial support (PSS), and skills-building courses in Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces (WGFS), and referrals for other specialized and non-specialised services. In addition to GBV survivors, adolescent girls and young women who are survivors of child marriages as well as conflict related sexual violence survivors were also

supported. COVID-19 preventive measures were put in place to ensure the continuum of services in the women and girls friendly spaces (WGFS) and other measures such as reviewing referral pathways, reactivating hotlines, deploying social workers in health facilities and increasing airtime for social workers were all actions taken to ensure women and girls continued to receive services throughout the year.

UNICEF and partners trained a total of 845 people (60 girls, 47 boys, 514 women, 224 men) comprised of frontline staff, service providers, school focal points and the community members on case management, clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, psychological first aid as well as the GBV pocket and referral guide. UNICEF continued to work with other multiple sectors and supported UNICEF led clusters to strengthen GBV risk mitigation efforts and its integrated into the cluster priorities. A total of 33,538 beneficiaries (6,362 girls, 7,017 boys, 10,516 women and 9,643 men) benefited from GBV risk mitigation interventions through UNICEF- Child protection supported programmes during the year. In November 2020, UNICEF and the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) partners in collaboration with the GBV AoR and other key partners launched the multi-sectoral safety audit in South Sudan. The findings will inform the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) process as well as advocacy efforts for increased integration of GBV. UNICEF and partners increased prevention efforts which include social norms transformation, conducted several awareness raising campaigns on different topics such as child abuse, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), child marriages, sexual violence and related health risks and emotional/psychological consequences as well as COVID-19 preventive measures. Through the Communities Care Programme (CCP), a total of 29 community discussion groups were formed this year and over 800,000³ people benefitted from community actions and engagements through radio talk shows, door to door awareness sessions, community campaigns and school outreaches. A total of 74% of the community discussion participants registered positive change in beliefs and attitudes. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNMISS, the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Commission and partners, successfully released 44 children (2 girls and 42 boys) associated with armed groups and a total of 12 children (10 boys and 2 girls) were newly identified, registered and documented as unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). During the reporting period and amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and partners continued to provide of critical Child Protection services reaching a total of 685,781 people (including 408,789 children). A total of 108,002 children (58,159 boys and 49,843 girls) were provided with psychosocial Support, 15,760 children received case management services and 983 unaccompanied and separated children (582 boys and 401 girls) were provided with family tracing and reunification services and 180 children were released from detention as a measure to curb the spread of COVID 19. In addition, 501,370 people (231,520 adults and 269,850 children), received awareness raising messages on child protection issues.

Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM)

During the reporting year UNICEF and partners joined WFP on 11 integrated rapid response missions conducted in Pading (two missions), Palouny, Pagak, Jekow, Maruwa, Pakwa, Nyilwal, Tonga, Atar 3 and Pigi, reaching 94,132 individuals, including 11,405 children under the age of five. Cumulatively over 31,097 children were vaccinated against measles, and over 33,896 children were vaccinated against polio. Nearly 11,405 children were screened for malnutrition, out of which 377 children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The children were treated at in-patient and out-patient therapeutic centers. In addition, over 28,053 people received hygiene promotion messages which included the prevention and management of COVID-19. The COVID-19 mitigation measures implemented during the second and third quarters of the year led to a reduced number of IRRM field missions.

Cash-Based Programming

In 2020, UNICEF continued to support programme sectors and partners to operationalize and mainstream humanitarian cash programming in South Sudan. In an effort to expand its overall cash programmes, UNICEF finalized long-term agreement (LTAs) with financial service providers (FSPs), and integrated UNICEF prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) procedures, in the capacity assessments of the FSPs. The process of establishing LTAs with mobile money operators was also initiated during the year. During the reporting year UNICEF commenced the implementation of the WASH sector voucher project focusing on the provision of hygiene materials in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative which targets 9,400 households, reached 4,105 households (with a total of 19,257 people (11,164 females and 8,093 males). The households received vouchers to access soap and a hand washing bucket fixed with a tap in Aweil, Bor and Bentiu counties. In addition, 387 extremely vulnerable households with 1,674 beneficiaries in Bor received unconditional cash assistance. The beneficiaries for both the WASH voucher project and unconditional cash transfers were identified and registered by UNICEF through a collaborative effort with WFP using the SCOPE platform. Local vendors were also identified in each targeted location in a bid to support local traders and markets. Furthermore, UNICEF was one of the lead agencies to develop the UN's socio-economic response plan for COVID-19, which includes a focus on social protection safety nets through cash transfers for vulnerable households.

Communications for Development (C4D), Community Engagement & Accountability

During the reporting period (January to December 2020) UNICEF, registered significant progress on Ebola virus disease (EVD) preparedness activities. UNICEF supported risk communication and social mobilization interventions as part of joint EVD preparedness efforts targeting communities along the South Sudan and DRC borders, and in other high-risk areas which included Juba and Wau. UNICEF under the leadership of the Ministry of Health effectively co-led the risk

³ This figure includes the wide coverage achieved through radio talk shows, the launch of action plans during 16 days of activism commemoration to end violence against women and girls. The figure will be reviewed and verified to avoid double counting.

communication, social mobilization and community engagement technical working group which contributed to improved coordination through guidance, effective communication and timely information sharing. Through the established Integrated Community Mobilization Network, (ICMN) UNICEF partners in Central, Western and Eastern Equatoria states reached 325,000 households/1,507,000 people including 69,815 children and teachers in 2,230 schools with life-saving messages to prevent Ebola through house-to-house visits, church, mosques, schools and water points gatherings as well as community meetings. As part of the rumour tracking and feedback mechanisms for EVD, a report on rumors was shared on community's perceptions and practices around bush meat consumption. More than 80,000 assorted Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in different languages were distributed in Yei, Yambio and Nimule. A total of 500 posters, 15,000 traveler information cards and 10,000 leaflets were distributed in Juba, Yambio and Yei. Over 34,683 radio jingles were broadcasted on 18 radio stations, reaching approximately 40 percent of the population across the country. UNICEF supported the running of a toll-free hotline, which received 200-300 calls per week with most callers seeking information on Ebola prevention and control.

In response to COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities were implemented in all the ten states in the country to influence positive health seeking behaviour change and curtail the further spread of the disease. Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) tools and guidelines which included Standard Operating Policy (SoP), TORs, Physical and Social distancing guidelines were produced to guide activity implementation. UNICEF and RCCE partners reached over 8.4 million people through inter-personal communication and megaphone announcement activities. In addition, over 2.5 million people were reached through radio and mobile public announcement systems. UNICEF produced various products to support RCCE activities which can be accessed on the link: <https://bit.ly/3fco4L2>. These include: 1.2 million assorted IEC materials on COVID-19 key messages and use of masks which were printed in English, Arabic, Nuer, Dinka, Zande. A total of nine short videos on COVID-19 advocacy messages were developed through engaging different key influencers, which include religious leaders, Government officials, youth leaders, popular artists, journalists, and the UNICEF Country Representative (promoting handwashing). The production of the short videos included an animated video on basic COVID-19 facts. These videos were widely shared on South Sudan Broadcasting Cooperation (SSBC) TV and posted on social media platforms. Billboards with key messages were also erected in strategic locations around Juba town.

In partnership with 42 radio stations an average of 8 radio jingles were aired on a daily basis. A total of 50,831 jingles were aired during the reporting period, and talk shows hosting different content experts and influencers were also broadcasted. In total 6,346 community mobilisers in 10 states were oriented on COVID-19, and 28,539 community influencers which include religious leaders, uniformed personnel, teachers and community leaders were oriented on COVID-19. Tracking and mitigation of rumors and misconceptions related to COVID-19 was strengthened and is ongoing through regular and proactive (two-way) communication with at-risk and/or affected communities through the online tracking tool, social media, a call center and community outreach interventions. A total of 557 rumors were registered through the online tracking tool and state reports. Over 500 representatives from 352 organizations including NGOs, CBOs, humanitarian agencies and Cluster partners were oriented on COVID-19 social stigma and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in the context of COVID-19 through virtual sessions. Mobile operators (MTN and Zain) disseminated COVID-19 messages through SMS and caller tunes in English and Arabic. The MoH toll free number 6666 was also scaled up and capacity building interventions were also undertaken. During the reporting year, a total 109,904 people shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications on available support services to address their needs through the established 6666 call center. A Knowledge attitude and practices (KAP) study and a perception survey was also conducted as part of the community feedback mechanism.

UNICEF led the implementation of risk communication, social mobilization and community engagement activities for a nationwide measles follow-up campaign at the community level using the networks of social mobilisers who moved from house to house disseminating key messages of the campaign and reached 536,512 households. UNICEF supported a polio outbreak vaccination campaign covering 1.5 million children in 45 high risk counties in 7 states through social mobilization and awareness creation, with 3,900 community mobilizers oriented to support the campaign.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

During the reporting year UNICEF co-led three Clusters and one Area of Responsibility (AoR) out of a total of ten clusters and three AoRs currently active in the country. UNICEF at a national level co-led the Child Protection AoR and the Education Cluster with Save the Children, the Nutrition Cluster with Concern, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the World Food Program (WFP) and the WASH Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). UNICEF continued to participate in the inter-agency protection of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) task force, which functions under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG)/Resident Coordinator (RC)/Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), and played an active role to advocate for better protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Highlighting emergencies and UNICEF's response while continuing to support advocacy efforts were the key initiatives implemented as part of external communication activities 2020. The year started by continuing to highlight the plight of children affected by the 2019 floods and the [flood response](#). There was severe flooding witnessed in 2020, and the section documented the [impact and the response](#). At the beginning of the year, it was estimated that [1.3 million children](#)

would suffer from acute malnutrition in South Sudan in 2020, the highest number since 2013. UNICEF's response was well documented throughout the year. The work will continue in 2021 as the estimates for 2021 is that [1.4 million children](#). The year 2020 also saw South Sudan being reported to be [free of wild poliovirus](#) just weeks before an outbreak of the vaccine-derived [polio virus type 2 was confirmed](#).

The global COVID-19 pandemic, associated restrictions and their effect on children remained a focus from March until the end of the year. As the lead on [risk communication](#) several interventions were documented including [common rumours](#) and prevention measures such as [handwashing](#) and [infection prevention and control](#). The postponement of the [second phase of the measles follow-up campaign](#), suspension of education activities and the social impact on children in South Sudan was also thoroughly documented. The communication section also focused on documenting and communicating [young people's experiences](#) through videos, photos and [poems](#). While UNICEF continued to [advocate for schools to reopen](#), UNICEF promoted the distant learning programme including the [distribution of radios](#). The partial [reopening of schools in](#) October was very welcomed. The section also focused on other urgent priorities. In February the section focused on children associated with armed forces and armed groups and provided a comprehensive content package on the issue including a [press release](#) highlighting the critical funding situation for the programme. A series of 'poems for peace' were launched to keep the conversation about peace ongoing. The stories can be read on the [web page](#). Videos of the poems were some of the most liked posts on the social media handles in 2020. A large communication push on ending child marriages was carried out in October with a clear call to action. Highlighting children's voices was an important part of the campaign and can be accessed through the [child marriage feature](#) online. Children were also at the centre of the celebration of World Children's Day in November which had climate as the main topic. A [clean-up event](#) and a [tree planting event](#) was arranged in the capital Juba and in several states and children took over the role of [UNICEF representative](#), [UNICEF social media](#), the [Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare](#), the [Ministry of Environment](#) in addition to media activities. At the end of 2020, UNICEF South Sudan appealed for [USD 197.8 million](#) to respond to the most immediate needs of women and children in 2021.

A large number of human-interest stories and videos documenting the situation of women and children and UNICEF's response was produced during the year for example [ECD on nutrition](#) sites, [family tracing and reunification](#), [UNICEF's drive to reach the last child with vaccines](#) and the importance of proper [cold chain](#). All our stories can be found on the [web page](#) and the [YouTube](#) channel. A child reporter programme was established, and children's voices will continue to be a priority and be highlighted through UNICEF South Sudan's communication efforts. Throughout the year UNICEF South Sudan media work led to more than 400 UNICEF mentions in the national and international media.

Next SitRep: 20 February 2020

UNICEF South Sudan Crisis: www.unicef.org/southsudan

UNICEF South Sudan Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicefsouthsudan

UNICEF South Sudan Appeal: http://www.unicef.org/appeals/south_sudan

Who to contact for further information: Andrea Suley
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Yves Willemot
Chief of Communications
UNICEF South Sudan
Email: ywillemot@unicef.org

Summary of Programme Results (December 2020)

	Cluster/Sector Response			UNICEF and IPs			%
	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	2020 target	Total results	Change since last report ▲▼	
Nutrition							
# of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	268,045	198,394	▲ 14,398	268,045	198,394	▲ 14,398	74.0%
# of children reached with vitamin A supplementation	2,933,723	1,697,683	▶ 0	2,933,723	1,697,683	▶ 0	57.9%
# of caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months who received counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition	1,098,241	1,633,085	▲ 141,911	1,098,241	1,633,085	▲ 141,911	148.7%
Health							
# of children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles				540,000	339,076	▲ 1,984	63%
# of pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas				340,000	537,850	▲ 168,132	158%
WASH							
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	3,000,000	2,273,000	▲ 123,612	800,000	305,981	▲ 13,330	38.2%
# of people accessing safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	3,000,000	531,000	▲ 8,777	300,000	102,704	▲ 3,287	34.2%
Child Protection							
# of children reached with psychosocial support services	250,000	130,751	▲ 11,210	127,000	95,487	▲ 63,051	75.2%
# of children and women accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions				100,000	83,641	▲ 29,499	83.64%
Education							
# accessing quality formal or nonformal early learning, pre-primary, primary or secondary education	793,874	327,470	▲ 520	729,000	248,456	▶ 0	34.0%
# of teachers trained on education in emergencies, basic pedagogy and learner centered methodologies	6,322	2,010	▲ 1,036	2,500	892	▶ 0	35.5%
Social Protection							
# of households reached through the cash transfer programme				42,030	4,980	▲ 889	11.8%
Communication for Development							
# of people accessing mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/ feedback, including on Ebola				2,400,000	6,188,835	▲ 312,421	257.9%

REPORT AS OF 31ST DECEMBER 2020					
Funding Requirements (as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 31 Jan 2020 for a period of 12 months)					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Funds Received*	C/F from 2019	Funding Gap (\$)	%
Health	6,006,000	5,481,837	1,158,362	(634,199)	-11%
Nutrition	57,484,671	42,810,787	6,759,679	7,914,205	14%
WASH	45,587,830	16,357,519	2,815,078	26,415,234	58%
Education	42,888,722	1,202,622	9,167,607	32,518,493	76%
Child Protection	21,822,956	9,267,472	3,413,972	9,141,512	42%
Social Protection	3,862,413	-	16,074	3,846,339	100%
Community Engagement	2,753,798	1,714,597	487,321	551,881	20%
Total	180,406,390	76,834,834	23,818,092	79,753,464	44%

⁴ *The figures indicated above are gross (including global recovery, but not programmable at CO level).