



OCHA

# SOUTH SUDAN FLOODS

## THE COST OF INACTION

as of November 2021

An older student helps a younger one to cross a flooded path to reach their village after school in Juba County.

Photo: UNICEF/Bullen Chol

### THE FLOOD SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Over 800,000 people were reported as affected by flooding in areas along the Nile and Lol rivers, and in Sudd marshlands since May. Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states are the worst affected. South Sudan is ranked among the five countries in the world most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and people are already dealing with the consequences. Vast areas of the country are now under water and food insecurity is at record levels.

The humanitarian response is ongoing, but it is inadequate to meet the diverse and compounded needs of the affected people. Urgent resources are needed to enable humanitarians to reach them. Among those impacted by the flooding, some are more vulnerable than others – the elderly, the sick, children, and a large proportion of the women are impacted in ways that are unique to their circumstances, especially when people are impacted by multiple shocks multiple times. Yet, people in South Sudan strive to be resilient. Further investment in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is needed to avoid a repeat of flooding year after year.

 **8.3M**

people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021

 **809K**

people reported as affected by flooding as of 15 November 2021

 **310K**

people reached with some form of assistance as of 12 November 2021

 **33**

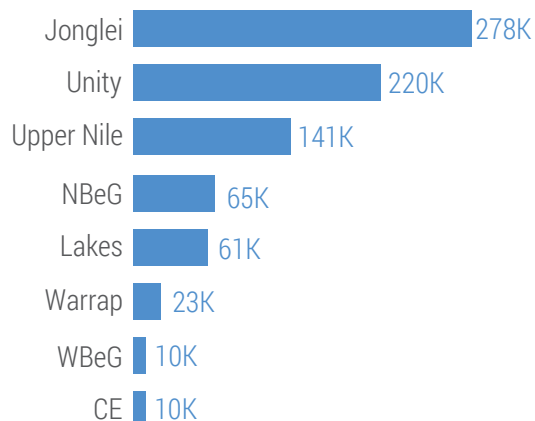
counties, out of 78 in South Sudan, affected by floods

 **1.4M**

children under age 5 are expected to be acutely malnourished in 2021

### PEOPLE AFFECTED BY STATE

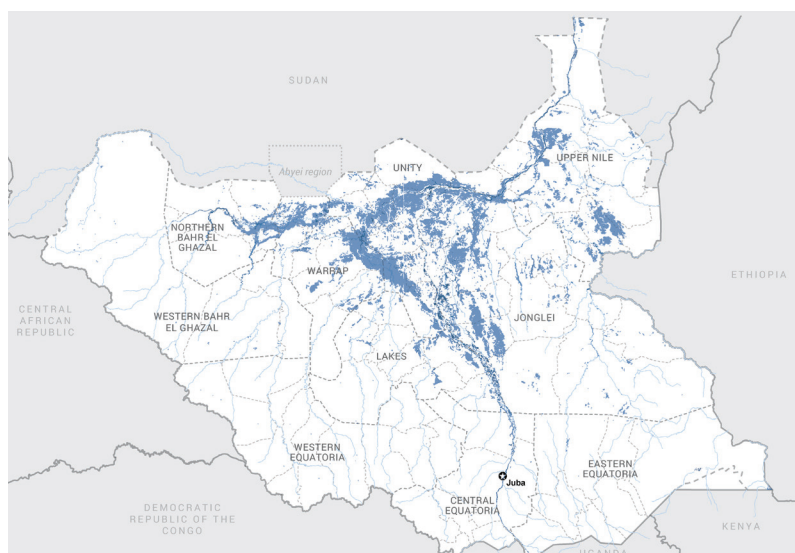
Over 75% of people affected are in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile.



NBeG: Northern Bahr el Ghazal, WBeG: Western Bahr el Ghazal, CE: Central Equatoria

### FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS

Of 78 counties in South Sudan, 33 are affected by the floods.



## WHAT IF WE FAIL TO RESPOND?



**Food Security and Livelihoods:** Funding gaps mean insufficient food assistance and complementary livelihoods support for vulnerable families that have been impacted by multiple shocks. Currently resources are stretched with insufficient stocks to adequately support 800,000 people affected by flooding and 100,000 affected by conflict. The FSL Cluster can currently reach 450,000 flood-affected people with food assistance and 97,000 with livelihoods support. Limited funding has already led to cuts in food rations provided to internally displaced people and refugees. People are experiencing hunger now at a time which would normally be one of abundance in the post-harvest period.



**Health:** More than two million people will remain without access to basic health services and children, pregnant, lactating mothers will be disproportionately affected unless the health response is improved. Over 50 per cent of flood-affected counties were initially assessed as possible cholera hotspots and where people did not have access to basic health services. The breakdown of health service provision due to flooding will further worsen the situation leading to high incidences of endemic and epidemic prone diseases such as cholera, measles and malaria.



**Protection:** Additional funding is urgently needed to scale up protection services for flood-affected people, particularly children, women, women- and child-headed households, older people and people with disabilities. Protection needs are especially high in Bentiu town, Upper Nile and Jonglei states. From May to September, the Protection Cluster was only able to reach some 158,000 people, or 66 per cent of the 240,000 people targeted, with critical protection services. Security concerns in IDP settlements, recurring sub-national violence and access constraints impeded the protection response.



**Education:** Without adequate funding an estimated 69,058 children, including 26,139 girls, who were affected by the floods and displaced to higher ground will remain without access to education services. Children in the 111 schools impacted by the floods in Unity State will not be able to continue their education.



**Shelter and Non-Food Items:** Of the estimated 800,000 people affected by flooding, the S/NFI Cluster is targeting approximately 325,000 people with flood response kits. While the S/NFI Cluster will likely meet this target, expansion of the target to meet greater needs is not feasible due to lack of resources in the pipeline. In order to decrease year-over-year vulnerability to flooding, substantial investment in Disaster Risk Reduction, flood-resilient housing, and site planning is required.



**Nutrition:** Failure to provide acute malnutrition services in flood-affected counties in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states, will put the lives of more than 277,960 people at risk, including 104,790 under five girls, 100,680 under five boys and 72,490 pregnant and lactating women. In September, an estimated 7,211 people were lost to follow-up from outpatient therapeutic feeding and targeted supplementary feeding programs due to floods and displacement. A total of 68 nutrition sites structures were affected by floods, 41 sites were relocated, and 27 sites closed.



**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Limited funding will result in at least 100,000 newly flood-affected people not being reached with emergency WASH services. The growing number of flood affected and displaced people increases the demand on already overburdened WASH resources and an inability to respond increases the risk of water borne disease outbreaks in densely populated areas. WASH cluster partners urgently need at least \$7 million to safely respond to 500,00 flood-affected people in their areas of origin through an integrated WASH response.



**Logistics:** Limited air transport capacity due to a lack of funding to further scale-up air transportation has left humanitarian organizations reliant on barge transportation, which requires considerable time to reach flood-affected people in remote areas. Without more investment, more than 300 humanitarian organizations will not receive the required logistics, coordination and common services support needed to reach flood-affected people targeted with assistance.

## WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Immediate collective action between humanitarian, development and peacekeeping actors is needed to save lives and uphold flood-affected people's dignity.

Sustained humanitarian, disaster reduction and development assistance and funding are urgently needed. Comprehensive water management systems are urgently required to

mitigate and prevent people suffering. Without a disaster management approach, people will continue to be impacted by flooding year on year, and their coping mechanisms will be eroded.