

South Sudan: Flooding Situation Report

Inter-Cluster Coordination Group

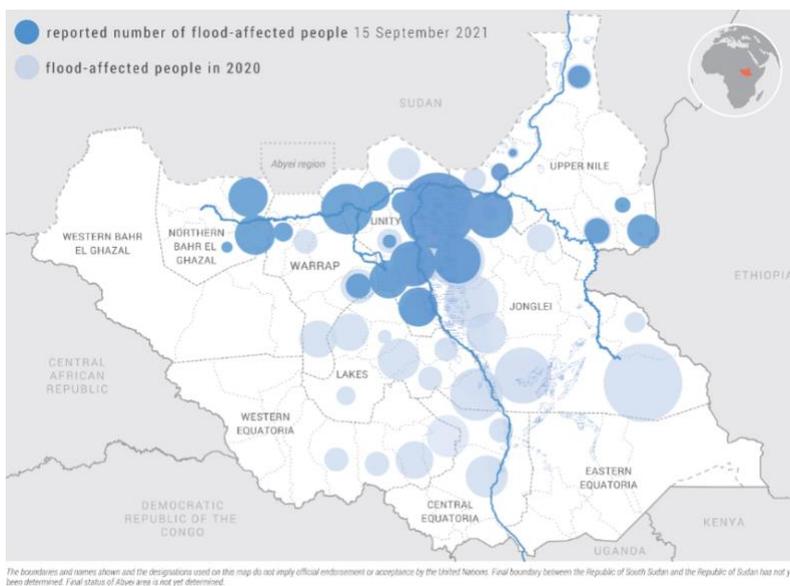
As of 15 September 2021



This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). It covers the period from May 2021 to 31 August 2021. The next report will be issued mid-October.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 426,000 people were affected and displaced by floods in South Sudan since May 2021.
- People in Jonglei and Unity states, followed by Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states have been the worst affected to date. Insecurity in Warrap State has made it difficult to respond to people's needs there.
- According to initial assessments, priority needs include food assistance, emergency shelter and non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene services and hygiene kits, health and nutrition supplies and services, protection services and dignity kits, and fishing kits for livelihood support.
- Floods have exacerbated the vulnerability of communities, with many people displaced by the floods seeking refuge in churches and schools. Health facilities have been heavily impacted.
- Heavy rains, infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility, funding constraints and insecurity have hampered the flood response.
- Flood mitigation measures helped to reduce the impact of flooding in areas like Bor town and Pibor. Canoes and boats have been critical for mobile teams to reach people who remained isolated by floods.



426K

People affected by flooding

6

flood-affected states

21

flood-affected counties

8

affected counties with response ongoing

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Early seasonal rains resulted in the Nile river, Sudd wetlands, the Lol and Sobat rivers to overflow, flooding vast areas of land and settlements. More heavy rains and flooding are expected in the coming months. To date, people in Jonglei are the worst affected state (160,000 people), followed by Unity (146,000 people), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (47,000 people), Upper Nile (44,000), Warrap (25,000 people), and Western Equatoria (600 people). Many of the flood-affected people moved to higher ground within their county, and plan to return home once the flood waters recede. Some 100,000 people, mostly from Twic East, who were displaced by the 2020 floods, have not returned home since the prior year's impact and are sheltering in the Bor and Mangalla IDP camps, and in Mingkaman, according to humanitarian partners.

In the six most affected states, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, and Warrap, the humanitarian response was scaled up to address the increased needs of people affected and displaced by flooding. Rapid needs assessments were conducted in 12 of the most-affected counties between May and 15 September. More assessments are planned, and efforts are ongoing to reach remote areas. Flooded farmlands is increasing the risk of food insecurity and communities need for food assistance in the future. Some livelihood support (growing crops and raising animals) may need to adapt to a flooded environment (e.g., fishing).

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The ICCG have agreed on a planning figure of 650,000 based on historical data and the expectation that the floods will continue until February next year, similar to 2019 and 2020. The 65 per cent is derived from the ratio of number of flood-affected people early September this year (400,000) compared to the number of flood-affected people in September 2020 (600,000). A planning figure, as part of contingency planning, allows clusters to ensure that the core-pipelines of emergency response items are timely and sufficiently stocked for emergency response. The planning figure remains subject to review.

FUNDING

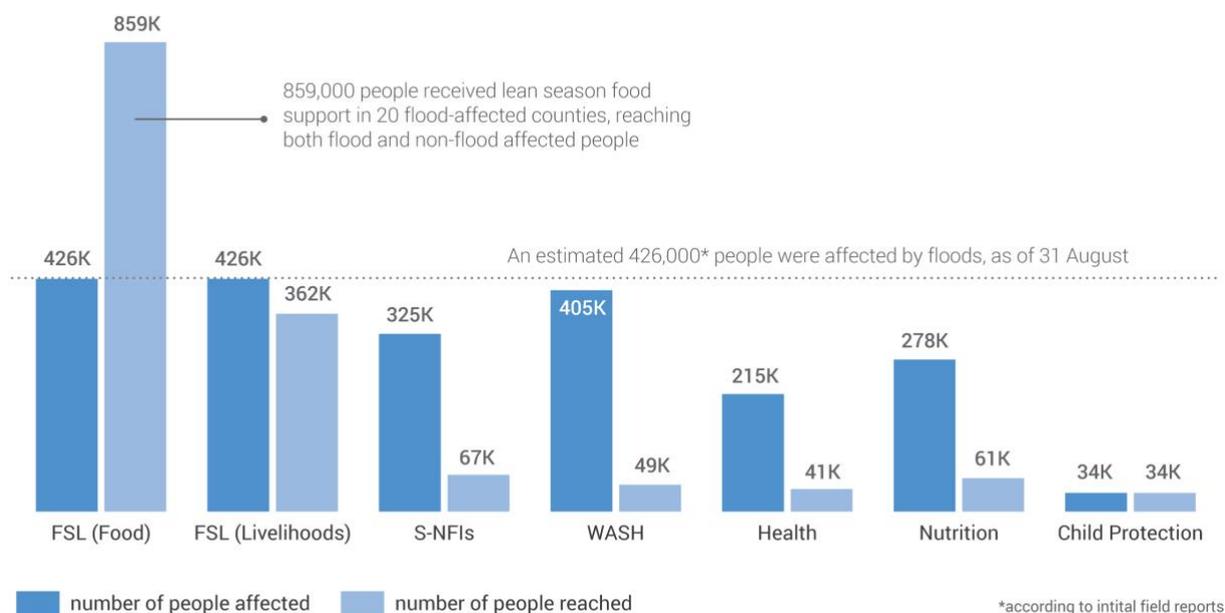
Flood response activities and associated costs were integrated within the overall cluster strategy and cluster budget in 2021 humanitarian response planning. Of the US\$1.7 billion requested in the 2021 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, \$976 million or 58 per cent has been received, at the time of reporting.

Most clusters have reported that additional funding will be needed to respond to the increasing needs of flood-affected people. The rainy season in South Sudan traditionally ran from April until October. The current rains are forecasted to last until February 2022, as experience in recent years and is likely related to the influence of climate change.

The Education Cluster have reported a funding gap to support school children who have been affected by floods. The Shelter and Non-Food Item (S/NFI) Cluster need an additional US\$8.2 million (\$4.2 million operational funds for frontline partners and \$4 million pipeline supplies) to meet S/NFI needs. The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster foresees that without additional funding, lifesaving support to flood-affected communities, including responding to a likely increased in waterborne diseases among livestock, may be jeopardized. The Nutrition Cluster estimates a \$3.5 million funding gap based on its flood preparedness and response plans submitted by partners in five states.

Funding gaps continue to impact Protection Cluster partners ability to provide protection services, including gender-based violence and child protection case management, family tracing and unification services for unaccompanied and separated minors, community-based child protection and referrals services. The WASH Cluster needs an additional \$4.2 million to cover core pipeline gaps.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Education

Needs

- Education needs are high, with an estimated 185,000 children across Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states severely affected by flooding.
- In Jonglei (53), Unity (45) and Upper Nile (15) states, 113 schools have been affected by flooding, with many now occupied by people displaced by the floods.

Response

- Unlike previous years, the Education Cluster has developed a flood emergency response and contingency plan in support of flood-affected school children in 2021.
- Several schools previously occupied by school children have been disinfected.
- Partners provided basic education supplies and distributed dignity kits to girls in several schools.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access restrictions due to poor road conditions caused by rainfall as well as insecurity in certain counties have slowed down the Education Cluster's response to children in schools.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs

- An estimated 325,000 people need S/NFI support. The S/NFI Cluster is targeting 50 per cent of the projected number of 650,000 people who are likely to be impacted by this year's floods.

Response

- From May to 7 September, 67,000 people out of the planned and targeted 325,000 were reached with S/NFI assistance. This includes 23,000 men, 19,000 women, 11,000 boys and 14,000 girls.
- Flood-affected people have received 22,500 mosquito nets, 11,250 blankets, 22,500 plastic sheets and 22,500 bundles of rubber ropes.

Gaps & Constraints

- Insecurity and violence hindered the delivery of S/NFI assistance in Maiwut and Longochuck counties in Upper Nile; Pibor in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA); Uror, Akobo, Duk, Fangak and Bor counties in Jonglei; Mayom and Abiemnon counties in Unity; Tonj East, Tonj South, Tonj North, Gogrial East counties in Warrap States.
- Physical access to remote and deep field locations have further delayed the S/NFI response. Reduced air support to deep field locations due to funding and logistic constraints was a contributing factor.
- The S/NFI core pipeline is depleted. Current stocks are sufficient to respond to the needs of 5,500 households (13 per cent) out of the 43,000 households in need of emergency assistance. Mosquito nets, plastic sheets and rubber rope are urgently needed.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Needs

- More than 426,000 people in six states may need food and livelihoods support pending an assessment of incoming reports.

Response

- FSL Cluster partners are mitigating food insecurity in flood-affected areas through the delivery of lean season support on a monthly basis. In 20 flood-affected counties, 859,000 people received food assistance.
- FSL Cluster partners reached 32,000 people with food assistance in Fangak, Ayod and Aweil South counties.
- Through the IOM Rapid Response Fund (RRF), humanitarian partners distributed livelihoods and agricultural inputs (crop, vegetable, and fishing kits) to 30,000 people (5,000 households) in Bor.
- Since May, flood-affected areas have received agricultural inputs for the main planting season. Some 362,000 people were assisted with agricultural inputs such as crop, vegetable and fishing kits in 20 flood-affected counties.

- Where possible, livestock have been moved to higher ground. This means milk at the homestead is no longer available except to those who have moved with their animals.

Gaps & Constraints

- The FSL Cluster faced access challenges in Fangak, Panyijiar, Canal/Pigi, Ulang and Nasir, due to insecurity and rains.
- Current food stocks are limited for any future response to highly food insecure counties. The number of flood-affected people is expected to increase in the coming months with limited food assistance support available.
- Livelihood response has been delayed for over a month due to checkpoints along river transport routes. The checkpoints have slowed down the response.
- A third consecutive year of floods will adversely affect livestock in the absence of pasture, disease burden resulting in deaths and producing less milk.

Health

Needs

- As of 1 September, more than 215,000 people need health support. Over 50 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed by the floods, with 19 more at risk.
- The immediate needs include essential primary health care services; health promotion messaging to mitigate increased malaria cases, acute watery diarrhea and acute respiratory infections, including COVID-19; mosquito nets, medical supplies and reproductive kits.
- Essential medicines such as Integrated Emergency Health Kits, supplementary and basic medicines, supplementary malaria modules and basic malaria; reproductive health kits, clinical management of rape survivors; clean delivery kits; cholera kits; anti-venom to treat increased snake bites and personal protective equipment for front line health staff are in short supply.

Response

- More than 41,000 people in 11 counties were reached with health services as of 1 September.
- A total of 556 children were vaccinated through the routine Expanded Programme on Immunization.
- Drugs and medical supplies were distributed in Bentiu, Ayod and Fangak in Unity and Jonglei. More than 30 kits such as malaria, cholera and Integrated Emergency Health Kits have been provided.
- Health education on the prevention of malaria, diarrhea, COVID-19, acute respiratory infection, and hygiene promotion were integrated among health provision to flood-affected people.

Gaps & Constraints

- Humanitarian and development partners supporting regular health facilities are responding to the needs of flood-affected communities with available medical supplies. Many partners have reported shortages of medical supplies to continue providing essential primary health care services.
- Physical access to more than 50 health facilities in 20 counties have been impacted by high floodwaters. In Tonj North, communities are supporting the transportation of health supplies where roads are cut off. In some counties, healthcare workers including volunteers are unable to access health facilities cut off by floods. Mobile medical services are needed to reach people displaced to high ground.
- Flooding has submerged or damaged more than 50 health facilities, affecting storage facilities and, in some cases, destroying medical supplies in Jonglei, Unity and Warrap states. Cold chains were affected in some facilities impacting routine immunization.
- Stocks of essential medicines and medical supplies have been depleted due to the increase in patient numbers and the prolonged lead time in replenishment due to access issues in counties such as Rubkona.

Logistics

Needs

- Based on locations prioritized for a response scale-up by the Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG) consistent with established criteria and endorsed by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), the Logistic Cluster plans and supports the transport of humanitarian supplies, while maintaining the support for existing needs.

Response

- Since 1 May, a total of 2,767 metric tons of assorted humanitarian cargo were transported by air, road and river to 113 locations in flood-affected counties, on behalf of 55 partners. Fifty-three per cent of this cargo was transported by road and river.
- The Logistics Cluster added a second helicopter to its existing aircraft fleet at the start of August to better serve locations inaccessible by road. The helicopter is based in Bor and also provides ad hoc services from Rumbek.

Constraints

- The transport of humanitarian cargo has increasingly been affected by heavy rains, infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility. The Logistic Cluster coordinates the western corridor convoys. Road transport services from Bentiu and Wau in support of the “Beyond Bentiu” and “Beyond Wau” programmes, have been affected by rains. Specific locations served from Bentiu are no longer reachable by road.

Nutrition

Needs

- Almost 278,000 children and women, 47,435 severely acute malnourished (SAM), 158,000 moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children and 72,492 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in 19 counties in five states need nutritional support. Of the 278,000 children and pregnant and lactating women, the Nutrition Cluster is targeting 196,092 (39,129 SAM, 89,046 MAM and 67,916 PLW) children and pregnant and lactating women.
- Needs are highest in Rubkona in Unity, Nasir in Upper Nile, Aweil East in Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal and Fangak and Ayod in Jonglei.
- Support with tents, Mobile Storage Units (MSU) and pallets will help kick-start some critical service provision.

Response

- As of 31 August, 61,000 flood-affected people (11,679 SAM, 26,778 MAM and 22,363 PLW) were reached with nutrition assistance across 19 affected flood-affected counties.
- Several nutrition sites have been damaged by floods and mobile teams continued providing nutrition services using boats and porters to reach people.
- The Nutrition Cluster is supported by well-funded and functional emergency response teams and a multi-sectoral emergency team to cover identified critical gaps in flood-affected counties where partners lack capacity.
- The Nutrition Cluster coordination team is mapping areas that require the construction of (baby) MSUs, which can be provided by the Logistics Cluster.

Gaps & Constraints

- A total of 1,487 children between 6 and 59 months (411 children with SAM and 1,016 children with MAM), and 1,300 PLW cannot be reached for follow up treatment as a result of the flooding.
- Despite 44 nutritional sites being flooded, they remained functional. Another 10 sites had to close, while a further 24 sites were relocated.
- Service delivery has been affected either directly through the destruction of infrastructure or indirectly through reduced mobility. High water levels keep on breaking recently built dykes. A limited number of canoes, difficult terrain and locations in remote areas made it difficult for project staff to reach people displaced by floods.

- With most facility structures destroyed by floods, funding is limited to establish temporary structures for service resumption. The increased cost of supply transportation is a challenge.

Protection

Needs

- More than 34,000 children need critical child protection support as of 31 August. Protection needs are high in Akon South, Gogrial West.
- Urgent protection needs included increased family tracing and reunification; psychosocial support; protective NFIs; comprehensive case management and referrals with specialized services; registration and documentation for identification and targeting of persons with specific needs; protection monitoring; and mine action interventions when waters recede, and physical access is restored to affected areas.

Response

- Protection partners supported flood-affected communities through case management for gender-based violence survivors, family tracing services for unaccompanied and separated children, referral mechanisms for prioritized assistance to persons with specific needs, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and psychosocial first aid.
- Since May 2021, Protection Cluster partners reached 7,636 people with general protection and housing, land and property services in 11 counties affected by floods in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.
- The Child Protection Sub-Cluster reached 42,153 children, including 34,121 children with child protection services in Jonglei (Fangak, Bor), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Aweil East and South), Warrap (Gogrial East and West) and Unity States (Koch, Mayom, Panyijiar and Rubkona).
- A total of 28,943 children (13,362 girls and 13,234 boys) received focused and non-focused mental health and psychosocial support and related services.
- In August, 47 GBV cases were attended to in Warrap State, while in GPAA, 150 people were reached with psychosocial services (PSS) and 10 with GBV case management. A total of 240 women and girls received dignity kits in Warrap. In Pibor, partners assessed 12,000 people to identify people with special needs, including orphans, the elderly, and unaccompanied minors. Awareness raising on GBV services and GBV risk mitigation reached 220 people. Ongoing GBV capacity building reached 55 people.
- Some 214 people were trained on Child Protection in Emergencies and child protection approaches. More than 9,700 people (4,401 children and 5,301 adults) were reached through awareness raising and outreach on child protection risks, mitigation measures and information on child protection services.
- In Upper Nile, protection partners started safety screening in three IDP collective sites in Malakal town to provide protection counselling, case management, PSS and referrals. Approximately 700 households (4,200 people) received dignity kits and NFIs.

Gaps & Constraints

- Protection partners continued to experience access challenges, especially in Nasir, Pigi/Canal, Fangak, Ayod, Gogrial West and Tonj South counties. Some areas do not have any static protection partners. Protection partners faced challenges in accessing flood-affected areas.
- Tents for child-friendly spaces and activities were destroyed by floods and need to be urgently replaced.
- The number of children attending psycho-social support and recreational activities has reduced, especially among children between 0 and 5 years and 6 and 9 years. Follow-up reports have indicated that parents are preventing their children from leaving their houses because of fear of water and children drowning.
- Age group fighting creates insecurity and difficulty to access women and girls and bad roads due to floods affects access in some locations
- Recent violence in Tonj East County, Warrap in August, led to protection partners pausing response activities. In Tonj North, a Marial Lou response mission was suspended, and in Tonj East a mission was cancelled due to conflict.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Based on recommendations by the Strategic Advisory Group, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data, FAO forecasts and current rainfall trend, the WASH cluster anticipates that 840,000 people will need of WASH life-saving assistance due to flooding in 2021 across 49 counties in South Sudan.
- A total of 405,021 people need WASH support in 21 counties in six states.
- Continuous need assessments and Inter-Cluster Rapid Needs Assessments (IRNAs) are being conducted in 16 counties of all six states to map the flood affected population which can be assisted through Phase 1 response package for emergency services.

Response

- The WASH Cluster flood response package includes household water treatment and safe storage products, hygiene promotion and repair of water points with flood-resilient designs when it applies.
- The WASH Cluster deployed partners through the Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanism to 21 flood-affected counties, where the number of flood-affected people is above 3,000. In areas with less than 3,000 people-threshold, response scale-up is supported by static WASH Cluster partners.
- Core pipeline requests have been approved for most partners. The response in Malakal for an initial 1,000 households from Fangak County has been completed.
- WASH Cluster partners are working with the state level ICCG and the state Relief and Rehabilitation Commissions (RRC) to conduct IRNAs and initial WASH assessments for people displaced by floods flooding to define the number of people who have been severely affected and are in need of Phase 1 emergency flood response. Phase 1 emergency flood response includes the distribution of water treatment and transportation implements and soap, as well as the rehabilitation and chlorination of water points and hygiene promotion.
- Some 49,000 people were reached in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states with WASH assistance including household water treatment products, hygiene promotion and soap distribution.

Gaps & Constraints

- Physical access challenges to remote and hard-to-reach areas in 19 counties has impacted the delivery of WASH activities. Partners face challenges to deliver supplies, as most areas are flooded, and roads are impassable. Delivery of response supplies may cause delays in responding to the needs of flood-affected people.
- The relocation of flood-affected people from Ayod County to areas along the Canal and the movement of people to higher grounds in Twic County is making it difficult for partners to track people's movement and provide assistance.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Needs

- The majority of people in Unity and Jonglei need disaster risk reduction (DRR) and risk management support to identify risk reduction actions and carry these out to mitigate and prevent the negative impact of the rains and flooding.
- A holistic water management approach is needed to best manage water flow, especially during the rainy season.
- There is a need to construct new dykes and repair and maintain existing ones in coordination with local communities. It is important to build and strengthen the capacity and skills of local communities to mitigate floods risks and enhance this support through the provision of tools.

Response

- The construction of an emergency dyke with a total length of 2,500 meter in Pibor is ongoing to protect the town from severe flooding. In addition to saving land, property and shelter, the dyke will help protect more than 30,000 people from floods. The reinforcement of the Bor primary dyke contributes to protecting the town from recent flooding.

- Communities and partners are continuously monitoring the water level in the river and pre-positioned stock of sandbags is available in Bor for emergency use to fix vulnerable points of dykes.
- Nine Boma disaster management committees have been established to strengthen communities' capacity and enhance local coping mechanisms against floods. Some 420 boma disaster management committee members have been trained on community-based disaster risk management in Bor and Pibor.
- A total of 9,000 sandbags have been provided to the Jonglei State government for dyke repair in Bor County.
- A validation of a flood damage needs assessment is in process in Pibor, Bor and Leer. Two water pumps are being installed in different areas of Bor town to drain stagnant rainwater from residential areas.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access challenge to deep field locations due to impassable roads limit DRR operations. Many other affected areas need DRR interventions to mitigate floods risks.
- Limited funding is available for the deployment of DRR activities. Available stock of sandbags for emergency use is inadequate for the current scale of flooding.
- The limited capacity of humanitarian organizations working on DRR limits the potential of DRR activities to mitigate the impact of future flooding and reduce the need for emergency flood response.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Between May and August 2021, the Flood Operational Working Group in Juba met five times to coordinate and scale up the humanitarian response to people impacted by floods. During the same period, sub-national ICCGs held flood response coordination meetings at the state-level. The flood response scale up by the existing multi-cluster response is complemented by emergency responses where needed to ensure complementarity of flood response amongst clusters and their partners at national and state-level in partnership with other actors, such as the Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM) and the South Sudan Red Cross.

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