

HIGHLIGHTS

- Thousands of South Sudanese continue to flee to Uganda.
- Three years since the conflict in South Sudan began, humanitarian needs continue to rise.
- A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Wau, bringing the total number of outbreaks country-wide this year to 13.
- Humanitarians find aid hub looted during visit to Nhialdiu.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced Persons	1.83 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	1.3 million
No. of people assisted in 2016 (as of 30 October)	4.7 million

FUNDING

\$1.1 billion

funding received or committed in 2016

83%

of appeal funding received or committed in 2016

\$1.29 billion

requirements for South Sudan 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan



A pupil in a classroom in Lafon. Photo: OCHA.

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Refugee outflow continues

The number of South Sudanese fleeing to Uganda continues to grow, with 7,046 new arrivals recorded in a single day on 13 December.

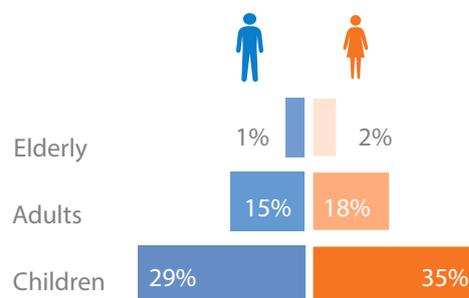
Refugees who are newly arriving in Uganda - 86 per cent of whom are women and children - continue to face long and difficult journeys in their search for safety.

The majority reach Uganda through informal border points, while more than 4,000 have arrived in Uganda via the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Many refugees report that they are leaving South Sudan due to the deteriorating security situation, including fighting in Yei and Wonduruba areas, looting of properties, and rumours of upcoming attacks by armed actors in the Equatorias.

In addition to those fleeing to Uganda, there are an increasing number of people fleeing to Kenya from areas such as Lainya, Wonduruba, Yei, Juba and Torit. Refugees arriving into Kenya report that they chose the route as the roads to the Ugandan border are increasingly dangerous, with armed actors harassing, robbing and targeting people fleeing.

Since July 2016, more than 394,500 South Sudanese have arrived in Uganda, bringing the total number of refugees there to over 584,000. There are now over 92,000 South Sudanese refugees in Kenya.

New arrivals to Uganda by sex and age



Displacement, needs continue to rise in the Equatorias

Fighting and insecurity continue to cause displacement and rising humanitarian needs in the Greater Equatoria region.

In Central Equatoria, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yei town and surrounding areas remain unable to move freely because of checkpoints along the main roads, including to Juba, DRC and Uganda. Partners have been unable to reach Lasu refugee settlement since July as a result of armed groups' activities in the area. Refugees from the Central African Republic, DRC and Sudan who were residing in the settlement prior to the eruption of conflict are now in hiding. Separately, unverified reports indicate that over 25,000 IDPs have arrived into locations in and around Kajo-Keji, particularly from Yei and Morobo.

In Western Equatoria, there are now an estimated 28,000 people displaced from Yambio, 16,000 displaced from Ezo, and 50,000 displaced from Mundri East, Mundri West and Mvolo. Fighting over the past two weeks has reportedly forced hundreds of people to flee their homes in Haisoura suburb of Yambio town. The displaced families are sheltering

Fighting continues to force South Sudanese to flee their country with 7,046 crossing the border to Uganda on 13 December alone.

Fighting and insecurity have taken an enormous toll on the world's youngest nation

Three million people have been driven from their homes, including more than 1.8 million internally displaced and more than 1.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries.

at a catholic church. Fighting has also recently been reported in the border area of Ezo forcing hundreds of people to flee into DRC. Separately, on 20 and 21 December several hundred IDPs, mostly women and children, reportedly arrived into Mundri town in Mundri West, fleeing locations in Mundri East, including Kediba.

In Eastern Equatoria, people in Torit estimate that 30 per cent of the population has left. A recent assessment found an increase in malnutrition in Torit County. During the assessment, 789 children under age 5 were screened, of which two were found with oedema, 109 were found to be severely acute malnourished and 134 were moderately acute malnourished. Out of 324 pregnant and lactating women screened during the same period, 65 were found to be malnourished.

Due to clashes and attacks, the passage of humanitarian vehicles along key road routes in the Greater Equatoria region remains a major challenge. A 17-truck humanitarian convoy arrived safely in Mundri on 12 December, after four days on the road and hours of access negotiations. The convoy transported health, household items and other aid supplies for people in need. However, on 10 December, a national NGO vehicle was attacked on the road from Juba to Mundri, wounding one staff member. The roads around Magwi have been described as impassable for security reasons.



Humanitarian convoy arrives in Mundri. Photo: IOM

Read more: Protection Situation Update: Equatoria Region -- <http://bit.ly/2gXusay>; UNHCR Uganda Update -- <http://bit.ly/2hV20HU>; Uganda Inter-agency report: <http://bit.ly/2hmepEo>

3 years on: needs continue to rise

Since fighting first erupted in South Sudan on 15 December 2013, conflict, insecurity and economic decline have taken an enormous toll on the world's youngest nation - leaving tens of thousands dead and three million driven from their homes, including more than 1.8 million who are internally displaced (with 50 per cent estimated to be children) and more than 1.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries.

Food insecurity and acute malnutrition are at unprecedented levels. At the height of the lean season in July 2016, some 4.8 million people were estimated to be severely food insecure, and this number is expected to rise in the year ahead. According to food security partners, chronic food deficits have been experienced in Great Upper Nile due to conflict and insecurity, including cattle raiding. Northern Bahr el Ghazal has also seen a major food security and nutrition crisis, driven by market failure and the depletion of livelihood assets, which is undermining traditional social safety nets.

In the Greater Equatoria region, renewed violence since July 2016 has significantly disrupted food supply routes, and an estimated 50 per cent of all harvests have been lost in areas affected by violence.

Three years of conflict and economic decline have made millions of South Sudanese more susceptible to disease. More than 2 million cases of malaria were reported from January to November 2016; an increase compared to the same period in 2015. The cholera outbreak in 2016 caused more cases (3,525) and spread to more locations (9) than in 2015. Violations continue to be reported against civilians on a regular basis. More than 17,000 children are estimated to have been recruited by armed actors, including some 1,300 recruited in 2016. Civilians arriving as refugees into neighbouring countries report horrific abuses, including rape, abduction and killing.

Briefing the Security Council on 19 December on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien stated: "We are now witnessing a scale of need for assistance and protection that demands our urgent, relentless attention and action."

“Our NGO partners deliver around 70 per cent of all humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. Their presence and programming are fundamental to the continued life-saving response.”
- Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O’Brien

Deteriorating operating environment for humanitarians

At the same time as humanitarian needs are growing, humanitarian response is becoming increasingly difficult. Following the recent expulsion of the Country Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the order for a second senior NRC staff member to leave South Sudan, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) expressed grave concern regarding the deteriorating operating environment in South Sudan.

“Unacceptable actions such as this significantly undermine the ability of humanitarian organizations to operate at a time when the crisis is deepening and aid is needed most,” said the HCT statement. “There are minimum conditions that must be met to be able to fund and implement humanitarian operations. If these conditions continue to not be met, it will ultimately undermine the ability of humanitarian organizations to save lives.”

In his briefing to the Security Council, the Emergency Relief Coordinator stressed the vital role of NGOs in humanitarian action in South Sudan: “To be clear: Our NGO partners deliver around 70 per cent of all humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. Their presence and programming are fundamental to the continued life-saving response. Without national and international NGOs on the ground, food cannot be delivered to scale; emergency medical relief cannot be provided to all those who require it; malnutrition cannot be adequately treated; and life-saving access to clean water to prevent the spread of diseases such as cholera will be hampered.”

There were 831 humanitarian access incidents reported from January to November 2016. This compares to 854 incidents reported during the same period in 2015, 746 in 2014 and 256 in 2013.

Read more: ERC briefing to the Security Council: <http://bit.ly/2hPoOcs>; HCT press statement - <http://bit.ly/2hsW7o5>

Wau: measles outbreak confirmed

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal, bringing the number of outbreaks country-wide in 2016 (13) to more than twice the number in 2015 (5). The outbreak has been attributed mainly to population displacement, including the high influx of people to the displacement sites in Wau town.

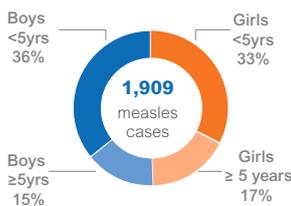
According to health partners, 40 new suspected measles cases were reported between 5 and 11 December in Wau, Gogrial West in Warrap, and Aweil South in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 remain most affected.

Response activities are ongoing to stem the spread of the new outbreak in Wau. Nearly 18,000 children between 6 months and 15 years were vaccinated in the protected area and collectives centres in town during a vaccination campaign from 25 to 28 November. A similar vaccination exercise was also conducted outside the displacement sites in Wau targeting more than 10,000 children. Humanitarian organizations have increased measles surveillance and are implementing sensitization programmes to educate about the signs, symptoms and dangers of the disease in affected areas. Health awareness sessions are ongoing in health facilities to support detection of suspected measles cases and ensure proper case management.

However, the risk of further measles outbreaks remains high as conflict, displacement and lack of access have frustrated efforts to ensure vaccination coverage country-wide due to the disruption of routine immunization. Only 11 out of South Sudan’s 79 counties have the requisite minimum 80 per cent measles vaccination coverage and 26 have less than 20 per cent coverage. An estimated 648,000 children under age 5 are at risk of contracting measles across the country.

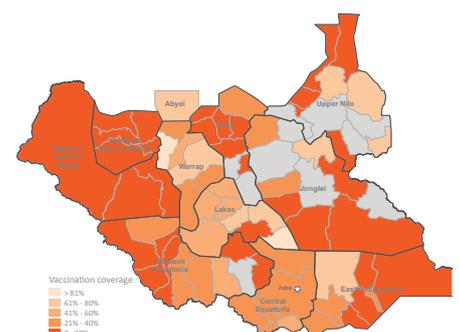
Since the beginning of 2016, more than 1,900 measles cases have been reported across South Sudan, including at least 20 deaths.

2016 measles cases by sex in South Sudan



More than twice the number of counties have been affected by measles outbreaks in 2016 (13) compared to 2015 (5).

Measles vaccinations coverage



Wau collective sites see spike in new arrivals following increase in insecurity.

New arrivals into displacement sites in Wau

Following insecurity in recent weeks, including reports of clashes in Bussere, there has been an increase of IDPs into the collective sites in Wau town in Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Last week, the Cathedral, St. Joseph and Lokoloko sites witnessed influxes of 257, 71 and 36 new arrivals respectively. Most of those IDPs came from the neighbourhood of Hai Salam due to insecurity. At the protected area, there were 99 new arrivals compared to 51 the week before. Eighty per cent of new arrivals said they entered the site due to insecurity. The protected area remains the most congested Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in the country. More than 28,850 IDPs were sheltering on just 134,514 m² of land as at the end of November. Site development works have nearly been completed and people will begin to be relocated in January

Meanwhile, access outside of Wau town, where tens of thousands of people are in need of assistance and protection, continues to be challenging. Since July 2016, humanitarian organizations in Wau have not had consistent access to people in need outside of Wau town by road, due to bureaucratic constraints and blockages. However, an integrated rapid response team from Juba reached Ngoku, in the south-west of Wau, by air in December. During the mission, the team provided food and nutrition assistance as well as vaccinations, WASH and other services to more than 4,000 households affected by ongoing insecurity.

Given that air transportation is far more costly - up to six times the amount - compared to delivery by road, humanitarian organizations are continuing to negotiate for free, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people outside of Wau town by road.

Unity: partners find destruction in Nhialdiu

An inter-agency team recently travelled on a one-day road mission from Bentiu to Nhialdu, the first visit by aid workers since fighting in early November forced the relocation of humanitarians on the ground.

The tents and supplies of the humanitarian light-base camp (which had a value of around US\$100,000) were completely looted, shelters were destroyed, and the market was burnt down during the clashes. Unexploded ordnance have been found in the area as a result of the November fighting.

During the visit, the team met with civilians attempting to re-build their shelters and the market. Women interviewed stated that they are suffering due to lack of health services that were previously provided by the humanitarian organizations. They now have to walk for about three hours to access health services in Bentiu town.

Given the events in November, humanitarian organizations are undertaking extensive negotiations with local authorities to ensure that, if they do return, the necessary assurances are in place to prevent a repeat and ensure the safety and security of aid workers and assets.

The looting in Nhialdiu is emblematic of the broader trend in South Sudan. In 2016 alone, there have been 66 incidents of looting reported.



The light-base camp on 25 November, partially looted, and on 8 December, totally looted.

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