

Humanitarian Bulletin

South Sudan | Bi-weekly update

29 May 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sharp rise in casualties due to the clashes.
- About 4.6 million people will be severely food insecure by July 2015.
- Price increases affect urban poor.
- Funding required urgently to assist millions of people across the country.

FIGURES

# of internally displaced people	1.52 million
# of refugees in neighboring countries	552,231

FUNDING

35%
of appeal funding received

\$634 million
total funding received

\$1.8 billion
requirements for South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan



A health worker measures the mid-upper arm circumference of a child to assess nutrition status. Source: UNICEF

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Violence disrupts aid activities

Violence continued to intensify and spread causing suffering to hundreds of thousands people across the country.

Armed violence was reported in Mundri town in Western Equatoria State since 23 May 2015 displacing thousands of people. The displaced people were reported to be sheltering under trees, 15 kilometres out of Mundri town. Aid activities were also affected with reports of aid assets stolen by armed elements. A convoy on its way from Juba to Bentiu, with approximately 1,000 metric tons, was unable to proceed due to armed violence around Mundri town. The state had been relatively calm since December 2013 until recent tensions.

Armed violence continued in Unity and Upper Nile states. Heavy fighting erupted in the town of Melut in Upper Nile on 19 May, killing at least six internally displaced persons, leaving several wounded. More than 20,000 civilians sheltering in Dehtoma1 and 2 displacement sites near the UN base in Melut dispersed to Paloich and Renk. Aid agencies relocated out of the town leaving only critical staff to meet life-saving needs of the remaining displaced people. Over 1,600 displaced people were reportedly sheltering in the UN mission base in Melut.

In Unity State, access to areas affected by fighting around Koch, Leer, Ganyiel, Nyal and Mayendit remained a challenge for the past weeks, cutting off aid to hundreds of thousands people. Aid organizations are working to return to the affected locations of southern Unity to provide life-saving assistance to people in need reportedly scattered in various areas.

The humanitarian community continues to engage with different interlocutors and calling on all commanding officers to ensure protection and respect for civilians, including national and international aid workers and their property.

Access constraints, due mainly to conflict, were impeding aid agencies from reaching vulnerable people with vital assistance. Food partners reported having temporarily lost access to over 1.1 million beneficiaries in the Greater Upper Nile, including some 500,000 in Unity state alone.

Read more: HC Statement, "International Humanitarian Law Violated in Leer and Malakal": <http://bit.ly/1RpNWSI>. UNICEF press release, "Children killed, abducted and raped in South Sudan attacks": uni.cf/1JtJP5q

Casualties increase as access shrinks

As fighting persisted, health partners reported a sharp rise in casualties due to the clashes and are responding to the increasing needs despite access challenges. Between 1 and

Health partners performed more than 1,200 surgeries in the first three weeks of May, compared to less than 200 from January to April.

24 May 2015, health partners have performed surgeries to 1,289 people, which represent a significant increase compared to the less than 200 surgeries performed from January to April 2015.

Mass casualty plans for Bentiu, Malakal and Melut have been updated, while health partners have boosted the supply of trauma kits, in addition to the already pre-positioned in the affected areas. Additional medical supplies were provided to bolster the surgical capacity at Malakal health facility.

In the Greater Upper Nile region, continued fighting coupled with the relocation of aid workers from the affected areas continued to hinder access to people in need. This has created information gaps on the needs of the affected people and has cut off access to life-saving assistance, especially in the deep field areas.

With the rainy season approaching, an increase in morbidity and mortality are expected in the areas that have reported displacements given that living conditions are quite dire. Flooding in most counties will further aggravate the health situation.

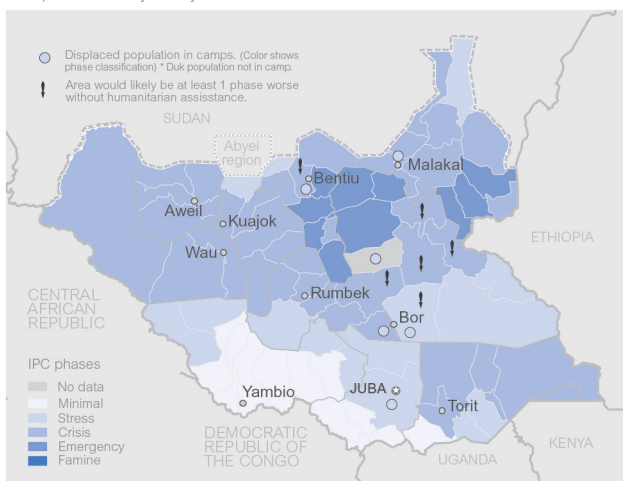
Food insecurity deteriorates

The South Sudan Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report launched on 27 May 2015 indicates a further deterioration in the number of people facing severe food insecurity in the country and who are unable to meet their food needs.

An estimated 3.8 million people were classified as severely food insecure in April 2015. Most of them were located in the three conflict-affected states of the Greater Upper Nile region and most parts of the Greater Bahr el Gazal. By July 2015, the situation will deteriorate even further to an estimate 4.6 million people classified as severely food insecure (3.6 million in Crisis and 1 million in Emergency situations). This represents approximately 40 per cent of the South Sudan population.

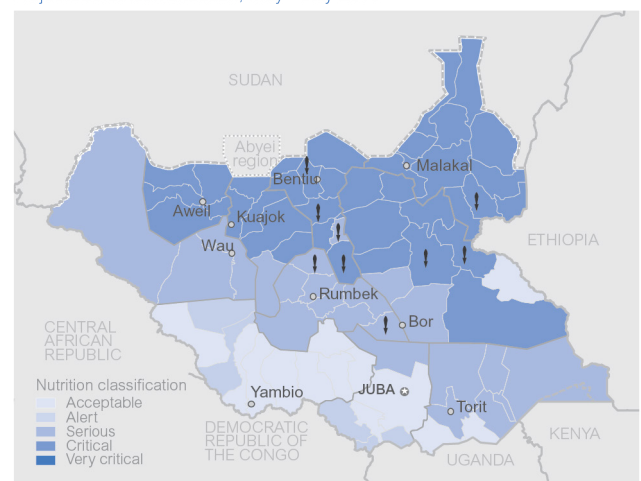
The number of people facing severe food insecurity has almost doubled since the start of the year from 2.5 million to an estimated 4.6 million people, including approximately 874,000 children under the age of five. This is the highest number of people at crisis or

IPC phases, May - July 2015



Sources: FSL & IPC TWG, May 2015

Projected nutrition situation, May - July 2015



emergency levels of food insecurity since the start of the conflict in December 2013.

The deepening food insecurity is a result of protracted conflict and insecurity. This affected the planting season in 2014 and led to abnormal migration of livestock and limited market functionality. Also, high food prices caused by rising inflation and depreciation of the local currency, diminishing purchasing power and depletion of household stocks lead to high cost of living

Child malnutrition also continues to be a concern. Malnutrition rates remain above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent in both conflict-affected and high-burden states.

About 4.6 million people will face severe food insecurity by July 2015.

Nearly one in three children under five are malnourished in the worst-hit areas of Greater Upper Nile, Warrup and North-east Bahr el Ghazal.

Humanitarian partners are concerned about the deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation in South Sudan. This, combined with near economic decline, means that more people, especially in the Greater Upper Nile, most parts of the Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions and urban areas will not have enough to feed their families. Resources are urgently needed to reach those who are most desperate and to prevent further deterioration of the situation.



Distribution of food in Mingkaman. Source: Oxfam.

The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that uses a standardized approach to classifying food insecurity. Its estimates are based on a technical consensus among stakeholders, including the Government of South Sudan.

Read more: South Sudan: IPC Food Security and Nutrition Analysis - Key Messages <http://bit.ly/1AvoJSB>

Economic decline affects urban poor

The ongoing conflict, the decline in national oil production and global oil prices and a high inflation have devastated South Sudan's economy.

The prices of essential food items rose rapidly in the first quarter of 2015 in most markets in South Sudan, impacting severely on the cost of living for the urban poor. The current situation could quickly lead to severe macro-economic instability.

A working paper released by food partners on 25 May 2015 highlights that the spiralling prices are forecasted to peak to historical records at the height of the lean season in July 2015.

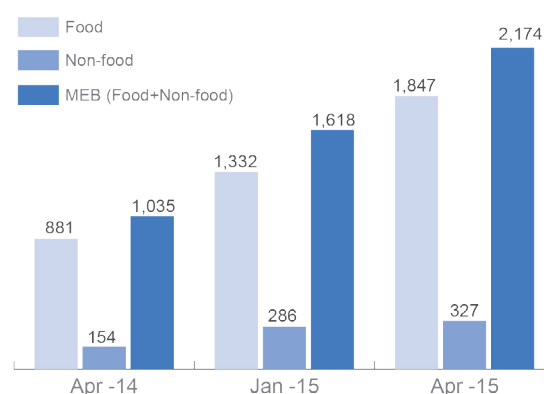
Prices of staples, vegetable oil and sugar have increased between 24 and 69 per cent, in the first four months of 2015 in main towns.

Prices of staples, vegetable oil and sugar have increased significantly, between 24 and 69 per cent, in the first four months of 2015 in Juba and in most other main towns of the country. The prices are currently about 90-100 percent above the normal seasonal and long-term mean levels in the capital. The price increases are due to short supply and high cost of importation following significant weakening of the local currency against the US Dollar in the volatile parallel exchange market.

As a result, the cost of minimum expenditure basket increased from an average of 1,618 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) in January 2015 to 2,174 SSP in April 2015, and has doubled compared to April 2014.

The reduced income and uncertainty in the commodity markets could have a dramatic impact on household welfare. Food comprises a large share of household expenditure (up to 85 per cent) for the urban poor. Many

Minimum Expenditure Basket Cost (SSP), Rural South Sudan



Graphic: OCHA . Source: FAO, FEWS NET and WFP working paper

Funding in 2015 is slower than the previous years.

households now find it difficult to afford commodities from the market due to their reduced income, and this will have long-term malnutrition consequences and will further reduce the expenditure on other essential services such as health or education.

It is estimated that there are about 610,000 urban poor concentrated in Bentiu, Juba, Malakal and Wau, of those 170,000 or 28 per cent, are in Juba.

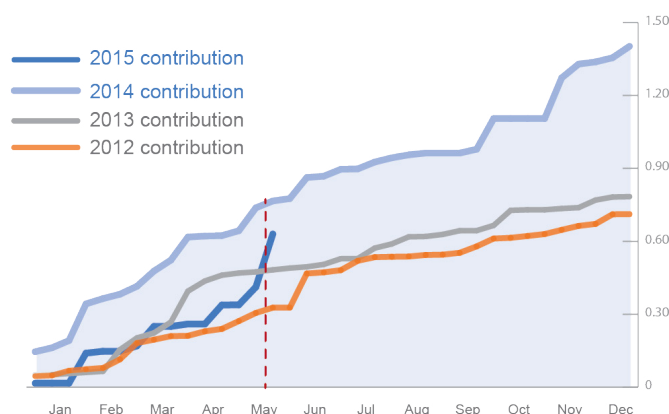
If the crisis continues, it is expected that many urban poor with links to the rural communities could move to these areas with low productivity activities which will put more pressure on the natural resource base.

Read more: Working paper, "The Impact of Rising Food Prices on Food Security of Urban Poor in South Sudan" <https://fao.app.box.com/s/y1332zmg9xtjnih6tcjgxsy8e2iasu70>

Funding requested to assist those in need

The funding for the 2015 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has reached US\$634 million, representing 35 per cent of the total requirement of \$1.8 billion as of 29 May (<http://fts.unocha.org>). Nonetheless, much of the funding that supported the vital pre-positioning of supplies during the 2015 dry season arrived during 2014. Thanks to this, aid agencies managed to pre-position some supplies, but gaps remain.

Funding trend 2012 - 2015 (\$ billion)



Graphic: OCHA . Source: Financial Tracking Service (fts.unocha.org)

Funding is required urgently to meet the life-saving needs of millions of people across the country. New funding in 2015 is reported to be arriving slower than the previous years, by the same time in 2013, some 42 per cent of the appeal was funded; and 43 per cent had been funded by the same time in 2014.

In 2015, aid partners are focusing on three top priorities: saving lives and alleviating suffering by providing multi-sector assistance to people in need; protecting the right of the most vulnerable people, including their freedom of movement; and improving self-reliance and coping capacities of people in need by protecting, restoring and promoting their livelihoods.

While funding shortfalls are affecting all sectors, logistic partners are facing major funding constraints to sustain the needed air assets for the transportation of humanitarian staff and distribution of aid. Predictable funding is urgently needed to sustain the operation beyond the end of June.

A high-level event to highlight the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan and its impact on the region will take place in Geneva on 16 June 2015. The conference will address critical funding shortfalls and underscore the importance of finding an urgent political solution to the conflict.

Funds are urgently needed to keep air assets operational beyond the end of June.

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