

South Sudan Crisis

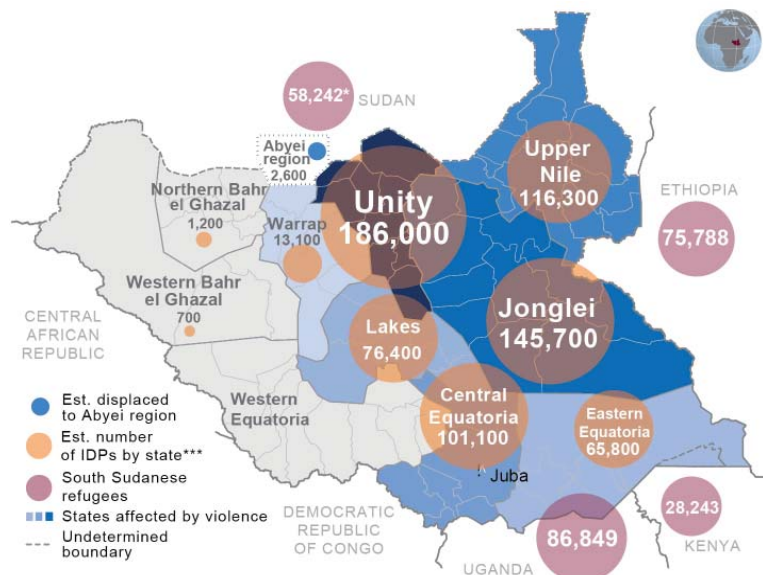
Situation Report No. 28 (as of 20 March 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 14-20 March 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 28 March 2014.

Highlights

- Fighting broke out in Malakal, Upper Nile, on 19 March. Clashes also occurred in Leer County, Unity State.
- Airdrops began to supply food to people in need in nine locations in conflict-affected states.
- The World Food Programme received authorization to commence operations via the Ethiopian corridor.
- The conflict has forced some 958,000 people from their homes, including 709,000 within South Sudan and 249,000 to neighbouring countries.
- Aid agencies have so far reached around 925,700 of the 3.2 million people to be assisted by June.
- The Emergency Directors of eight humanitarian agencies arrived in South Sudan on 19 March for a three-day visit to draw attention to needs and enhance the response.



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and Republic of Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. *New arrivals from South Sudan (NOT REFUGEES). ***Verification of the IDP figures is a work in progress. Data Sources: OCHA, UNMISS, IOM, UNHCR, RRC and partners. OCHA South Sudan, 20 Mar 2014.

4.9 million

Estimated people in need of humanitarian assistance

3.2 million

People to be assisted by aid organizations by June 2014

925,700

People provided with humanitarian assistance*

708,900

People internally displaced by violence since 15 December 2013

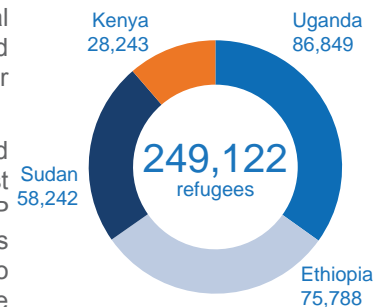
* This includes people internally displaced, refugees from other countries sheltering in South Sudan and other vulnerable communities who have received assistance since January 2014. This does not mean that the needs of these people have been comprehensively met.

Situation overview

Following weeks of clashes in Upper Nile State, fighting broke out in Malakal on 19 March. The situation stabilized again the following day. Fighting and heightened tension also continued to be reported in Tonga and Adar in Upper Nile State and in Leer County in Unity State.

Access incidents continue to occur, including commandeering of trucks and imposition of fines on aid convoys. This slowed down and increased the cost of the response. To overcome these constraints and general insecurity, WFP has started airdrops of food supplies in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states in sites with high concentrations of displaced people. The WFP office also received permission from authorities to commence life-saving operations via the Ethiopian corridor.

Since the start of the crisis, an estimated 708,900 people have been displaced within South Sudan. Another 249,122 people have fled to Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.



South Sudanese refugees in the region as of 20 March. Source: UNHCR

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

Humanitarian response

In the months remaining before the rainy season begins in earnest in June, two key operational priorities for humanitarian partners are to 1) reach new locations with concentrations of displaced people and 2) improve, expand or move established and flood-prone displacement sites, including those inside some UN bases. To address the first issue, aid organizations worked with donors to establish rapid response teams, which will be on stand-by to quickly assess reports of people in need in remote areas and provide an initial response. This quick response will be coordinated with the plan for airdrops of food supplies in nine priority locations in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

On the second priority, partners continued the work on new or expanded protection of civilians sites in Juba and Malakal, though progress in Malakal was slowed by the lack of sufficient engineering equipment. The move of people affected by flooding in UN Tomping was also slower than expected, as displaced families were reluctant to move to UN House which is further from the centre of Juba. Congestion is also an issue in the flood-prone Mingkaman site in Lakes State, which hosts some 77,000 people. A new site has been identified, but the funding needed to develop it has not yet been secured. With rains fast approaching, congestion in these three sites poses major health risks.

An increasingly complicated operating environment

Access constraints, including active hostilities, continue to hamper the humanitarian response in several parts of the country. Obstacles include bureaucratic impediments, such as failure to honour air movement agreements, or delaying aid flights for administrative reasons; harassment of aid personnel, including the stopping and searching of aid and contractor vehicles carrying relief supplies; impediments to paying staff in some areas; and imposition of arbitrary fees and fines on aid organizations. Despite these obstacles, all but three counties across the country are accessible by air to partners, though operations often require time-consuming negotiations and are frequently delayed.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Response:

- So far, the cluster has provided camp management services to 244,152 people of the target of 433,500 people to be assisted by June.
- Relocation of displaced people started in Bor and Juba to enable PoC site upgrades and facilitate decongestion. In Juba, go-and-see visits were organized from UN Tomping to UN House to facilitate relocation.
- Humanitarian hubs were operational in Bor and Mingkaman.
- In Bentiu, the extension of the PoC2 area was completed; preparations for the PoC3 extension are starting.
- The cluster is mapping site planning requirements across the country to facilitate resource mobilization. Interested partners are encouraged to contact the cluster leads for more information.

244,152

People reached with camp management and coordination services

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- There is a significant shortage of resources to upgrade displacement sites, in particular in Aweril County, Bentiu, Juba and Malakal. Lack of heavy machinery and engineering capacity is a key constraint in Malakal, made worse by the current fighting which has blocked flights into the town.
- New displacements have been reported in Jonglei (Duk and Twic East counties) and spontaneous returns in Bor town, which require a response. However, insecurity and other obstacles constrain capacity to support displaced people outside UN bases in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.
- There is a need for closer coordination between partners operating out of Jonglei and Lakes to respond to needs of people displaced on islands between Bor and Mingkaman.
- Gaps in the response remain acute in most sites due to overcrowding and lack of access to basic services.
- Concerns are growing over an early start of the rainy season, which could trigger significant population movements and limit capacities to assist people in need, with a possible increase of congestion in already overcrowded sites or movement to areas which are inaccessible for humanitarians.

Education

Response:

- The cluster has so far provided services to 13,140 of the targeted 204,100 people to be assisted by June.

- In Jonglei State, some 2,070 children in Ayod, Duk and Lankien (including 1,044 girls) gained access to education; 473 children received education materials and 63 teachers and other stakeholders were trained on life-skills and psychosocial support. In Pochalla, 720 children, including 302 girls, received education materials.
- In Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria, partners trained 65 teachers on life skills and psychosocial support.
- During the week, over 8,200 community members in six counties in Jonglei and Upper Nile states benefitted from awareness campaigns to spread life-saving messages.

13,140

People reached with education activities

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Key constrains for the education response include: ongoing insecurity; lack of space to set up emergency learning spaces in congested displacement sites, and lack of experience education partners in conflict-affected areas. Education partners are working to resolve these issues, including by reaching out to new partners.
- Occupation of schools by displaced communities or armed forces remains a concern. Advocacy is ungoing to address this issue.
- The delay in salary payment will likely impact provision of education activities in the field. The cluster is in discussions with the Ministry of Education to address this.

Emergency Telecommunication

Response:

- The cluster established internet connectivity for 11 humanitarian partners in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria.
- The VHF network for UN agencies and NGOs in Bentiu was re-established, and will assist partners in improving communication, staff tracking and security.
- An ETC assessment in Kaya found that maintenance was required on the internet connectivity kit. The equipment was brought back to Juba for maintenance and will be deployed back to a field location when done based on need.
- A maintenance mission to Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, is ongoing.
- The cluster travelled to Bor for an assessment on what ETC support is required.

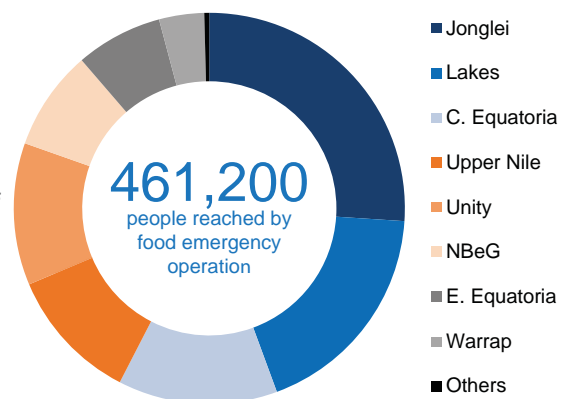
Needs, gaps and constraints:

- An assessment mission to Nasir, Upper Nile State, continues to be on hold due to security constraints.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Response:

- As of 20 March, food partners had reached about 461,200 people under the emergency operation in conflict-affected states. Food assistance was also provided to 335,700 other food-insecure people, including refugees and displaced people in areas not directly affected by violence.
- WFP began tasking one aircraft (Ilyshun-76) with airdrops in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States. The inclusion of the Ilyshun's heavy air lift capacity into WFP's logistical assets, enhances its airlift/airdrop capacity by 1,200 metric tonnes per month.
- Over 7,200 families in Central Equatoria and Warrap have received emergency livelihood kits consisting of assorted vegetable seeds, hand tools and fishing gear.
- Working with national authorities, the cluster is conducting Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) surveys in the seven states where there are no active hostilities. Data collection is completed and data entry has begun. Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA) are being conducted in the three states worst affected by crisis.



Source: FSL Cluster

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The resumption of food production by displaced communities is vital to improve food security.
- Support to protein-rich food production - vegetables, livestock and fish - is key to containing malnutrition among displaced communities.

- The crisis has increased insecurity along commercial supply routes causing private sector actors to flee the country, market fragmentation, and food and fuel price inflation making availability and affordability a challenge.
- Access constraints, including insecurity, require a flexible approach to delivering assistance, focusing on rapid distributions and pre-positioning in strategic but accessible hubs.



Health

Response:

- The cluster has reached close to 590,000 people in conflict-affected areas with health services since the start of the crisis, or 31 per cent of its target until June.
- Since the start of the crisis, partners have conducted some 180,881 health consultations and treatments, with 29,577 in the past week.
- Some 149,80 children have been vaccinated against measles, and 125,880 against polio. Around 10,330 people in UN Topping in Juba and Awerial County have been reached by a second round oral cholera vaccination.
- Meningitis vaccination started in Mingkaman, with 5,066 people vaccinated so far.

589,984

People in conflict-affected states reached with health services

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Procurement and pre-positioning of pipeline supplies is a key need. The cluster is following up with donors and the Logistics Cluster on this issue.
- Secondary health care remains a key need in Bentiu, Bor and Malakal.
- Immediate funding is required for support to Bor hospital (\$250,000), and primary health care in the Bor and Malakal Protection of Civilians sites.
- Mental health services are needed across conflict-affected states. The cluster has deployed a mental health specialist to work with partners to strengthen the response in this area.



Logistics

Response:

- In the past week, the cluster facilitated the airlift of 26 metric tonnes of supplies on behalf of six humanitarian organizations to Akobo, Maban, Malakal, Paloich and Waat.
- The current air operations fleet consists of one fixed-wing cargo plane and one Mi8 helicopter. Another fixed-wing plane is currently undergoing maintenance.
- The cluster continued to extend its GIS capacity to NGO and UN partners.
- The cluster is reviewing the needs of partners to adapt or revise the operations strategy to ensure adequate and efficient logistics capacity.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- River access via the Nile continues to be restricted.
- There have been reports of increased checkpoints for aid convoys in locations in Unity, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria states.
- Limited inter-agency storage is a constraint in some locations. Eleven additional mobile storage units are expected to arrive in the next two weeks.



Mine Action

Response:

- Partners have conducted emergency response to suspected threats from unexploded ordnance inside displacement sites in UN bases in Bentiu, Bor, Juba and Malakal, including surveying all expansion areas. Teams are also carrying out risk education in these sites.
- Teams in Bor have cleared humanitarian compounds, continue to clear the town areas of hazardous threats, and responded rapidly to the cluster munitions strike that occurred south of Bor and ensure the road was reopened as soon as the items were destroyed.

- On 9 March an anti-vehicle landmine detonated near Yoynyang in Guit County, Unity State on the Bentiu to Leer road. UNMAS investigated the site and confirmed that the landmine was detonated by a pickup truck killing four people. It is not possible to verify if the landmine detonation resulted from new use of landmines laid since the outbreak of hostilities on 15 December 2013. However, should the landmine be confirmed as newly laid, this would be the first confirmed report of landmine use in South Sudan since 2011. Mine action partners will verify the route once access is possible.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- In Bentiu, clearance of the town and surrounding roads continued to facilitate humanitarian access. Teams also responded to reports of new mines in Unity State.
- Age and gender sensitive risk education messages are needed to all those affected by the conflict.
- Access remained the largest barrier to operations, with many areas of conflict still insecure and limiting clearance operations.



Nutrition

Response:

- Cluster partners have so far reached 160,679 vulnerable people with nutrition activities, of the 821,076 targeted for support by June.
- A nutrition treatment centre was established in the UN base in Malakal, to provide in-patient treatment for malnourished patients with medical complications.
- Partners re-gained access to Labrab, Jonglei State, where people in need of nutrition support last received supplies in January. Also in Jonglei, nutrition activities in Pibor and Gumuruk resumed. Of 165 children screened in these locations, 15 (1 per cent) were severely malnourished and 75 (46 per cent) were moderately malnourished.
- Mayendit in Unity State was also accessed by partners, who found severe needs for nutritional support.
- Screening of children for malnutrition continued in several sites: 150 children were screened in UN Topping in Juba; 293 in UN House in Juba; and 573 in Bentiu town. All those found to be malnourished were referred for treatment.

160,679

People reached with nutrition activities

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Nutrition activities in the Crisis Response Plan are only 16 per cent funded. More locations are becoming accessible and plans are in place to scale up programmes, but nutrition partners are faced with large operations costs and are unable to recruit the teams required for a scaled-up response due to limited funding.



Protection

Response:

- The cluster has reached 320,000 displaced people with protection services, of the 1.6 million people to be assisted by June. The number of people reached does not yet include host communities who also benefit from services on offer, and who are included in the overall target.
- Of the 22 organizations working on child protection, 15 are providing child-friendly spaces, 13 offer identification, documentation, tracing and reunification services and 11 work on awareness raising.
- Since December 2013, 223 unaccompanied, separated or missing children have been reunified, of 1,780 in need of these services. Since January, some 9,460 children have benefitted from psychosocial support across 37 child-friendly spaces.
- Some 1,060 women in Bor received dignity kits, and were among 1,350 reached with information on gender-based violence. Rehabilitation of the women's centre in Awerial County was underway.

320,000

People reached with protection activities

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Child protection is currently absent in six of 23 counties affected by displacement in the three worst affected states (Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile). In the 17 counties where activities are going on, coverage is limited.
- Child protection gaps will increase further as funding is running out for some or all of the activities of up to 15 partners between March and August.
- There is a need for further detailed data collection on tracing and reunification to assess if this process is happening effectively in sites where partners are present.
- There is a need for additional soap to complement the dignity kits. Partners are working to source these items.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Response:

- The cluster has given household items to over 325,500 people, of a target of 400,000. Progress on shelter support has been slower, with assistance given to 37,255 people of the targeted 340,000.
- Some 1,650 families in the UN base in Malakal received household kits and pre-positioning of 1,000 tents and loose household items is ongoing.
- In Juba, 130 acute shelter kits were given to families moving from UN Tomping to UN House and to some other vulnerable residents. The distribution of robust shelter kits to the 300 families worst affected by rains in UN House is ongoing. Also in Juba, shelter materials have been distributed to 120 families at another displacement site.
- In Bentiu, the distribution of household items to 14,89 families was completed, and pre-positioning of shelter items was ongoing.
- In the UN base in Bor, pre-positioning of shelter materials was completed, and partners are awaiting site improvements before distributing the items.

325,515

People reached with household kits since start of crisis

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Flight scheduling is presenting challenges for deploying staff for assessments and distributions, as flights are sometimes cancelled due to insufficient demand to fill air assets. OCHA and the Logistics Cluster are working on this to optimize available air assets.
- Assessing needs is complex due to limited access due to insecurity and, recently, heavy rains in some locations
- Humanitarian standards cannot be met due to the limited amount of secure land inside UN bases and the remote and dispersed nature of most displacement.
- Rains have begun in many areas of the country, and shelter response is dependent upon site upgrades, decongestion efforts and groundworks happening first, so response is seriously delayed on the shelter end.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- The cluster has so far reached some 247,000 people displaced by conflict across over 20 displacement sites. The total number of people who have received WASH services from over 50 cluster partners in emergency and recovery contexts since the start of the year is currently not known. The cluster's target is to assist 2.6 million people by June.
- Partners have managed to achieve (or come close to achieving) global emergency standards for water supply in nine sites and for sanitation coverage in six sites.
- In displacement sites, partners are also supporting child-friendly spaces, temporary learning spaces and health facilities with WASH services. Across all sites, bathing facilities and hygiene promotion activities are also being implemented to ensure safe hygiene practices and to further mitigate against the outbreak of infectious diseases.
- Service provision improved in Malakal and Melut, despite constraints posed by insecurity on the operation.

247,001

Displaced people reached with WASH services

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Funding for front line service provision activities, pipeline procurement and pre-positioning, and for sub-national cluster coordination is still essential. The core pipeline has a funding shortfall of \$22.6 million.
- With the rainy season fast approaching, partners are running out of time to implement preparedness measures, especially upgrading displacement sites. Full financial support for response in current sites is critical.
- Without the funding still required by June, partners may not be able to reach the 500,000 displaced people targeted in the Crisis Response Plan, let alone the other over two million vulnerable people also targeted.
- In addition to funding, it is crucial that WASH agencies provide experienced personnel, able to implement large WASH projects in difficult-to-access locations.

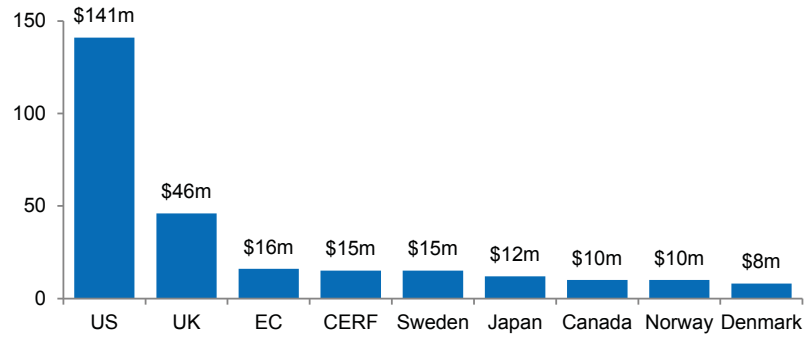
Funding

The Crisis Response Plan was around 24 per cent funded, with some \$298 million received. This leaves a shortfall of around \$973 million. So far, the United States and the United Kingdom are by far the largest contributors to the plan, followed by the European Commission, Sweden and Japan.

Significant amounts of additional funding is needed to meet the goals aid agencies have set for themselves until June 2014. For example, a lack of funding for livelihoods activities has prevented

partners from procuring urgently needed seeds, tools and fishing gear. By June, the plan is to reach up to 550,000 families with such supplies - a goal which will be difficult to achieve unless funds are received rapidly.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.



Top 10 donors to the Crisis Response Plan as of 20 March 2014. Source: <http://fts.unocha.org/>.

Background on the crisis:

Violence broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on 15 December 2013 and quickly spread to several other states. Within weeks, thousands of people had been killed or wounded in the violence, and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes. Despite the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement on 23 January 2014, fighting between Government and opposition forces has continued, especially in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, where towns and rural areas have been ravaged by the violence. The crisis has led to a serious deterioration in the food security situation, and some 3.7 million people are now at high risk of food insecurity in the coming year.

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