

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 338,000 people in Leer, Mayendit, Koch and Panyijiar have received humanitarian assistance since localized famine was declared in Leer and Mayendit in South Sudan.
- Cholera cases have been confirmed in Malakal town, bringing the number of counties affected countrywide to 14.
- Heavy clashes between armed groups in Jonglei's Uror and Nyirol counties forced thousands of civilians to flee.
- New displacement and humanitarian needs continue to be reported in the Greater Equatoria region as a result of ongoing fighting and insecurity.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.9 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	1.6 million
No. of people food insecure (Feb-April 2017)	4.9 million

FUNDING

\$153 million
funding received in 2017*

9.3%
of appeal funding received in 2017

\$1.6 billion
requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>). Additional pledges have been announced but not yet recorded.



USG O'Brien speaks with mother of severely malnourished child in Ganyiel. Photo: OCHA

In this issue

- UN Relief Chief in South Sudan P.1
- Famine Response P.1
- Cholera reaches Malakal P.2
- Displacement in Jonglei P.3
- Rising needs in the Equatorias P.3
- Response in Upper Nile P.4

UN Relief Chief appeals for funds and access

Concluding a two-day visit to South Sudan, on 4-5 March 2017, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, called for immediate and unhindered access to people in need of aid and urgent funding for the humanitarian appeal.

"I visited Ganyiel, where I met with people who had fled fighting, fear and famine in Leer and Mayendit, as well as hunger and insecurity in Lakes," said the Emergency Relief Coordinator. "An elderly woman walked for days through swamps from Leer, with her ten-month-old grandson on her back, after they were separated from the rest of their family during fighting. Her grandson is now receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition. We urgently need additional funding to scale up, sustain and expand life-saving assistance and protection across all of South Sudan."

By July 2017, the humanitarian community estimates that 5.5 million will be severely food insecure. "This is only the beginning of the lean season and, sadly, things could get much, much worse in the months ahead," said Mr. O'Brien. "We desperately need the fighting to stop. We need calm to prevail now so that we can consistently reach people in dire need, and prevent further catastrophe."

During his two-day visit, Mr. O'Brien also met with humanitarian partners and Government officials. "The root cause of this suffering is conflict," he said. "People have been displaced, brutalised and raped. They have been attacked when they sought out assistance. This must stop, and it must stop now."

Read more: *Press Release*- <http://bit.ly/2mTTJXx>

Famine response ramps up

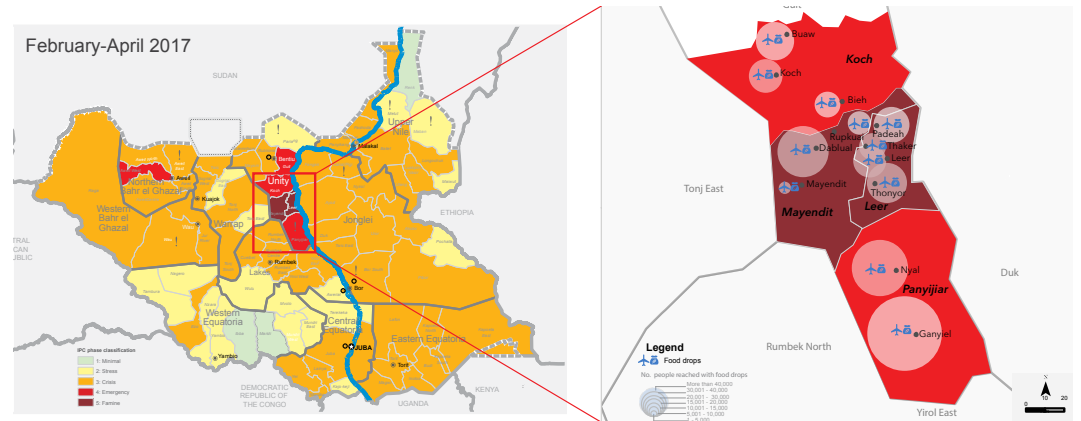
More than 338,000 people in Leer, Mayendit, Koch and Panyijiar have received humanitarian assistance since localized famine was declared in Leer and Mayendit in South Sudan on 20 February, as humanitarian organizations scale-up the provision of food and emergency livelihoods assistance, nutritional supplements, health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Some 100,000 people are facing starvation in Leer and Mayendit counties, while a further 1 million people are classified as being on the brink of famine across South Sudan, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. Famine is considered likely to spread to Koch County and can only be avoided in Panyijiar County if humanitarian assistance is consistently delivered as planned. An estimated 1 million children across the country are acutely malnourished. Humanitarian organizations are using a combination of mobile and static responses to reach people in the hardest-hit areas, including deploying rapid response teams. This week, an inter-agency team has deployed to some of the most remote islands to implement nutrition, health and protection programming.

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Key humanitarian activities have been disrupted due to the relocation of aid workers in Mayendit.

Food insecurity and response in central and southern Unity



Insecurity forces relocation of 28 aid workers from famine-hit Mayendit

A week after localized famine was declared in parts of South Sudan, 28 humanitarian workers were forced to relocate from Mayendit town –in one of the two counties hit by famine– and have not yet been able to return.

Following the relocations, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Eugene Owusu, appealed to all parties to ensure immediate, safe and unhindered access across the country: “To avert further catastrophe, it is imperative that humanitarian workers are able to act swiftly and robustly. I implore all parties to this conflict to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law, place the plight of the people first, give aid workers unfettered access, and protect civilians.”

Aid workers initially relocated on 26 February, after they were advised to leave by local authorities following skirmishes north of Mayendit town. Intensive negotiations were undertaken for aid workers to return. However, renewed fighting was reported on the outskirts of Mayendit town on 1 March and parties to the conflict have informed humanitarian workers that the security situation is not conducive for their return.

Prior to the relocations, food distributions for nearly 114,000 people had been completed in four locations across Mayendit county before aid workers were relocated from Mayendit town. However, life-saving activities have been disrupted due to the relocation, including the cholera response and other vital WASH and nutrition services.

Read more: Joint statement by UN agencies -- <http://bit.ly/2lmyz2f>;

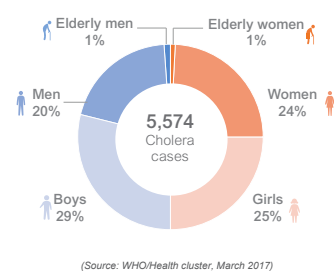
IPC technical brief -- <http://bit.ly/2mo5lwB>; HC’s statement on access -- <http://bit.ly/2lRuchl>

Cholera reaches Malakal, response scales up

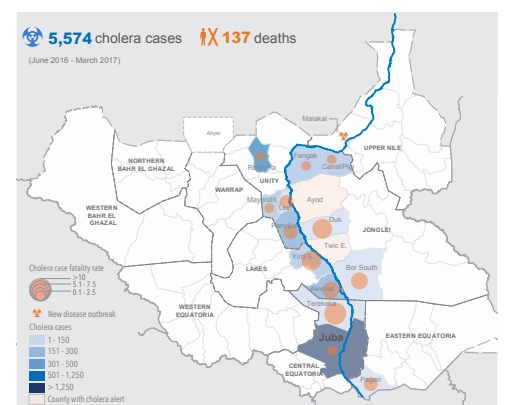
Cholera cases have been confirmed in Malakal town, bringing the number of counties affected countrywide to 14 in the longest and widest outbreak of the disease in South Sudan since it became independent in 2011.

Rapid response teams have been deployed to support investigation and intervention activities in Yirol East in Lakes, where active transmission is ongoing, and a rapid response mission visited Koyom and Moldova Islands in Duk County, Jonglei, between 19 and 24 February. Rapid response teams are also responding to the cholera outbreak in Mingkaman, and in Leer County, Unity, about 30,770 people were vaccinated against the disease in Leer town, Thonyor and Padeah from 24 to 26 February. In Mayendit, however, cholera response activities have been severely disrupted by the relocation of aid workers.

2016-2017 cholera cases by sex and age in South Sudan



Cholera outbreak (2016-2017)



The hotline to report suspected cholera cases is 1144.



Cumulatively, 5,574 cholera cases, including 137 deaths (overall case fatality rate of 2.46 per cent) have been recorded since the initial case was reported on 18 June 2016. Although the outbreak has spread farther and lasted longer than previous outbreaks, it has not yet reached the number of cases reported in the 2014 outbreak (6,421).

Overall, males and females have been affected equally by the cholera outbreak, and children represent around 50 per cent of reported cases. However, there are variations between counties, with females particularly affected in Fangak (65 per cent of cases) and Mayendit (63 per cent of cases).

Jonglei: Civilians displaced, aid workers relocated

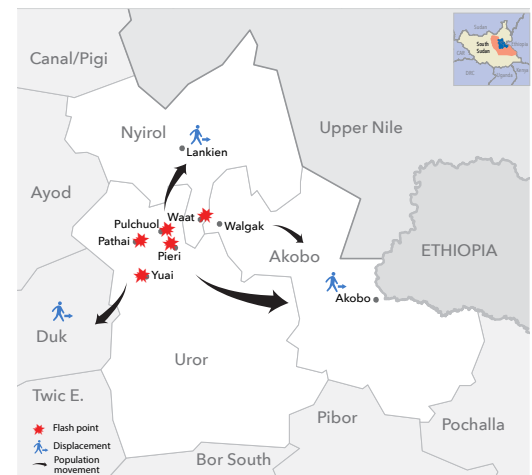
Heavy clashes between armed groups in Jonglei's Uror and Nyirol counties between 15 and 25 February forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes to nearby villages while others moved towards Akobo, near the Ethiopian border. During the fighting, humanitarian compounds were looted and damaged and aid workers had to relocate to nearby areas.

In Jonglei, nearly 17,000 people were displaced by heavy clashes in Pulchulol, Pathai, Motot and Pieri in Uror County and Waat in Nyirol County. This includes more than 9,800 IDPs who reportedly arrived in Akobo County, about 5,600 who reportedly fled to Duk County, and 1,500 who fled to Lankien in Nyirol County.

Widespread looting of humanitarian facilities took place, by both community members and armed actors. On 16 February, aid workers relocated from Yuai for their safety. Another group of aid workers were relocated from in Yuai and Motot in Uror County and Waat in Nyirol County on 25 February following increased insecurity. Some seven humanitarian organizations were based in the area before the recent fighting and all activities have been disrupted.

Humanitarian organizations have demanded that communities involved in the looting step up, return looted items and support the rebuilding of damaged facilities, and called on parties to the conflict to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law.

Displacement and hotspots



Read more: *Save the Children statement* -- <http://bit.ly/2ndZqhZ>

Equatorias: Needs rise amidst access challenges

New displacement and humanitarian needs continue to be reported in the Greater Equatoria region as a result of ongoing fighting and insecurity.

Partners estimate that only around 400 people remain in Kajo-Keji town, including elderly, people with disabilities, and children. The main hospital in Kajo-Keji has been vandalised and medical staffers have fled. A humanitarian compound has also been looted. Outside of Kajo-Keji town, an estimated 30,000 IDPs - displaced primarily from Kaya, Lainya, Morobo and Yei - are still sheltering in three sites in Liwolo payam.

Humanitarian partners estimate that tens of thousands of people remain displaced in areas in and around Lainya in Central Equatoria, which have been largely inaccessible since October 2016. On 20 February, an inter-agency assessment team on mission to Lainya and surrounding areas was denied access at a government checkpoint in Amadi, Lainya County. Following further negotiations, the team were able to travel to Lainya on 23 February -carrying nutrition and medical supplies, and water pump repair kits- and reached Logwili, Lainya, Loka west, Kenyi and Limbe. However, the team were denied

Humanitarian activities have been disrupted in Uror and Nyirol counties due to heavy clashes and looting of humanitarian compounds and assets.

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In 2017 alone, over 139,600 people have sought refuge in neighbouring Uganda, bringing the number of South Sudanese in the country to nearly 800,000.

Humanitarian organizations continue to call on all parties to the conflict to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law and protect civilians.

access to Bereka, Wonduruba, Mukaya, Wuji and Kupera by government armed forces at checkpoints. Negotiations are ongoing to reach these areas. Separately, there are continued reports of violations against civilians, including sexual violence, in and around Yei town.

In Eastern Equatoria, many civilians have reportedly fled Abara, 3 kilometres from Magwi town, following reports of fighting between armed actors on 22 February. Civilians are also reportedly fleeing from Agoro, Umeo and Panyikwara areas due to the build-up of armed forces. According to humanitarian partners, malnutrition rates among children at health facilities in Magwi are concerning, while medical and nutrition supplies are running low. Partners based in Torit have been unable to access or resupply Magwi due to insecurity along the road. However, local staff in Magwi continue to provide services.

In Western Equatoria, some 1,200 people displaced from Rimenze are staying in Yambio town, where the situation remains tense. Meanwhile, thousands of people remain displaced in Bangolo and Kotobi payams of Mundri West County, which humanitarian partners have been unable to access consistently since December 2016.

In 2017 alone, over 139,600 people have sought refuge in neighbouring Uganda, bringing the number of South Sudanese in the country to nearly 800,000. People arriving in Uganda report fleeing general insecurity, limited access to food and basic services, violence, rape and abuse of women and girls, arbitrary detention and indiscriminate killing and destruction of property by armed forces. Many refugees report walking up to seven days through the bush to reach Uganda, due to insecurity on main roads. Others report walking for days through dense forests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo en route to Uganda to avoid attacks by armed groups. South Sudan is now Africa's largest refugee crisis and the world's third after Syria and Afghanistan.

Read more: *UNHCR's Uganda update* -- <http://bit.ly/2mCL266>; *Protection Cluster report on Kajo-Keji*-- <http://bit.ly/2mCFgRO>

Upper Nile: Life-saving aid in Kodok and Aburoc

Humanitarian partners are responding to large-scale displacement in and around Kodok and Aburoc in Fashoda County, amidst concerns regarding the protection of civilians.

Food distribution to some 27,000 people has been completed in Aburoc, including an estimated 12,000 who have arrived since clashes began on the western bank of the Nile in January. Wells have been repaired and emergency latrine construction is ongoing. An emergency room is being established and nutrition programming is being scaled-up. Protection actors have identified at least 64 cases of separated and unaccompanied children and are working intensively to locate their families. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provided a dedicated flight on 3 March to deploy additional aid workers to support the response.

In early February, heavy fighting broke out in Upper Nile when armed groups clashed in multiple locations including Doleib hills in Panyikang County, Wau Shilluk in Fashoda County, Gabbat and Abu Khadra in Renk County, and Wadakona in Manyo County. The fighting, which lasted over a week, displaced an estimated 35,000 people from Wau Shilluk and surrounding villages to Kodok and Aburoc, with some people reported to have fled to Fashoda and Yonyi from Lul, Padit and Pathow. There have been reports of interference by non-state armed actors in humanitarian activities and protection violations in the area, including separation of men and male youths from women and children, restrictions on freedom of movement, and possible forced recruitment. Humanitarian organizations continue to call on all parties to the conflict to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law.

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