

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian Coordinator welcomes President Kiir's order on free, unimpeded and unhindered movement of humanitarian in the country.
- The current harvest season provides meagre respite to hunger crisis as conflict persists.
- Heavy fighting in Nimni, Guit County, forces several aid workers to flee for their safety and abandon critical life-saving aid response.
- More than 17,300 IDPs in Kajo-keji flee to new safe locations due to fighting between armed actors.
- Measles outbreak has been confirmed in Panyijiar County.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.86 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	2.1 million
No. of people food insecure (Oct-Dec 2017)	4.8 million

FUNDING

\$1.1 billion

funding received in 2017*

66%

of appeal funding received in 2017

\$1.6 billion

requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan



A child receives treatment for malnutrition at the Protection of Civilians site in Juba. Photo: UNICEF.

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President's order on humanitarian access welcomed

The Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Alain Noudéhou, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, have welcomed President Salva Kiir Mayardit's decree ordering free, unimpeded and unhindered movement of humanitarian organizations in the country.

In a Republican Order dated 9 November, President Kiir said: "All humanitarian convoys and NGOs should be accorded free, unimpeded and unhindered movement to the needy areas all over South Sudan." Adding: "All roadblocks should be removed from the roads."

Humanitarians face repeated challenges to reach people in dire need as a result of clashes, insecurity and access denials. Life-saving activities continue to be disrupted due to access constraints and insecurity, with at least 43 incidents causing the relocation of more than 500 humanitarian staff from January to October 2017.

"Ensuring unhindered humanitarian access is essential to save lives," said Noudéhou. "South Sudan's humanitarian partners appreciate the step that President Kiir has taken to ensure the free movement of supplies and personnel, particularly at a time when food insecurity continues to deteriorate, and humanitarian organizations face pressure to expand their response."

Mr. Noudéhou hoped that the order would ease delivery of aid to millions of South Sudanese affected by prolonged conflict, disease and a collapsing economy.

"We hope that the order will have a positive impact in reducing the many constraints faced by humanitarian partners that delay or prevent the provision of urgently needed help and which too often place humanitarian staff at risk," said Noudéhou.

"We look forward to seeing the order implemented on the ground swiftly and we will continue to work with all concerned authorities to ensure a safe and secure operational environment that is conducive to the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need," he added.

Ambassador Haley also welcomed the order. "This is a good sign, but we must see actions—more than words—from President Kiir," Haley said in a statement to *The Washington Post* newspaper. "The true test will be whether humanitarian assistance is actually allowed to get to the South Sudanese people in a consistent way. We will be watching, and we will continue to encourage President Kiir to do the right thing," she added.

High fees, interference threaten aid delivery

Access restrictions continued to hamper humanitarian operations and organizations' ability to reach people in need in multiple locations, often due to armed actors contradicting assurances given by authorities.

*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>).

In Rubkona (Unity), the authorities forced the suspension of water, sanitation and hygiene activities after a partner declined to comply with a directive to employ community volunteers. The suspension affected the delivery of services to over 51,000 people in Bentiu and Rubkona towns. In Juba, authorities issued a circular announcing new work permit rates of up to \$4,000 per permit per year, which could see nearly \$7 million, meant for people in need, diverted to fees.

Read more: *Humanitarian Access Snapshot* -- <http://bit.ly/2hBQMwF>

South Sudan: Harvest season provides meagre respite to hunger crisis

The current harvest season in South Sudan will not end the hunger crisis as conflict persists in most of the country and hyperinflation puts food out of reach for many, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.

From October to December, 4.8 million people—about 45 per cent of the population—are severely food insecure. This represents 1.4 million more than at the same time last year; much of this growth has been in the Emergency category (IPC phase 4).

"The harvest season has not brought much relief to the millions of people in South Sudan who don't have enough food. The country's greenbelt has been ravaged by fighting, and finding a peaceful solution to this man-made tragedy should be the top priority or the situation will get even worse next year," said Serge Tissot, FAO's Representative in South Sudan.

The food security situation is projected to deteriorate at the start of 2018, with an estimated 5.1 million people being classified as severely food insecure in the first quarter, and the 'hungry season'—when households typically run out of food before the next harvest—is forecast to start three months earlier than usual. Many people have few means of coping with the stresses of the lean season, and the situation is predicted to become increasingly fragile.

"A massive humanitarian response helped stop famine in parts of the country this year. But even in the current harvest period, millions of people need sustained assistance to survive," said Adnan Khan, WFP Representative in South Sudan. "It is chilling to see that in a worst-case scenario, similar conditions could appear in multiple places in the lean season in 2018."

The teams who conducted the analysis identified two counties, Wau and Ayod, where a total of 25,000 people are facing catastrophic conditions. Of greatest concern is Greater Baggari in Wau County where 10 per cent of the population is facing famine-like conditions because insecurity has heavily constrained livelihood activities and humanitarian assistance. There is an urgent need for consistent humanitarian access

from Wau to Greater Baggari area to allow agencies to provide comprehensive assistance.

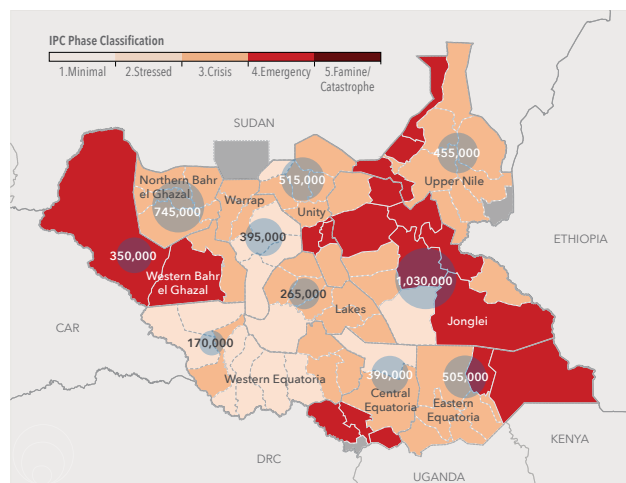
Malnutrition has also worsened compared to the same period last year, with surveys showing malnutrition rates in most communities well above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent, and with more than 30 per cent of the population malnourished in several counties.

More than 1.1 million children under five are forecast to be malnourished in 2018, including nearly 300,000 severely

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Food security classification (October-December)



Source: IPC. Map: OCHA.

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malnourished and at a heightened risk of death.

"Too many children are going hungry in South Sudan. More than one in five of those struggling to feed themselves is a child under age 5," said Mahimbo Mdoe, UNICEF's Representative in South Sudan. "This has created a malnutrition crisis that is putting many lives at risk."

Read more: *IPC Key Messages* -- <http://bit.ly/2hazpPD>; *Joint FAO, UNICEF and WFP Prease Release* -- <http://bit.ly/2hgvMLY>

Guit fighting forces suspension of critical humanitarian response

Heavy fighting between armed forces in Nimni, Guit County, forced several aid workers to flee for their safety, abandoning critical life-saving aid response.

In the fighting that broke out on 26 October, NGO compounds, health and nutrition facilities were also reportedly looted and vandalized affecting thousands of people benefiting from nutrition and health response. Five aid workers were extracted from the area affected by the fighting on the same day. UNMISS peacekeepers, on a mission to extract additional aid workers, were twice denied access by forces at a checkpoint in Kurigiue.

However, on 27 October, an NGO was permitted access and managed to extract another eight NGO staff members and five community volunteers. A planned general food distribution exercise in Nimni, targeting over 1,700 displaced people, was suspended due to the fighting. The recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis classifies Guit in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in October-December 2017.

Under the Beyond Bentiu Response Strategy, several humanitarian partners have since early 2016 been reaching thousands of vulnerable people in deep-field locations of Unity, including Guit County. Nimni is one of the most important hubs and main points for service delivery as humanitarians work to extended response to other hard-to-reach areas in northern Unity outside Bentiu town.

Partners continue to call on all parties to the conflict to allow humanitarian agencies unhindered access to the people in need of assistance and protection wherever they are.

Fighting in Nimni, Guit County forced several aid workers to flee for their safety, humanitarian compounds, health and nutrition facilities were also reportedly looted and vandalized during the fight.

IDPs flee Kajo-keji fighting

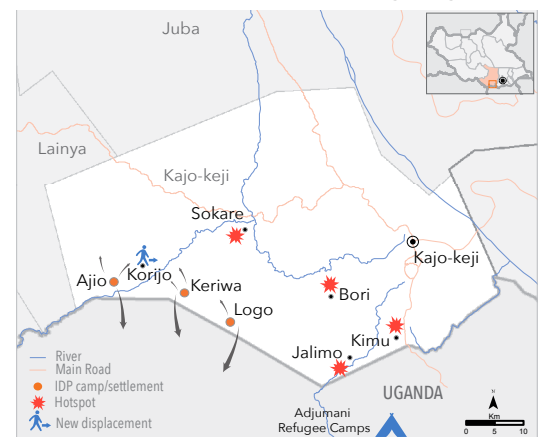
Intense fighting in Kajo-keji County, Central Equatoria, has forced more than 17,300 displaced people to flee to new safe locations with the majority reported to have crossed to Uganda. Before the late October fighting, there were IDPs in Ajiro (2,400), Keriwa (7,300) and Logo (7,500) camps near the South Sudan-Uganda border. They had been displaced there following fighting and increasing insecurity in other parts of Central Equatoria including, Morobo, Lainya and Yei.

When the first gun battles broke out on 16 October, local sources reported that a significant number of IDPs had stayed in Ajiro, Logo and Keriwa IDP camps. However, the security situation deteriorated further from 26-29 October, following a government offensive on Kimu, Jalimo, Sokare and Bori villages.

The camps rapidly emptied as many IDPs fled to Uganda while around 2,500 IDPs, mainly the elderly, women and children, reportedly remained displaced at Koriyo in

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Hotspots and displacement in Kajo-keji



Map: OCHA.

Humanitarian agencies responding to the needs of the IDPs in Kajo-keji suspended operations and relocated staff members.

Liwolo payam about 5 kilometres from the border. Most of the IDPs at Korijo cited tending livestock as the reason for staying inside South Sudan. Yei County authorities have also reported high numbers of new arrivals in Lainya and Morobo as a result of the fighting.

Dozens of aid workers from 10 humanitarian organizations responding to the needs of the displaced were also forced to suspend operations and relocate from the area. A health facility at the IDP camps was reportedly looted and vandalized.

Reports indicate that the fighting has had adverse effects on the civilians, who have been displaced several times. Partners report urgent humanitarian needs of the IDPs at Korijo including food assistance, health care, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, non-food items and protection services.

Humanitarian partners are planning to provide emergency kits consisting of water purification tablets, soap and sanitary pads, buckets and jerry cans to the IDP households. Aid agencies also plan to introduce mobile health, nutrition and protection services and construct emergency latrines in Korijo.

Measles outbreak in Panyijiar

A measles outbreak has been confirmed in Panyijiar County. At least 158 cases, including four deaths (case fatality rate of 2.53 per cent) have been reported since early July 2017.

All the measles cases in Panyijiar County are being managed at primary health care centres in Ganyiel and Nyal. However, the 13 payams in the county have reported cases with the most affected being Nyal, Kol and Katieth.

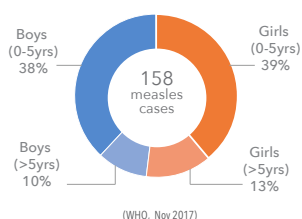
Measles is an infectious viral disease causing fever and a red rash on the skin, typically occurring in childhood. About 77.6 per cent of the cases in Panyijiar are children under age 5. None of the affected cases had received measles vaccine.

Response activities are ongoing to stem the spread of the new outbreak in Panyijiar County. Health partners have conducted a measles campaign targeting children between 6 and 59 months. About 300 community health workers have been trained to identify and refer cases from the community.

However, the risk of further measles outbreaks remains high as conflict, displacement and lack of access continue to frustrate efforts to ensure country-wide vaccination coverage. The coverage for all preventable diseases has remained below 50 per cent since 2016 country-wide, with only 20 per cent in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. A measles follow up campaign has been implemented since May 2017 reaching 1.6 million children 6 to 49 months with the vaccine. However, an estimated 546,000 children under age 5 are still at risk of contracting measles across the country, especially in the Greater Upper Nile, according to partners.

Since the beginning of 2017, at least 1,087 suspect measles cases have been reported across South Sudan, including at least 11 deaths. Of these, 616 have been investigated with a total of 431 being confirmed as measles in nine counties: Aweil South, Gogrial East, Gogrial West, Juba, Jur River, Panyijiar, Torit, Wau and Yambio.

Measles cases by sex & age in Panyijiar County



Response activities are ongoing to stem the spread of the new outbreak in Panyijiar County, including a vaccination campaign.



Children at a nutrition facility in Ganyiel in March 2017. Photo: OCHA

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