

### HIGHLIGHTS (53 minutes ago)

- Food insecurity increases, humanitarian urge for scale-up of aid
- Humanitarian access remained constrained in 2018, impacting aid to people in need
- Thousands of people fled for safety after renewed fighting in Yei
- Armed group released 120 children in Yambio
- Aid organizations expand assistance as displaced people return to central and southern Unity



*In Koch County, Unity, WFP conducts a registration exercise to establish the number of people in need, in advance of food deliveries. Credit: WFP/Charlie Musoka*

### KEY FIGURES

**7.1M**

People in need

**5.7M**

People targeted

**1.9M**

Number of IDPs

**6.45M**

Severely food insecure (Feb-Apr)

### FUNDING (2019)

**\$1.5B**

Requirements

**\$80.4M**

Funding



**5%**

Progress

FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/713/summary>

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### ANALYSIS (52 minutes ago)

#### Food insecurity increases, humanitarian urge for scale-up of aid

Nearly 6.5 million people – 57 per cent of the population – are estimated to face severe food insecurity from February to April, with an estimated 45,000 in 'catastrophic' conditions, said the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Working Group in South Sudan.

This is expected to increase to an estimated 6.9 million people facing severe food insecurity at the peak of the lean season – the time when people's food stock runs out before the next harvest – in May-June. An estimated 50,000 people will be in 'catastrophic' conditions, which means they will be facing a famine-like situation.

Malnutrition levels remained critical in many areas, with some 860,000 children under the age of five estimated to be severely malnourished in 2019.

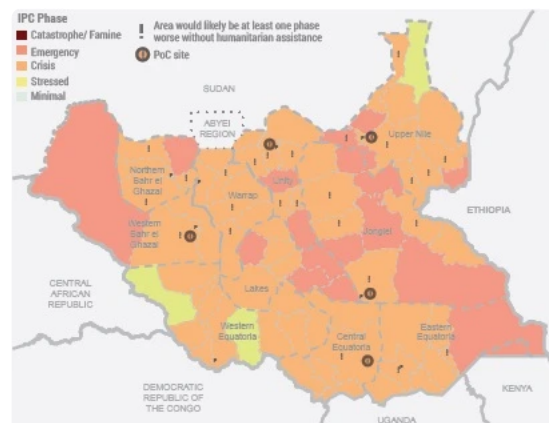
The Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Alain Noudéhou, said: "Sustained humanitarian support is required to address the immediate food assistance needs. It is also critical to support resilience activities to improve livelihoods and to increase families' ability to cope."

The number of acutely food insecure people has already increased by 13 per cent since January last year.

Humanitarian organizations said that funding and an urgent scale-up of humanitarian food assistance were needed to help vulnerable people across the country.

Around 80 per cent of people in South Sudan are farmers or pastoralists and depend on their produce or livestock for their livelihoods. But armed fighting and a lack of safety have made it hard for them to continue.

In 2019, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization aims to provide 800,000 farming, fishing and pastoral households in severely food insecure areas with vegetable and crop seeds, agricultural tools and fishing equipment. The UN's World Food Programme, will, among other things, deliver emergency food assistance; while UNICEF, the UN's Children Fund, is targeting more than two million children and their mothers to provide quality nutrition services in 2019.



Integrated Food Security Phase Classification map February to April 2019

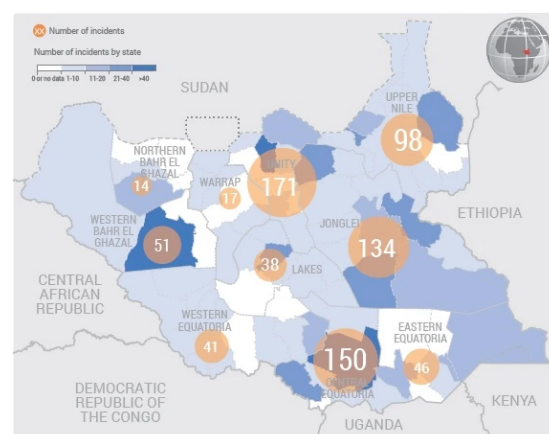
## ACCESS (14 minutes ago)

### Humanitarian access remained constrained in 2018, impacting aid to people in need

In 2018, at least 760 humanitarian access incidents were reported by humanitarian organizations across South Sudan. Although the overall number of access incidents decreased in comparison to 2017, the impact on humanitarian aid remained significant.

International NGOs experienced nearly half (48 per cent) of all incidents. A quarter of all incidents were significant in severity and caused serious impacts on aid workers, assets or humanitarian response.

Fifteen aid workers were killed while delivering humanitarian assistance during the year, resulting in at least 112 aid workers killed since the start of the conflict in December 2013. At least 117 staff were detained for prolonged periods in 2018, with the majority working for local NGOs. More than 575 staff were relocated due to insecurity, resulting in the temporary suspension of operations, including over 400 people in Maban, Upper Nile, that suspended operations for months.



Number of access incidents per state in 2018

Bureaucratic and operational interference continued in both Government and opposition held territories. This caused excessive delays and mounting costs to humanitarian operations. State security forces persistently denied access to several areas, which included areas outside Yei town in Central Equatoria and the greater Baggari area in Western Bahr el Ghazal. This cut off thousands of people from humanitarian support for several months.

Most of the reported incidents in 2018 affected humanitarian operations across sectors. There were notable incidents including attacks on food convoys; looting or theft of compounds that were storing programme supplies such as food, water and sanitation items, or shelter and essential household items; and harassment of staff.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE (51 minutes ago)

#### Thousands of people fled for safety after renewed fighting in Yei

The renewed fighting in Yei River State caused thousands to flee their homes, including many to the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

From January to February, fighting between the Government's South Sudanese People's Defense Forces and the National Salvation Front soldiers was reported in many places in the Yei area. Mugwo, Morobo and Otego counties suffered the most. People have accused both sides of murdering civilians, raping women, looting property and setting houses on fire.

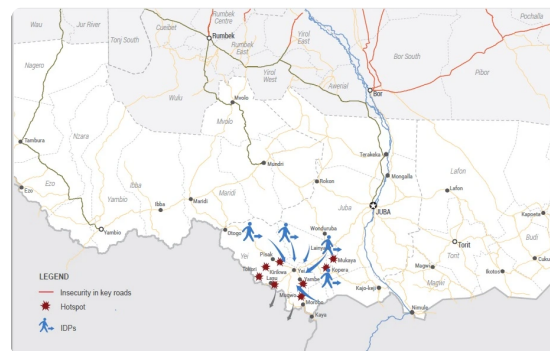
The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said the fighting had displaced over 5,000 civilians to the neighbouring DRC. Most of those who fled are women, children and the elderly. They arrived exhausted, hungry, thirsty and sick.

Some 7,400 civilians were displaced to villages in the outskirts of Yei town, adding to the 20,000 internally displaced people and 1,500 refugees who were already settled in several communities across the town. An estimated 15,000 civilians were seeking safety outside Yei, their exact locations unknown.

On 22 February, the Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Alain Noudéhou, led a delegation to Yei town to see the humanitarian situation. "The internally displaced people I met today in Yei told me they want peace, so they can go home. Getting services to them – including the women and children – must be the priority for all of us," said Mr. Noudéhou.

"Humanitarian organizations are working tirelessly to provide support and they need a safe space to operate. The violence must stop."

Despite the insecurity, humanitarian organizations have continued to provide emergency assistance, particularly in the areas of health, clean water and sanitation, food and protection, including gender-based violence.



*Fighting and population movement in Yei*

### FEATURE (51 minutes ago)

#### Armed group releases 120 children in Yambio

An armed group released 119 children in Yambio, bringing the total number of children released across the country since the start of the conflict in 2013 to more than 3,100, including 983 children in Yambio alone.

“While this is an encouraging development, there is a long way to go before over 19,000 children still in their ranks are returned to their families,” said UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore. “Every child no longer with an armed group represents a childhood restored and a future regained,” said Fore.

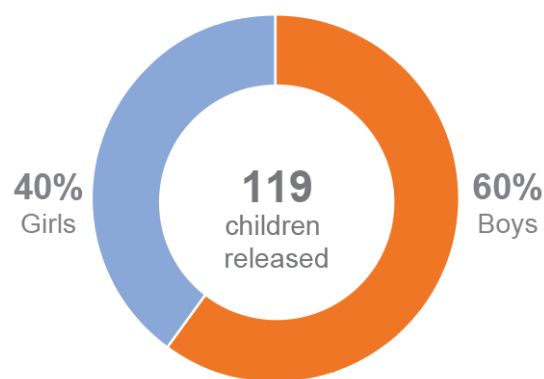
The children were either recruited or kidnapped and used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers or spies, and some were subjected to sexual exploitation. Medical screenings and mental health care services were conducted to treat the children’s medical condition related to the armed conflict.

The 48 girls and 71 boys were provided with a reintegration package that includes food assistance, clothes, shoes and other basic commodities. For each released child assisted, one vulnerable child and their family from the host community were also supported to foster acceptance and promote a more sustainable reintegration.

Organizations have established child-friendly spaces in the communities to help the boys and girls regain their childhoods and simply be children again.

At the same time, 85 children, including 60 boys and 25 girls, previously associated with armed groups graduated from Tindoka Vocational Training Center.

Some of the newly released children will go to vocational training centres to be equipped with skills to improve their livelihoods. Others will join regular schools within the community.



Children released by sex

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE (35 minutes ago)

### Aid organizations expand assistance as displaced people return to central and southern Unity

The improved security situation in parts of central and southern Unity has encouraged thousands of displaced people to return to their home villages. An early-February humanitarian mission to Koch, Leer and Mayendit counties found that more than 17,000 women, men and children had returned to the areas from the UNMISS protective sites in Malakal, Juba and Bentiu, and from neighbouring Sudan, Kenya and Uganda.

Many returnees had been displaced for nearly five years and found their villages largely destroyed and homes burned. While hopeful about the prospect of finding stability again after years of insecurity, the newly returned families’ living conditions were dire, as they lacked food, clean water and essential household supplies. The conflict in Koch, Leer and Mayendit has destroyed half of the areas’ health facilities: only 19 are said to be functional compared to 42 before the conflict in 2016.

Humanitarian organizations have scaled up their response in Unity to support the returnees and host communities. Food distribution to more than 43,000 people in Leer county was completed at the end of February, while pre-positioning and distribution of food is ongoing in neighbouring counties.

Health organizations have strengthened disease surveillance across southern Unity, and health workers have been trained on disease surveillance and response in Leer and Mayendit counties.

To support the newly arrived children's education, aid organizations have conducted a Back to School Campaign in Leer, Koch and Mayendit, distributed school materials, and trained teachers and Parents Teachers Association members.

The returnee families have also received clean water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, critical household items and emergency shelter materials.

### MEDIA (25 minutes ago)



View this video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaemJosmpBA>

We asked people who fled their homes because of the conflict in South Sudan to tell us about their lives. Watch this video, and hear what they said.

For more information see:

<https://www.unocha.org/south-sudan>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/south-sudan>

<https://reliefweb.int/country/ssd>

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