

HIGHLIGHTS (11 Oct 2019)

- South Sudan Humanitarian Fund allocates US\$36 million to respond to life-saving needs
- New research finds 1.5 million internally displaced persons in South Sudan
- More than 6.35 million people severely food insecure in August despite large scale humanitarian assistance
- Floods worsen living conditions as rains intensify across the country
- Humanitarian organizations respond as needs increase in Kajo-Keji



In Akobo, a mother feeds her child nutritious supplementary food. More than 6.35 million people were severely food insecure in August. Credit: Medair

KEY FIGURES

7.2M

People in need

5.7M

People targeted

1.47M

Internally displaced people

6.35M

Severely food insecure (August)

FUNDING (2019)

\$1.5B

Required

\$788.9M

Received



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

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FEATURE (11 Oct 2019)

South Sudan Humanitarian Fund allocates US\$36 million to respond to life-saving needs

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) has allocated US\$36 million under the second standard allocation of the year, targeting an estimated 1.3 million people. Fifty-six per cent of the beneficiaries are women and girls.

The funds will allow about 212,000 vulnerable South Sudanese to access mobile health services and some 130,000 individuals to access safe water. Nearly 160,000 children will be vaccinated against measles to stem the spread of the disease; some 145,000 infants and young children will access feeding counselling; and nearly 33,000 children will receive meals at school. Some 576,000 individuals will receive vegetable kits consisting of seeds and tools, improving families' self-sufficiency and access to food. Some 103,000 people will receive essential household items, and nearly 103,000 internally displaced persons will benefit from site management activities in Protection of Civilians sites and collective centers.;

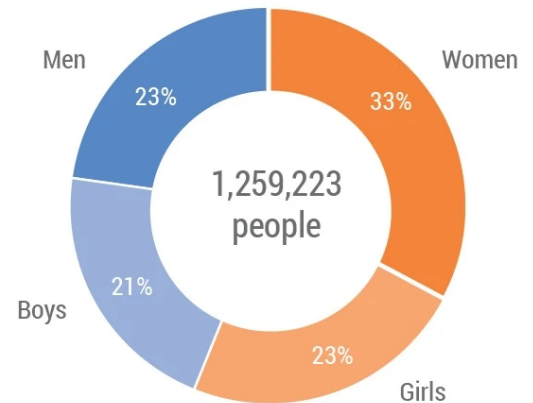
This is the first time that an integrated multi-sector approach to the humanitarian response was introduced during the allocation process since the pooled fund was established, with \$16.5 million allocated for 31 projects implemented by more than one humanitarian cluster. Activities undertaken by humanitarian organizations working across sectors include mitigating underlying causes of high mortality, like severe malnutrition in children under 5 years of age, and targeting schools with WASH activities and hygiene campaigns.

Some \$15 million representing 42 per cent of the total allocation were channeled to local NGOs, in line with the Grand Bargain localization agenda, which emphasizes the promotion of principled humanitarian action that is “as local as possible and as international as necessary”. Another 45 per cent was allocated to international NGOs and 13 per cent to United Nations agencies.

The 26 counties targeted by the SSHF funding are Morobo, Kajo-Keji and Yei in Central Equatoria; Akobo, Bor South, Canal/Pigi, Duk, Pibor and Twic East in Jonglei; Cueibet, Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, Yirol East and Yirol West in Lakes; Aweil East and Aweil South in Northern Bahr el Ghazal; Koch, Luakpiny/Nasir, Panyijiar, Pariang and Rubkona in Unity; Tonj North and Twic in Warrap; and Jur River, Raga and Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal.

The second standard allocation brings the total funding allocated by the pooled fund in 2019 to \$70.5 million. The funds are used to implement 167 projects to support response to unmet humanitarian needs and implementation of priority sectoral activities outlined in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. The SSHF enables targeting of funds to the most critical needs, and improves efficiency and timely response to emergencies in the country.

The SSHF is a multi-donor pooled fund that supports the allocation and disbursement of donor resources to meet the most critical needs in harmonized ways to create greater overall impact. New contributions are urgently needed to continue addressing the most critical needs of the vulnerable people.



Estimated beneficiaries by age and sex

ANALYSIS (30 Sep 2019)

New research finds 1.5 million internally displaced persons in South Sudan

South Sudan’s baseline on internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been reset from 1,829,223 individuals to 1,465,542 due to the culmination of an 18-month-long review and rationalization exercise between IDP datasets maintained by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Organization for Migration’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM).

“For the past 18 months, OCHA has been working closely with IOM DTM to thoroughly update South Sudan’s baseline data on IDPs,” said Steve O’Malley, Head of the South Sudan Office for OCHA.

“Now a new baseline has been set, and OCHA and IOM DTM will maintain a unified IDP baseline for South Sudan, which will be regularly updated.”



Some of the internally displaced persons who fled their homes in villages outside Yei town at the peak of the conflict in 2017. Credit: UNHCR

“The IOM DTM Mobility Tracking exercise published its first round of data in March 2018, at the time covering 230 locations across 23 counties”, says Jean-Philippe Chauzy, the IOM Chief of Mission. “Coverage has steadily expanded and the latest exercise, DTM Round 6, covers 2,312 locations across all 78 counties of South Sudan. The findings are due to be published in September 2019.”

The large-scale reduction of more than 360,000 individuals is caused by updating and verifying displacement data through revisiting locations and obtaining new population estimates, and reviewing all data for potential duplications.

The new baseline does not reflect the actual change in IDP numbers between July and August, but rather the cumulative effect of the data review. Considering all decreases and increases of IDPs throughout the country, there has been an overall net decrease of 26,302 individuals from July to August 2019.

“I am very pleased that we have been able to update the IDP data. The ability to understand the context and measure displacement is crucial to serving people who are impacted by the crisis,” said Alain Noudéhou, the Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan.

ANALYSIS (25 Sep 2019)

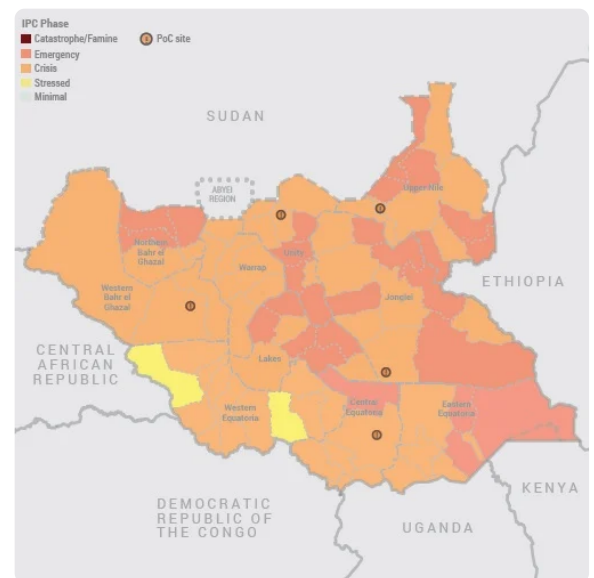
More than 6.35 million people severely food insecure in August despite large scale humanitarian assistance

More than 6.35 million people – 54 per cent of the South Sudanese population – were severely food insecure in August, despite large scale humanitarian assistance, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis released jointly by three United Nations agencies and the Government on 11 September.

Among these people, an estimated 1.7 million people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity and 10,000 people faced catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). The analysis showed a 5 per cent reduction in the proportion of severely food insecure people compared to the same period last year.

Decreased armed conflict and people’s improved access to livelihoods and markets are some of the reasons why the food security situation improved, said the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The availability of seasonal harvests from September in most parts of the country, which have been relatively secure, was also a factor. Between September and December 2019, 4.54 million people – 39 per cent of the population – are projected to be severely food insecure.

With improved security, some internally displaced persons and refugee returnees have returned to their homes to cultivate their land and increase their own food production. According to FAO, South Sudan’s cereal production has increased by 150,000 metric tons in the last year, attributed to the improved security in most parts of the country. A more stable political environment has also allowed for improved delivery of humanitarian assistance to previously hard to reach areas.



IPC acute food insecurity for August 2019.
Source: IPC

However, in the post-harvest period of January to April 2020, the food security situation will deteriorate again as households begin depleting their supply of food as they enter the lean season, when there is not enough food for them to eat. Some 5.50 million people – 47 per cent of the population – are projected to be severely food insecure in the January to April 2020 projection period.

Despite slight improvements in food security, the number of acutely malnourished children was estimated to reach 1.3 million. This is the highest number recorded since independence.

Jointly releasing the nutrition analysis, UNICEF called for a shift from treatment of malnutrition to prevention, including not only food assistance, promotion of breastfeeding and nutrition counselling, but also access to clean water, proper hygiene and health care. Humanitarians have also called for a speedy implementation of the revitalized peace agreement to facilitate people's access to livelihoods, markets and humanitarian assistance.

FEATURE (16 Sep 2019)

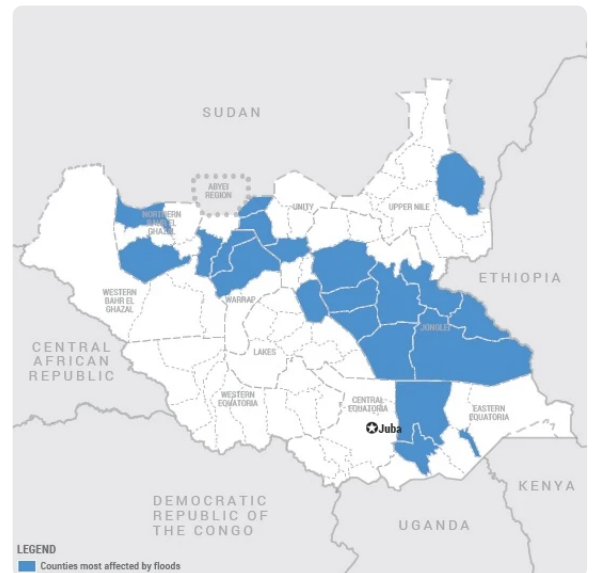
Floods worsen living conditions as rains intensify across the country

Floods caused by torrential rains have worsened the living conditions of South Sudanese people in many parts of the country in the past few months. Some of the areas affected include Lafon, Torit and Kapoeta South counties in Eastern Equatoria; Ayod, Akobo, Bor South, Duk, Twic East, Pibor, Pochalla and Uror counties in Jonglei; Aweil Center and Aweil North in Northern Bahr el Ghazal; Abiemnhom, Mayom, Mayendit and Panyijiar in Unity; Maban in Upper Nile; and Gogrial East, Gogrial West and Tonj North in Warrap.

The heavy rains have inundated shelters, water sources, crops and crucial productive assets in many areas. They have also damaged essential service infrastructure like schools and health facilities, impacting women and children in particular. The floods have rendered many roads impassable, constraining people's access to markets and humanitarians' ability to move across affected areas. Thousands of families have temporarily relocated from worst-affected to safer areas. The flooding has increased the risk of diseases among the communities. The most commonly reported ones include acute watery diarrhoea, respiratory infections and malaria.

Across the country, authorities and aid organizations have reported that an estimated 234,800 people have been affected by the floods in the past months including about 132,800 people in Jonglei, 52,000 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, nearly 37,000 people in Unity, some 8,000 people in Eastern Equatoria and 5,000 people in Upper Nile. In Warrap, a joint needs assessment by partners to assess needs and ascertain the number of people affected by floods in Tonj North, Gogrial East, Gogrial East and Tonj North counties commenced on 11 September. Local leaders continue to report new affected areas and people daily.

The government with support from the humanitarian organizations are currently responding to needs in locations including Aweil Centre in Northern Bahr el Ghazal; Ayod, Bor South, Duk, Twic East and Pibor in Jonglei; Maban in Upper Nile; Torit and Kapoeta in Eastern Equatoria; and Mayendit in Unity.



South Sudan map showing counties most affected by floods.

Humanitarian response to floods is based on assessed needs and vulnerability index developed by the Humanitarian Country Team. According to the agreed criteria, response is triggered only if over 5,000 people have been affected; at least half of individual property has become uninhabitable as a direct result of the floods; the flooding is combined with more than one other event, such as conflict, disease outbreak, inter-communal conflict or cattle raid; the affected population is experiencing emergency or worse levels of food insecurity; more than 50 per cent of water infrastructure and health and nutrition facilities have been destroyed; and more than 40 per cent of productive assets and cultivated land have been lost.

In many parts of South Sudan, strong coping mechanisms are already in place to deal with annual flooding. Humanitarian and other organizations are working with local communities to support resilience initiatives as a sustainable solution to the flood emergencies and to reduce need for humanitarian assistance. These include community sensitization about appropriate locations for planting and cultivation.

Despite the challenges, floods also bring some positive benefits to affected communities, including increased fertility of farmland and availability of fish.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (30 Aug 2019)

Humanitarian organizations respond as needs increase in Kajo-Keji

An inter-agency team undertook a response mission to Kajo-Keji and the surrounding area in August, following increased humanitarian needs by displaced people, returnees and host communities. Emergency household items, food security and livelihoods support, and protection and health services were among people's priorities. Health services were particularly poor. Some health centres were not functional. Others lacked medical supplies, especially anti-malarial medicine, and there were no health referral means in many of the places assessed.

In Kangapo County, nearly 25,000 returnees, including refugee returnees, have been reported by the authorities. In Liwolo, Kerwa and Sokare some 36,000 returnees were said to have arrived, but some were unable to reach their final places of origin due to the presence of armed groups.

Refugee returnees from Uganda were arriving daily to Kajo-Keji, according to the authorities, to maintain their homes and farms. Some of them went back to Uganda, where they could rely on assistance, while some of them remained in the area. Humanitarian organizations are working with the authorities to verify the number of returnees.

Humanitarian organizations have provided household items and shelter to almost 1,000 households in Kajo-Keji central and Liwolo. In addition, more than 3,500 households in Kangapo and Mere counties have been verified and registered for household items and shelter support. In Mere County, organizations have also distributed water and sanitation materials, and several boreholes have been repaired.

Humanitarian organizations have distributed school materials to children and teachers in 10 functional schools in Kangapo and Mere counties, but there were an inadequate number teachers in nearly all the schools. Jelimo, Bori and Sokare primary schools were occupied by Government soldiers.



Women receive emergency items in Kajo-Keji town. Credit: Liyong Soma/Titi Foundation



Training of farmers on better agricultural practices was ongoing in Koriyo, Kangapo and Mere counties. At least 5,000 households were registered to receive agricultural tools and seeds for planting.

In Kajo-Keji town, the Government is planning to reopen the Out-Patient Department in Kajo-Keji main hospital with support from health organizations. Essential drugs and equipment have been delivered to the hospital. The authorities reported over 60 Government health workers who had fled the area during the conflict had returned to Kajo-Keji town.

The response team engaged with authorities to secure the necessary assurances regarding the safety of civilians reaching assistance, the safety and security of humanitarian workers, and the demilitarization of areas where assistance and protection was being provided.

In the past years, humanitarian presence in Kajo-Keji County has been intermittent due to a volatile security situation. Humanitarian organizations were forced to withdraw from the area in 2016 when fighting escalated and staff were threatened. Currently, six humanitarian organization work in Kajo-Keji County.

FEATURE (30 Aug 2019)

Solar-powered, digital audio player launched to improve Ebola community engagement

Solar-powered, digital audio players have been launched to improve Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) community engagement and risk communication in South Sudan.

At least 400 players will be distributed to about 8,000 listeners in high-risk areas of Morobo and Yei counties of Central Equatoria by an international NGO, Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of South Sudan (ACROSS). The people will be organized in groups under 'audio player leaders', who are trained on using the equipment.

The gadget will be loaded with tailored risk communication and community engagement messages in local languages on EVD, hygiene practices, including hand hygiene, and nutrition. The programme will be integrated with the organization's nutrition activities.

This is the first time that EVD risk communication and community engagement has used digital audio equipment in the country.

For nearly 10 years, ACROSS has been using the gadget in different locations in South Sudan to disseminate messages about peace building, water, sanitation and hygiene practices, health care and education. In Yei, Central Equatoria, and Rumbek in Lakes, the programme has improved teaching skills in primary schools through targeting of untrained teachers. While in Pibor, Jonglei, improved attendance at an antenatal health clinic was reported after broadcasting related programmes.

The Ministry of Health and humanitarian organizations have been working collectively on Ebola prevention and preparedness since the onset of the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Preparedness activities include vaccinating front-line health workers, educating people about prevention and response measures, conducting screening at multiple locations to help with early detection of cases, training personnel in infection prevention and control.

The risk of transmission of EVD into countries that share borders with DRC, including South Sudan, has been classified as "very high" by the World Health Organization.

MEDIA (17 Aug 2019)



View this Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqMQGDPMMLo>

Watch Joyce Asha Francis, an OCHA National Field Officer in Malakal, talk about being a woman humanitarian and the challenge that it brings.

Forty-six year old Joyce Asha Francis is an OCHA National Field Officer in Malakal, South Sudan's Upper Nile Region. She was born in Uganda and lives in Kenya, but her roots are in South Sudan. She has been a humanitarian for practically all of her working life. She is a mother of five children.

OCHA asked her about what being a woman humanitarian meant to her, the good parts and the challenges. She answered:

"Being a humanitarian to me means love, compassion, kindness, generosity, being cooperative, patient, caring, helpful, humble and being culturally sensitive, in order to save lives, relieve suffering and maintain the human dignity of the affected people. Without the above listed qualities, one can hardly endure to be a humanitarian worker.

"The most favourite part of my work is around general coordination and providing leadership to ensure that basic services reach the people in need. It is fulfilling to see us humanitarian workers running around to get work done and the people talk of how the services that are there now have changed their lives.

"The most challenging parts of my work are resource mobilization and access. In an event that resources are limited and are not able to reach the affected people, I feel terrible because a life could be lost due to the inability to provide basic services, or the inability to reach people due to poor communication networks or human-imposed barricades. This hurts a lot."

Watch this video to learn more about Joyce's experiences coordinating humanitarian action in one of the most challenging places in the world.

VISUAL (7 Oct 2019)

South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot August 2019



SOUTH SUDAN Humanitarian Snapshot

August 2019

Approximately 5.35 million people – 54 per cent of the South Sudanese population – were severely food insecure in August, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis for August 2019 to April 2020. Armed clashes were reported in Lainya, Central Equatoria; Tonk, Eastern Equatoria; Malwet, Upper Nile; and Tonk, Warrap, with civilian casualties, displacements and suspension of humanitarian activities. Cattle-raiding in Tonk South displaced thousands to Tonk North. An estimated 48,000 people were displaced in Malwet (33,000) and Tonk South (15,000). During August, seasonal floods have affected more than 394,000 people in different locations including more than 31,000 people in Akobo, Fijor and Uror counties in Jonglei, about 29,000 people in Awit Centre County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, about 4,000 people in Mapelele County in

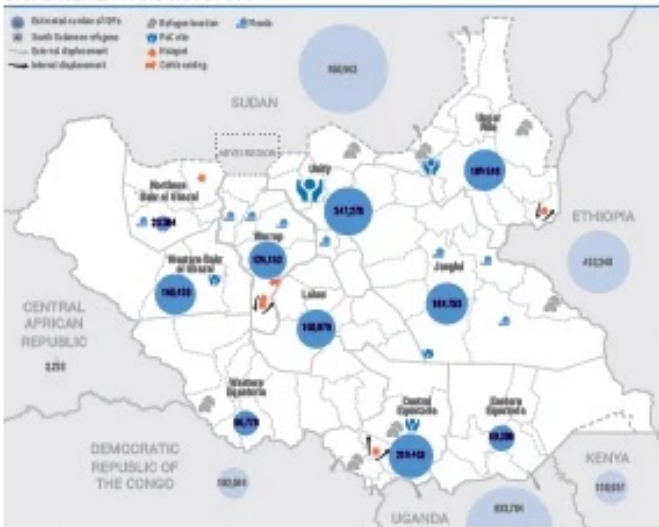
Unity and some 300,000 people in Gogrial West, Gogrial East and Tonk North counties in Warrap. The heavy rains have destroyed shelters, crops, water sources, public infrastructure like schools and health facilities, increased the risk of water-borne diseases among communities, and rendered many roads impassable, constraining access to affected areas. Nearly 16,000 South Sudanese refugees returned, mainly from Sudan, in August, according to UNHCR. South Sudan's IEP baseline was reset from 1.00 million individuals to 1.47 million after an 18-month-long exercise between OCHA and IOM to update and verify displacement data. The new baseline does not reflect the actual change in IEP numbers between July and August.



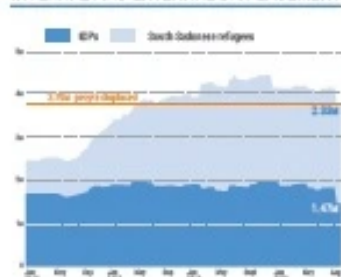
KEY FIGURES



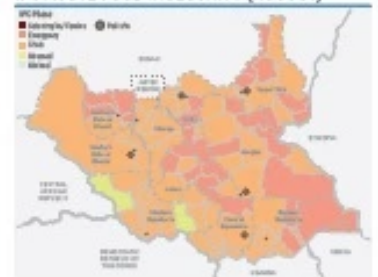
DISPLACEMENT AND HOTSPOTS



INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



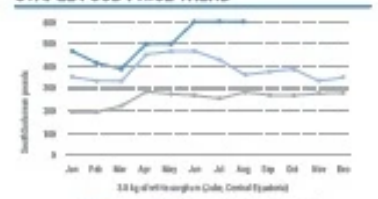
IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (AUGUST)



IDPs IN PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS SITES



STAPLE FOOD PRICE TREND



The administrative boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of Abyei area is not yet determined. | 1. For more information on reaching the IEP baseline go to: <https://bit.ly/2r88vY2> | 2. Gender and age disaggregation does not include Bentiu and Malakal PoC sites. Creation date: 27 September 2019 | Sources: OCHA, IOM-STM, UNHCR, IPC TMG, WFP-WAM | ocha@southsudan.org | southsudan.org | reliefweb.int/country/ssd | southsudan@humanitarianresponse.info | @OCHA@southsudan | reports.unocha.org/southsudan

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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