

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian Coordinator demands perpetrators of attacks against aid workers be held to account.
- Aid organizations are working to scale up the famine response in central and southern Unity.
- Fighting and insecurity across the Equatorias continue to uproot tens of thousands of civilians.
- Thousands of people remain displaced following clashes in Jonglei, which resulted in killings, destruction, gender-based violence and recruitment of child soldiers.

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

\$302.2 million
funding received in 2017*

18.5%
of appeal funding received in 2017

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



A malnourished child is fed with plumpy nut in Leer County.
Photo: UNICEF/Modola.

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Humanitarians attacked and killed

Six staff members of a national non-governmental organization (NGO), Grassroots Empowerment and Development Organisation (GREDO), were killed in an ambush on 25 March, in Central Equatoria while travelling from Juba to Pibor. A seventh person travelling with the group was also killed.

The Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Eugene Owusu, strongly condemned the attack and called for the perpetrators to be held to account. "At a time when humanitarian needs have reached unprecedented levels, it is entirely unacceptable that those who are trying to help are being attacked and killed [...] [A]ttacks against aid workers and aid assets are utterly reprehensible," said Mr. Owusu. "They not only put the lives of aid workers at risk, they also threaten the lives of thousands of South Sudanese who rely on our assistance for their survival. [...] I implore all those in positions of power to step up to their responsibilities and stop this, as they are ultimately accountable for what happens under their watch. There is no safety when attacks are met with silence and inaction."

The ambush—which represents the highest number of aid workers killed in a single incident since the conflict began—comes after two other grave attacks on aid workers this month. At least 79 aid workers have been killed in South Sudan since the beginning of the December 2013 crisis, including 12 killed in 2017, and at least eight humanitarian convoys have been attacked already this year.

Read more: *Press release* -- <http://bit.ly/2mEj3UT>

Unity: Famine response is underway

Humanitarian organizations are working to scale up the response in central and southern Unity, where localized famine was declared on 20 February.

Over the past two weeks, three rapid response missions have been deployed to villages in Koch (Buaw and Buoh) and Leer (Din Din) counties targeting about 50,000 people with multi-sectoral services including food assistance, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection. Humanitarians also continue to undertake mobile response missions to provide health, WASH, and nutrition services to remote Leer Islands. In Koch, an NGO rapid response team has deployed to scale-up the WASH response, including through repair and maintenance of boreholes and water purification, distribution of vital WASH supplies, and hygiene promotion. Partners have also ramped up emergency livelihoods action and aim to reach over 45,000 households in central and southern Unity in the coming four months. About 700 fishing kits have already been distributed in Madol, Mayendit County.

Considering the volatile security situation in central Unity, and building on lessons learned from previous responses in the area, mobile response modalities are being prioritised in locations where no stationary delivery of health, nutrition and WASH services is

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

Humanitarians are working to scale up the response in central and southern Unity, where localized famine has been declared.



Women carry sacks of aid food in Thonyor, Leer county.
Photo: UNICEF/Modola.

possible due to insecurity. Approximately 42 per cent of the outpatient therapeutic programme (OTPs) and 44 per cent of targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFPs) are not functioning in Unity, with the majority of services in Koch, Leer and Mayendit suspended.

While international attention in recent weeks has focused on the 100,000 people facing famine in Unity, the overall food security situation in South Sudan is rapidly deteriorating. Some 5.5 million people are expected to be severely food insecure at

the height of the lean season in July and food security experts warn that urgent action and access is needed to halt the decline.

See more: *Maps on famine response* -- <http://bit.ly/2nn1sh9>

Aid organizations have been forced to temporarily suspend services in Mayendit due to insecurity and violence against humanitarian workers and assets.

Services remain suspended in Mayendit

Following insecurity and incidents of violence against humanitarian workers and assets in Mayendit, aid organizations have been forced to temporarily suspend services in the famine-affected county, where there is also an active cholera outbreak.

During recent clashes, humanitarian supplies were reportedly looted by armed personnel in different locations in Mayendit County. Subsequently, during fighting in Mayendit town on the evening of 10 March, local staff of an international non-governmental organization were detained by non-state armed actors and later released on 14 March.

Aid workers initially relocated from Mayendit town on 26 February, disrupting vital health, WASH and nutrition services. Negotiations are ongoing to ensure that credible assurances are received regarding the safety and security of aid workers and assets ahead of the return of humanitarians to the area.

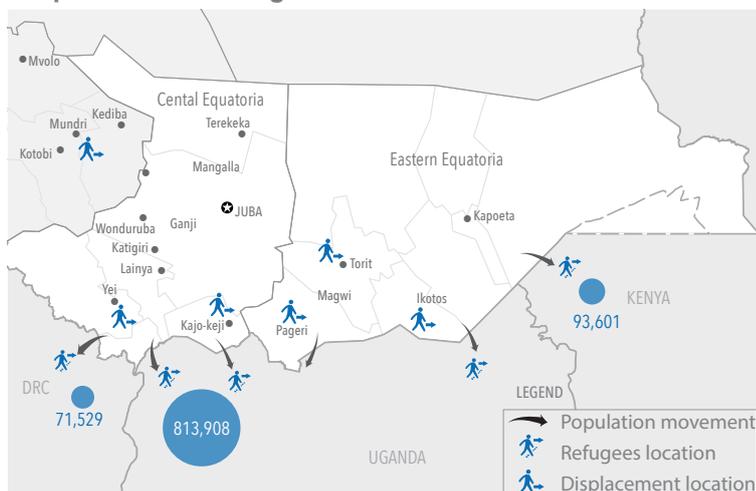
Equatorias: refugee outflow continues in March

Fighting and insecurity across the Equatorias continue to uproot tens of thousands of civilians, with more than 41,300 South Sudanese refugees arriving in Uganda in the first two weeks of March 2017.

In Central Equatoria, there are continued reports of violations against civilians. At least nine civilians were allegedly murdered on 17 March while trying to bring food into Yei from surrounding areas, and three civilians were reportedly shot on 23 March on the Lasu road by armed personnel. Break-ins and attempted break-ins into NGO compounds continue to be reported in Yei town. In Eastern Equatoria, there are reports that over 3,000 displaced people arrived in Magwi from Umeo and Agoro following the build-up of armed forces and clashes in mid-March.

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Displacement into Uganda



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March, with 5,116 recorded in a single day on 9 March, bringing the number of South Sudanese refugees in the country to more than 810,700. Refugees arriving in Uganda, the majority of whom are women and children, continue to report violence, rape and abuse of women and girls, arbitrary detention, indiscriminate killing and destruction of property by armed forces, and limited access to food and basic services as reasons for fleeing from South Sudan.

The Government of Uganda and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, have jointly appealed to the international community for urgent and massive support to South Sudanese refugees who continue to arrive in Uganda. UNHCR and partners urgently need more than US\$550 million to support South Sudanese refugees in Uganda in 2017.

[Read more: Government of Uganda, UNHCR Press release -- http://bit.ly/2naGRN9](http://bit.ly/2naGRN9)

Jonglei: fighting, hunger cause displacement

Thousands of people remain displaced following clashes between armed actors in Ayod, Pibor, Nyirol and Uror counties of Jonglei which have resulted in killing, destruction of property, gender-based violence and recruitment of children by armed actors in the affected areas.

In Ayod, fighting reportedly took place between armed actors on 6 March in Pagil area, causing many civilians to flee to the bushes, Akobo and neighbouring counties. Aid workers in the area have relocated. Elsewhere, more than 6,300 IDPs from Yuai, Uror County, had been registered as of 10 March in Pultruk in Nyirol County. Over 5,000 IDPs arrived in Diel of Pigi County coming from Khorfulus and Kaldak, reportedly due to fighting between armed actors in Atar. Some of the IDPs are allegedly displaced for the second time after they fled from Upper Nile (Uwach, Bulang, Panyiduo) in early February. Assessments and verification of the IDPs are on-going, with partners in Akobo ready to respond.

Inter-communal fighting has also caused displacement and destruction in recent weeks. In Pibor, inter-communal fighting was reported in Kochar from 4 to 7 March. Over 200 homesteads were reportedly burned, livestock was looted and children were allegedly abducted. The authorities are reportedly engaging with youths in the area to de-escalate the situation. In Twic East, civilians reportedly fled Panyagor town due to fears of an attack on 14 March. Ten aid workers who were on a mission to Twic East at the same time temporarily suspended activities and returned to Juba due to the insecurity.

Gender-based violence remains a concern, with partners reporting cases of rape among women fleeing fighting in Yuai. Psychosocial support and referrals to appropriate services are ongoing for survivors. In Lankien in Nyirol County, some 800 IDP women received dignity kits, containing a t-shirt, a pair of sandals, underwear, a torch, a *kanga*, soap and a reusable sanitary pad.

Refugee arrivals increase in Ethiopia

The number of South Sudanese people seeking refuge in Ethiopia has risen significantly, with the daily outflow jumping from 103 people in January to 199 in February and 660 so far in March, according to UNHCR.

Between 1 and 11 March 2017, more than 7,200 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia's Gambella region. Of these, more than 3,900 arrived between 6 and 11 March. The latest influx has brought the total number of South Sudanese refugees who have arrived in Ethiopia since September 2016 to more than 68,800. More than 65 per cent of the registered new arrivals are children, including 15,488 unaccompanied and separated children.

New arrivals in Ethiopia report fleeing ongoing conflict and lack of food in Uror, Akobo and Ayod in Jonglei and Nasir, Longochuk, Ulang and Maiwut in Upper Nile.

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More than 68,800 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Ethiopia since September 2016.

Upper Nile: assistance ongoing for people displaced by fighting

Humanitarian organizations continue to scale up the response in Aburoc, on the western bank of the Nile River in Upper Nile, where an estimated 15,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) arrived after fleeing fighting in Wau Shilluk in late January and early February.

Food distribution has been completed, reaching some 27,000 people in Aburoc, and nutritional supplements have been distributed to about 6,500 children under age 5 and 780 pregnant or lactating mothers. About 500 families in Kodok have received fishing kits to help them source their own food. Humanitarian partners are providing safe drinking water to over 24,300 vulnerable people, including IDPs and the host community. Partners are digging wells and rehabilitating hand pumps, as well as providing water by trucks. Hygiene promotion, including distribution of buckets and soap, is ongoing. About 100 emergency latrines have been constructed, and an additional 50 are being constructed. Partners are constructing two classrooms for primary education and identifying school-age children. Registration of the most vulnerable has been undertaken and shelter kits and basic household items will be distributed in the coming days.

During a rapid assessment undertaken in March, 74 per cent of IDPs in Aburoc indicated that they intend to stay in the area, while the remainder indicated that they intend to travel to Sudan. Civilians in Aburoc remain concerned regarding the risks of a further escalation of violence in Upper Nile and the majority have indicated that they would flee to Sudan if insecurity rise.

Read more: *IOM press release* -- <http://bit.ly/2mNrV8X>

10,000 flee to Sudan in first two weeks of March

Over 10,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in the Sudan border states of White Nile, South and West Kordofan and East Darfur from 1 to 15 March, with an average of nearly 690 refugees crossing per day.

Since 1 January 2017, over 46,000 refugees have arrived in Sudan, bringing the total number of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan to over 351,000. New arrivals are fleeing fighting in Upper Nile and Unity, and food insecurity in Unity, Warrap and Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Humanitarian partners in Sudan are working to ensure refugees have timely access to NFIs, emergency food rations, nutrition screenings and medical services.

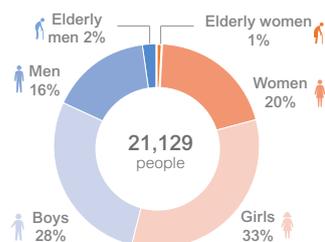
Partners deliver food to Baggari's displaced

For the first time in eight months, partners have been able to provide food assistance by road to displaced communities in Greater Baggari area, Western Bahr el Ghazal, delivering 291 metric tons of assorted food items to 15,810 displaced people in Ngo-Halima and Ngisa in March.

There are around 8,600 people in Ngisa and 7,500 in Ngo Halima, according to an inter-agency mission to the two locations outside Wau town in Western Bahr el Ghazal on 27 January. Displaced people continue to live under trees or in temporary grass-thatched shelters in the bush due to fear of attacks on the towns. Prior to the food distribution, many people reported eating only one meal a day and resorting to the collection of wild yams for their survival.

From June 2016 to January 2017, humanitarians had only sporadic access to areas outside of Wau town, where 38,800 people are estimated to be displaced in the Greater Baggari Area—including in Biringi, Ngo Halima, Tadu and Ngisa—and Mboro.

Displaced people and host community by sex and age in Aburoc



Over 351,000 South Sudanese are refugees in Sudan.

More than 15,000 people received food in the Greater Baggari area.

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