HIGHLIGHTS

• Humanitarian Coordinator calls on armed actors to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and ensure the proportionality of their actions.

• Nearly 60 aid workers relocated from Walgak and Waat in northern Jonglei due to intensified armed conflict.

• Cholera spreads to Duk, Ayod and Fangak counties in Jonglei, amidst the longest running outbreak since South Sudan became an independent nation in July 2011.

• Deadly clashes in Pajok, Eastern Equatoria force more than 7,000 people to cross to Uganda in one week.

FIGURES

| No. of Internally Displaced People | 1.88 million |
| No. of refugees in neighboring countries | 1.74 million |
| No. of people food insecure (Feb-April 2017) | 4.9 million |

FUNDING

$439.8 million funding received in 2017*
27% 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.

Jonglei: Thousands flee new clashes

Renewed fighting has caused thousands of people to flee from multiple locations including Waat and Walgak in Jonglei, amidst concerns that clashes may spread to additional areas.

The situation deteriorated in the second week of April, as a government offensive swept through multiple villages, including in areas where fighting previously flared up in late February. Although it has not yet been possible to verify displacement figures due to the fluidity of the situation, preliminary estimates indicate that up to 100,000 people have been affected and displaced, many of whom had previously been displaced during fighting in February which caused thousands of people to flee from Motot and Pulchuol in Urur to Waat, Lankien, Akobo and Ethiopia.

While fighting in Jonglei in 2017 has to date centred in Urur and Nyirol, there are concerns that conflict may also erupt in the Pibor area, where there have been increasing reports of localised clashes since February 2017. There are also concerns that the renewed fighting and displacement may exacerbate food insecurity in Jonglei heading into the lean season, where Nyirol was already expected to face emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity.

Aid workers forced to relocate

Nearly 60 humanitarian workers had to relocate from multiple locations including Waat and Walgak in Jonglei on 14 and 15 April – due to intensified conflict in the area. The relocations forced humanitarian organisations to suspend preparations for food drops due to target more than 11,200 people in Nyirol, and disrupted other vital humanitarian programming, including Education, Health, Nutrition and WASH activities. The relocations follow earlier disruptions to humanitarian action in Jonglei when humanitarian assets and supplies were looted by civilians and armed actors during clashes in February.

Speaking during the relocations on 15 April, the Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Mr. Eugene Owusu, called on the parties to the conflict to uphold their responsibilities under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and ensure the proportionality of their actions. “I am deeply disappointed that, despite the assurances that we have received and the commitments that have been made, humanitarians are again having to relocate, and civilians again being uprooted, in an area where needs were already high,” said Mr. Owusu.
Wau: Civilians seek refuge in collective sites, aid workers killed

Clashes and killings in and around Wau town in the second week of April have caused more than 17,000 people to seek shelter in displacement sites in Wau town to date.

Violence broke out in Wau town on 10 April, following insecurity and clashes in the Greater Baggari area in the preceding days. Government security operations reportedly took place in several areas of Wau town, including near the Nazareth church displacement site, and at least 16 civilians were reportedly killed during the violence. Some sources reported that there was ethnic targeting of the Fertit/Balanda and Jur Chol tribes.

During the fighting, three porters attempting to make their way to the World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse were killed. Two of the porters died of machete wounds and the third was shot. The deaths bring the number of aid workers killed in South Sudan in 2017 to 14, compared to 24 killed in all of 2016.

“Just last week, I appealed for an end to the targeting of innocent people in this conflict,” said Mr. Owusu on 15 April. “And yet yesterday I learned that three porters were heinously killed [...] in Wau town on 10 April. I am appalled by this abhorrent act and demand an urgent investigation to identify those who are responsible and bring them to account.”

Although the number of people displaced by the violence is difficult to verify with population movements ongoing, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has identified more than 17,000 new arrivals at the Wau PoC site, increasing the site population to approximately 42,000 people.

There are also reports that internally displaced persons (IDPs), who were previously sheltering at the Nazareth church compound, have left for the PoC site and Cathedral.

Humanitarian organisations are continuing to provide assistance to IDPs in the collective sites in Wau town. However, the recent influx has increased pressure on already overstretched services. In addition to those displaced inside Wau town, humanitarian partners estimate that more than 38,000 people remain displaced in areas outside of the Wau town, with very limited access to assistance and services.

Read more: Humanitarian Coordinator statement, 15 April: http://bit.ly/2orIMMk

Famine: Response resumes in Mayendit town

After several weeks of intensive negotiations, humanitarian response has resumed in Mayendit town. On 6 April, the primary static partner re-deployed to Mayendit town and on 7 April an inter-agency mobile team deployed to support the resumption of life-saving services.

In the first week after their return, partners screened more than 1,000 children and more than 800 pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition and distributed nutritional supplements to those who were identified as moderately or severely acutely malnourished. More than 1,300 people were vaccinated against diseases such as measles, polio and teta-nus. With cholera remaining a major concern, WASH was a significant component of the
scale-up, with soap and water purification tablets distributed targeting 1,500 families, and partners carrying spare parts to repair boreholes. A temporary primary healthcare clinic was established to provide consultations, the first such services to be provided since the former healthcare centre was looted and destroyed in March this year.

Thousands of people were provided with emergency livelihoods assistance in Mayendit town during the week after the teams deployed, and food drops resumed on 11 April, targeting more than 28,600 people in the Mayendit town catchment area. Food drops and distributions have also been completed in April in three locations in Leer County (Leer, Thonyor and Padeah), targeting nearly 48,500 people, and another round of food drops is underway in Nyal (Panyijiar) and due to start in Dablual, Thaker and Rubkuai (Mayendit) this week.

Cholera: Response underway in Jonglei

Health and WASH teams are responding to new and suspected cholera cases in Duk, Ayod and Fangak in Jonglei, amidst the longest running outbreak since South Sudan became an independent nation in July 2011.

On 1 April, health partners arrived in Duk town with medical supplies to scale up response, and an oral rehydration point (ORP) has been established in Duk Padiet near Mamur cattle camp. In Fangak, suspected cholera cases have been reported in Juaiobor and Fangak Keew. There is currently one health partner in Juaiobor which lacks funds to respond to the outbreak. In Ayod, suspected cholera deaths were reported in Pagil and Haat.

As of 14 April, 6,222 cholera cases including 172 deaths (CFR 2.76%) had been reported across 14 counties in South Sudan since the initial case was recorded on 18 June 2016. New cases have continued to be reported in new locations across the country during the dry season, and there are concerns that the outbreak will intensify and spread during the upcoming rainy season due to continued conflict, displacement and inadequate access to clean water and sanitation.

Equatorias: Needs high in Wonduruba, Lainya

After months of limited access, humanitarian partners have managed to reach multiple locations in Wonduruba and Lainya in Central Equatoria to assess needs and deliver assistance.

In Wonduruba, authorities reported that more than 8,700 IDPs are estimated to be displaced in five locations, including nearly 3,500 people in Wonduruba centre and Moje boma which were visited during the assessment mission. The conflict-affected people reported that most crops and food stocks were burnt during fighting in Wonduruba, and said they had resorted to eating wild food as a coping mechanism.

The health facility in Wonduruba is no longer functional after it was looted during the...
fighting and medical personnel fled the area. The team observed health records and other health materials damaged and scattered on the floor, and medicines, inpatient beds, and essential equipment looted. No immunization coverage has been conducted for children in Wonduruba since insecurity increased in September 2015. Many huts were observed to have been burnt.

During the mission, partners provided non-food items and WASH supplies including buckets, collapsible jerry cans, soap, water purification tablets, dignity kits, and water filtering cloths to 3,500 IDPs in Wonduruba center and Moje boma in Wonduruba and more than 7,500 IDPs in Logwili, Lainya centre, Loka, Kenyi and Limbe in Lainya County. The team was, however, not able to reach Mukaya and Kupera in Lainya due to access restrictions by non-state armed actors. Negotiations to access these areas continue.

Insecurity in Wonduruba and other surrounding areas, as well as at checkpoints on the main road routes, have prevented humanitarian partners from reaching displaced people there since October 2016.

Refugee outflow to Uganda continues, families separated

Clashes in multiple locations in the Equatorias continue to force thousands of civilians to flee each week to Uganda, which now hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa.

In Eastern Equatoria, deadly clashes in Pajok in early April, forced more than 7,000 people to cross to Uganda at Ngomoromo in one week, with thousands of others thought to remain displaced in the bushes surrounding the town. Some refugees described killings, including of children, and reported that the elderly and disabled who could not run were shot. When the fighting erupted, many families were separated, with some 600 children arriving alone after the dangerous and difficult two-day journey to Uganda.

In Magwi, an inter-agency humanitarian team that visited various locations in late March, including Magwi, Moli, Pageri, Kerepi, Opari, Loa, and Nimule, reported that most civilians have fled to Uganda. The team were told that 34 primary schools and nine secondary schools in Magwi County have been rendered non-functional, while schools in Pageri, Opari and Kerepi are occupied by armed actors. Some of the schools have reportedly been burnt. Nimule Hospital, Saint Bakita, Magwi and Melijo health facilities are the only functional health facilities in the County. Cases of killings of civilians and gender-based violence were reported in Nimule town, prompting some civilians to overnight on the Ugandan side of the border.

Uganda now hosts more than 805,704 South Sudanese refugees, including over 194,000 who have arrived since the start of 2017. Eighty-six percent of the refugees are women and children, including some 21,000 minors without parents or a legal guardian.


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