HIGHLIGHTS

- Aid workers have deployed in Leer County to re-establish humanitarian operations.
- New fighting in parts of Western Equatoria has triggered a fresh wave of displacement and the relocation of aid workers.
- Over 12,000 children have been vaccinated in Juba in response to a new measles outbreak.
- Aid organizations are improving the living conditions in the Malakal PoC site.
- The conflict in South Sudan has generated additional risks of sexual and gender-based violence.

FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Internally Displaced Persons</th>
<th>1.66 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of refugees in neighboring countries (post 15 Dec 2013)</td>
<td>645,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of severely food-insecure people (September)</td>
<td>3.9 million</td>
</tr>
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FUNDING

- $1.01 billion total funding received
- 62% of appeal funding received
- $1.63 billion revised requirements for South Sudan 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan

16 Days of Activism provides call to action to address gender-based violence

On 25 November, South Sudan joined countries around the world in marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as it kicked-off a series of events to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Gender-based violence was widespread in South Sudan before the start of the conflict in December 2013. The conflict has generated additional risks of sexual and gender-based violence. The number of reported cases of gender-based violence has increased five-fold in the last two years, with 97 per cent of the reported cases involving gender-based violence against females and 3 per cent against males. In Leer, Mayendit and Koch counties of Unity alone, an estimated 1,300 women and girls were raped and 1,600 women and children abducted from April to September 2015.

Women have been raped or attacked when collecting firewood or vegetables to sustain their families' livelihoods. Child marriage, which was already prevalent in South Sudan prior to the conflict, has been exacerbated as families facing economic stress have turned to it as a negative coping mechanism. In 2010, about 40 per cent of girls were married before the age of 18. Child marriage contributes to high rates of adolescent pregnancy, high fertility rates and exclusion from education, while girls who become pregnant while physically immature are more likely to develop obstetric fistula.

UNFPA Representative in South Sudan, Barnabas Yisa, spoke on Radio Miraya about the importance of combating gender-based violence. “Wife beating does not give you love, the culture of beating is not a culture of the 21st century,” he said.

Thirty partners are working across South Sudan to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors, including through provision of safe spaces, Clinical Management of Rape and psychosocial assistance. Specialised teams are working with communities and religious leaders to advocate for peace and promote the right of all women and girls to live free of violence and abuse, with 950,000 people reached with information on GBV prevention and response in 2015.

Partners return to Leer County in Unity State

On 1 December, two teams of aid workers deployed to Leer Town and Thonyor in Leer County to re-establish humanitarian operations. They brought with them life-saving supplies, including survival kits, high energy biscuits and blankets, to deliver to people in need who have been cut-off from assistance since fighting resumed in October 2015.
Latest findings highlight concerning food insecurity in Unity

Following the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) predictions that about 40,000 people might be facing catastrophic food insecurity in Unity State in October 2015, a team of specialists in food security and nutrition visited Jaguar and Dablual in Mayendit County, Bil in Guit County and Buaw in Koch County.

The team confirmed that there are limited food sources in these areas – animals were looted, cultivation did not take place because of fighting during the planting season, and markets have been destroyed. Water lilies and fish, which are currently the main food sources, will likely become scarce as the rivers and swamps start drying up by January, leading to large food deficits.

The joint assessment team concluded that, without food and livelihoods assistance and nutrition and health services, the situation is likely to degenerate significantly in the first quarter of 2016.


More people flee their homes as insecurity in the Equatorias worsens

Displacement from Ezo County

New fighting in parts of Western Equatoria State has triggered a fresh wave of internal displacement and the relocation of humanitarian workers.

Since 15 November, the situation in Ezo County has deteriorated. Clashes between armed actors have been reported, along with destruction and looting of shops, houses and humanitarian supplies. More than 2,500 people, including refugees in South Sudan and citizens from Ezo County, fled to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners are preparing to deliver assistance to about 7,000 people displaced due to fighting in Source-Yubu payam in Tambura County once the security situation improves. In Mundri East and West counties, efforts to deliver

More than 2,500 people, including refugees in South Sudan and citizens from Ezo County, fled to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.
In October, humanitarian partners reported 32 cases of attempted or successful robbery, burglary and looting affecting their operations.

Criminality in Juba

On 20 November, the compound of the national NGO Nile Hope in Juba was robbed at gunpoint, representing the latest in a string of violent incidents affecting humanitarian partners operating in South Sudan. The Humanitarian Coordinator said that violence and crime against humanitarian organizations in South Sudan are jeopardizing the ability of aid workers to provide assistance at a time when humanitarian needs are greater than ever.

In October, humanitarian partners reported 32 cases of attempted or successful robbery, burglary and looting affecting their operations, including 15 in Juba.

Read more: Humanitarian Coordinator strongly condemns armed robbery of Nile Hope compound in Juba – https://shar.es/1cGncY

Efforts scaled-up to halt measles outbreak

Health partners have vaccinated over 12,000 children in the Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites and surrounding host communities in Juba in response to a new measles outbreak. Since the beginning of October 2015, 15 suspected cases – all children under age 5 - have been reported from the Juba PoC site. The National Public Health Laboratory confirmed 9 of the 15 samples as positive for measles. In response, three fixed immunization sites and four outreach posts were established in the PoC sites and community surveillance and active case search have been activated.

Across South Sudan, measles has been the fourth most common cause of morbidity in 2015 to date. Of 1,280 suspected measles cases reported since the beginning of 2015, most confirmed cases were from Central Equatoria (35 per cent) and Unity (35 per cent) states, while the rest were spread across Jonglei, Lakes, Upper Nile, Western Bahr El Ghazal and Western Equatoria states.

Conflict, displacement and lack of access have frustrated efforts to ensure vaccination coverage: only 6 out of South Sudan’s 79 counties having the requisite minimum 80 per cent measles vaccination coverage and 26 counties with less than 20 per cent coverage, mostly in the Greater Upper Nile.

More than 230,000 vaccinations have been conducted in the hardest to reach areas through rapid response missions this year. However, an estimated 400,000 children under age 5 remain at risk of contracting the disease.

Severe measles is more likely among poorly nourished young children in refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) settings, especially those with insufficient vitamin A, or whose immune systems have been weakened by HIV/AIDS or other diseases. In populations with high levels of malnutrition and a lack of adequate health care, up to 10 per cent of measles cases result in death.
Partners strive to increase living conditions for IDPs in Malakal PoC

Aid organizations are working to improve the living conditions of the more than 47,000 internally displaced people sheltering in the UN Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Malakal. Overcrowding and congestion due to space constraints remain a challenge, as the site was initially designed to accommodate 18,000 people.

Efforts are ongoing to relocate people within the site to areas with improved conditions and to prepare additional space to mitigate any impact of another population influx. On arrival, families are provided with immediate assistance, including oral cholera vaccines, soap and water containers, and are screened for malnutrition.

General food distribution was completed in the PoC on 25 November, with more than 45,100 people receiving food rations and about 8,000 children under age 5 benefiting from Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.

Provision of water and sanitation services is a priority. Partners are constructing new drainage, shelters, water points and latrines, and have completed the construction of 60 additional bathing shelters. Clean water supply in the PoC has improved from 9 litres per person per day in early September to 13.9 litres per person per day in November.

According to health partners, the number of patients treated on a weekly basis has tripled since the onset of the influx in June 2015. More than 4,000 health consultations were carried out in the PoC from 16 to 22 November. Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity, followed by acute respiratory infections and acute watery diarrhoea. A health facility, partially funded through the Common Humanitarian Fund, will be inaugurated on 3 December to allow more efficient service delivery and a maternity ward has been built.