

South Sudan: Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

Issue 02 | Date: 15- 31 January 2021

KEY FIGURES

7.5M People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	2.24M South Sudanese Refugees in neighboring countries
1.6M Internally Displaced	1.4M Malnourished Children
125K Persons living in PoC ¹	483K Malnourished Women
73 Stabilization Centers	5.82M Severely Food Insecure
121 066 (20%)	Children under one year vaccinated with oral polio vaccine
962 158	Initial numbers of children vaccinated against measles
01	Counties with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
00	PoC ¹ s sites with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
03	Counties with malaria cases surpassing their set thresholds

COVID-19

4 106 confirmed cases
65 deaths
89 802 Tests performed
3 621 recoveries

IPC PHASE 5

104 000 People targeted
6 Counties
34 318 consultations conducted

HIGHLIGHTS

- A cumulative of 4 106 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 65 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.6%) have been reported in South Sudan since the confirmation of the outbreak on 5 April 2020.
- Scaling up of humanitarian response to reach 104 000 people residing in 'Priority 1' acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5, catastrophe) is being hampered by the ongoing sub-national violence and physical inaccessibility caused by flooding.
- The second round of the oral cholera campaign in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) is expected to kick off on 11 February 2021 two weeks after the first round where 57 960 (62% coverage) individuals were vaccinated against cholera.
- Given the likelihood of future severe flooding Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and clusters will be developing a Flood Preparedness and Response Strategy ahead of the next rainy season.



Interagency Emergency Health kits prepositioned in Aweil ready for distribution to health facilities and partners in Aweil South

¹ UN Protection of Civilians'

Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- **Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) transitioning to Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camp:** The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Sudan and the Governor of Unity signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 27 January 2021 signaling transitioning of the Bentiu PoC to an IDP camp. Joint forces will be trained and charged with the responsibility of protecting people and maintaining rule of law in the camp. The PoC site handover is planned to take place in mid-February 2021. Wau PoC in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Bor PoC in Jonglei and UN House in Juba, Central Equatoria, have already transitioned.
- **Humanitarian organizations complete a rapid assessment in Lainya County:** An initial rapid assessment conducted in Lainya County on 28 January 2021 indicated that 9 481 people (1 628 HHs) have been displaced following the violent clashes between Mundari cattle keepers and the local community in Lokurubang boma on 7 January 2021. The displaced people who are either sheltering in churches, schools and government buildings in Kupera, Limuro and Lainya towns or staying with relatives and host community, lack adequate food, emergency shelter and NFIs, health, nutrition, protection and WASH services. The presence of the cattle keepers continue to hinder the locals from accessing their farms, health facilities and led to the closure of Loka Round primary health care center (PHCC); and access by humanitarians to reach the affected communities.
- **A humanitarian needs assessment conducted in Kajo:** The humanitarian partners operating in Kajo-keji has conducted a rapid assessment on 1-5 February 2021 following the wave of violence in the county. The areas under the control of the opposition (especially Liwolo Payam) could not be accessed. Furthermore, the State ICCG has requested OCHA to engage with security actors to grant access for a comprehensive humanitarian needs assessment to be carried out in the whole county.
- **Food Insecurity in South Sudan in 2021**

The scaling of humanitarian response continues targeting an estimated 104 000 people residing in six “Priority 1” Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 5 counties (Pibor, Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj North, Tonj South and Tonj East) between December 2020 and March 2021. These populations are in urgent need of food assistance and livelihood support, and WASH, health and protection services and may face famine if adequate humanitarian responses are not undertaken. The emergency partners have received limited funding from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) to urgently scale up frontline activities and procure core pipeline for the response. The ongoing response activities in the high food insecure Counties are constrained by reduced physical accessibility, renewed sub-national violence, lack of partner presence, and limited resources. The COVID-19 emergency response modalities may affect response as well.

About 194,640 people have so far received food assistance from Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) Cluster in Aweil South, Pibor, Akobo, Tonj South and Tonj North in January 2021. Besides, some 10 174 people including 6 311 children and 3 863 pregnant and lactating women were reached with nutrition treatment and prevention services.

Physical access challenges in Verteth and Pibor in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, and insecurity in Tonj East and Tonj North preventing partners from delivering the essentials supplies to affected populations. Five trucks of humanitarian supplies were looted in Tonj North on 27 January 2021. A rapid assessment conducted by partners in Gogrial East County on 26 January 2021 reported more than 18 800 new IDPs displaced by the ongoing violence in Tonj North.

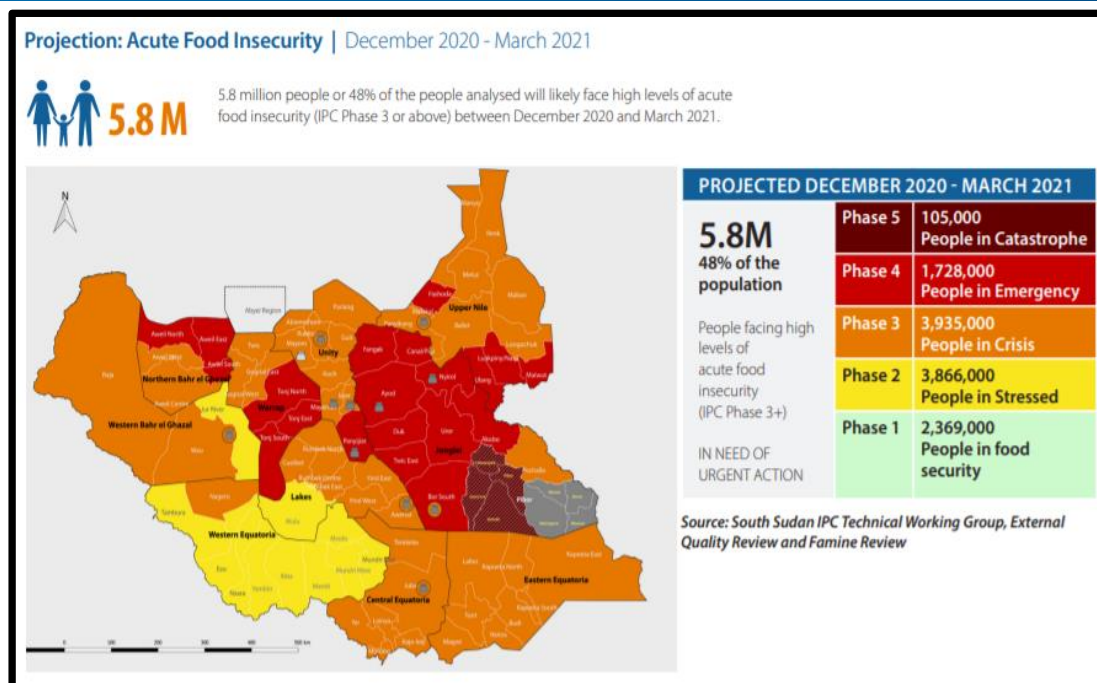


Figure 1: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

Emergency Response Activities

Health Cluster response in IPC Phase 5 counties

- WHO and Health Cluster partners are scaling up the health response through static and mobile health facilities. The health cluster has identified and funded one emergency partner for each of the six priority counties. In the last half of January 2021, 34 318 consultations were conducted by the health facilities.
- The outbreak prevention measures include the second round of oral cholera campaign in GPAA which is expected to kick off on 11 February 2021 two weeks after the first round where 57 960 (62% coverage) individuals were vaccinated against cholera. Also, the second round of polio campaign in response to the circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak is planned to take place in Pibor, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South. Furthermore, a vaccination campaign towards Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) is ongoing in Pibor by a donor-funded development partner.
- The emergency health kits and supplies meant to support the health facilities and responding partners have been delivered to the targeted counties. A total of 317 Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK) have been prepositioned in WHO state offices (Bor 66, Aweil 30, and Kaujok 221) to support about 319 000 individuals for three months. The supplies for Aweil South, Akobo, Pibor, Tonj North and Tonj South have already been delivered at the county level. In addition, four stabilization centres in Pibor, Akobo, Tonj North and Aweil South were supported with severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits for treatment of 250 malnourished children with medical complications for three months. Also, a nutrition partner operating three Outpatient Therapeutic feeding Program (OTP) in Aweil South was supported with IEHK with malaria with a capacity to manage over 1 500 cases.
- Improving routine surveillance and timely verification of alerts is another component of health response in the severely food insecure counties. Timely reporting by health facilities is being assured through the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) system while adequate

outbreak investigation kits have been availed for all the states to enable them to respond to alerts.

- WHO has received \$300 000 to support frontline health activities in Pibor and \$ 700 000 to procure emergency health and SAM kits for the six priority counties.

Update on floods and response

- Water levels continue to recede in many floods affected locations. However, access impediments persist in Pibor, Nyirol, Ayod and Fangak.
- Most of New Fangak and Old Fangak counties remain flooded. An estimated 8 000 people (1 463 HHs) were affected by the latest flooding in New Fangak. Old Fangak is yet to be assessed, however, the airstrip remains flooded and the only means of access is by boat. On 27 January 2021, local authorities from Fangak County appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance for 9 540 people displaced by floods in 13 villages.
- Local authorities in Akobo are appealing for urgent humanitarian assistance for 8 000 flood-affected people who are in dire need of food, emergency shelter and NFIs, health and WASH services.
- In addition, some 10 000 households displaced by floods in Twic East, Ayod and Padiet areas reported to be living in Panaroi, Duk Padiet town and require humanitarian aid
- Also, fresh flooding has been reported in Mayendit, Koch, Guit, Mayom, Rubkona counties of Unity State. An assessment has been planned for Koch (Mirmir, Bieth) and Mayom (Raik) from 9-12 February 2021.
- Given the likelihood of future severe flooding Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and clusters will develop a Flood Preparedness and Response Strategy ahead of the next rainy season.

Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)

- In week 04 of 2021, IDSR reporting completeness and timeliness were 87% and 76% respectively at the health facility level. EWARN reporting completeness and timeliness were 95% and 85% respectively during the reporting period.
- Acute watery diarrhea (74 alerts), malaria (51 alerts), acute bloody diarrhea (38 alerts) and acute respiratory infections (37 alerts) accounted for the majority of the 223 alerts generated through EWARS. 69% of the alerts have been verified.

Confirmed and suspected Outbreaks

Polio Virus Outbreak

- 38 cases have been confirmed for cVDPV2 since the beginning of the outbreak while laboratory results for additional 39 samples sent to UVRI are pending. Nine out of 10 states (Western Bahr El Ghazal 7, Warrap state 16, Central Equatorial state 4, Northern Bahr El Ghazal 3, Lakes 3, Western Equatoria state 1, Jonglei 1, Upper Nile 1 Eastern Equatoria state 1, Unity 1) have been affected by the outbreak.
- Preparations are ongoing to conduct a nation-wide campaign starting from 16 February 2021 with a preparedness dashboard showing 50% readiness at the national level with follow-up ongoing for states and counties.
- All States have conducted post-campaign review meetings to mitigate the challenges faced during the last round of the campaign and use it for improving the quality of social mobilization intervention for the forthcoming campaign.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in South Sudan

- A cumulative total of 4 106 confirmed cases and 3 621 recoveries have been reported as of 1 February 2021.
- Cumulatively, contact tracing (25%) and alerts (19%) still account for the greatest proportion of cases, with 29% coming from travel screening.

- Overall, COVID-19 surveillance and testing at sub-national levels continue to be weak and in need of scaling up.
- Cumulatively, 1 809 alerts have been reported, of which 1 705 (94%) have been verified, and 1 623 (95%) of the verified alerts were sampled.
- Cumulatively, 89 802 laboratory tests have been performed.
- Cumulatively, 10 534 contacts have been listed and followed up since the first confirmed case was reported in April 2020, of which 9 859 (94%) have completed 14 days of follow-up.
- At the end of Week 03 2021, 25 (31%) of the 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case.

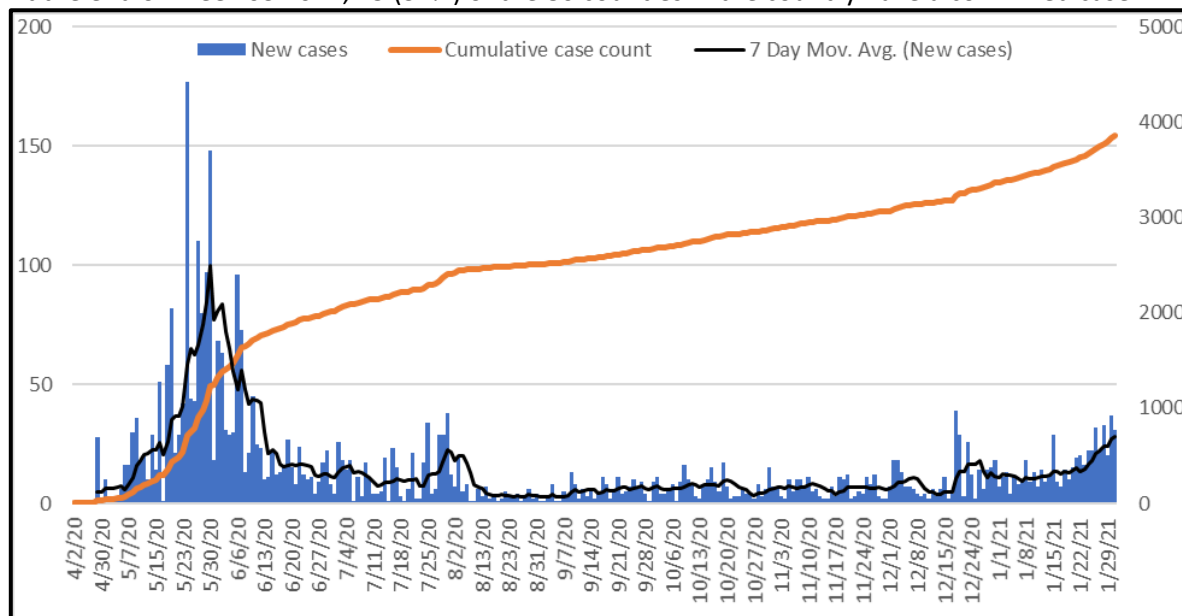


Figure 2: Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 04, showing new cases (blue bars), rolling 7-day average of reported cases (blue line), and total cumulative reported cases (red line)

For more information on the COVID-19 outbreak and public health response measures, please refer to the national weekly situation update. <http://moh.gov.ss/covid-19.php>

Measles Outbreaks in Ibba, Western Equatoria State

- Enhanced surveillance will continue after an emergency reactive campaign was concluded on 20 January 2021 during which 11 896 (96% coverage) out of the targeted 12 454 children were vaccinated across five payams. The campaign was led by MSF with the support of SMOH, WHO and partners. There are cumulatively 65 cases as of week 02 of 2021 where two cases were reported.

Suspected Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Yirol, Lakes

- Joint outbreak investigations were conducted from 3 to 10 December 2020 and from 21 to 24 December 2020 to collect samples both human and animal samples. All the 22 samples collected from the suspected human cases tested negative for Rift valley fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus, and Marburg.
- Coordination between human and animal counterparts is ongoing and planning for another joint investigation and assessment mission has been initiated.
- Samples collected from 165 cattle and goats were shipped to the National Veterinary Laboratory in Juba for testing.
- Continued enhanced surveillance, risk communication, community sensitization and coordination between the human and animal health counterparts is recommended.

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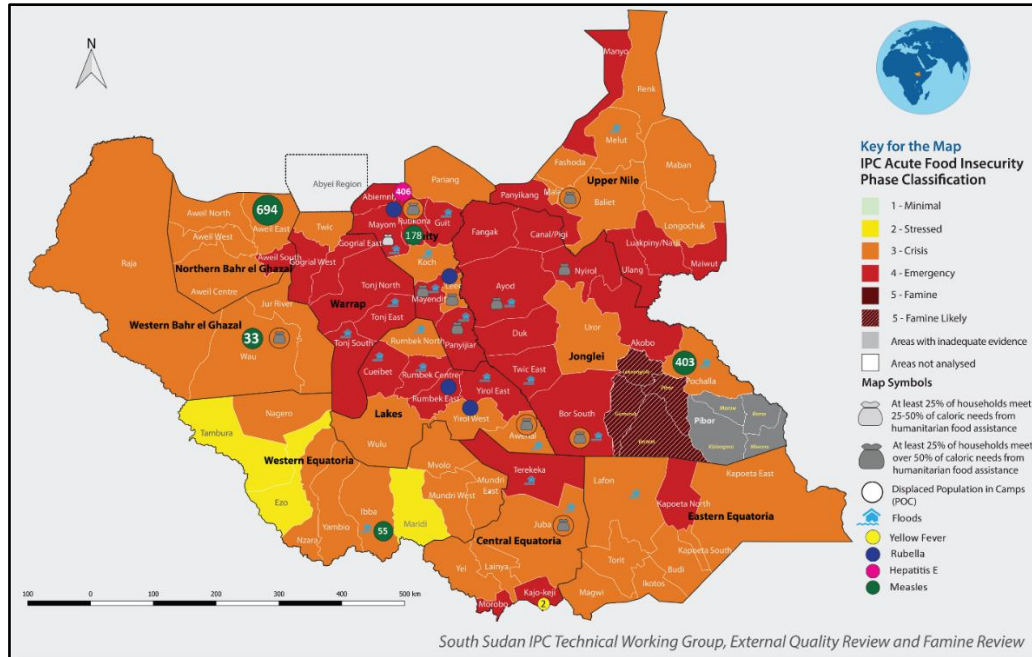


Figure 3: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group and active disease outbreaks

For more details, visit: <https://www.afro.who.int/publications/south-sudan-weekly-disease-surveillance-bulletin-2020>

Operational gaps and challenges

- Limited resources to cover all the affected counties.
- Weak coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level.
- Insecurity and inaccessibility in conflict-affected counties.
- Huge operational costs measured against available donor funds
- Inadequate human resources for health at subnational levels

Resource Mobilization

Key Donors

Name of appeal	Required US \$\$	Secured in US \$	A gap in US \$
WHE Operations	22 million	2 million	20 million

WHO Country Office of South Sudan registers appreciation for the great support provided by all our donors. The donors are listed in alphabetical order.

- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- European Union (EU)
- European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
- Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The Government of Japan
- The Department for International Development (DFID)
- The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF)
- World bank

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