

# South Sudan: Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

Issue 03 | Date: 01– 15 February 2021

## KEY FIGURES

<b>8.3M</b> People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	<b>2.24M</b> South Sudanese Refugees in neighboring countries
<b>1.6M</b> Internally Displaced	<b>1.4M</b> Malnourished Children
<b>125K</b> Persons living in PoC <sup>1</sup>	<b>483K</b> Malnourished Women
<b>73</b> Stabilization Centers	<b>5.82M</b> Severely Food Insecure
<b>121 066 (20%)</b>	Children under one year vaccinated with oral polio vaccine
<b>962 158</b>	Initial numbers of children vaccinated against measles
<b>01</b>	Counties with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
<b>00</b>	PoC <sup>1</sup> s sites with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
<b>03</b>	Counties with malaria cases surpassing their set thresholds

## COVID-19

**5 562** confirmed cases  
**77** deaths  
**98 367** Tests performed  
**3 769** recoveries

## IPC PHASE 5

**104 000** People targeted  
**6** Counties  
**34 318** consultations conducted

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A cumulative of 5 562 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 77 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.3%) have been reported in South Sudan as of 14 February 2021.
- The second wave of COVID-19 is on with PCR test positivity rates rising from 2.7% in week 1 of 2021 to 17.9% in week 6 of 2021.
- 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 vaccination campaign in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) has been concluded on 22 February 2021
- Some 8.3 million people in South Sudan (nearly 70 percent of the population) need some form of humanitarian assistance.



*Launching of the the second phase construction of the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre*

<sup>1</sup> UN Protection of Civilians’

## Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- **High-level mission to Bor and Panyagor in Jonglei to assess immediate response needs:** On 9 February 2021, a high-level mission from Juba led by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General visited Bor and Panyagor in Jonglei State to assess the need for rehabilitation of the broken dykes on the River Nile that led to the severe flooding in 2020. The team met with the government and lead humanitarian agencies and discussed medium and long-term interventions and support to mitigate the impact of the recurrent flooding on the communities. The importance of the rehabilitation of dykes and roads, and facilitating the return of IDPs either to their home or to areas that are safe from flooding as well as the need for longer term recovery, resilience and disaster risk reduction interventions were emphasised. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management has called upon the Governor of Jonglei State to ensure that humanitarian workers have safe and unimpeded access to affected people.
- **Rehabilitation of the damaged dykes in Jonglei State:** The humanitarian partners in Jonglei State have, on 4 February 2021, agreed on an implementation framework for the rehabilitation of the damaged dykes in the state. One partner will conduct an assessment and repair damaged parts of the 22 km dyke running from Malual Chaat to Arek in Bor South County between February and April 2021 while another partner will conduct an assessment and repair damaged parts of the 92 km dyke stretching from Panyiei near Baidit in Bor South County to Pajomba near Wernyol in Twic East County between February and April 2021. The Jonglei State government and a construction company will continue to work on the damaged sections of the 114 km dyke in Bor town. The rehabilitation of the dykes is expected to be completed by the end of April, before the start of the next rainy season.
- **Sub-national violence and insecurity continue to displace people in Central and Western Equatoria, Upper Nile and Warrap:** The ongoing sub-national violence in Tonj North County, Warrap, displaced thousands to Tonj South and Gogrial counties in Warrap. Almost 19,000 displaced people arrived in Gogrial East County. On 5 February 2021, a humanitarian organization operating Marial Lou health facility relocated 20 of its staff out of Tonj North owing to increasing occurrence of revenge killing and violence. Clashes between an organized armed group and cattle keepers in Lainya County, Central Equatoria, displaced more than 9,400 people. In Kajo Keji County, access constraints continues to affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the Khorijo IDP settlement is now deserted. Furthermore, on 26 January 2021, civilian properties and a health facility were vandalized and looted by an armed youth group in Atiit settlement, Tali payam in Terekeka County. In Western Equatoria, violence displaced some 9,000 people in Mundri East County, while an estimated one thousand fled their homes in Yambio County following tensions between an armed pastoralists group and the local community. An estimated 15,000 people were displaced by fighting in Maban, Upper Nile, while another 6,000 people reportedly crossed into Sudan and Ethiopia.
- **Food Insecurity in South Sudan in 2021**
- The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview South Sudan was released on 26 January showing some 8.3 million people (nearly 70 percent of the population) need some form of humanitarian assistance. This is an increase of 800 000 people (10 percent more) from the 7.5 million people in need in 2020.
- Humanitarian needs are most concerning in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area with Pibor classified as the only county in catastrophic need. A total of 72 counties face extreme need while the remaining five are in severe need.

- A second round of food distribution to 42,850 food insecure people in eight locations in Aweil South County commenced on 6 February 2021.
- Nutrition partners established two static outpatients therapeutic programme (OTPs) and two mobile nutrition units in Akobo where 5 000 children and pregnant mothers were screened and offered treatment and preventive packages for severe acute malnutrition and moderate acute malnutrition.

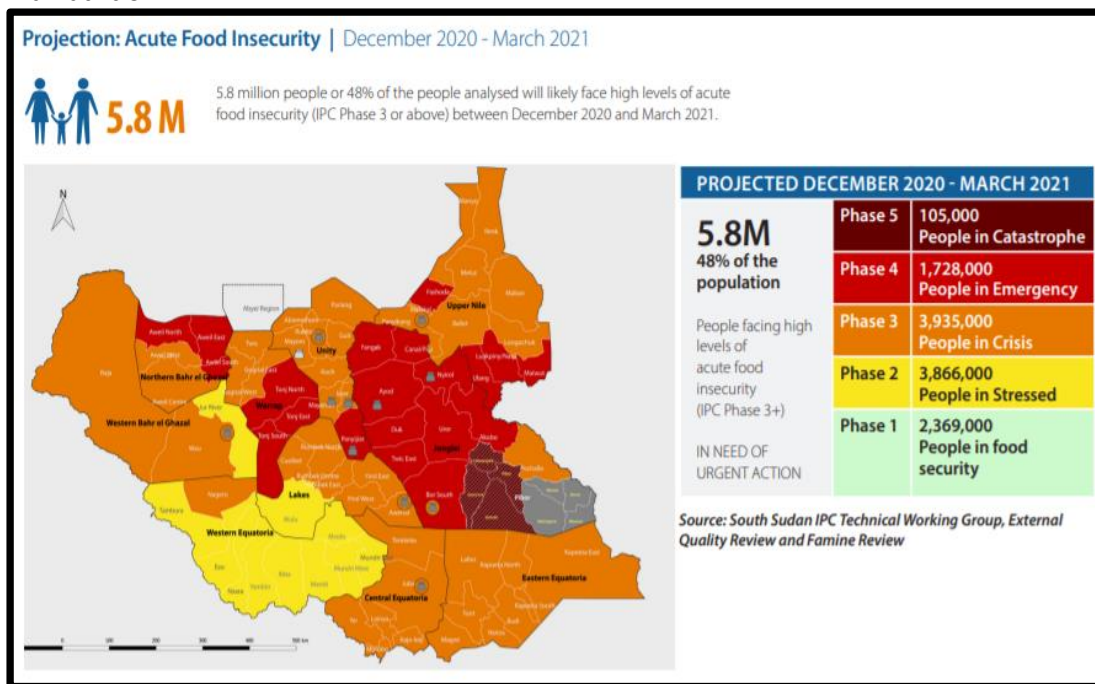


Figure 1: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

### Emergency Response Activities

#### Health Cluster response in IPC Phase 5 counties

- The health cluster partners continue to scale up health response by ensuring access to the primary health services across the six 'Priority 1' counties through mobile and static facilities. During the past two weeks, over 20 000 consultations were conducted for various morbidities across the six counties.
- The outbreak prevention measures by various partners and programs are ongoing as well. The ongoing oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign targeting 93 250 people in Pibor, Gumuruk, Verteth, and Lekuangule ended on 21 February 2021. During the campaign, 59,001 individuals received their second OCV dose and another 37,316 individuals received their second OCV dose. The Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Eradication (MNTE) efforts targeting 35,970 women age group 14-45 years in Pibor reached 29,270 (79% coverage). Furthermore, a second round of polio campaign in response to the circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak was planned to take place in Pibor, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South. The second round of the polio campaign was implemented in Tonj South from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (data awaited) but could not take place in Tonj East and Tonj North due to insecurity. In Pibor, the polio campaign will commence immediately after the cholera vaccination campaign. The cholera preparedness and readiness measures are ongoing in Pibor, Akobo and other counties bordering Ethiopia where there is an active cholera outbreak.

- WHO emergency health kits, outbreak investigation and sample collection kits have been delivered to responding partners and county health departments in Pibor, Akobo, Tonj South, Tonj North and Aweil South. However, the delivery of the supplies to Tonj East has been impeded by insecurity.
- A new consignment severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits have reached Juba and distribution to the stabilization centres will begin as soon as possible.
- Improving routine surveillance and timely verification of alerts is another component of health response in the severely food insecure counties. All the six counties had reporting of more than 90% at the end of week 6, 2021.
- No outbreaks have been reported in the counties.

### Update on floods and response

- An estimated 1 066 000 people in 47 counties were affected by floods in South Sudan from 1 July 2020 to 31 January 2021.
- Some 495 000 people were affected in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, the worst affected areas.
- Flood-affected people's urgent needs included food and livelihood support, emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and protection services.
- Flood-response activities were considerably constrained by persistent heavy rains, infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility, funding constraints, and insecurity.
- The COVID-19 emergency response depleted ES/NFI and WASH core pipeline stocks. Delays in replenishing core pipelines due to border and travel restrictions resulted in delayed flood response.

### Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)

- In week 05 of 2021, IDSR reporting completeness and timeliness were 94% and 90% respectively at the health facility level. EWARN reporting completeness and timeliness were 72% and 72% respectively during the reporting period.
- Acute watery diarrhea (23 alerts), malaria (47 alerts), acute bloody diarrhea (21 alerts) and acute respiratory infections (37 alerts) accounted for the majority of the 117 alerts generated through EWARS. 92% 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.
- Vaccines have been distributed to all states with all counties expected to get their vaccines on or before 16 Feb 2021.
- UNICEF continues to lead on social mobilization with radio talks held in Eye radio and other stations with planned flag off in some states and counties.

#### Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in South Sudan

- Nine hundred and fifty new cases (950) were identified in Week 06, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 5 621 including 311 imported cases mainly from South Sudanese returnees (142) Ugandans (52), and Kenyans (19).
- In addition, 23 healthcare workers were confirmed as cases in Week 06, bringing the cumulative case tally among healthcare workers to 178.

- In week 06 shows almost a doubling (98.7% increase) in the number of reported cases compared to Week 05, which also recorded a 142.6% increase compared to Week 04.
- There was also significant increase in case hospitalizations and deaths in Week 06.
- There was a 22% increase in deaths between Week 53 and Week 06, and a 450% increase in deaths in Week 06 (11) compared to Week 05 (2).
- Upsurge of cases in the country since the beginning of 2021 [Figure 2], with a 55% increase in case count since Week 53. The case tally for Week 06 only represents almost one fifth (17.1%) of the cumulative case total. While it is more likely that the country is detecting more of cases

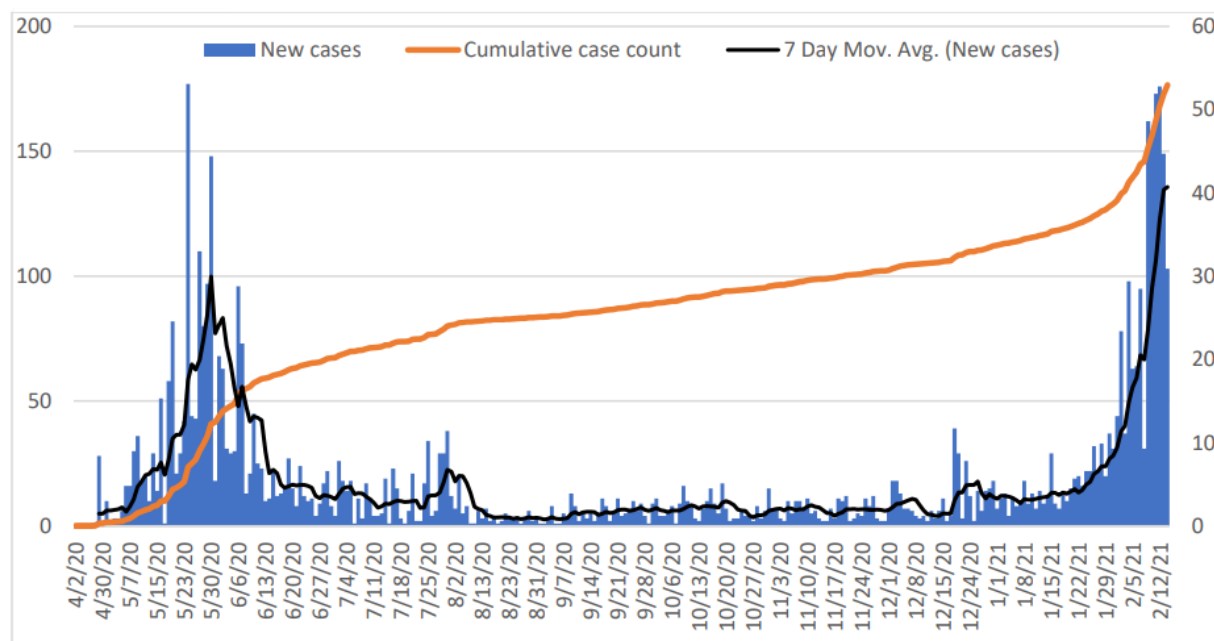


Figure 2: Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 06, showing new cases (blue bars), rolling 7-day average of reported cases (blue line), and total cumulative reported cases (red line)

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>

### Suspected Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Yirol, Lakes

- There were no new suspect human RVF cases reported in Yirol during the period under review.
- 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 human samples collected from the suspected human cases tested negative for Rift valley fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus, and Marburg. Of the 53 animal samples collected during the this mission, six (6) tested IgM positive for RVF.
- A follow up mission from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 collected 160 animal samples (70 cattle; 81 goat; 9 sheep) and tested them initially at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Juba. The test results revealed two (2) IgM positive cattle samples and one (1) IgM positive goat sample. There were IgG positive samples reported in cattle (27), goats (8), and sheep (1). The samples have been shipped to the OIE RVF reference laboratory in South Africa for confirmatory testing.
- Coordination between human and animal counterparts is ongoing and planning for another joint investigation and assessment mission has been initiated.

- Continued enhanced surveillance, risk communication, community sensitization and coordination between the human and animal health counterparts is recommended.

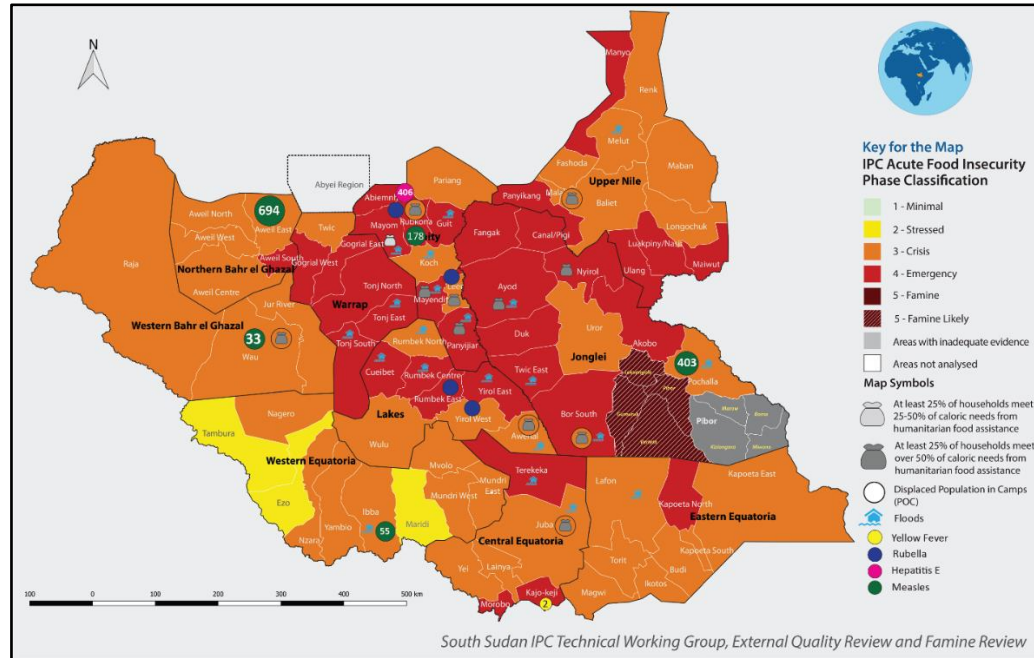


Figure 3: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group and active disease outbreaks

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

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

## Key Donors

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

# South Sudan: Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

Issue 03 | Date: 01– 15 February 2021



World Health  
Organization  
South Sudan

**Editorial Team:** Dr Joseph Wamala, Dr Diba Dulacha, Dr Chol Yur, Ms Sheila Baya, Ms Jemila M. Ebrahim and Mr Atem John

**For more information, please contact**

Dr Olushayo OLU  
WHO Country Representative  
Email: oluo@who.int

Dr Guracha ARGATA  
WHO Health Emergency Team Lead  
Email: guyoa@who.int

Mr Boniface Ambani  
Health Information Management Team  
Lead, Email: ambanib@who.int