

KEY FIGURES

8.3 M People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	2.3 M South Sudanese Refugees in neighboring countries
1.6M Internally Displaced	1.4M Malnourished Children
125K Persons living in PoC ¹	483K Malnourished Women
77 Stabilization Centers	5.82M Severely Food Insecure

COVID-19

8010 confirmed cases	94 deaths	110 226 Tests performed	4 217 recoveries
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IPC PHASE 5

104 000 People targeted	6 Counties	10 208 consultations conducted
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HIGHLIGHTS

- A cumulative of 8 010 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 94 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.2%) have been reported in South Sudan since the onset of the outbreak.
- WHO delivered 111 interagency health kits (can support 156 000 people), 75 pneumonia kits, 12 cholera community kits and 18 cholera investigation kits to the responding partners in the six priority IPC 5 counties.
- Humanitarian activities including pre-positioning of emergency health supplies, polio vaccination campaigns and livestock vaccination have been hampered by the renewed sub-nation violence in Greater Tonj areas.
- The populations residing in severely insecure counties of Aweil South, Tonj South, Tonj North and Tonj East are expected to benefit from Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) that is aimed at augmenting the routine immunization in the counties.
- Two rounds of the oral cholera vaccination campaign in Pibor have been completed reaching 86 313 (93%) in the first round and 98 458 (106%) during the second round

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



Polio vaccination campaign in Wau South Sudan. Photo: @WHOSouthSudan

¹ UN Protection of Civilians'

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Counties with malaria cases surpassing their set thresholds

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

Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- **Update on humanitarian access in Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA):** The conditions of Bor-Gumukur-Pibor and Pibor-Likuangole roads have improved greatly allowing both commercial and humanitarian trucks to access the area. The improving road accessibility in the flood-prone GPAA provides a short window of opportunity for prepositioning of supplies by the humanitarian community ahead of the next rainy season.
- **Sub-national violence and insecurity in Warrap:** An estimated 30,000 IDPs from Tonj North County are currently sheltering in Thiet and Tonj town in Tonj South County as residents flee for fear of revenge attacks. Humanitarian organizations are working with the authorities to verify and assess the needs of the IDPs in Tonj South. The humanitarian activities including pre-positioning of health supplies, livestock vaccination and a polio immunization campaign have been affected by sub-national violence in Greater Tonj areas.
- **Mass burn casualty in Yambio Hospital:** Twenty male residents suffered various degrees of burn injuries during a fire outbreak after a fire set for hunting went out of control in Gangura Payam in Yambio County on 3 March 2021. One of the casualties succumbed to his injuries at the site of the fire. The victims received emergency care at Yambio State Hospital with WHO providing trauma kits for the management of the injuries. Five cases with severe injuries were airlifted to Juba for further management.
- **Food Insecurity in South Sudan in 2021**

South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since the country declared independence ten years ago. The upcoming lean season at mid-year is expected to be the most severe on record. Intensification of efforts by the humanitarian community to reach the six priority counties has been ongoing since December 2020. Some 182 047 (78% of the target) people were reached with emergency food assistance in February 2021. The inter-sectoral response was hampered by the renewed sub-national violence in Tonj North, Tonj East and Tonj South counties in Warrap State.

A high-level mission from Juba led by the Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan visited Pibor and Akobo on 9 March 2021 to assess the ongoing humanitarian response. The mission advocated for the relevant authorities to safeguard peace and to bring to a stop the renewed sub-national violence that is hampering the humanitarian response in some counties.

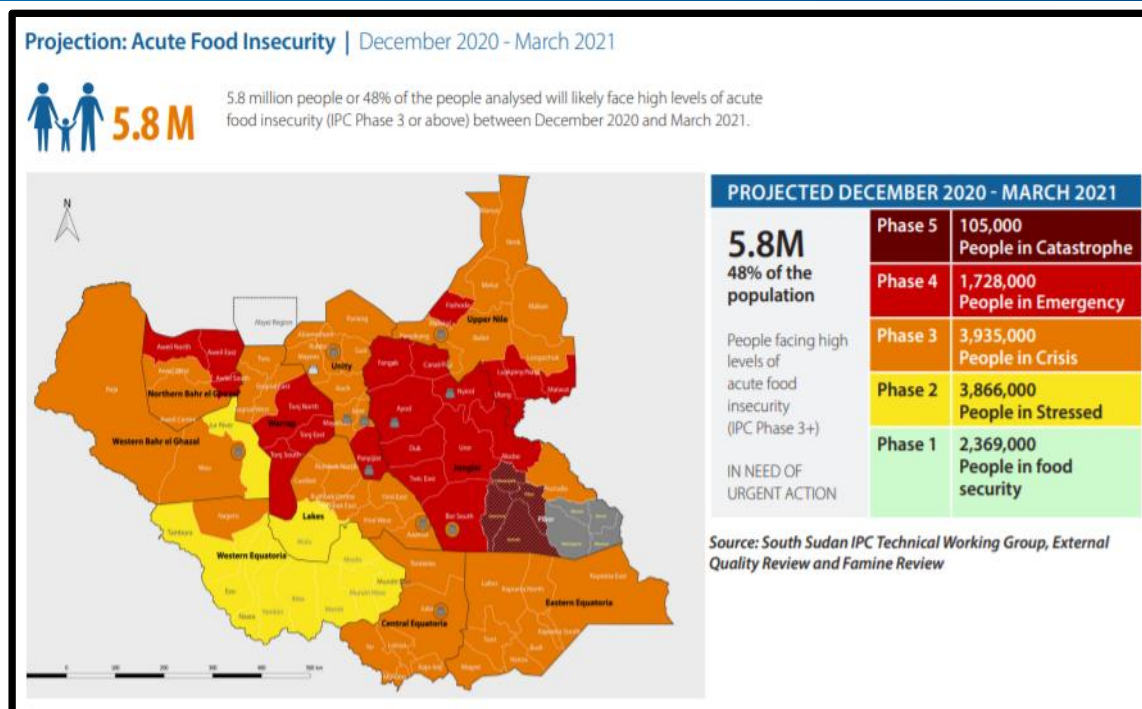


Figure 1: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

Emergency Response Activities

Health Cluster response in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (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. Over 92 000 consultations were conducted by health facilities across the six counties since week 01 of 2021. In week 9 2021, over 10 000 were reached with curative consultations for common endemic diseases.
- The counties and partners continue to implement outbreak prevention and control measures. Two rounds of the oral cholera vaccination campaign in Pibor have been completed reaching 86 313 (93%) in the first round and 98 458 (106%) during the second round that ended on 22 February 2021. The implementing partners are planning to undertake mop-up activities for the locations where lower than expected coverages were achieved. Furthermore, polio campaigns in response to the ongoing circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak have been concluded in Akobo (33 176 vaccinated), Pibor (48 836 vaccinated), Aweil South (31 603 vaccinated) and Tonj South (44,090 vaccinated). The campaign could not be implemented in Tonj East and Tonj North because of the renewed violence between communities. The cholera preparedness and readiness measures are ongoing in Pibor, Akobo and other counties bordering Ethiopia where there is an active cholera outbreak.
- Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) aimed at augmenting the routine immunization at the health facilities is ongoing in Aweil South and expected to begin in Tonj South, Tonj North and Tonj East.
- WHO continues to ensure the availability of adequate stock of emergency health kits and other essential supplies to the partners and health facilities in the priority counties. 111 interagency health kits (can support 156 000 people), 75 pneumonia kits, 12 cholera community kits and 18 cholera investigation kits have been delivered to the responding partners. However, the delivery of the supplies to Tonj East has been impeded by insecurity.

- WHO MMT continues to respond to the needs of affected populations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) through the provision of mobile health and nutrition services in areas cut-off from routine health services.
- A new consignment of severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits has reached Juba. The distribution to 12 stabilization centres across the six counties will begin as soon as possible.
- WHO conducted supportive supervision and on-the-job training for health care workers in the Pibor PHCC stabilization center from 16 -23 February 2021 to improve knowledge and skills on case management of severe acute malnutrition with medical complication and reporting system in the stabilization center.
- The emergency nutrition team participated in a joint nutrition team mission to Pibor on mapping nutrition services delivery in Gumuruk, Lekuangole, Pibor Payam on 18 February 2021. The mission was conducted by UNICEF, WHO, JAM, PLAN, OCHA and Medair who identified a total of 5 locations for scaling up nutrition services in Gumuruk and Lekuangole Payam
- In February 2021, 115 under five year old children were admitted and treated in the 12 stabilization centers in the 6 priority counties
- Improving routine surveillance and timely verification of alerts is another component of health response in severely food insecure counties. Aweil South (43%), Pibor (50%) and Akobo had completeness for IDSR reporting below 80% for week 09 2021.

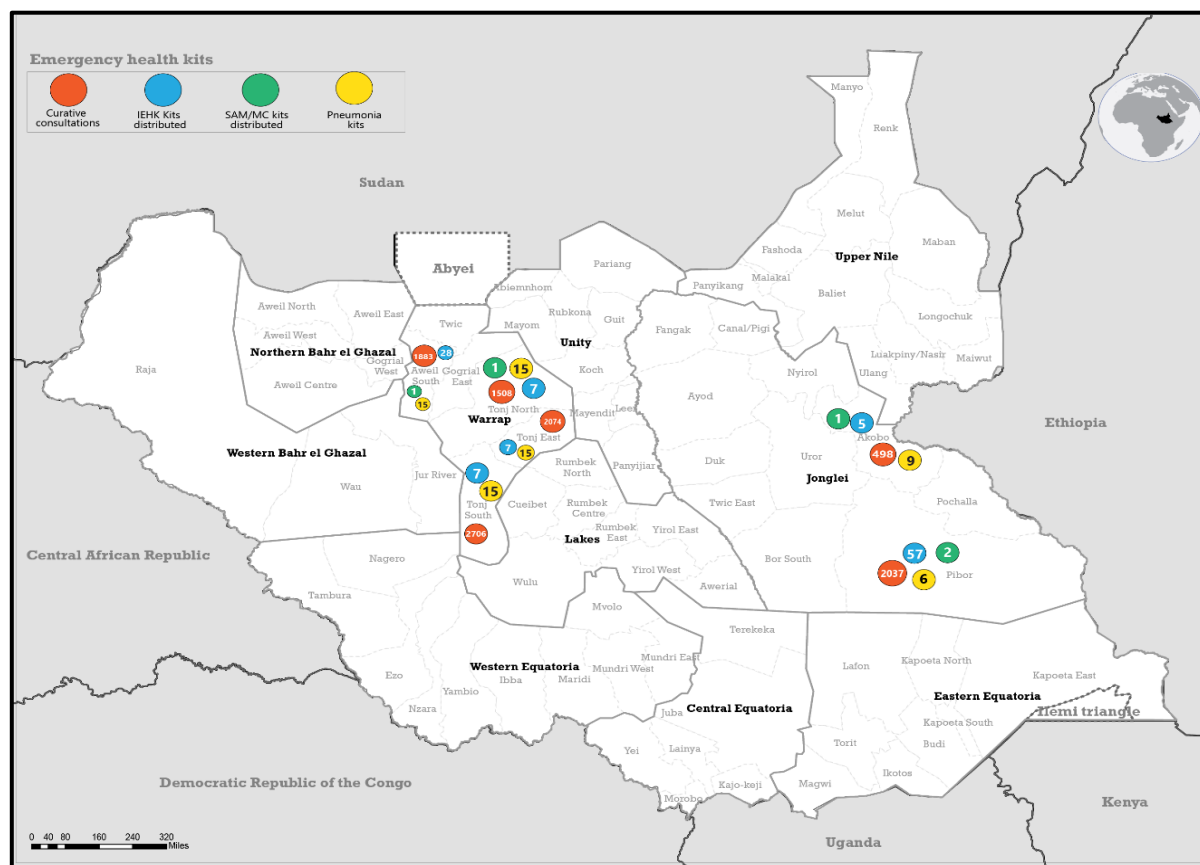


Figure 2: Emergency health kits delivered, and weekly consultations conducted in the six priority IPC 5 counties as of week 08 2021

Update on floods and response

- Unseasonal flooding in several areas in Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity State was reported to have displaced almost 80,000 people across the three states.
- Rainfall forecast showed that from March to May 2021, above-normal rainfall is expected over the eastern part of the country. The rainy season is expected to start earlier by one to two weeks in most of the areas in South Sudan.
- The probabilistic rainfall forecast showed that the risk of flooding for the third year is high.
- A rapid multi-agency assessment was carried out on 27 February 2021 in Alali Payam of Akobo East County to verify an initial report that indicated that 6 000 households (25,000 - 30,000 individuals) were affected by floods in the area. The assessment established that only 130 households (700 individuals) remained in Alali Center (Baba Boma) as residents of the other four bomas of Wibura, Gem, Wau, and Dilok had fled to Gambella/ Ethiopia refugee camps to access basic services. The humanitarian organizations in Bor have held a meeting on 1 March 2021 to outline a response strategy for the population.
- The humanitarian team in Malakal is preparing to respond to the populations affected by the unseasonal flooding in Fashoda, Panyikang and Aburoc.
- Partners in Unity State are expected to reschedule their response mission to Mayom and assessment missions to Mayendit and Panyijar after the earlier planned missions were aborted.

Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)

- In week 09 of 2021, IDSR reporting completeness and timeliness were 85% at the health facility level. EWARN reporting completeness and timeliness were 80% during the reporting period.
- Malaria (39 alerts), acute respiratory infections (30 alerts), acute bloody diarrhea (25 alerts) and acute watery diarrhea (18 alerts) accounted for the majority of the 121 alerts generated through EWARS. 34% of the alerts have been verified.
- A suspect measles outbreak has been reported and investigated in Tambura, Western Equatoria state. Since week 2 of 2021, a total of 20 suspect measles with no deaths have been reported and 12 samples have been collected for testing.

Confirmed and suspected Outbreaks

Polio Virus Outbreak

- The circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak was declared on 18 September 2020 and 47 cases have been confirmed positive for cVDPV2 to date.
- Eight new cases were confirmed in six counties spread across five states Jonglei (3), Unity (1), Warrap (2), Central Equatoria (1) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (1) states week 7 2021. The most recent cVDPV2 case was reported from Juba, Central Equatoria State, with the date onset of paralysis on 30 November 2020.
- A total of 53 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases have been detected, sampled and tested in 2021 with none confirmed positive for cVDPV2.
- All the 10 states have conducted the second round of the mOPV2 campaign however 7 counties are yet to start as of 1 March 2021.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in South Sudan

- Over one thousand (1072) new cases were identified in Week 09 2021, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 8010 including 316 imported cases mainly from South Sudanese returnees (145), Uganda (52), and Kenya (19).
- Cases have surged in the country since the beginning of 2021, but the case count is decreasing based on the 7-day moving average
- Seven new deaths were reported in week 08 2021 raising the cumulative death to 94 (CFR 1.2%)

- 23 healthcare workers were confirmed as cases in Week 08 2021 with infection clusters in Bor and Mapourdit hospitals, bringing the cumulative case tally among healthcare workers to 229.
- While it is more likely that the recent surge in the number of cases means the country is detecting more cases from widespread community transmission due to increased testing, other factors including non-adherence to COVID-19 testing standard operating procedures by private testing facilities and double counting due to testing at multiple locations during the 14-day follow-up period also need to be taken in consideration.
- At the end of Week 08, 32 (40%) of the 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case
- Despite Juba having community-wide transmission, notable cluster outbreaks in various states have been reported recently (e.g., in Nzara, Yirol, Bentiu, and Bor). The upsurge of cases in Unity State, with the Bentiu PoC and oil drilling areas accounting for majority of the cases, resulted in the caseload reaching 500 cases and 18 deaths within few weeks. Overall, COVID-19 surveillance and testing at sub-national levels continue to be weak and need scaling up.

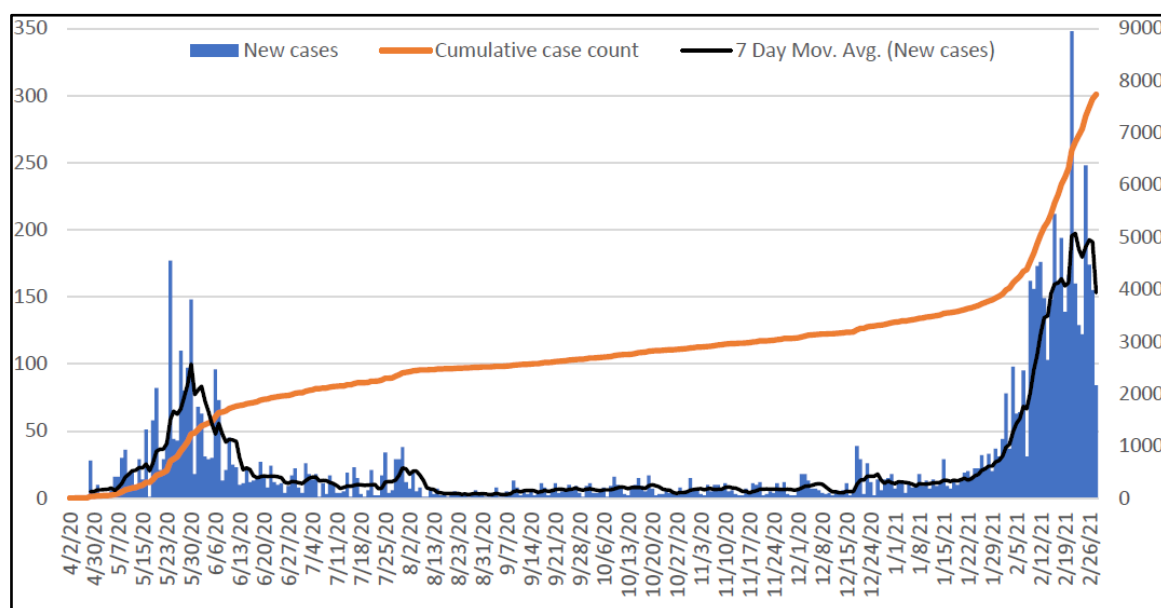


Figure 3: Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 08, showing new cases (blue bars), rolling 7-day average of reported cases (black line), and total cumulative reported cases (yellow line)

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 this mission, six (6) tested IgM positive for RVF.
- A follow-up mission from 17-24 December 2020 collected 160 animal samples (70 cattle; 81 goats; 9 sheep) and tested them initially at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Juba. The test results revealed two IgM positive cattle samples and one 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.

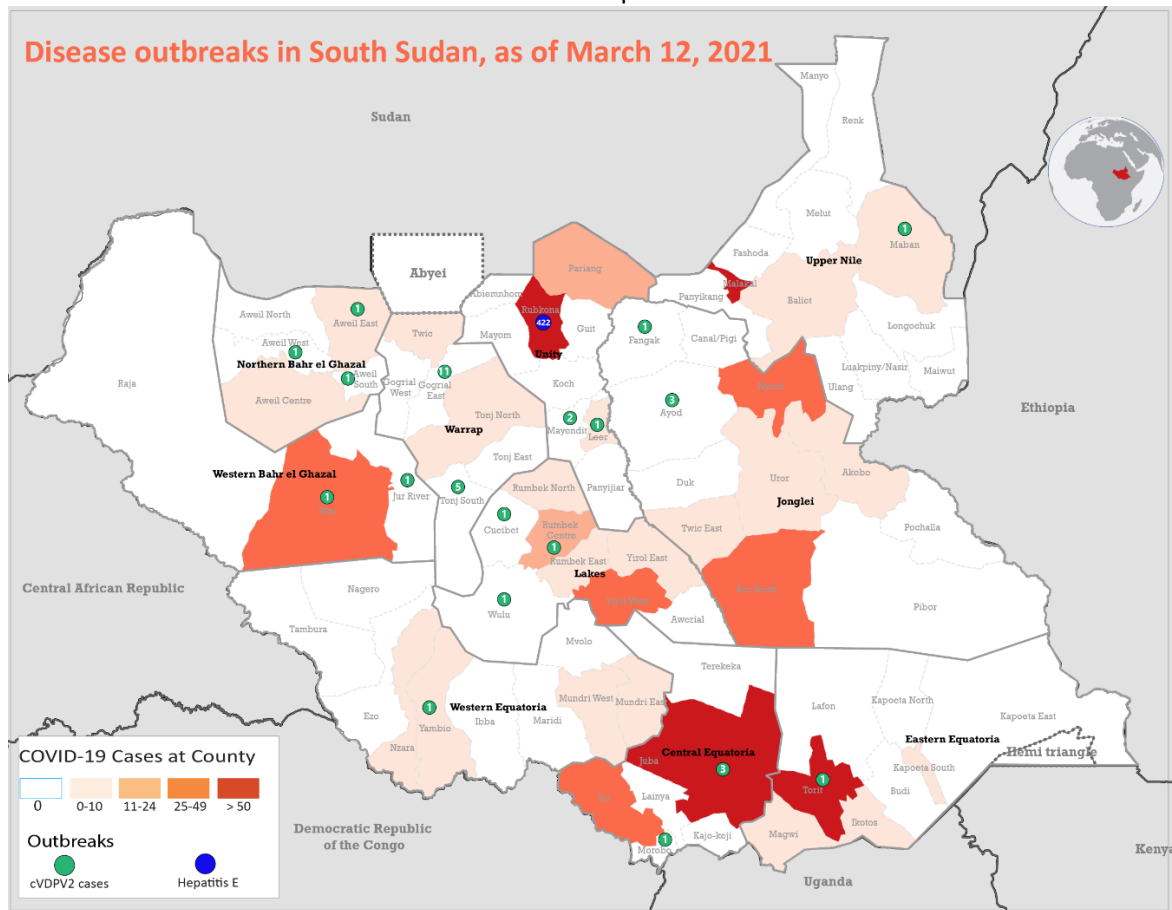


Figure 4: Active disease outbreaks by counties in South Sudan as of week 09, 2021

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	22 million	2 million	20 million

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)

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Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

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World Health
Organization
South Sudan

- 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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