

South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July 2017)

OVERVIEW

In July 2017, 136 access incidents were reported by the humanitarian community in South Sudan. Out of these, 49 involved violence against personnel and assets, once again illustrating the increasingly dangerous and risky environment in which humanitarian workers are operating.

In a continuing trend from June, letters threatening violence against aid workers from different ethnicities continued to surface in Bor (Jonglei), Torit (Eastern Equatoria) and Mankien (Unity). Following inter-communal clashes in Bentiu Protection of Civilians site, ethnic tensions were heightened resulting in similar threats against aid workers and disrupted delivery of humanitarian services.

Looting spiked in July, with 15 incidents reported across the country. Of particular concern were the six major incidents in which warehouses and trucks in transit were looted, leading to the loss of 670 metric tons of food aid in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Warrap.

Humanitarian actors also continued to experience access denials by both government and non-state armed actors. In particular, a long standing denial by non-state armed forces to access civilians in Kuperu and Mukaya (Yei County) remained a key concern. Continued access denials by government security forces to areas outside of Torit (Eastern Equatoria), Kajo-Keji (Central Equatoria) and Baggari (Western Bahr el Ghazal) were also reported.

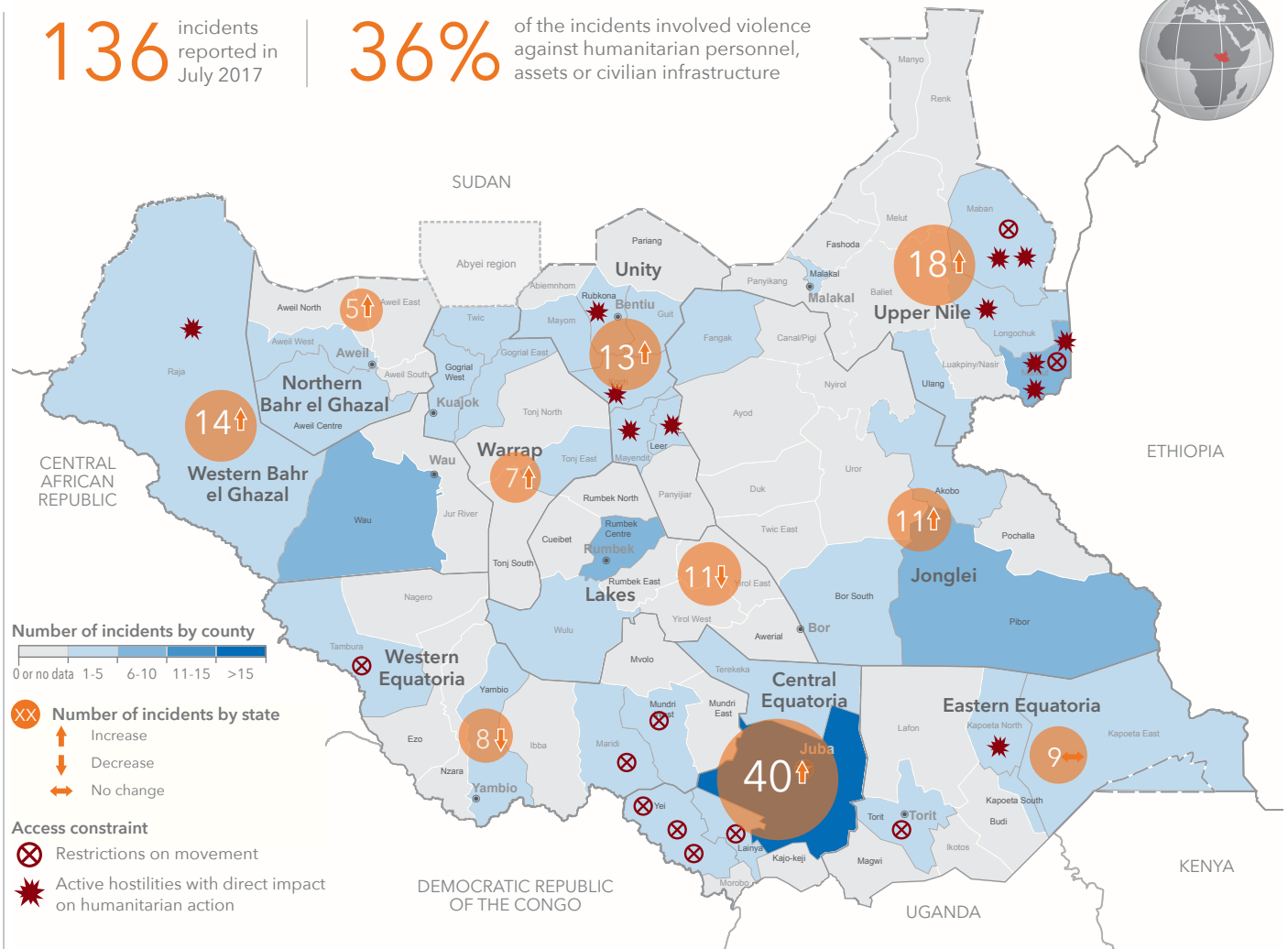
Active conflict continued to severely hamper the delivery of humanitarian programmes. An offensive by government forces in Longuchuk and Maiwut counties (Upper Nile) forced humanitarian workers to flee the areas, while growing insecurity also forced relocation of 25 aid workers from Pagak. As a result, at least 10 outpatient therapeutic feeding sites suspended operations in Longuchuk County and 20 schools were also forced to close affecting at least 17,300 children. In the rest of the country, at least a further 32 aid workers were relocated due to active fighting, impacting various programmes.

Operational interferences and bureaucratic access impediments also remained key challenges. Many of these incidents led to threats and harassment of aid workers and eventually affected operations due to delays and blockages.

The increase in access incidents reported in July is attributable not only to greater occurrence of access impediments, but also more vigilant reporting by partners.

136 incidents reported in July 2017

36% of the incidents involved violence against humanitarian personnel, assets or civilian infrastructure

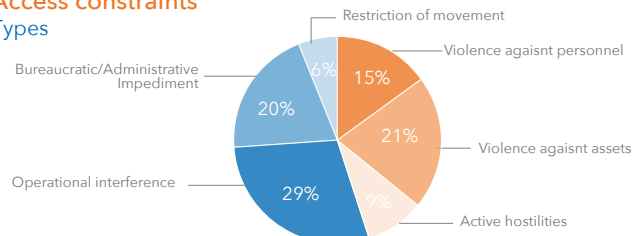


Key access figures

- 8** denial and or delay of passage
- 13** cases of illegal taxation / bribery
- >57** staff withdrawn through 6 incidents
- 15** looting incidents

Access constraints

Types



Attributed to

- 33%** State security forces
- 24%** National and Sub-national Government
- 22%** Non-state armed actors
- 11%** Criminal/unknown
- 9%** Civilians

Reported access incidents

(January 2016 - July 2017)

