



INCIDENTS REPORTED
580 in 2020



INCIDENTS INVOLVING VIOLENCE
51% in 2020



STAFF KILLED
9 in 2020



AID WORKERS RELOCATED
267 in 2020



OPERATIONAL INTERFERENCES
70 in 2020



BUREAUCRATIC IMPEDIMENTS
82 in 2020

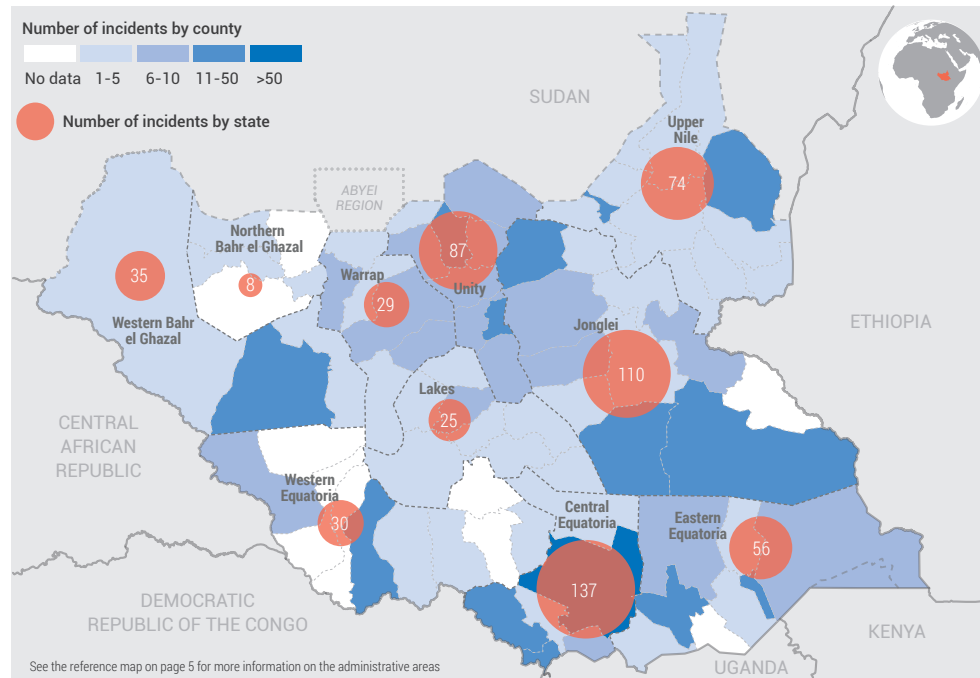
Humanitarian organizations faced continued and widespread access challenges in 2021, with an increase in incidents reported to and verified by OCHA, from 580 in 2020 to 591 in 2021. The increase in incidents, albeit moderate, was triggered by active hostilities, sub-national violence, and violence against humanitarian workers and assets and severely hindered humanitarian operations and disrupted programme delivery, and assistance to vulnerable people. Abnormal flooding, poor road conditions, logistical challenges, and damage to infrastructure further compounded the already strained access environment. Despite strong advocacy, access constraints remained under-reported by partners, which explains the ostensibly marginal rise in access constraints despite increased sub-national violence and violence against humanitarian workers and assets.

Incident severity increased substantially in 2021: 58 per cent of reported incidents were significant in severity, compared to 44 per cent in 2020. Central Equatoria recorded the highest concentration of reported incidents, 137, primarily due to active hostilities in parts of Lainya, Morobo and Yei counties. Twenty-two of these incidents included severe access impediments at Juba International Airport, violence and threats against humanitarian personnel and assets, bureaucratic impediments, and operational interference.

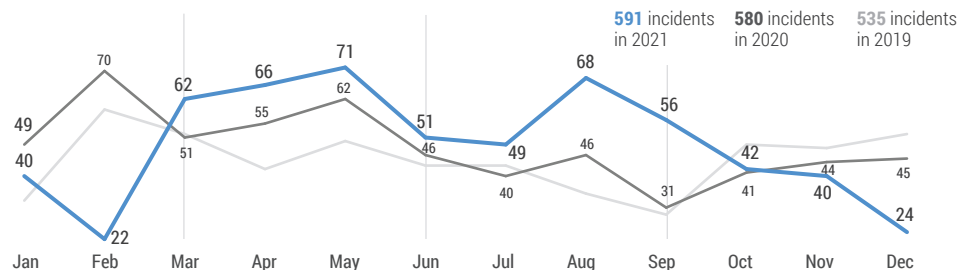
Bureaucratic impediments, access denials and operational interference accounted for 221 of the reported incidents in 2021, 25 more than in 2020. Humanitarian staff footprint decreased due to violence against humanitarian workers which led to the relocation of 322 staff from Renk, Pibor, Tambura, Nagero, Tonj, and Jamjang. Incidents such as demands for local employment by organized youth groups, particularly in Renk and Pibor, led to the suspension of humanitarian activities, substantially disrupting multi-sectoral assistance. Safety of humanitarian workers continued to be alarming in 2021, with five aid workers killed, bringing the total number of humanitarian worker deaths to 129 since 2013. Such deaths are mostly attributed to roadside ambushes in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes and Jonglei, as well as targeted killings in Panyijiar. Unprecedented flooding experienced since 2019 has made physical access to affected populations extremely challenging, disrupting humanitarian assistance service provisions.

Humanitarian access concerns humanitarian actors' ability to reach populations affected by crisis, as well as an affected population's ability to access humanitarian assistance and services. | 1. Civilians include identifiable individuals such as beneficiaries, community leaders, youth or former staff.

ACCESS INCIDENTS



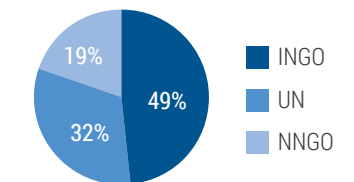
INCIDENT TREND



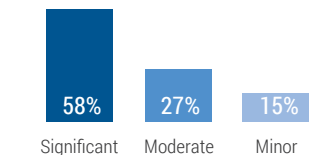
INCIDENT TYPE



AFFECTED AGENCIES



INCIDENT SEVERITY



370

VIOLENT INCIDENTS REPORTED

354 in 2020

5

AID WORKERS KILLED

9 in 2020

41

AID WORKERS DETAINED

16 in 2020

322

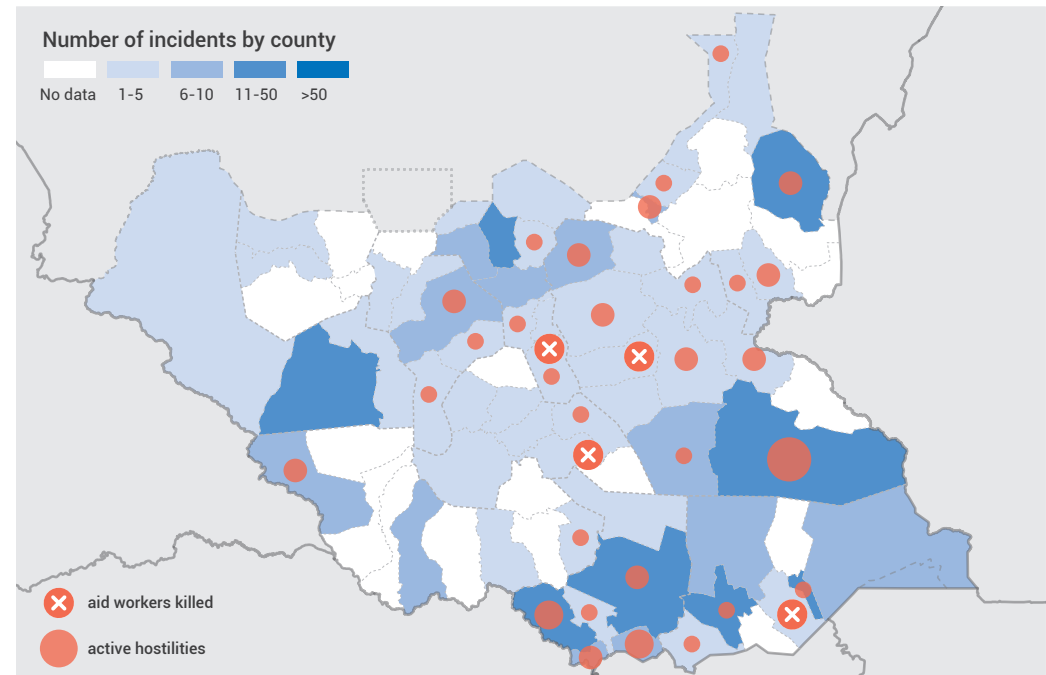
AID WORKERS RELOCATED

245 in 2020

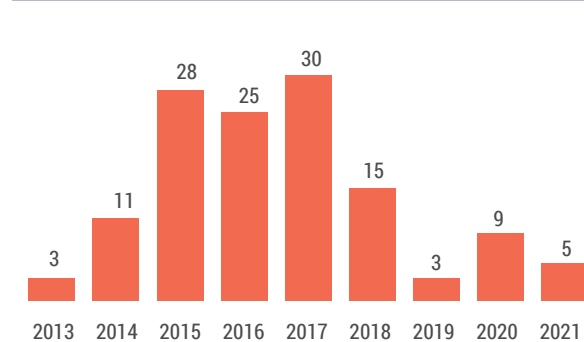
The safety and security of humanitarian workers represented a major concern in 2021 as a result of sub-national violence, compounded by the intensity of ambushes against aid workers. Some 319 violent incidents were reported, a 10 per cent decrease from 354 in 2020. Five aid workers were killed in 2021, compared to nine in 2020, bringing the number of humanitarian workers killed since 2013 to 129. The five aid workers killed in 2021 lost their lives while delivering life-saving assistance to people in Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Eastern Equatoria. Active hostilities and violence against personnel continued to impact humanitarian operations, with 322 aid workers relocated in 16 incidents from several locations across the country. The relocations halted critical activities for communities in need, many of which were facilitated through OCHA. Looting and theft of humanitarian supplies from warehouses and convoys in transit significantly increased in 2021, with 59 incidents reported across the country, compared to 50 incidents in 2020. Most looting incidents were recorded in Unity, Warrap, and Western Equatoria (Tambura) where key humanitarian facilities and infrastructure were damaged or destroyed during sub-national violence, leading to the loss of over 635 metric tons of food, medical, and nutritional supplies. Insecurity along major supply routes remained fluid and negatively impacted access to people in need.

While the number of ambushes reported in 2021 was lower than in 2020, with 82 and 88 cases reported respectively, the severity and impact were high as they led to the death and injury of aid workers and loss of supplies. There was a moderate decrease in reported injuries, from 32 people injured in 2020 down to 24 injured in 2021. Most injuries happened during ambushes and attacks on humanitarian facilities. The number of staff arbitrarily detained for extended periods of time rose to 41 from 16 in 2020. Active hostilities in Central Equatoria between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces/Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition and the National Salvation Front hindered the delivery of assistance to people in Kajo-keji, Yei, and Morobo counties. OCHA flagged such trends, especially in relation to access to people in need, ahead of the dry season. These flags informed senior level discussions, and the Humanitarian Coordinator shared guidance for dissemination to all humanitarian organizations on a risk management approach, ensuring duty of care for humanitarian staff, when considering any humanitarian movements. OCHA amplified this guidance through the Access Working Group, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and other engagement opportunities.

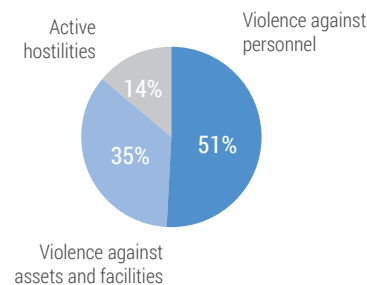
VIOLENT INCIDENTS



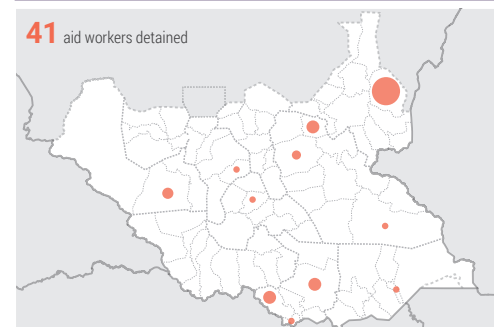
AID WORKERS KILLED BY YEAR



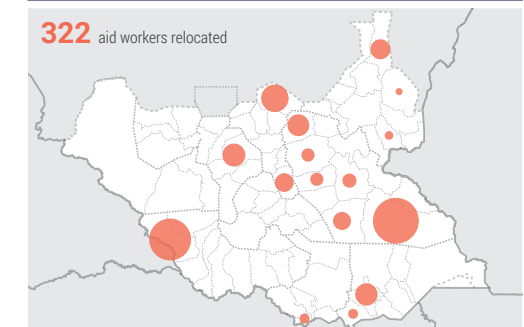
INCIDENT TYPE



DETENTION



RELOCATION



221

NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS REPORTED
196 in 2020

82

BUREAUCRATIC ACCESS IMPEDIMENTS
82 in 2020

86

OPERATIONAL INTERFERENCES
70 in 2020

53

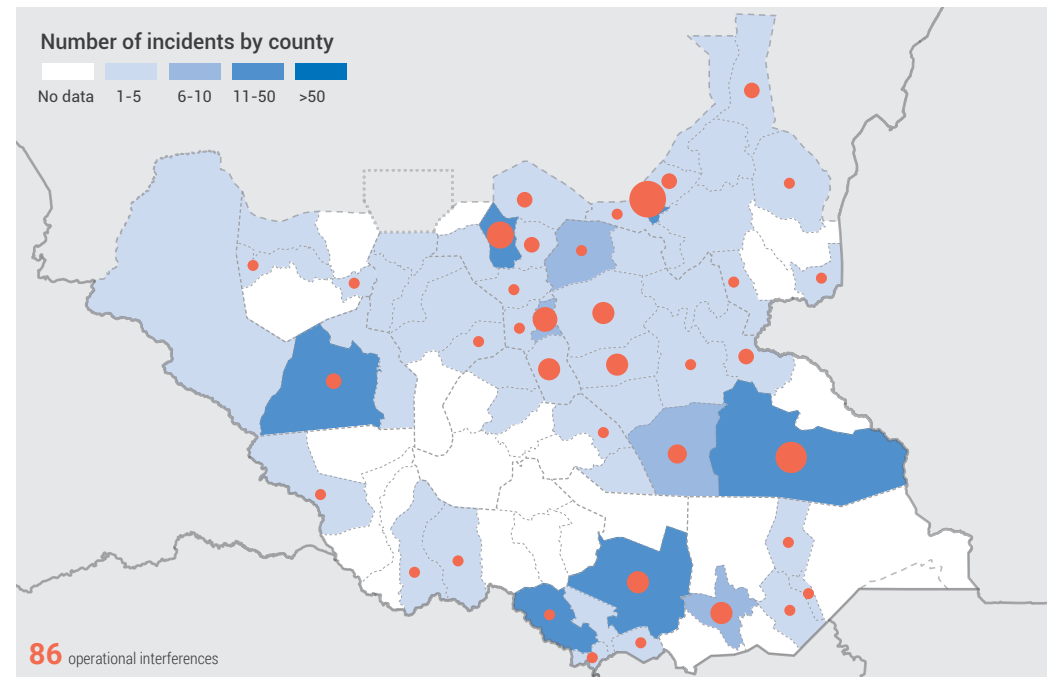
RESTRICTIONS OF MOVEMENT
44 in 2020

In 2021, bureaucratic impediments, operational interference and access denials remained challenges for humanitarian organizations across the country. The overall number of reported non-violent incidents increased significantly from 196 cases in 2020 to 272 in 2021. Reports grew of authorities and organized youth groups pressuring aid organizations to influence recruitment processes based on ethnicities in Panyijiar, Ruweng, Pibor, Torit and Renk. In Renk, the youth association demanded that jobs be reallocated to the local population. Subsequently, violence broke out against humanitarians and assets, and threats were made against humanitarian workers, prompting the relocation of 322 of them and the suspension of operations.

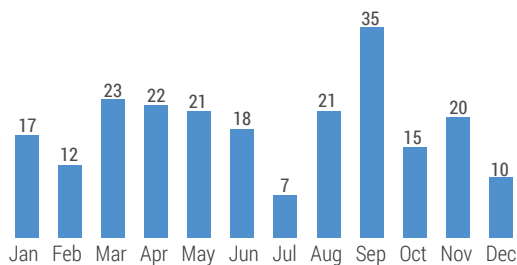
Humanitarian services in Torit, Renk and Pibor resumed following engagement and negotiations with the youth, and safety assurances for staff were granted. State local authorities reportedly exerted pressure on partners to comply with demands to pay income tax and register for operational licenses. Partners who did not comply were threatened with expulsion and suspension of activities. Such local interventions are costly, in terms of time spent negotiating with the authorities and expenses for the continuation of operations. Partners working in Fashoda, Malakal, Fangak, and Ulang counties were most affected when their boats were impounded by local authorities.

Illegal taxation and extortion, particularly at checkpoints, hampered the delivery of aid in both government- and opposition-controlled areas, with demands of up to 100,000 South Sudanese Pound per vehicle, making humanitarian cargo transport costly and time-consuming. The already strained access environment was negatively impacted by abnormal flooding and poor road conditions. Physical access was compromised by logistical challenges and infrastructure damage. Some remote locations, particularly in Jonglei and Unity, were accessible only by air or riverine transport.

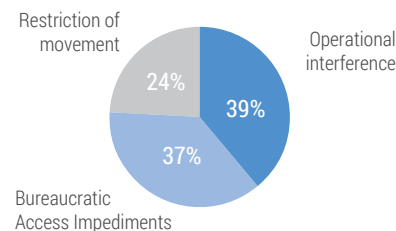
NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS



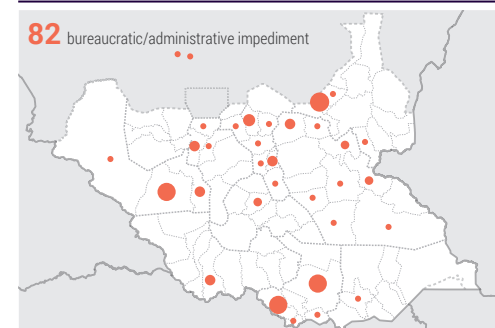
NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS BY MONTH



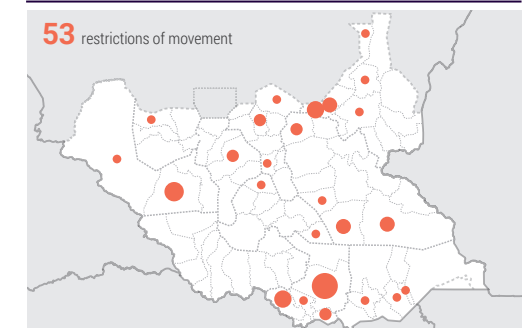
INCIDENT TYPE



OPERATIONAL INTERFERENCE



RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT



SOUTH SUDAN: COVID-19 related restrictions

 30

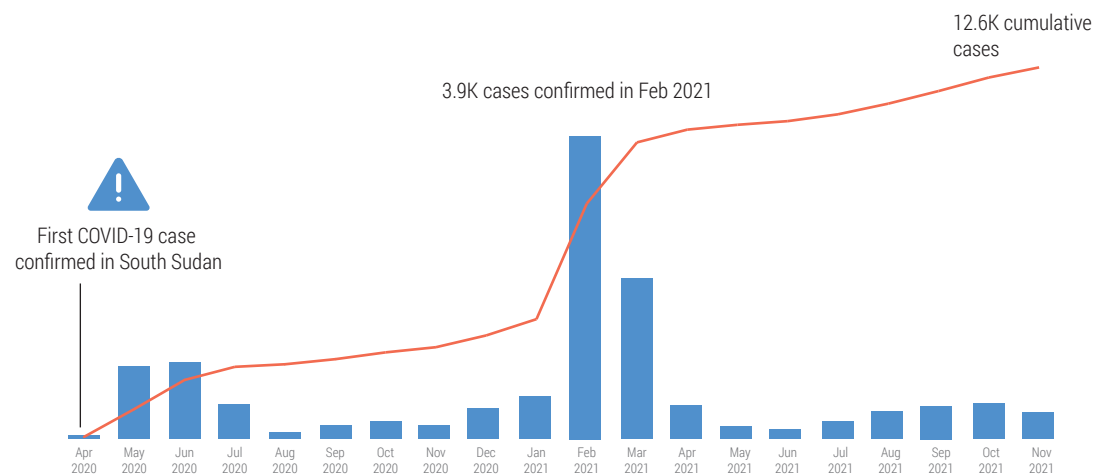
COVID-19 INCIDENTS REPORTED

Throughout 2021, the necessary measures to prevent and mitigate the onward spread of the COVID-19 virus remained in place. Humanitarian organisation adapted to working in a COVID environment, and the humanitarian response continued with less impact than experienced in 2020. Many countries in the region experiences surges of cases throughout 2021 which impacted population and commodity flow at times. In December 2021, there was a resurgence in people testing positive for COVID-19 in South Sudan. Many of those who tested positive were identified during pre-travel screening, and therefore, were required to undertake self-isolations measures. The Government of South Sudan introduced partial lock down measures to limit the spread of the infections. While organisations reduced movements, there was not a significant impact on humanitarian activities.

A number of access challenges were reported directly linked with ad hoc and unofficial COVID-19 measures being applied. Some passengers experienced demands by immigration staff for both hard and soft copies of their COVID-19 tests to be allowed enter the country. Other arriving passengers received demands to undergo testing on arrival for which the passenger was asked to pay. Neither of these mechanisms are requirements set by the relevant mandated government fora.

OCHA, guided by its Access Unit and the technical experts, continued to gather information and ensure it was shared with the relevant senior authorities to enable a smooth and safe movement by all humanitarians, including sharing onwards the guidance to allow for predictable measures.

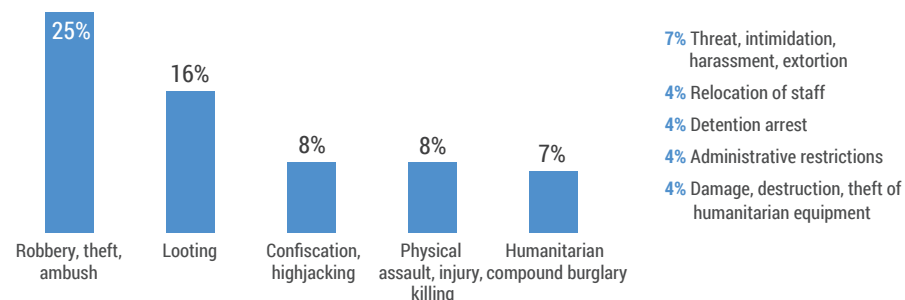
REPORTED CASES OF COVID-19



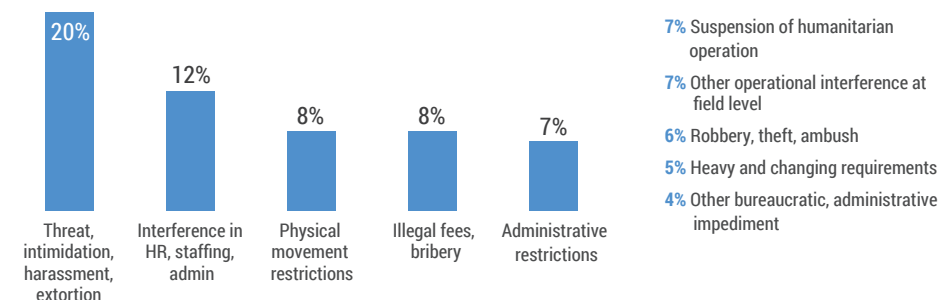
Severity of access constraints

Fifty-eight per cent of reported incidents (accounting for 344 cases) were significant in severity and seriously impacted humanitarian personnel, assets, or response. Another 27 per cent were moderate in severity, while 15 per cent were minor. Similar to 2020, violence against humanitarian personnel represented the most prevalent access issue in 2021. Of the 344 significantly severe incidents reported, 41 per cent involved violence, abduction, killings and detentions of staff, as well as ambushes including looting and theft. Moderate and minor incidents accounted for 27 and 15 per cent of all incidents, respectively. These reported incidents mainly involved unnecessary administrative procedures, illegal taxation and fees, interference with operations, threats and intimidation of staff, theft, and compound intrusions. Some 285 incidents had a direct impact on humanitarian action sectors.

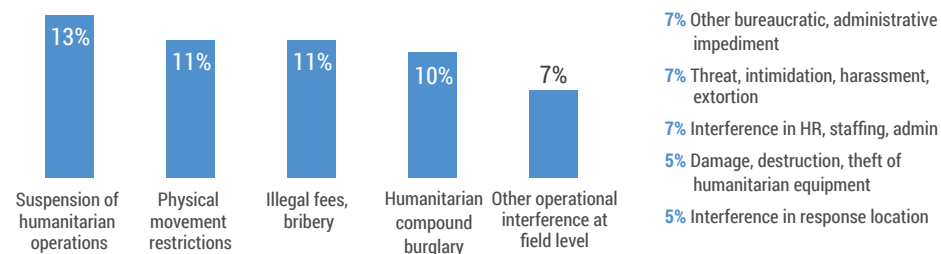
TOP 10 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



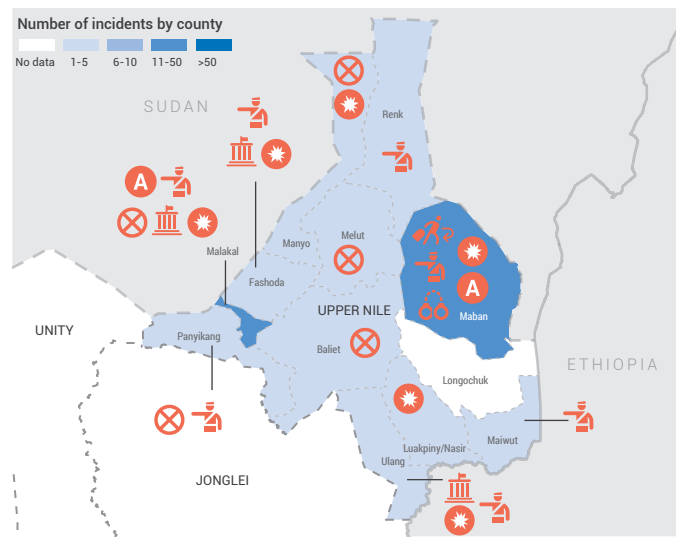
TOP 10 MODERATE INCIDENTS



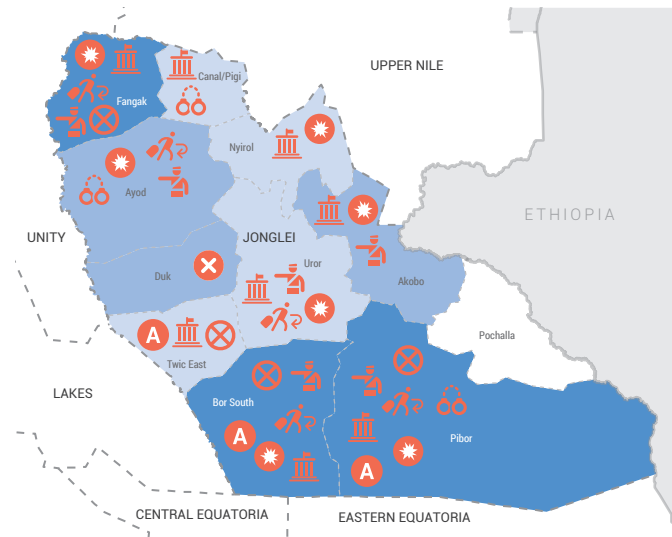
TOP 10 MINOR INCIDENTS



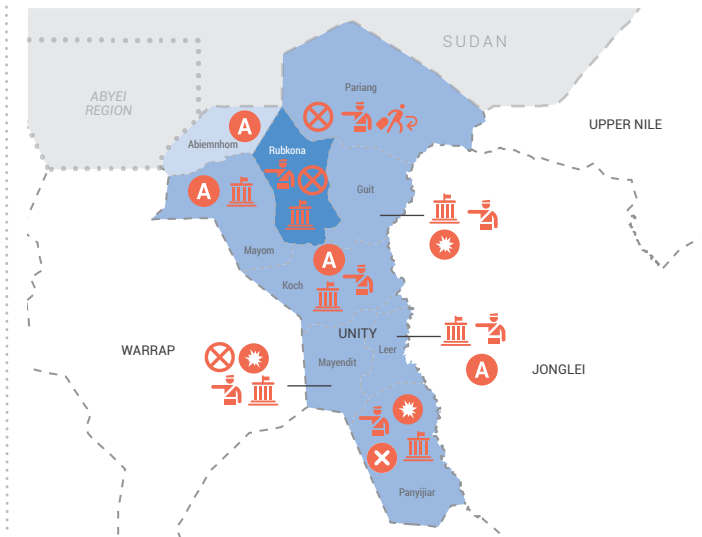
UPPER NILE



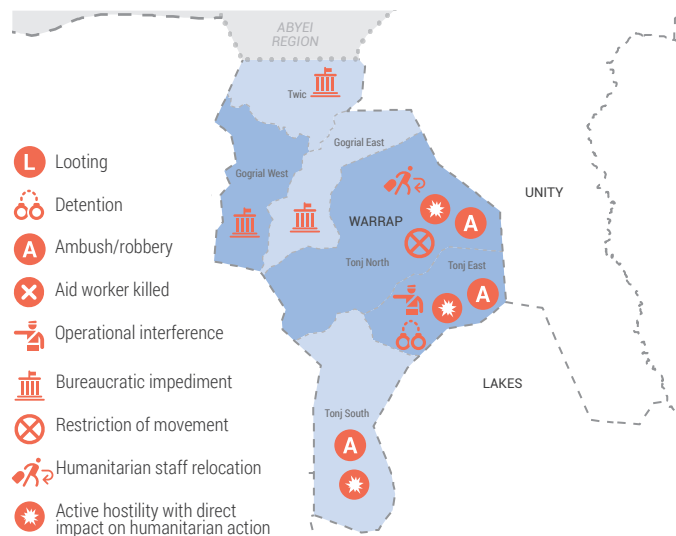
JONGLEI



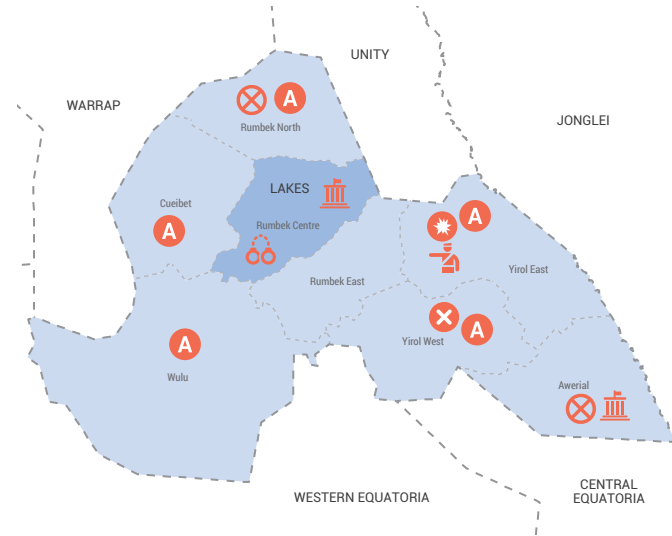
UNITY



WARRAP



LAKES



OVERVIEW BY STATE

UPPER NILE

With 33 incidents reported, Malakal is the county that accounts for over 43 per cent of all incidents recorded in the state in 2021. Bureaucratic impediments and administrative interference particularly affected the running of humanitarian operations.

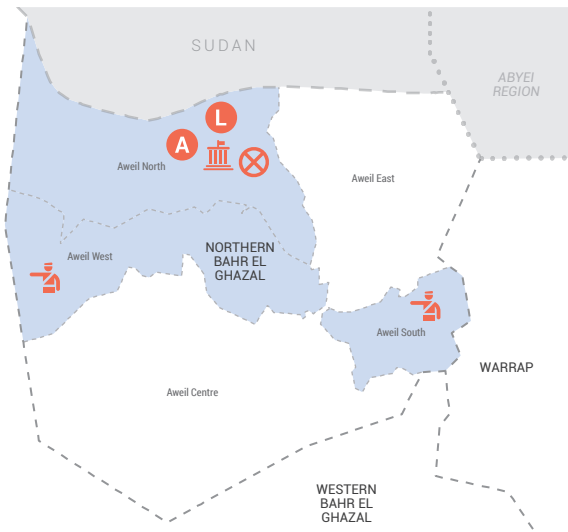
JONGLEI/GREATER PIBOR ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Jonglei is the state with the second highest number of reported incidents (109), after Central Equatoria. Sub-national violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) accounted for most of the incidents in the state, in addition to youth unrest over employment demands leading to the disruption of humanitarian action. Attacks on humanitarian convoys, personnel, and assets also led to disruptions in operations.

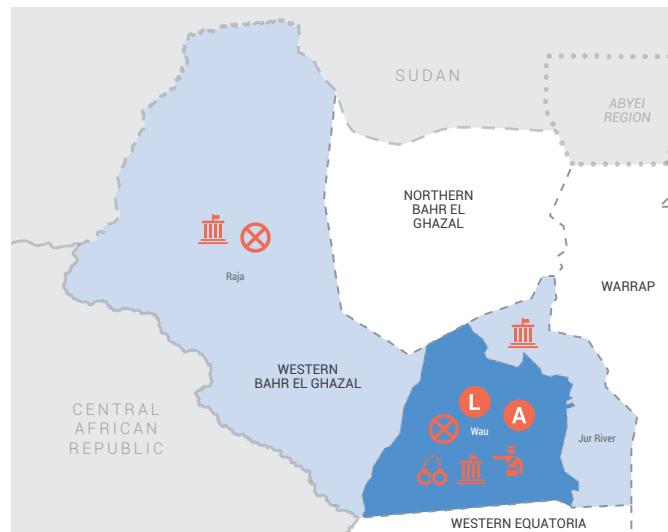
UNITY STATE/RUWENG ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Youth agitation over employment demands led to the relocation of humanitarian staff and the suspension of services in Ruweng and Panyijar. In other parts of the state, partners were confronted with increasing levels of sub-national violence, bureaucratic impediments, and interference from authorities.

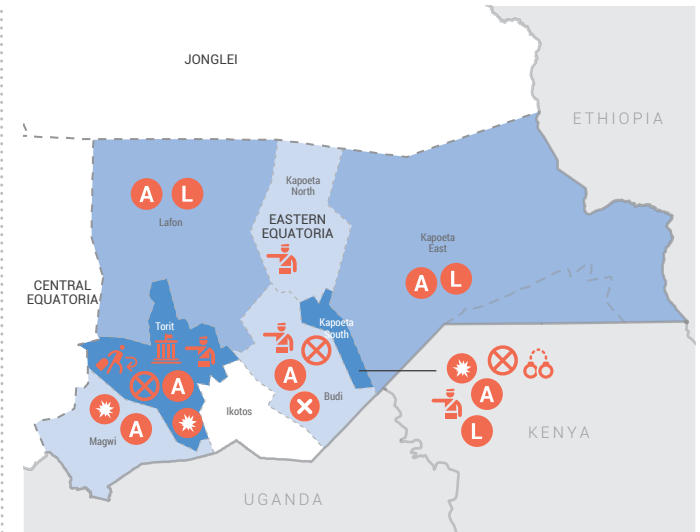
NORTHERN BAHR EL GHAZAL



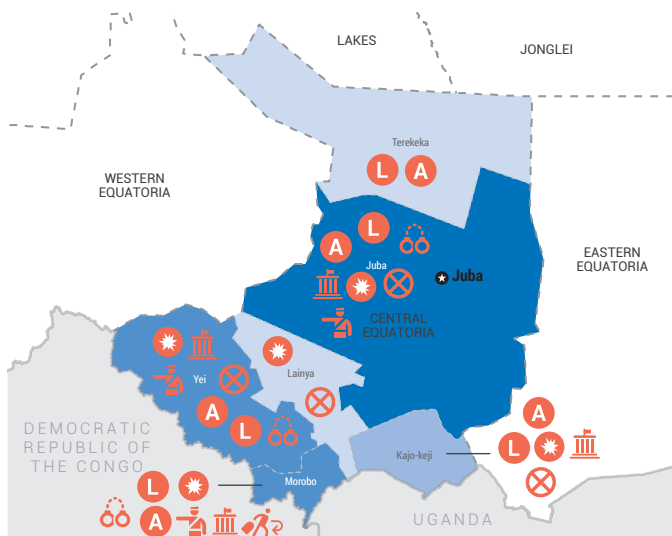
WESTERN BAHR EL GHAZAL



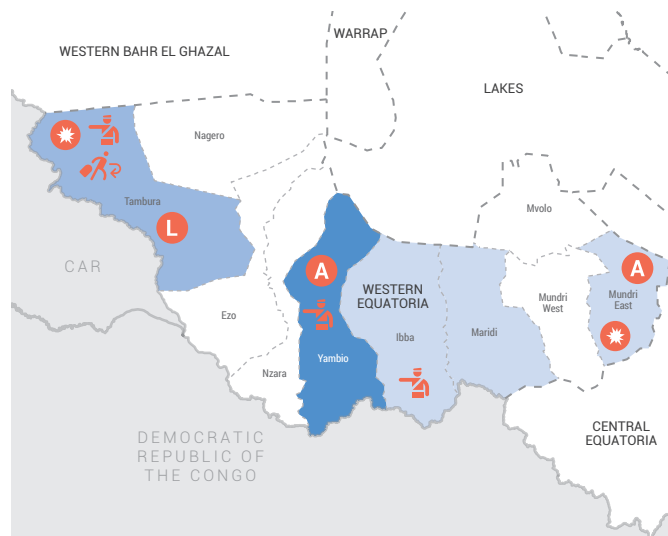
EASTERN EQUATORIA



CENTRAL EQUATORIA



WESTERN EQUATORIA



OVERVIEW BY STATE

WARRAP STATE

The state was affected by outbreaks of sub-national violence between Tonj East and Tonj North. Humanitarian convoys and a health facility were attacked. Approximately 300 metric tons of humanitarian supplies were lost and staff evacuated, disrupting the delivery of assistance to people in need.

CENTRAL EQUATORIA

Central Equatoria recorded the highest number of reported incidents (137) in 2021. Armed conflict and roadside ambushes in Lainya, Yei and Morobo counties particularly affected the humanitarian environment in the state. Staff detentions, harassment, intimidation, and extortion accounted for most of the reported incidents.

WESTERN EQUATORIA

Sub-national violence in Tambura, which led to the displacement of more than 80,000 people, did not spare humanitarian workers and assets. Looting, theft of response supplies and compound occupation/burglaries were among the most reported incidents.