

South Sudan: Response scale-up for highly food insecure areas

Situation Report No. 6

As of 30 April 2021

This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). It covers the period from 1 to 30 April 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster partners reached some 372,000 people with food assistance in the six priority 1 food insecure counties of Pibor, Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South. This represents 82 per cent of the 450,000 people targeted.
- Close to 8,000 children under age 5 and over 4,000 pregnant and lactating women were reached with nutritional assistance through 96 static nutritional facilities, 28 outreach sites and 12 stabilization centres across the six counties. In Aweil South, nutrition sites rely on ponds or stagnant seasonal rivers for their water.
- Health Cluster partners provided more than 71,522 consultations to people in April, compared to 28,000 consultations in March. The increase is attributed to an improvement in security and access in the greater Tonj area. The cluster continued to expand access to health services through the re-establishment of critical static primary health care and mobile service delivery.
- More than 142,000 people were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Close to 2,000 standard hygiene/water kits were distributed to people. Ten nutrition facilities were supported with access to clean water. A total of 55 water points were rehabilitated.
- A total of 31,478 people including 7,765 children received life-saving child protection (CP) services in April. Gender-based violence (GBV) partners reached 8,899 people in April with various activities such as psychosocial services at Women and Girls Friendly Spaces (WGFS), case management, dignity kits and community outreach. At least 3,288 women and girls accessed different psychosocial support (PSS) activities at the WGFS and 3,607 received dignity kits. About 4,000 dignity kits have been pre-positioned in Pibor.
- Protection monitoring indicates an increasing trend of adolescent boys and girls working at marketplaces and living and working in the streets in urban areas, a phenomenon likely to have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 related school closures, food insecurity, poverty and other persistent factors. These children are at increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse.
- While clusters have scaled up to meet the urgent needs of people, gaps remain. The WASH Cluster identified gaps in all six counties. In Akobo, the Nutrition Cluster warned that stock of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) and CSB++ was running low. In Aweil South, FSL, health, nutrition, Shelter/NFI and WASH clusters reported gaps. A shortage of dignity kits was consistently reported in April.
- Road conditions deteriorated in April, but main routes were still accessible. Insecurity in Jonglei led to the postponement of coordinated convoys to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) and Akobo County, affecting the ability to pre-position stocks while roads are still accessible.
- UNMISS patrols in the greater Tonj area stopped, following the expiration of its Sharing of Information (SOI) in mid-March 2021. UNMISS were unable to conduct regular patrols to the greater Tonj area since the SOI cannot be renewed. The Governor stated that South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) forces patrolling insecure areas of the greater Tonj area will guarantee the security of communities.

820K

people facing IPC Phase 3 or higher in the six priority 1 counties between April and July 2021

372K

people reached with food assistance in the six priority 1 counties in April

72K

people received health consultations in the six priority 1 counties in April

\$40.5M

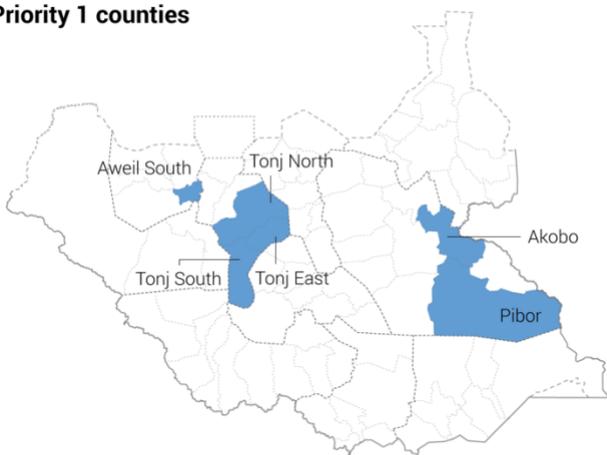
secured through SSHF and CERF allocations and other donor contributions

SITUATION OVERVIEW

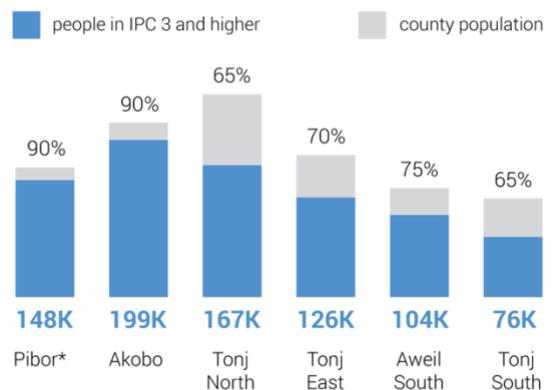
In early 2021, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan deteriorated further as a result of compounding shocks, including flooding, ongoing violence and displacement, the impact of which has eroded the livelihoods and coping strategies of vulnerable communities across the country. In December 2020, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projected that an estimated 7.2 million people representing 60 per cent of the population will face crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or worse from April to July 2021. In the six priority 1 counties, 820,000 people are deemed to be in crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) according to IPC projections. This includes over 300,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and some 480,000 pregnant and lactating women who are acutely malnourished and in need of need of treatment.

Based on food security and nutrition analysis, six counties were identified in late 2020 as priority 1 areas for a multi-sectoral response scale-up, including FSL, health and nutritional support, protection services and WASH assistance, supported by the Logistic Cluster and UNHAS. Humanitarian organizations started scaling up operations in December, intensifying efforts for people in the six priority 1 counties.

Priority 1 counties



Number of people in IPC Phase 3 and higher (April to July 2021)



Partner presence

- 27 Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)**
27 humanitarian organizations including 12 INGOs, 10 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 15 Tonj North**
15 humanitarian organizations including 4 INGOs, 6 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 14 Akobo**
14 humanitarian organizations including 6 INGOs, 4 NNGOs and 4 UN agencies
- 11 Tonj South**
11 humanitarian organizations including 1 INGOs, 5 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 10 Aweil South**
10 humanitarian organizations including 5 INGOs, 1 NNGO and 4 UN agencies
- 8 Tonj East**
8 humanitarian organizations including 1 INGOs, 5 NNGOs and 2 UN agencies

*Gumuruk, Pibor, Lekuangle, Verteth payams only

RESPONSE SCALE-UP IN PRIORITY 1 LOCATIONS

Greater Pibor Administrative Area

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 148,000 people face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity (90 per cent of the population of Pibor County) with an estimated 33,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in western Pibor between April and July 2021.
- There is a need to ensure the continued provision of health, WASH and critical protection services, including CP and GBV services, especially in hard-to-reach locations in Pibor.
- Humanitarian organizations expressed the need for a more integrated approach in Pibor between FSL, Health, Nutrition and WASH clusters to increase programmatic impact.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In Pibor County, general food distributions targeted 94,459 people. Food distributions reached 78,535 people in April, with 22,120 in Pibor, 23,714 in Likuangole, 24,265 in Gumuruk and 8,664 in Verteth. From May to June, food distributions plan

to reach 15,696 people across Maruo (5,000), Labrab (6,000) and Boma (4,696) once biometric registrations are completed. To date, over 17,000 households (HH) have received livelihood support in Pibor, Gumuruk, Manyabol and Verteth and 1,660 in Likuangole. The support included vegetable seeds and fishing kits. A total of 168,500 animals were vaccinated and over 56,700 animals treated to protect the livelihoods of more than 26,418 HH from December to April. The pre-positioning of food supplies is ongoing in Pibor town.

During the reporting period, Health Cluster partners conducted 8,146 consultations in Pibor County. More than 2,300 people were reached with emergency response services in Likuangole and Gumuruk payams. In GPAA, 11,000 people were reached through mobile health services. Emergency health kits and vaccination supplies were delivered to four static sites and a nutrition stabilization centre. Healthcare workers in the four static health facilities were trained. A health partner has identified an area above flood water levels to move the Primary Health Care Center (PHCC).

A SMART survey in GPAA assessed 495 children. The survey revealed a GAM rate of 21.6 per cent and SAM of 4.9 per cent (based on weight for height). Edema was not identified. Stunting was 7.6 per cent. The crude death rate was .077 and under age 5 death rate was 0.21. The most common causes of death were injury/trauma (50 per cent) and illness (42.9 per cent). The situation in Pibor remains critical and continues to require urgent support. The Nutrition Cluster plans to strengthen community management of acute malnutrition programmes and establish close collaboration between the Outpatient Therapeutic feeding Programme (OTP), the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) and treatment of SAM cases with complications. The Nutrition Cluster has increased its footprint and essential SAM supplies on the ground until the end of 2021. TSFP sites are delivered through 29 static and 10 mobile sites and supplemental feeding programmes are increasing with the general food distribution caseload.

Protection partners continued their response scale up in Pibor, including in Likuangole, Verteth, Gumuruk, Pibor town and Boma areas. A total of 5,804 people including 4,064 children benefited from a package of CP services and opportunities through static and mobile teams. This included 921 children provided with psychosocial support services and 357 caregivers reached through parents' support sessions. In addition, 70 new cases of unaccompanied and separated children were identified with at least 3 (1 girl and 2 boys) provided with family tracing and reunification services, while 4,461 people were reached with CP messages on prevention of CP issues and information on services available. Protection partners also trained 132 community volunteers and frontline workers on Child Protection in emergencies approaches.

In Pibor, GBV partners conducted PSS activities at the WGFS for 90 women and girls in Pibor town, Gumuruk, and Verteth. Case management and PSS services were conducted for 20 former abductees, including 4 women, 11 girls and 5 boys. A total of 900 people (350 women, 100 men, 170 boys, and 280 girls) were reached with home visit outreach / PSS activities. Many families visited required food support and psychological support due to family separation, with key needs for women's livelihood support and economic empowerment activities. Efforts are underway to update or reconfirm key actors in the GBV referral pathway to ensure effective referrals for GBV and other services. In addition, 4,000 dignity kits have been pre-positioned for upcoming distribution in Pibor. WASH partners scaled up WASH activities in various locations across GPAA. Some 7,415 people in Pibor town benefited from a rehabilitated water pump, and over 650 people received WASH kits in Boma and Maruwo.

During the rainy season, boats are the only means of transport. There are currently 11 passenger boats and two cargo boats with a capacity of 5 metric tons (MT) in Pibor, with more planned to arrive. Boat operators are being trained to ensure the movement of staff and supplies. Humanitarian organizations have undertaken a humanitarian operational readiness planning exercise in Pibor County to map facilities at risk of flooding, including health and nutrition sites, and have reviewed flood mitigation measures to ensure the continuity of service delivery during the rainy season.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Humanitarian organizations reported an increase in criminality in GPAA in April. Partners were attacked by armed men on the road from Pibor to Gumuruk on 27 April. The FSL Cluster is reluctant to store food outside of Pibor town due to the high number of looting incidences in Gumuruk and Likuangole in the past. The cluster is exploring ways to reach people with food distributions in locations outside of Pibor during the rainy season when roads become impassable. Efforts to pre-position critical supplies to GPAA, especially to hard-to-reach areas outside of Pibor town, are fading quickly with the start of the rainy season. The main supply route between Bor and Pibor will likely become impassable from June to November. Many boats in Pibor do not have the cargo capacity to transport food. Resources remain a challenge considering the many shocks affecting communities in Pibor. Dignity kits remain a gap despite certain existing stocks.

AKOBO

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 199,000 people face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity (90 per cent of the population of Akobo County) with an estimated 11,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Akobo between April and July 2021.
- Identified static health partners need to be rapidly scaled up across Akobo County to restore critical health services and resupply facilities.
- Additional gaps in service provision need to be addressed, especially in WASH and health. There is an immediate need for ambulance services to support referral cases, adequate space in the waiting room to observe social distancing and mosquito nets for women and children
- Funding will soon end for critical protection case management and referral services, including CP and GBV with dignity kits also representing a gap.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

An FSL Cluster partner reached 43,658 people, or 100 per cent of people targeted, with emergency food assistance in Akobo in April. Livelihood partners reached 27,000 HH and vaccinated 183,551 animals out of 226,000 targeted. Some 104,722 animals were treated out of 121,900 targeted. Five community-based animal health workers participated in a refresher course on animal health practices. The cluster is planning a mass animal vaccination in Akobo County targeting around 45,000 herds of cattle. A mass deworming campaign targeting 30,000 livestock is also planned. In April, health cluster partners reached 8,679 people through mobile healthcare activities. Health Cluster partners conducted training on infection, prevention and control of diseases as well as on clinical management of rape.

The achievements of the nutrition programme were a result of the extensive training of the Community Nutrition Volunteers (CNVs). In April, Nutrition Cluster partners screened 5,601 people, including 3,165 men and 2,436 women. A total of 2,167 children under age 5 and 1,228 pregnant and lactating women received nutritional support through 30 static nutritional facilities, four outreach sites and three stabilization centres. The CNVs live in the same communities with the people they serve which makes it easier to engage and understand their needs. Health and nutritional education sessions are constantly being conducted during the delivery of services and focus on complementary feeding and WASH related diseases that affect children under age 5 for instant diarrheal diseases and eye infections.

Referral for malaria cases were also reported at the health facilities. One borehole serving 105 HH, about 630-735 people, was rehabilitated. A SMART survey in Akobo assessed 512 children and revealed a GAM rate of 19.0 per cent and SAM of 4.1 per cent (based on weight for height). Edema was not identified. Stunting was 3.2 per cent. The crude mortality was 0.93 and the under-5 mortality rate was 1.01. The most common cause of death was illness fever (45 per cent), diarrhea (38 per cent) and cough (31 per cent). Fifty-five per cent of HHs reported a poor food consumption score (FCS), 24 per cent had borderline and 20 per cent had an acceptable FC. Some 26 per cent of HHs had lowest dietary diversity score, 29 per cent medium and 44 per cent had the highest score.

Child Protection partners conducted awareness raising on prevention and response to Child Protection issues reaching 199 children (107 boys and 92 girls) and 40 adults (20 women and 20 men). During the same reporting period, case management services were provided to two girls and one boy and structured community-based psychosocial support activities were provided to 680 children (239 girls and 441 boys). In Akobo in April, GBV partners reported an additional 1,749 women and girls accessing the WGFS in April (1,209 women and 540 girls). Awareness-raising sessions and door-to-door awareness on GBV and available services reached 71 people (33 women, 3 men, 9 boys and 26 girls). In addition, four GBV cases were reported during the month. Mentorship and training sessions were conducted for community protection group members throughout the month.

In Akobo East, a WASH Cluster partner distributed WASH kits to 500 people. Some 400 HHs were reached with dignitary kits, including kanga, female wearing petty coats, rechargeable solar torches, reusable sanitary pads, buckets, handwashing liquid soap and all-purpose soaps. During the reporting period, partners constructed two gender segregated VIP community latrine blocks with two stances with handwash features. Work on healthcare facilities continued. Eighteen hygiene promoters were trained in Nyadit, Dengjock and Bilkey payams. WASH Cluster partners received the first consignment of materials to rehabilitate 16 assessed boreholes. The partners pre-positioned WASH/NFIs including collapsible jerrycans, buckets, clothe filters, aqua tabs/pure and soap in Nyadit, Dengjock and Bilkey payams. The partners constructed 10 borehole platforms in the same communities. The pre-positioning of critical supplies in Akobo West continues via the Walgak road as an alternative route from Bor.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Sub-national violence and related revenge killings impacted the timely delivery of response operations in Akobo in April. Murle youth reportedly raided a cattle camp in Akobo West and displaced an estimated 8,000 people, mainly women and children to Walgak, Yidit, Boung, Kaikuiny in Akobo West. The displaced people are in dire need of assistance, including food, shelter and non-food items, WASH, health and protection services. Reports of revenge killings in the community have been received, creating access challenges for aid workers in reaching communities. The insecurity as a result of the revenge killings has led to the cancellation or postponement of scheduled work programmes.

Health partners reported that the majority of health facilities in Akobo are not functioning, including the Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) and PHCCs. In Akobo County, only five out of 23 facilities are functioning. There is urgent need to reopen health facilities. In the absence of an ambulance service, the referral system is problematic. With the high prevalence of malaria, mosquito nets are urgently needed. There is urgent need for water quality testing kits and soap for handwashing. With the ongoing spontaneous returnees arriving from Ethiopia and Kenya, WASH partners have identified WASH kits and NFIs as an urgent need. FSL partners need additional seeds and tools to continue with their response.

In Akobo County, the high cost of transportation by boat remains a major constraint. Continued boat engine breakdowns have been an issue and plans are underway to procure two new boat engines. While no supply gaps were identified in Akobo East in April, the available stock will not cover May, especially RUSF. Akobo West was running low on stock of RUSF and CSB++ and received RUTF supplies during the last week of April.

The Logistics Cluster is advocating for partners to make use of the dry season to pre-position stocks before the roads become inaccessible and has requested clusters to raise any storage needs required to ensure adequate space for pre-positioning. There is need for common storage in Akobo and discussions are ongoing on the management of a common storage space by a partner on behalf of the humanitarian community. Dignity kits remain a gap in Akobo. Resource challenges will also potentially lead to the end of some CP and GBV services in the coming weeks.

AWEIL SOUTH

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 104,000 people (75 per cent of the population of Aweil South County) face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity with an estimated 14,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Aweil South between April and July 2021.
- A Protection Cluster partner was identified and deployed to Aweil South but there is an urgent need for additional protection partners in the county.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Some 50,100 food insecure people in Aweil South's the eight payams received two-month food rations for March and April. Some 13,500 children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers received CSB++. The next food distribution will take place in May. FSL partners conducted a rapid market and household food security assessment in Aweil South to better understand the current food security situation and its impact of the response. The assessment report will be shared with partners soon. More than 26,700 HHs, out of 28,567 targeted, received livelihood kits including vegetables and fishing kits between January and April. Livelihood partners vaccinated 266,308 animals out of a target of 258,450 and an estimated 14,878 animals were treated out of a target of 53,350.

Health Cluster partners completed a polio vaccination campaign on 22 April in Aweil North, Aweil South, Aweil East, Aweil West and Aweil Center in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. The campaign targeted 330,698 children under age five. A health partner trained 14 health workers over 10 days on integrated disease surveillance response and minimal initial HIV package. The partner plans to conduct additional five-day training on clinical management of rape cases in collaboration with another health partner. Through the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF), a health partner established two new PHCCs in Amecrool and Majodal and three outreach sites in Mabiior, Alueth and Panadhot in Aweil South to fill the gap in basic health services for 26,750 people in Aweil South. COVID-19 sensitization and awareness activities for 457 people were conducted in Panthou Payam.

During the reporting period, WASH partners deployed pump mechanics and technicians and assessed water points and boreholes. A total of 50 boreholes were assessed by the WASH technicians to determine their functionality. WASH partners are planning to drill 10 new boreholes and rehabilitate 30 others in Aweil South. A WASH team briefed local leaders in Aweil South on the plan and priority locations for WASH activities. WASH partners completed the rehabilitation of broken boreholes at health facilities in Panthou and Wathmouk payams in Aweil South. WASH partners distributed WASH materials including soap and buckets. Partners in Aweil urged the national WASH Cluster to identify a potential partner that can fill

the gaps in WASH services in the remaining payams in the county. Additional nutrition supplies were pre-positioned in 10 static nutrition centres in Aweil South ahead of the rainy season. Nutrition supplies for four outreach sites in hard-to-reach locations will soon be pre-positioned.

In April, 2,161 children under age 5 and 921 pregnant and lactating women were newly admitted and treated at 10 static nutritional facilities, 8 outreach sites and 1 stabilization centre. Regular nutrition screening and treatment are ongoing at 10 static nutrition sites. Additional nutrition supplies were pre-positioned in 10 static nutrition centres ahead of the rainy season. CP teams are identifying and referring vulnerable children enrolled in nutrition programmes for further support, including parental counselling and other referral services. A nutrition sensitive integrated approach has significantly expanded with a CP team to support children identified for parental counselling at nutrition catchment and other follow up. Pregnant and lactating women identified with GBV issues were linked with the GBV team for appropriate response and support. WASH practices at nutrition sites, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) services were integrated in static and mobile nutrition sites to ensure all children are adequately screened and the immunization status is administered. A SMART survey is ongoing.

GBV partners distributed 2,740 dignity kits to 1,690 women and 1,050 girls in all the eight payams of Panthou, Tiar Aliet, Nyieth, Ayai, Tarweng, Gakrol, Wathmouk and Nyoch Wany. The target beneficiaries were vulnerable girls and women of childbearing age group. In April, 30 GBV survivors (all female) were provided with case management services at the WGFS. A total of 560 women and girls (370 women and 190 girls) were engaged in group and individual PSS services at the WGFS. These included women and girls who benefitted from dignity kits, and those who come for counselling sessions. A total of 863 people (396 men, 294 women, 48 boys and 129 girls) were reached with GBV messages. Topics discussed included all types of GBV with emphasis on forced/child marriage, and service availability. CP partners reached 21,640 people including 2,075 children with critical child protection services including awareness raising, 318 girls and 242 boys received case management services and 135 children and caregivers were provided with community based psychosocial support. Protection partners carried out a mobile mission beginning on 19 April. Protection monitoring was conducted in affected payams, including through meetings with community leaders, host communities, and recent returnees. A protection mainstreaming training for five FSL partners was carried out and initially identified protection concerns were responded to.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

While efforts are under way to rehabilitate and drill additional boreholes, WASH gaps remain, in particular water for the community and health facilities. A key challenge facing WASH Cluster partners is accessing spare parts to rehabilitate boreholes and the lack of funding to drill new boreholes. The challenges faced during nutrition programmes include accessing clean and safe water for handwashing and drinking during tests with severely malnourished children under age five. Nutrition sites must rely on ponds or stagnant seasonal rivers for their water. Protection partners identified accessibility of roads due to previous flooding and onset of the rainy season as a key challenge hindering people's access to protection services in more remote areas. Another core challenge remains sufficiency of protection partners to meet the needs, closely linked to resources. One CP and GBV partner is limited to five payams with some mobile outreach. General protection is largely limited to mobile rather than static presence. Dignity kits also remain a gap.

Key protection issues identified through protection monitoring included an increase in criminality, in particular theft of livestock, related to food insecurity and lack of livelihoods; lack of police presence and insufficient resources provided to law enforcement, including to ensure adherence to human rights standards; insufficient representation of women and youth in governance structures thereby leading to a risk of exclusion; intimate partner violence and physical assault against women and denial of women's access to resources; a significant lack of access to key services in relation to child protection and GBV issues; increasing risk of early and forced marriage and other negative coping strategies; and a wide range of child protection issues. Key gaps in other humanitarian services including FSL, health, nutrition, S/NFI and WASH, were identified.

TONJ EAST

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 126,000 people (70 per cent of the population of Tonj East County) face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity with an estimated 18,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Tonj East between April and July 2021.
- Displaced people have started to return to their communities in areas where the security is improving. NFIs, especially for women and girls, are urgently needed. The Shelter and NFI Cluster confirmed that NFI distribution to the most vulnerable people in the greater Tonj area is underway.
- Due to the high levels of insecurity, cattle raiding and revenge killings, an estimated 4,068 displaced people in five payams cannot be reached by humanitarian organizations.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

FSL partners distributed food for two months (April and May) to 68,010 people in Tonj East, out of which 18,396 people were supported with Food-for-Asset programmes. Over 5,600 HHS, out of 22,400 targeted, were assisted with some form of livelihood assistance. The response scale-up was initially delayed due to pipeline shortages and now access constraints. Around 19,765 livestock, out of 181,400 targeted, have been vaccinated. Some 11,879 animals, out of 15,000 targeted, were treated against infectious diseases. Access constraints due to sub-national violence can partly explain the low response numbers. WASH partners assessed 22 health facilities with the aim of replenishing the facilities. During the reporting period, 23 hand pump mechanics and 24 hygiene promoters were trained. MAM/SAM cases for WASH NFI items were registered.

Health partners conducted 14,130 consultations. The second round of interagency emergency kits (IEHK), sample kits, trauma kits, and COVID-19 masks), procured with CERF funding have been delivered to health facilities in the greater Tonj areas. During the reporting period, a health partner started supporting six PHCUs by providing emergency supplies and staff. The partner had received emergency medical supplies in preparation for the rainy season. Health and nutrition partners conducted 2,660 routine consultations in health facilities, reaching 980 children under age 5 and 1,665 above 5 years. Immediate care and treatment were provided to 317 people diagnosed with acute watery diarrhea and 808 with malaria. A polio vaccination campaign was completed. Nutrition cluster partners provided nutritional assistance to 2,280 children under age 5 and 2,326 pregnant and lactating women through 12 static nutritional facilities, four outreach sites and three stabilization centres. Three months' (RUSF and CSB++) and five months' (RUTF) stock and Amoxicillin syrup were delivered to all nutrition sites. A contracted company completed drilling boreholes at fixed nutrition sites without boreholes. Health and nutrition services with malaria testing and SAM/MAM case treatment have been integrated into all nutrition sites.

During the reporting period, Protection Cluster partners reached 469 people including 170 women, 166 men, 56 girls, 77 boys with protection and GBV awareness activities. The partners referred eight GBV cases for further management in the health facilities. Thirteen people were identified with specific needs. The partners engaged 286 people on life skills activities.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

According to partners, lack of shelter and NFIs to respond to the needs of 940 displaced HHs will further increase the vulnerability of people reportedly returning to their homes following the 2020/2021 sub-national violence. The S/NFI Cluster has been requested for support. Despite the ongoing deployment of SSPDF in the area, the security situation remains unpredictable with pockets of cattle raiding and revenge killing incidences reported. Communities are living in fear. The rainy season has begun in parts of the country and access to health facilities is challenging. There is an urgent need to speed up the prepositioning of medical, nutrition and other essential supplies. Most of the partners supporting the ongoing response scale-up are based in the state capital, Kuajok, affecting the response timeliness. Limited partner presence and resource challenges have led to major gaps in protection services in areas such as GBV.

TONJ NORTH

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 167,000 people (65 per cent of the population of Tonj North County) face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity with an estimated 26,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Tonj North between April and July 2021.
- Additional funding is needed to support FSL, WASH and protection activities in Tonj North.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

FSL partners completed general food distributions to 86,508 people in Tonj North of which 21,306 were reached through the food-for-asset programme. The FSL Cluster increased food rations from 50 per cent to 70 per cent for food insecure people. Livelihood activities reached 4,990 out of 27,257 people targeted. Around 97,618 livestock were vaccinated, out of 254,790 targeted. More than 32,189 animals were treated, out of 105,490 targeted. Pipeline shortages and access constraints delayed the FSL response scale-up.

Based on a IRNA assessment, WASH partners distributed WASH NFIs to 200 displaced HHs at the Comboni mission and Catholic Church in Tonj North. The NFI package included collapsible jerry cans, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets, a plastic sheet and soaps among other items. The partners also assessed 25 boreholes for rehabilitation in Pagol, Marial-Lou, Aman-Alor, Aliek and Alabek payams. Regular sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, including the distribution of water tabs, soap, WASH materials for the most vulnerable families were conducted.

The Health Cluster treated 10,994 people including 1,929 men, 4,154 women, 2,545 boys and 2,565 girls diagnosed with health conditions. More than 98 deliveries were supported by skilled birth attendants. The second round of emergency supplies from WHO through CERF funding including (IEHK kits, sample kits, trauma kits, and COVID-19 masks) have been delivered to health facilities.

During the reporting month, Nutrition Cluster partners provided nutritional assistance to 1,167 children under age 5 and 911 pregnant and lactating women through 13 static nutritional facilities and two stabilization centres. Health and nutrition support was set up at Marial Lou Hospital, with a partner providing test and treatment for SAM/MAM cases.

Protection Cluster partners identified 10 people with specific needs, while Child Protection partners provided Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) services to 18 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and identified two new UASC. Eight girls also received comprehensive case management services. GBV partners reached 269 women and girls through WGFS activities in April. During the same period, 247 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls of reproductive age in Warrap town, Rumakeen, Akop, Alabek, and Aliek, including to IDPs in Majaktit and Warrap town. Life skills materials distribution reached 30 people, including 7 girls and 23 women, in Awul Payam. Cattle camp youth conflict mapping was conducted in Awul and Manlour payams reaching 40 people (4 girls, 2 women, and 34 men).

Protection partners are planning to conduct an intention survey for the IDPs from Tonj North County who are residing in Dir Akok Primary School in Wau. The same exercise will be conducted in Hai Masna IDP where the IDPs will be hosted. The IDPs were requested to vacate the school premises as schools reopened. The Ministry of General Education and Instruction with education partners were engaged in preparing the school environment to be conducive for the students. COVID-19 preparations were ongoing.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Partners reported of pockets of insecurity incidents in some areas. On 3 April, an abduction of two young men from Awul Payam by youth from Kiirik Payam was reported. Following the County Administration's intervention, the abductees were released unharmed. A local protection partner continued to engage the youth on peaceful co-existence among the community members. In addition, resource challenges continue to hamper protection response in all Tonj counties, with GBV and CP static partners limited to certain payams, and GP response coming largely from mobile interventions and a maximum of one static partner. Dignity kits also remain a gap.

Integrating WASH, health and FSL with nutrition in hard-to-reach locations remains a challenge. Nutrition monitoring and evaluation tools (PLW ration cards) are not available. There is limited storage and engagement with the Logistics Cluster to construct a mobile storage unit is ongoing. Gaps in nutrition staffing are being discussed with cluster lead agencies.

The rains started in April and roads are becoming impassable. Partners reported limited resources to support the large number of vulnerable assessed people. Many of the nutrition stabilization centres are not easily accessible as hard-to-reach communities are located far from the stabilization centres. Access to health and nutrition centres, as well as to protection services, is also constrained by insecurity and sporadic cattle raiding. In the absence of resilient projects to support income generating activities, the affected people continue to depend largely on humanitarian assistance, mainly food aid.

TONJ SOUTH

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections for April to July 2021, an estimated 76,000 people (65 per cent of the population of Tonj South County) face Crisis and higher levels of food insecurity with an estimated 6,000 people likely to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Tonj South between April and July 2021.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In April, FSL partners completed general food distributions to 33,156 people in Tonj South. Registration for food-for-asset to more than 19,644 people are ongoing, but none were delivered in April. FSL partners have increased food ration from 50 per cent to 70 per cent for food insecure people. Unconditional food and food-for-asset activities are expected to continue until the end of September 2021. An estimated 6,999 HHs out of 24,083 targeted were supported with livelihood activities. Over 227,908 animals, out of 288,600 targeted, were vaccinated. Around 5,603 animals, out of 23,400 targeted, were treated.

In April, SSHF funding enabled health partners to conduct consultations for 2,069 patients. They have been reaching displaced people through a mobile unit. A health partner received medical supplies to ensure the continuity of activities in health facilities especially the hard-to-reach areas during the rainy season. Health partners trained and recruited 40 health workers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) and basic emergency newborn and obstetric care (BeMNOC) care.

WASH partners rehabilitated 19 boreholes. Four of the rehabilitated boreholes were at the health facilities in Jak and Wang alel. The health facility provides health services to an estimated 9,500 HHs in the area. WASH partners trained 26 hygiene promoters and provided COVID-19 awareness activities to around 1,549 people. Partners distributed WASH NFIs including soaps, collapsible jerry cans, aqua tabs, and buckets to 85 HHs at the Tonj South Civil hospital. A WASH partner conducted hygiene promotion awareness in five communities and distributed WASH NFI kits to 666 HHs in the same communities.

Nutrition Cluster partners provided nutritional assistance to 803 children under age 5 and 668 pregnant and lactating women through 10 static nutritional facilities, two outreach sites and two stabilization centres. The nutrition partner conducted routine Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening activities to IDPs in Jak, Thiet, Tonj Town Kalkeu and pre-positioned three months' worth of supplies to support up to 4,479 HHs during the rainy season. Nutrition partners distributed bathing soaps to SAM/MAM cases at the health facilities. The partners conducted counselling to 67 women or caregivers on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN). Monitoring and evaluation tools (OTP ration cards, treatment cards, register books) were received. The partner received eight months' worth of supplies (RUTF, F100, F75, Amoxicillin syrup, RESAMOL). A contracted company started drilling boreholes at fixed nutrition sites without an existing borehole. Health and nutrition services are integrated in all nutrition sites and are providing malaria tests and treating SAM/MAM cases.

GBV partners reached 620 women and girls, of whom 300 were IDPs, through WGFS activities. Some 620 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls of reproductive age. Community outreach awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 and case management reached 810 people (330 women, 190 men, 130 boys, and 160 girls), including 26 persons with disabilities. PSS and recreational activities reached 80 women and girls, while 26 GBV cases were reported and received case management services. In addition to providing 40 foster caregivers with livelihood support, CP partners provided case management services to four girls and one boy.

Health, nutrition, WASH and protection partners are planning to continue with hygiene and COVID-19 awareness in Jak, Thiet, Wanh alel, Tonj and Manyang ngok payams. They will rehabilitate 20 boreholes, seven in Thiet, four in Jak and four in Wanh alel and Manyang ngok and distribute 718 hygiene kits to SAM caregivers. They will provide WASH NFIs to 560 HHs, 153 in Manyang ngok, 300 in Tonj and 60 in Mabior yar (Wanh alel) and protection activities to people in the county.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Displaced people in Tonj South, Tonj town, Thiet and Lak are in urgent need of FSL and S/NFI items. Critical gaps were identified in general protection, GBV and CP services, especially the physical protection to displaced people in Jak, Thiet and Tonj town. While one GBV partner requested 3,000 dignity kits, only 1,500 were received. The remaining total requirement for dignity kits is significantly in excess of the single partner's gap of 1,500, and there are increased needs in the county. Poor road network due to rains may cut off some settlements in the county. Integrating WASH, health and FSL with nutrition in hard-to-reach locations remains a challenge. Nutrition monitoring and evaluation tools (PLW ration cards) are still not available. Urgent funding is needed to support S/NFI activities of the 1,163 HHs displaced people verified by the March IRNA assessment, the majority of whom do not have shelter and are sleeping under trees.

LOGISTICS

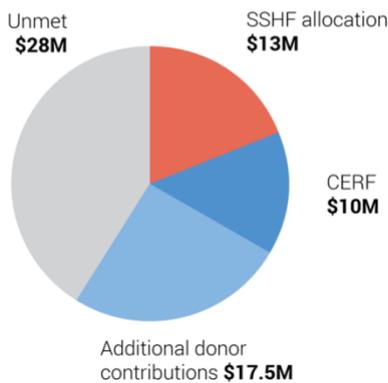
The Logistics Cluster continued to support operating partners in their efforts to pre-position the required life-saving supplies ahead of the rainy season to ensure a reduced reliance on air operations. As part of these efforts, the cluster facilitated the departure of a humanitarian road convoy from Bor to Pibor that enabled the transportation of approximately 180 MT of humanitarian cargo, including essential health, nutrition and WASH items. The Logistics Cluster deployed a senior logistics officer to Pibor to support partners' logistics storage needs through the rehabilitation of three mobile storage units previously affected by flooding, which will ensure they are now available all year round. Additional common storage was erected in Pibor, increasing the capacity to 880 m² of common storage space available to the humanitarian community. The window of opportunity for road transport of cargo is closing fast before rains make roads impassable. A total of 19 MT of food security, WASH and logistic supplies were transported to Akobo. Negotiations are ongoing with a partner to increase common storage capacity through the installation of mobile storage units on behalf of the humanitarian community in Akobo town. One road convoy reached Walgak in Akobo West with 120 MT of nutrition and health supplies.

FUNDING

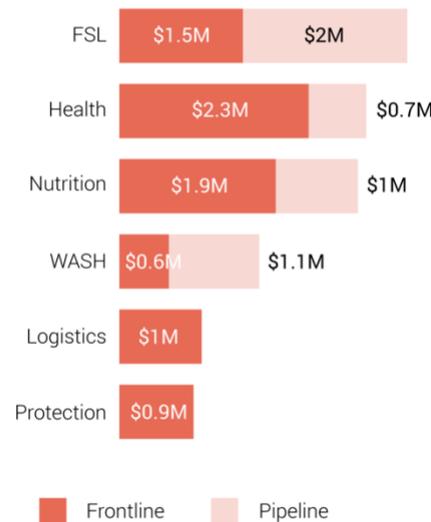
The 2021 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan was launched on 16 March and requests US\$1.7 billion to assist and protect 6.6 million people in 2021. The plan includes an estimated \$68.5 million to support the scale-up of operations to meet the urgent needs of people in the six priority 1 counties, as per the IPC projections. In January, the SSHF released \$13 million to respond to people’s immediate needs in the six priority 1 counties facing Catastrophic levels of food insecurity, representing 19 per cent of the scale-up requirements. A total of 16 humanitarian partners, including eight international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), four national non-governmental organizations (NNGO) and four UN agencies were funded to scale up the response. Overall, \$12 million or 92 per cent of the resources were directly allocated to life-saving activities across FSL, health, nutrition, WASH and protection, and \$1 million or 8 per cent were allocated to the Logistics Cluster to enable the operational transportation of humanitarian supplies and staff movement to field locations. In March, CERF allocated a further \$10 million to enhance the scale-up and meet the needs of the most vulnerable. The CERF allocation targets some 560,175 vulnerable people across the six priority 1 counties with life-saving food, health, nutrition, protection and WASH assistance and services. Sustaining the response through the lean season is vital. An additional \$17.5 million has been secured through other donor contributions.

Funding required to scale up response

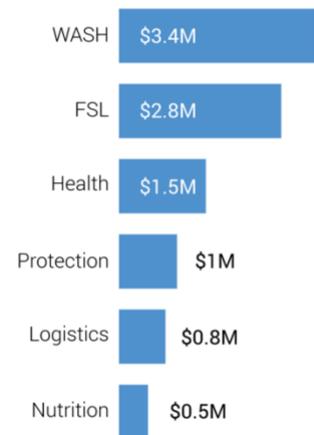
\$68.5M required
\$40.5M funded



SSHF allocation by cluster



CERF allocation by cluster



(US\$ millions)

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