2014
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW
South Sudan
September 2013

Prepared by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team

PRIORITY NEEDS

1  Crisis-driven displacement

Inter-communal violence and hostilities between state and non-state armed actors will likely continue to drive humanitarian needs. The resulting displacement and loss of lives and livelihoods will stretch coping mechanisms and push families further into vulnerability. Political tensions in the run up to 2015 national elections may increase instability in some areas.

2  Acute food insecurity

Some 830,000 people are expected to be severely food insecure in 2014, although overall food security will likely stabilize. Partners will prioritize livelihood programmes to address the needs of those acutely food insecure, lessening reliance on food aid, and increasing resilience.

3  Refugees and returnees

Low refugee and returnee arrivals are expected in 2014. Relief will focus on maintaining and improving the quality of assistance, and the longer term needs of 270,000 refugees expected to be hosted in the country by the end of 2014. The sustainable reintegration of 50,000 new returnee arrivals will require joint humanitarian and development approaches.

4  Humanitarian access restrictions

Aid workers will continue to experience significant access constraints. With more than 60 per cent of roads across the country impassable in the rainy season, air assets are needed for relief activities. Humanitarian work may also be hindered by violence against aid workers and assets, active hostilities and bureaucratic impediments.

5  Seasonal flooding

Seasonal flooding in 2014 will result in medium-scale, localized and temporary displacement. Increasing communities’ resilience against flooding is crucial in reducing its impact, as is strengthening the ability of Government institutions to respond.
Source: OCHA
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IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

HIGHLIGHTS

The humanitarian situation is driven by recurrent violence and hostilities, tensions inside South Sudan and with Sudan, and low Government capacity to provide basic services and implement a disaster preparedness programme. Building communities’ resilience to withstand shocks, and strengthening the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies will be central to humanitarian work in 2014 and beyond.

Drivers and underlying factors

Chronic violence continues to de-stabilize parts of South Sudan and disrupt the lives of tens of thousands of civilians. Cattle-raiding and inter-communal violence largely occur in a few hotspot areas, including the tri-state area (between Lakes, Unity and Warrap) and Jonglei State, the latter home to multiple large-scale attacks in recent years. Armed hostilities between state and non-state armed actors have also been prevalent, primarily in Jonglei. State security forces have been accused of causing civilians to flee their homes rather than protecting them, and attacks have also occurred on humanitarian operations. Civilians will continue to bear the brunt of hostilities in the coming year, including deaths, injuries and displacement. In addition to the immediate consequences of forcing people from their homes, displacement disrupts livelihoods, strains household coping mechanisms, impacts negatively on the education and health of communities, and reduces resilience.

Tensions with Sudan continue to impact the humanitarian situation. Conflict in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states has forced some 193,000 people across the border into Unity and Upper Nile states (as of September 2013), where they are likely to remain reliant on aid in the coming years. Despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, unresolved CPA issues such as the status of the contested Abyei area and security arrangements along the border between the two countries mean that many people uprooted from their homes fear returning and remain displaced.

Unresolved issues in outstanding CPA agreements have led to stoppages in oil production, forcing South Sudan’s Government to implement severe austerity budget cuts, reducing monthly spending by 50 per cent prior to the stoppage. Ordinary citizens have been pushed deeper into vulnerability. With oil production resumed, the ability of the Government to bolster basic service provision will be key, although limited progress is expected in this regard in 2014.

Decades of civil war mean that relief organizations continue to provide not only direct frontline emergency support to communities, but also a significant part of basic services, while Government institutions are slowly established to take over these functions. To strengthen national systems for service delivery, aid agencies will continue to step up capacity-building of state institutions, including support in areas of coordination and disaster management.

Figure 1: Critical events timeline

Source: OCHA
Scope of the crisis and demographic profile of the people affected

The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan will affect an estimated 4.4 million people in 2014, over a third of the country’s estimated 11.8 million population. The most vulnerable communities in need include those displaced by violence, the acutely food insecure, refugees and returnees. The impact of the crisis on men/women and boys/girls will be analyzed to ensure appropriate responses, as will the protection concerns of vulnerable groups.

Communities displaced by violence

An estimated 125,000 people are likely to be internally displaced by violence in 2014. While this is lower than number of people displaced annually between 2010 and 2012, violence will remain a key driver of humanitarian needs, especially in areas where people have been displaced several times, and where livelihoods and coping mechanisms have been shattered. Internal insecurity is likely to concentrate largely in the tri-state area and Jonglei State. New urban and rural areas may also be affected by instability in the lead up to the 2015 presidential elections.

As the status of the contested Abyei area is likely to remain unresolved, some 120,000 people from the contested region are anticipated to continue to require humanitarian assistance in 2014, whether they are inside the Abyei area or remain displaced in other states.

Refugees from Sudan

South Sudan is projected to host an estimated 270,000 refugees by the end of 2014. The majority are Sudanese refugees who have fled conflict in Sudan’s Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, with some 24,000 refugees from Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Figure 2: Statistics of the population in 2014

11.8 million estimated population total

Source: CAP 2013

4.4 million people living in areas affected by crisis

Source: FSL planning figures (September 2013)

4.4 million estimated people in need in 2014

Source: FSL planning figures (September 2013)
South Sudan

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

As no significant progress has yet been made to ensure that Sudanese people affected by the conflict have access to humanitarian assistance from within Sudan, relief will continue to be provided largely to Sudanese who have crossed into South Sudan’s Unity and Upper Nile states. The number of new refugee arrivals from Sudan is projected to stabilize in 2014, enabling aid organizations to focus response efforts on longer term support to refugees, including providing sustainable housing and education programmes. Health programmes will continue to focus on monitoring and controlling of hepatitis E, which broke out in Unity and Upper Nile states in mid-2012 but has since been contained.

Figure 3: Breakdown of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FSL</td>
<td>2,310,550</td>
<td>2,132,815</td>
<td>4,443,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1,989,000</td>
<td>1,911,000</td>
<td>3,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>1,993,800</td>
<td>1,871,200</td>
<td>3,865,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>1,034,538</td>
<td>2,164,357</td>
<td>3,198,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine action</td>
<td>1,731,72</td>
<td>1,408,287</td>
<td>3,140,008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FSL, IOM, UNHCR, WFP

South Sudanese returning home

South Sudanese continue to return home from Sudan, although in low numbers. It is estimated that some 250,000–300,000 South Sudanese remain in Sudan.\(^5\) However, it is unknown how many of this group wishes to or will return to South Sudan. Partners are planning for the arrival of about 50,000 returnees in 2014.\(^6\)

Deterioration in the situation of about 40,000 South Sudanese in open areas and transit sites in Khartoum State and 3,500 South Sudanese stranded in Kosti may result in this group being prioritized for transport to South Sudan in late 2013/early 2014. An additional nine border crossings between South Sudan and Sudan are expected to be opened during the first half of 2014, which may lead to the opening of more corridors for returnees.

The dignified movement of returnees to areas of origin or those areas in which people wish to settle needs to be prioritized, as well as the initial reintegration of new arrivals. Assistance will include food, shelter, life-saving services for a start-up period, and livelihood support to enable self-reliance. The ability of the authorities to allocate land for new arrivals, and ensuring longer term reintegration needs are met, are key to building new lives.

Figure 4: Breakdown of people in need of humanitarian assistance for 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>938,720</td>
<td>867,280</td>
<td>1,806,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-sector</td>
<td>280,881</td>
<td>283,919</td>
<td>564,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFI/Shelter</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>260,000</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>160,816</td>
<td>148,694</td>
<td>309,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OCHA, Clusters
Status of people living in affected areas

South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world, vi with half the population living below the national poverty line of 73 South Sudanese pounds (about US$17) per month. vii The country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates globally (2,054 per 100,000 live births), threatening the lives of more than 2.2 million women. viii These and other low human development indicators make many communities extremely vulnerable, and undermine their ability to withstand shocks and rebuild their lives in the aftermath of disaster.

Food insecurity compounds an already dire situation for many families. Some 4.4 million people are expected to face food insecurity in 2014. Of these, 830,000 people - 7 per cent of the population - are anticipated to be severely food insecure. While these figures signal stabilization in the overall situation, they remain unacceptably high. Food security and livelihood partners will focus on assisting the severely food insecure in the coming year, while also prioritizing livelihoods programmes that lessen reliance on food aid and help communities to either produce or purchase their own food.

Reflecting the severe food insecurity situation, malnutrition rates have not improved. Global acute malnutrition surpassed emergency thresholds (<15 per cent) in recent surveys in several counties, ix and the situation looks to remain similar going into 2014.

Insecurity and outbreaks of violence cause communities to flee their land and disrupt livelihoods. The impact is compounded by the loss of access to healthcare and education. South Sudan’s health indicators are among the worst in the world, with 60 per cent of all primary healthcare delivered by non-governmental organizations. With regards to education, under half of children in South Sudan are enrolled in primary school, and less than 2 per cent are enlisted in secondary education. x

To help the country move from fragility to resilience and reduce reliance on emergency aid, there is a need to focus on relief programmes which increase people’s ability to be self-reliant, strengthen access to basic services, and improve national capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

Maternal mortality
South Sudan compared to other countries

Food security
Food insecurity improving but still high

Net primary enrolment
South Sudan compared to other countries
RESPONSE CAPACITY

HIGHLIGHTS

Humanitarian needs in South Sudan are addressed through a combination of programmes by Government and aid organizations. International aid partners will step up efforts to support capacity-building of national institutions in 2014, to enable Government to strengthen its disaster preparedness and response modalities.

National and local capacity to respond

Government capacity to provide basic emergency services in South Sudan is low, as the country slowly rebuilds after decades of civil war. Government institutions were only created in July 2011, with the secession of South Sudan from neighbouring Sudan. Following a cabinet reshuffle in July 2013, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management was absorbed into the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The new Ministry is prioritizing disaster management with the creation of a Disaster Management Policy Working Group. While strategic responsibility lies within the Ministry, operational functions sit with the Government’s Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which has a presence in all ten states.

Due to capacity gaps in the State’s ability to deliver frontline services, aid organizations provide the vast majority of relief in emergencies. Some increases in social spending are budgeted for in 2014, including in the areas of health and education. However, aid agencies will continue to provide the bulk of relief, as national institutions slowly grow.

National NGOs number in the hundreds, with nearly 100 registered with the National NGO Forum as of February 2013. They often work in some of the most far flung and hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan. The South Sudan Red Cross Society is an auxiliary to the Government and is boosting its volunteer base in all states.

International capacity and response

The international aid community in South Sudan is strong, with 20 UN agencies and more than 150 INGOs, representing decades of experience of working in the country. It brings together donor countries and aid organizations through a number of coordination mechanisms at national and state level. The Humanitarian Country Team provides strategic direction for the overall humanitarian operation in South Sudan. It comprises representatives from UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, donors and international organizations. The Inter-Sector Working Group is a technical team supporting the Humanitarian Country Team, and advises on operational priorities, gaps in the humanitarian response and response strategies. It consists of cluster leads from UN and NGOs heading the 12 clusters/sectors active in the country. The clusters coordinate their response at central and state levels.

The Consolidated Appeal was the largest and best-funded in 2012, at $788 million (67 per cent funded). In 2013, $682 million was raised for humanitarian relief as of September (64 per cent funded), signalling the continued interest of the donor community to engage with the new nation.
HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

**HIGHLIGHTS**

South Sudan is one of the most challenging operating environments for delivering aid, with poor infrastructure and limited logistics assets making it difficult to reach people in need quickly. Frequent reports of violence against aid workers, assets and premises is likely to continue in 2014, and interference in humanitarian activities risks impeding aid delivery to communities in crisis.

**Challenging operating environment**

South Sudan’s physical environment and lack of infrastructure will continue to pose significant challenges for humanitarian activities in 2014. With only 363 km of paved road in a country roughly the size of France, reaching communities in need by land can be a lengthy process, especially during the rainy season when over 60 per cent of roads become impassable. The situation is particularly bad in Jonglei State with virtually all roads becoming unusable. This means that reaching crisis-displaced communities in Jonglei is heavily reliant on expensive air assets. Even in the dry season, the poor road network across the country makes delivering aid difficult. This means that communities displaced by crisis in hard-to-reach areas are often unable to receive assistance.

Prepositioning supplies in state capitals and deep field hubs during the dry season will continue to underpin the humanitarian community’s preparedness strategy, allowing programmes to continue during the rainy season. Relief organizations will continue to require substantial funds for humanitarian air assets in the coming year, including helicopters to reach communities displaced by violence or seasonal flooding. Even with the availability of air assets, only about one third of airfields are able to maintain some degree of regular service, with many airstrips in need of repair.

**Violence against aid workers**

Violence against humanitarian workers, assets and premises - especially theft and looting - is likely to remain a major challenge in 2014, especially in areas with large numbers of humanitarian actors and goods, such as Maban County. Economically motivated attacks on aid convoys will threaten humanitarian activities, particularly during the dry season when roads are accessible and busy.

Active hostilities, especially in Jonglei State and border areas, will likely fluctuate over the course of the year and create periods of acute access constraints, including the suspension of humanitarian activities and withdrawal of aid workers. Experience has shown that hostilities frequently lead to the increased threat of looting of relief goods, including widespread commandeering of humanitarian vehicles; destruction and occupation of civilian facilities, including health centres and schools; and an increased presence of mines.

**Bureaucratic impediments**

The development of policy frameworks for humanitarian action - including the adoption of an NGO bill and a national disaster response law - have the potential to positively impact humanitarian action, though national institutions may remain too weak to fully implement new policies.

Interference in humanitarian activities - including the politicization of aid and its attempted diversion - will likely continue to affect areas hit by seasonal violence, including cattle-raiding and natural disasters. Humanitarian workers, especially within the NGO community, may continue to see restrictions placed upon entry of staff or goods into the country, as well as restrictions of movement within the country.

Harassment and intimidation of aid workers, including by authorities and state security forces may continue to include regular incidents of arrest/detention, arbitrary or illegal taxation (including seizure of assets), and interference into human resource and administrative policies.
ASSESSMENT PLANNING

HIGHLIGHTS

Humanitarian partners have identified gaps in information which impede aid agencies ability to respond to emergencies, from identifying the most vulnerable geographical areas of South Sudan, to ensuring assessments identify all the needs of crisis-affected communities. Multi-sector humanitarian assessments, needs prioritization tools and vulnerability mapping have been incorporated into the humanitarian operation to better assist people in need. These tools will be further refined in 2014 to improve humanitarian response.

Initial Rapid Needs Assessment

The humanitarian community developed a South Sudan specific humanitarian assessment tool in November 2012, known as the South Sudan Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA). It is an adaptation of the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) tool used by humanitarian partners globally.

The IRNA is the first step in the humanitarian community’s response to an emergency. The assessment method brings together a team of emergency specialists drawn from the various clusters and the Government’s Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, to carry out needs-based humanitarian assessments, with protection and gender issues incorporated. Based on the needs identified, partners develop a response plan, mobilize resources, deliver assistance and monitor the impact of the response. The tool ensures that the most appropriate multi-sector response targeting of the most vulnerable is implemented to meet a community’s needs.

Needs prioritization tool

The humanitarian community will expand the current Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) tool in 2014 to provide analysis of a range of indicators to help prioritize humanitarian needs. Classifying the severity and causes of multiple indicators will strengthen consensus among stakeholders of priority needs, thereby improving aid pre-positioning and delivery.

Vulnerability mapping

Vulnerability mapping allows aid organizations to identify geographical areas across a country with the greatest humanitarian need. Initial vulnerability mapping of humanitarian needs in South Sudan was completed in September 2013 across all ten states, reaching down to county level. Categories of the numbers of refugees/returnees, people displaced, violence-incidents, flooding affected people, humanitarian access, food security and population density were used to determine the counties where needs are most acute. This will enable partners to target aid programmes and resources more effectively to areas of highest need.
The preliminary mapping exercise identified several border areas and much of Jonglei State as affected by high needs. Although Juba County was identified as vulnerable this was largely due to humanitarian access constraints occurring in the capital but affecting the whole country, and is unreflective of other multiple layers of vulnerability. In the coming months, work on vulnerability mapping will be further prioritized, with additional categories included reflecting cluster-specific indicators and each category weighted.

1 This figure likely under-represents the actual number of violence-displaced people displaced by violence due to access constraints
2 IOM/UNHCR Sudan estimates (August 2013)
3 This figure may fluctuate depending on political processes, and may be revised later in 2014
4 IOM Sudan
5 The number of people in need of food /livelihoods assistance is used as the estimated total number of people in need of overall humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. This is because the majority of people receiving food /livelihoods assistance will also receive other forms of support
vi South Sudan is among the world’s 15 poorest countries. Source: https://cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2046.html
vii National Household Baseline Survey (2009)
viii South Sudan Household Health Survey (2006)
ix Pre-harvest nutrition survey (2013). Source: Nutrition Cluster
* Education Management Information System (EMIS, 2011)
+ South Sudan Infrastructure Action Plan (2012)