In the first half of 2017, humanitarian needs in South Sudan continued to escalate. The crisis remained first and foremost a protection crisis. The number of people displaced rose to nearly 4 million—including 1.9 million internally displaced and more than 1.9 million refugees—following large-scale government offensives in Jonglei and Upper Nile, and insecurity in the Equatorias. The majority of those displaced were women and children. Localized famine was declared in Leer and Mayendit counties in Unity on 20 February and, although the famine was halted by a massive multi-sectoral humanitarian response, food insecurity reached unprecedented levels increasing needs during the year. At the height of the lean season, some 6 million people in South Sudan were severely food insecure, including 50,000 facing catastrophic food insecurity in Leer, Mayendit and Koch in Unity and Ayod in Jonglei and a further 1.7 million in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 (Emergency). The cholera outbreak which began in June 2016 continued through the dry season, becoming the most widespread and deadly outbreak of the disease since South Sudan’s independence. All of these developments heightened the risk of gender-based violence, with women and girls forced to travel farther to access fuel, food and clean water.

The operating environment in South Sudan remained challenging. Fifteen aid workers were killed from January to June 2017, including six killed in an ambush on the Juba-Pibor road in March; the highest number killed in a single incident since the conflict began in December 2013. Conflict and insecurity forced the relocation of more than 250 aid workers in the first six months of the year, cutting access to aid for tens of thousands of civilians. Denials of access were recorded in multiple locations from January to June, with recurrent challenges experienced when endeavouring to reach areas outside of Wau town (Western Bahr El Ghazal), the Liwolo camps in Kajo-Keji (Central Equatoria), and areas south of Mundri (Western Equatoria).

Yet, despite the challenges, humanitarian organizations were able to reach more than 3.8 million people by the end of June 2017. In line with the 2017 Strategic Objectives and Response Strategy outlined in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), aid agencies implemented a flexible, adaptive and coordinated response, utilizing a combination of static presence, mobile response modalities, and the delivery of survival kits to reach people in dire need across the country. Multi-sectoral collaboration increased, and the Centrality of Protection was reiterated across the response. See more on the 2017 HRP Strategic Objectives and Response Strategy: http://bit.ly/2vL6d8A

In July 2017, a light review of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was undertaken to reassess priorities and take stock of the changes and challenges during the first half of the year. Given the global strain on humanitarian financing, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) agreed to keep the appeal at $1.6 billion, with $744.1 million required for humanitarian action in the second half of 2017. Within this overall envelope, several clusters re-prioritized their areas of focus and activities in light of the rising needs. This was particularly the case for the Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster, which will now aim to reach 5.7 million people in need, following the outcomes of the IPC for the lean season.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1
Save lives and alleviate the suffering of those most in need of assistance and protection

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2
Protect the rights and uphold the dignity of the most vulnerable

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
Support at-risk communities to sustain their capacity to cope with significant threats

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS PER STATE (US$)

PEOPLE IN NEED

PEOPLE TARGETED

DISPLACEMENT

IDPs: 1.9M Refugees in South Sudan: 275K
South Sudanese Refugees: 1.9M

PEOPLE TARGETED

PEOPLE IN NEED

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS PER SECTOR (US$)

NUMBER OF PARTNERS

Out of 137 HRP partners, 44 have not received funding, and a further 64 have received <50% of funding required.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS

Out of which 147 have not received any funding.
In the first half of 2017, humanitarian needs intensified in several areas, including in central and northern Jonglei, where conflict drove mass displacement and rapidly rising food insecurity. By the end of June 2017, there were 20,000 people projected to face Catastrophic levels of food insecurity in Ayod in Jonglei, and grave concern regarding the situation in other counties, including Duk. Other areas that saw a spike in needs compared to the beginning of 2017 included: the West Bank in Upper Nile; Magwi and Torit in Eastern Equatoria; and areas surrounding Yei and Kajo-Keji in Central Equatoria. Needs remained immense in central and southern Unity, as well as in and around Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal.

In the face of the escalating crisis, humanitarian organizations utilized a range of modalities to provide life-saving assistance and protection in locations where needs were most severe. Weekly discussions were held in the Inter-Cluster Working Group to agree on needs-based geographic priorities and allocate collective assets and resources accordingly. This was particularly critical during the scale-up of the responses to the localized famine in Leer and Mayendit in Unity and mass displacement on the western bank of River Nile in Upper Nile and in central and northern Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal where food insecurity and malnutrition remained alarming.
During the first six months of 2017, 238 humanitarian organizations regularly reported implementing activities under the Humanitarian Response Plan: 132 National Non-Governmental Organizations (NNGOs), 97 INGOs and 9 UN entities. However, many of these organizations remain underfunded, particularly NNGOs, with only 93 out of 137 in the appeal having reported receiving funding to date.

Events in the first half of 2017 further impacted organizations’ presence in South Sudan, with attacks against aid workers causing some organizations to review their activities and active conflict causing the withdrawal of aid workers from multiple locations. South Sudanese aid workers continue to form the backbone of the humanitarian response, constituting ninety percent of the humanitarian workforce across the country. However, during the first six months of 2017, there were multiple threats directed against South Sudanese of certain ethnicities, making it even more dangerous and difficult to sustain operational capacity in key locations.

Securing people’s access to humanitarian assistance and protection in safety and dignity was a predominant challenge in the first half of the year, as anticipated in the Humanitarian Response Plan. The number of humanitarian access incidents remained high, with an average of 82 access incidents reported per month from January to June 2017, compared to an average of 63.5 incidents per month during the same period in 2016. Access negotiations remained a paramount enabler of the humanitarian operation, but became increasingly time-consuming and complex due to the proliferation of armed actors and logistical challenges making contact with key interlocutors, particularly in the Equatorias.

### REPORTED ACCESS INCIDENTS

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<td>Jul 2017</td>
<td>136</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WITHDRAWAL, RELOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES DUE TO INSECURITY**

**57**

### CASES OF ASSAULT/AMBUSH/ARMED ATTACK AGAINST HUMANITARIANS

**39**

### ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED INCIDENTS OF ROBBERY, BURGLARY OR LOOTING

**132**

(from January to July 2017)
REVISED SUMMARY OF NEEDS, TARGETS & REQUIREMENTS

7.6m people in need
6.2m people to be assisted

$1.64b requested
$745 million still required

% funding by cluster (as of 31 July 2017)
In light of the evolution of the crisis and humanitarian needs, clusters have reviewed—and in several instances revised—the number of People in Need and People Targeted by sector for the latter half of 2017. The most significant changes will be implemented by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, which has increased the number of people targeted by partners from 4.8 million to 5.7 million in light of the most recent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) results which found 6 million severely food insecure people in South Sudan. The majority of this increase comes from an expansion of the emergency livelihoods response, which is designed to save lives (HRP Strategic Objective 1) and at the same time to support at-risk communities to cope with significant threats (HRP Strategic Objective 3).

Taking into consideration growing needs, funding received, and the response implemented from January to June, the HRP prioritization was reviewed and four clusters (Education, Food Security and Livelihoods, Nutrition and Protection) updated their geographic areas of focus or critical activities.

### CLUSTERS

**CAMP COORDINATION CAMP MANAGEMENT**

Severity map and People in need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Targeted</th>
<th>People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.93M (Dec 2016)</td>
<td>0.97M (Jul 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.60M</td>
<td>94% of target assisted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.69M Cluster target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.28M Refugee response target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.33m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.27m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main changes:
- Increased number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) caused rise in needs.
- New informal settlements to be supported by CCCM in 2017 - including Kajo-Keji in Central Equatoria and Aburoc in Upper Nile - reflected in strategy and prioritization.

**EDUCATION**

Severity map and People in need

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Targeted</th>
<th>People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3M (Dec 2016)</td>
<td>1.3M (Jul 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.66M</td>
<td>54% of target assisted</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.54M Cluster target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.12m Refugee response target</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.11m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.17m</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main changes:
- Risks to disruption of children’s education from conflict have been compounded by food insecurity and the spread of communicable diseases, including cholera.
- The strategy has been updated to prioritize emergency school feeding, in close coordination with Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) partners, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in schools, in close coordination with WASH partners, to counteract these factors.
Main changes

• Health needs deepened in the first half of 2017 due to a combination of conflict impacting already vulnerable populations, facilities being destroyed, damaged, disrupted or closed, and communicable diseases spreading.

• The Health Cluster will place greater emphasis on mobile response in the latter half of 2017 to meet growing needs, and has increased the prioritization of blanket supplementary feeding in specific sites.

• Acute malnutrition remained a public health crisis in many locations in the country. By mid-2017, 16 out of 18 SMART surveys conducted reported global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent.

• In light of lessons learned in the first half of 2017, the Nutrition Cluster has increased its focus on quality and coverage of nutrition services and is recommending blanket supplementary feeding in specific sites.

• The number of people in need of Emergency Shelter (ES)/Non-Food Items (NFIs) increased in several locations as a result of additional displacement in the first half of 2017, particularly on the West Bank in Upper Nile and in central and northern Jonglei.

• Jonglei has been prioritized as a key geographic location for ES/NFI interventions in light of the rapid increase in needs.

Sources: Health cluster

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Sources: Nutrition cluster

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Sources: FSL cluster

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Severity

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Severity map and People in need

1.90M (Dec 2016) 1.90M (Jul 2017)

People Targeted

People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)

1.30M

1.02m Cluster target

68%
of target assisted

0.70M

0.28m Refugee response target

68%
of target assisted

Severity

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Severity map and People in need

5.20M (Dec 2016) 6.30M (Jul 2017)

People Targeted

People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)

5.68M

5.40m Cluster target

83%
of target assisted

3.72M

0.28m Refugee response target

83%
of target assisted

Severity

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Severity map and People in need

5.40M (Dec 2016) 5.40M (Jul 2017)

People Targeted

People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)

2.98M

2.70m Cluster target

53%
of target assisted

1.58M

0.28m Refugee response target

53%
of target assisted

Severity

Denotes a score of 0

No data available

Severity map and People in need

1.70M (Dec 2016) 1.70M (Jul 2017)

People Targeted

People Reached (Jan - Jun 2017)

1.20M

0.91m Cluster target

50%
of target assisted

0.45M

0.28m Refugee response target

50%
of target assisted

Severity

Denotes a score of 0

No data available
Main changes
- The crisis in South Sudan remains first and foremost a protection crisis.
- The Protection Cluster will place greater emphasis on mobile response in the second half of 2017, in response to the geographic spread of the crisis.

Main changes
- WASH needs deepened due to the unanticipated duration and spread of cholera.
- The cholera outbreak placed increased demand on the WASH pipeline, depleting supplies in the first half of the year and causing an urgent need for funding to replenish the pipeline ahead of schedule.

Main changes
- The number of refugees being hosted by South Sudan was 274,920 as of June 2017. This is estimated to increase to 283,560 by the end of 2017 due to new arrivals, projected to be around 8,600, and natural growth. Refugees continue to arrive in South Sudan due to ongoing fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan.
- The protective environment for refugees inside South Sudan deteriorated over the first half of 2017 and strengthening protection for refugees is a priority for the second half of the year.

More information on cluster responses: http://bit.ly/2xvb5hA

This document is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners.

This document provides the Humanitarian Country Team’s shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian need and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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