More than 466,000 people have been reported to be affected by flooding in areas along the Nile and Lol rivers and Sudd marshlands since May. This reflects a 23 per cent increase in the numbers of people reported to be affected since the end of August. Jonglei, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile are the worst affected states.

Rapid needs assessments have been completed in 15 of the 22 counties affected by the flooding. Humanitarians are responding to the needs of people in the majority of the flood-affected counties. Response to people in Ayod, Fangak and Pigi/Canal counties in Jonglei, Aweil South and East counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Leer and Panyijiar counties in Unity are identified as high priority for a scale-up in operations, where physical access allows.

Recently established humanitarian hubs in heavily flood-affected areas in Leer town in Leer County and Kodok in Fashoda County have helped responders to overcome operational constraints caused by the flooding.

The Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. announced an allocation of US$20 million from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, and part of the allocation will support flood response efforts. These funds will complement bilateral funding sources and enable a three-pronged emergency response to the floods 1) Immediate relief to flood-affected people; 2) Community-based emergency assistance; 3) Enabling the humanitarian response.

**FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE BY STATE**

- Jonglei: 174K
- Unity: 155K
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal: 62K
- Upper Nile: 58K
- Warrap: 16K
- Lakes: 1K

1. Based on initial reports from field locations.
3. Feedback: ochasouthsudan@un.org | southsudan.humanitarianresponse.info | @OCHASouthSudan
The priority counties identified in the response map above are based on needs assessments conducted in areas with high numbers of flood-affected people and counties, with the majority in IPC 4 and a few in IPC 3. Clusters are targeting 325,000 people out of an estimated 466,000 affected with emergency services as of September 2021. The numbers will be updated regularly as the response is scaled up. Counties with recent displacement, and where water levels are forecasted to remain high for the rest of the year with the potential for disease outbreaks, are also a concern.

Humanitarians are responding to the immediate needs of flood-affected people with food assistance, water purification tablets, plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, mosquito nets, fishing kits, basic health items including anti-venom for snake bites, and the replenishment of medicine, nutritional supplies and dignity kits. This is in line with the phase two emergency response of the South Sudan operational flood strategy.

This year, more work has been done in the preparedness and prevention phase to mitigate the impact of the flood waters ahead of time. Dykes were repaired and maintained. Community-led flood committees were activated to inform about potential flooding hazards and to discuss flood mitigation measures. Canoes and boats were prepositioned ahead of the rains in locations where roads are likely to become impassable and the only means of reaching people in need would be by river. Mobile teams were deployed to priority areas identified in the preparedness phase. As of 27 September, the repaired dykes in Bor South and Pibor have helped to protect many areas from flooding. It must be noted that water levels are now dangerously high in both counties and many dykes are close to overflowing.

The combination of floods with ongoing conflict, displacement, high levels of food insecurity and disease outbreaks have exacerbated the needs of people in South Sudan. Access is a major challenge, with the majority of flood-affected areas inaccessible by road and the transport of aid by air is very costly. Some of the flood-affected counties in Warrap State are highly insecure due to the ongoing sub-national violence. Additional funding is needed to scale up the response to reach communities affected by the combination of shocks. Capacity and supplies on the ground are limited and need to be replenished to meet increasing needs.

As a consequence of consecutive years of widespread flooding, seasonal livelihood opportunities, such as planting during the lean season, are no longer an option for people living in flood-affected areas. Areas of Ayod, Duk, Fangak and Twic East counties which used to allow for subsistence farming have remained submerged for over a year and longer.