

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian community in South Sudan appeals for US\$1.5 billion to reach 5.7 million people with life-saving assistance.
- Fifteen thousand children remain separated from their families or missing, five years after conflict first broke out in South Sudan.
- The violence in Yei and surrounding areas continues to cause civilians to flee their homes.
- South Sudan joined the rest of the world to mark the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People	1.87 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries	2.2 million
No. of people assisted in 2018 (As of 30 November 2018)	5 million

FUNDING

\$1.04 billion
funding received in 2018*

61%
of appeal funding received in 2018

\$1.7 billion
requirements for South Sudan 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

*According to the Financial Tracking Service (<https://fts.unocha.org>). Additional pledges have been announced but not yet recorded.



Humanitarian Coordinator, Alain Noudéhou (centre), flanked by the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Hon. Hussein Mar Nyuot (immediate right) at the launch of the 2019 HRP. Photo: OCHA.

In this issue

- 2019 HRP launched P.1
- Children separated from families P.2
- Violence in Central Equatoria P.3
- World AIDS Day P.4

Humanitarian community appeals for US\$1.5 billion to reach 5.7 million people with life-saving assistance

On 13 December, the humanitarian community in South Sudan launched an appeal of US\$1.5 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 5.7 million people affected by conflict, hunger and displacement across the country. Humanitarians have reported that while the intensity of the conflict has reduced recently, people will continue to experience the impacts through 2019. Hunger, malnutrition and the safety of civilians continue to escalate.

Speaking at the Humanitarian Response Plan launch, Alain Noudéhou, the Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, said: “Protecting women and girls is central to the response plan in 2019. Sexual violence continues to be a major problem in South Sudan. We must keep protection at the centre of everything we do. The compelling need for all organizations to act together to prevent and respond to gender-based violence is critical. People who committed these crimes should also be held accountable.”

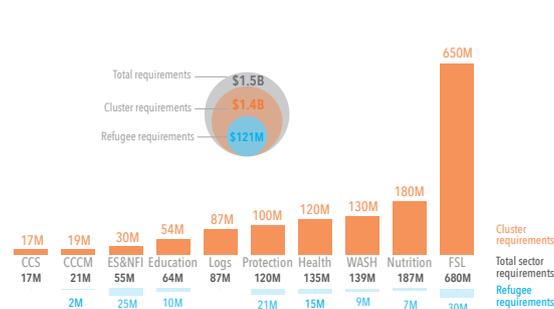
During the launch, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Hon. Hussein Mar Nyuot called on security forces to remove all illegal roadblocks and checkpoints across the country to allow safe passage of humanitarian convoys. “Now there is peace, we don’t need the checkpoints. There is no more fear,” said Mar. Mar pointed out that the directive is a Government policy announced by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, stressing that it must be respected.

In December 2018, aid agencies have reported thirty-seven humanitarian access incidents, of which nearly half (46 per cent) involved violence against personnel and assets.

2019 HRP people targeted by region



2019 Humanitarian Response Plan funding by cluster



“Protecting women and girls is central to the response plan in 2019. We must keep protection at the centre of everything we do,” said Alain Noudéhou, the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Since the conflict began partners have reunited close to 6,000 children with their parents or caregivers.

“Every reunification is the result of months and often years of work to trace missing family members in a country the size of France, but without any basic infrastructure,” said Leila Pakkala, UNICEF’s Regional Director in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Ten incidents were significant in severity, involving ongoing bureaucratic impediments in the Sobat area, and conflict in Yei and Lainya that forced the suspension of humanitarian activities.

One hundred and eighty-three aid organizations, including 105 local non-governmental organizations, 67 international NGOs and 11 UN organizations aim to implement 396 projects under the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Despite challenges, such as access to people in need, the humanitarian operation in South Sudan continues to reach millions with aid. More than 5 million people have been assisted with food, health, water and sanitation, education, livelihoods, nutrition as well as critical protection services.

15,000 children separated from families five years after outbreak of fighting

Fifteen thousand children were separated from their families or missing, five years after conflict first broke out in South Sudan.

Nearly 4.4 million people have been uprooted by the conflict from their homes, including 1.87 million internally displaced people, most of them children. Since the conflict began partners have reunited close to 6,000 children with their parents or caregivers.

Separated and unaccompanied children are more susceptible to violence, abuse and exploitation, which makes returning them to their parents an urgent priority. Many families continue to need support. Half of the reunited children – some 3,000 – are still receiving assistance from case workers.

“Every reunification is the result of months and often years of work to trace missing family members in a country the size of France, but without any basic infrastructure,” said Leila Pakkala, UNICEF’s Regional Director in Eastern and Southern Africa. “The suffering children have endured during the fighting has been unimaginable, but the joy of seeing a family made whole again is always a source of hope.”

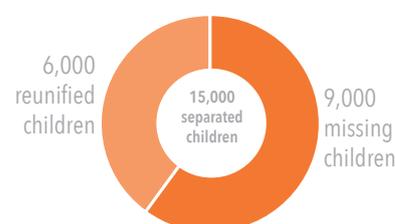
Since the conflict started humanitarian organizations have provided 1.5 million children with access to education, and supported the release of almost 3,000 children from armed forces and groups. In addition, they have reached more than 1.4 million children with psycho-social support activities, and screened some 1.5 million children for malnutrition. More than 630,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition. Humanitarian organizations have also supported birth certificates for 550,000 newborns across the country, and almost 6 million children were vaccinated.

As of December 2018, an estimated 1.2 million children are acutely malnourished across the country – the highest number since the conflict began. Some 2.2 million children are not receiving an education, giving South Sudan the highest proportion of out of school children in the world.



UNICEF caseworker Simon Char holds a separated child Nyajiper. Photo: UNICEF/Helene Ryeng

Children separated from families since December 2013



Violence in Central Equatoria displaces 1,000s of civilians

People remain cut off from their crops: the current harvest has not been collected, and land preparation for the next harvest has not been able to take place due to the conflict.

The violence in Yei and surrounding areas continues to cause civilians to flee their homes and their livelihoods. People remain cut off from their crops: the current harvest has not been collected, and land preparation for the next harvest has not been able to take place due to the conflict.

In December, key transport routes in the Central Equatoria region had also been affected by heavy fighting, ambushes and abductions of civilians using public transport. The Yei-Kaya, Yei-Tore, Yei-Lasu, Yei-Morobo, Yei-Maridi, Yei-Juba and Juba-Kajo-Keji roads were all affected. This hampered humanitarian organizations' ability to reach people displaced by the fighting.

In Yei, humanitarian organizations reported that people continued to arrive at primary schools in Yei town, and Gazira on the outskirts of Yei town. The people fled intense fighting between Government forces and opposition groups in Yambe and surrounding areas, and in Otogo and Mukaya in Yei County.

Partners scaled-up efforts to reach those most in need. In early December, a multi-agency response team, comprised of UN agencies and NGOs, distributed emergency shelter, non-food items, nutrition supplements, and health services to over 8,500 IDPs in Pisak and Kerikwa, Tokori boma of Lasu County.

But increased operational interference from the authorities remains a serious concern and continues to impact aid operations. On 11 December, the Commissioner of Government controlled Kupera County denied access for an inter-agency team that was travelling by road from Yei to Koyoki. The team was to assess Kupera, and other areas under opposition control where over 10,000 displaced people were reported.

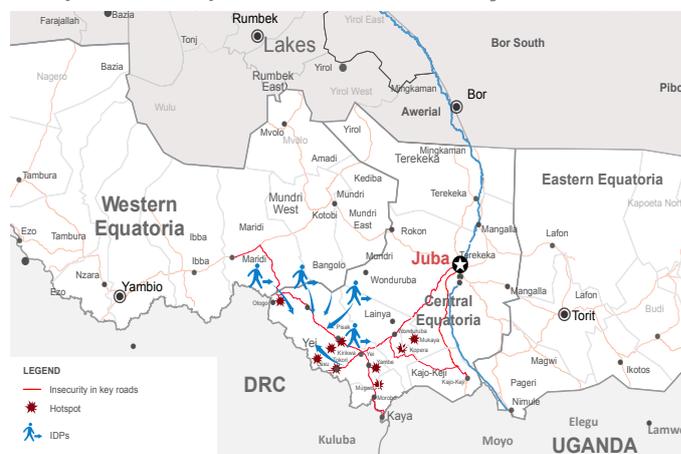
Elsewhere, humanitarian space for partners is expanding. In Western Equatoria, partners managed to access and assess the humanitarian needs of the conflict-affected people in the area around Rimenze and James Diko, 43 km North East of Yambio town. The area had not been accessed by partners without UNMISS Force Protection since 2016.

On 18 December, a joint team from humanitarian organizations and the Government successfully visited Nzara town, without Force Protection, to establish Nzara County level Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Task Force. This was part of the South Sudan EVD response preparedness, following the outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In Western Bahr el Ghazal, a joint humanitarian mission to Baggari and Basellia in early December reported improved access to the greater Baggari areas. Both the South Sudan People's Defense Forces and SPLA-iO check points along the Wau-Baggari road are becoming easier to pass through, they reported.

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Hotspots and displacements in Yei County



Source: OCHA

South Sudan marks World AIDS Day 2018

On 1 December, under the theme “Know your Status”, South Sudan joined the rest of the world to mark the 30th anniversary of World AIDS Day – a pioneering global health campaign first initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1988.

The event was kicked off on 28 November with activities that included television and radio talk shows. The call to the public was to go for testing and know their status. Gaps and challenges in HIV prevention, evolving global treatment and the situation in South Sudan were discussed. So were the achievements related to scaling-up access to treatment.

The “Know your Status” theme was used to show the public about advancements in the field of HIV, including HIV self-testing, transition to newer and better treatments for HIV and Viral Hepatitis.

“On its 30th anniversary, the World AIDS Day campaign reminds us that we should not become complacent in our response to HIV,” said Dr. Lul Deng Lojok, the Director General at the National Public Health Laboratory. “More than 80 per cent of the people living with HIV in South Sudan still lack access to treatment and have unsuppressed infections”.

The WHO has reported that nearly 14,000 people contracted HIV in South Sudan in 2017. An estimated 70 per cent of individuals living with HIV still do not know their status. Almost 150,000 people do not have access to anti-retroviral treatment. Women account for more than half of the people living with HIV in South Sudan.

South Sudan has continued to face humanitarian crises over the years, weakening the health system and hindering progressive coverage of HIV treatment in the country.

“More than 80 per cent of the people living with HIV in South Sudan still lack access to treatment and have unsuppressed infections,” said Dr. Lul Deng Lojok, the Director General at the National Public Health Laboratory.



Betty Araba of UNAIDS swabs her mouth for an oral fluid sample for self-testing. Photo: UNAIDS

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