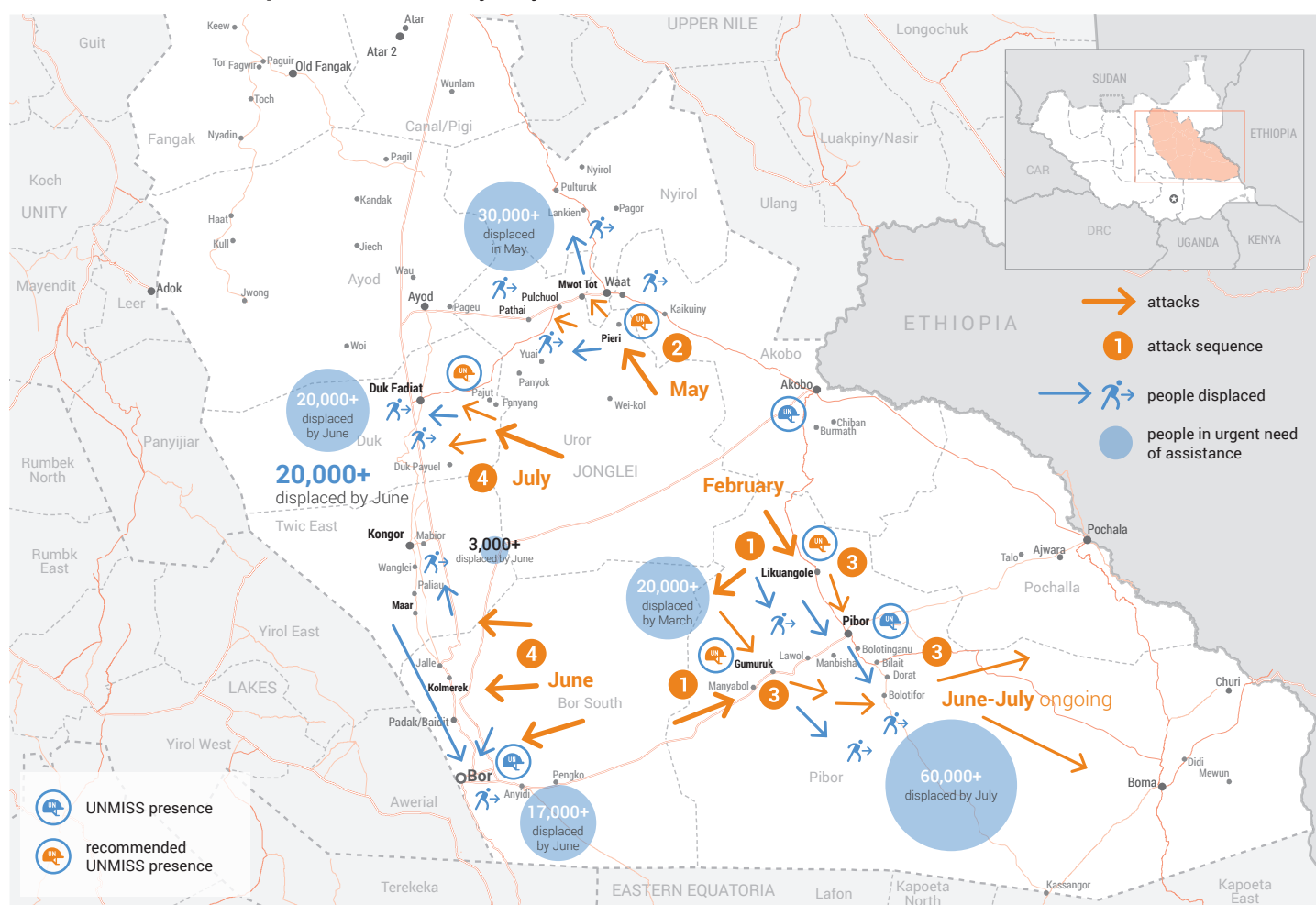


HIGHLIGHTS

- Large-scale inter-communal and sub-national violence, mainly during the dry season, and massive flooding during the rainy season have displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) in 2019 and 2020. These recurrent shocks have created new humanitarian needs, in addition to those planned for in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which targets some 1 million people in the area.
- More than 100 humanitarian organizations have operated in Jonglei during 2020. Half of them are national NGOs.
- Conflict, insecurity, flooding and COVID-19 restrictions have severely impacted humanitarian organizations' ability to reach the most vulnerable people with much-needed assistance. Of the nine humanitarian workers killed in 2020, eight lost their lives in Jonglei and GPAA. All were South Sudanese.
- It is highly likely that sub-national conflict and flooding will occur again in Jonglei and GPAA in 2021 and lead to further displacement and an increase in people's emergency needs, unless mitigating measures are taken to reduce their impact.

Waves of violence and displacement in February-July 2020



Figures used are estimates using best available sources at the time.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Successive cycles of inter-communal violence and seasonal flooding are not new to Jonglei and GPAA, however, both have intensified in the last few years. As a result of the violence and flooding, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, increasing their vulnerability and acute humanitarian needs. In 2020, the people in Jonglei and GPAA were first affected by four waves of large-scale, organized violence during the dry season in the first half of the year. Inter-communal violence and revenge attacks at the sub-national level displaced an estimated 157,000 people in the Bor South, Duk, Nyiroi, Twic East and Uror counties and GPAA. Then, an

estimated 387,000 people in Jonglei and another 141,000 people in GPAA were affected by floods during the rainy season from May to December 2020.

People affected were already acutely food insecure, with many in Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, Phases 3 and 4 respectively). According to the IPC analysis published in early 2020, people living in the subsequently flood-affected counties were in IPC Phase 4 with the exception of Bor South and Twic West who were in IPC Phase 3.

As a result of the violence, humanitarian staff had to relocate. Organizations' ability to respond to people's needs was greatly reduced, especially in GPAA, with only small-scale teams left in Pibor.

Seven years of recurrent conflict, floods and resulting displacement have led to protracted and increasing vulnerability of communities living in Jonglei and GPAA, compounded by frequent disruptions to

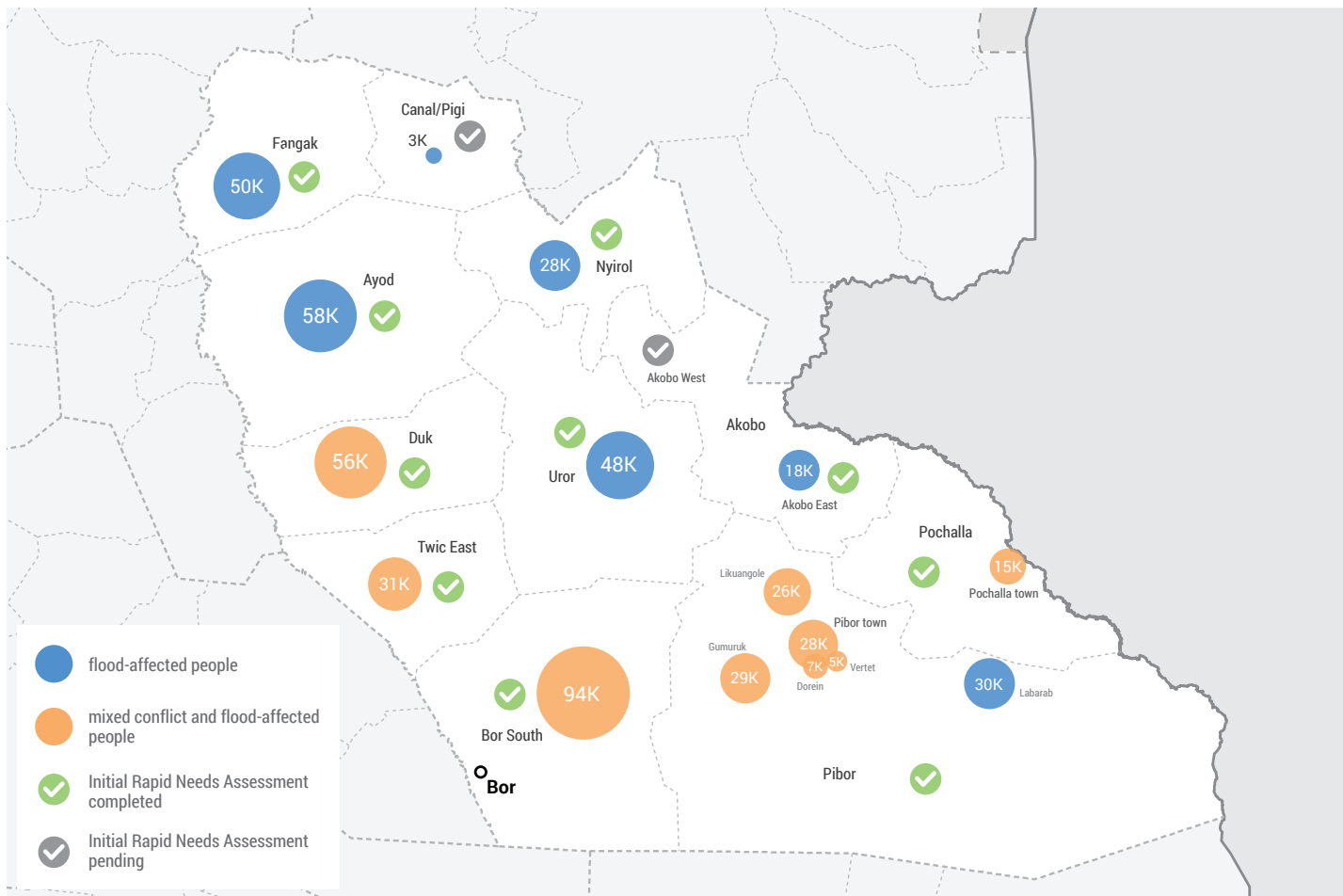
humanitarian services to people. Access to the labour market as well as reliance on coping mechanisms, such as collection of wild food and construction materials, charcoal production and hunting, were constrained by movement restrictions due to floods, insecurity and COVID-19. This has affected the income and resource levels of many people.

Conflict and flood-affected people by county as of November 2020

528K people affected in Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area
220K flood-affected people only
308K mixed conflict and flood-affected people

387K people affected in Jonglei State
205K flood-affected people only
182K mixed conflict and flood-affected people

141K people affected in Greater Pibor Administrative Area
15K flood-affected people only
126K mixed conflict and flood-affected people



Figures used are estimates using best available sources at the time.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

An upsurge in violence severely impacted humanitarian operations in Jonglei in February 2020. Local authorities advised humanitarian organizations to limit their activities beyond Pibor town. The main supply route from Bor to Pibor was cut off due to insecurity during much of the dry season and later due to the poor road conditions during the rainy season. Looting of supplies during the violence was common and a major setback to the humanitarian response. Around 20 looting incidents have been recorded since February with many humanitarian facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed in Gumuruk, Likaungole, Manyabol and Pieri, among others. The rise in insecurity led to the relocation of nearly 150 aid workers from Jonglei, impacting the ability of humanitarian organizations

to respond. In February, in and around Pibor, about 80 aid workers were relocated. In June, fighting between different groups in Jonglei resulted in the relocation of close to 70 humanitarian staff.

Of the nine humanitarian workers killed in 2020, eight lost their lives in Jonglei and GPAA. All were South Sudanese. In Pibor in February, one aid worker was killed at a roadblock along the Pibor-Gumuruk road set up by unknown armed youth. In May, three humanitarian workers were killed when fighting erupted in and around Pieri town, Uror. In July, two aid workers who were providing healthcare and nutrition services to community members in Pajut town, Duk County, were killed when an unknown armed group attacked the

town. In October, a team of humanitarian workers was attacked by unidentified armed men on a road near Pibor town. One aid worker was killed and another injured.

COVID-19 related restrictions have reduced emergency response teams' ability to respond effectively. With the onset of the rainy season, road access to many locations in Jonglei became a challenge and air support was required to reach people in need.

Due to the flooding, humanitarian services had to be suspended and staff relocated as roads to affected people were washed away in many areas. As of the time of writing, many remote locations in Jonglei State and GPAA continue to be inaccessible. Air transport by helicopter and boat transport often remain the only way to reach people in flood-affected areas.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND PRESENCE

A total of 105 humanitarian organizations have operated in Jonglei during 2020. They include 56 national NGOs, 43 international NGOs and 6 UN agencies, funds and programmes. The humanitarian footprint reduced considerably during the first months after COVID-19 was confirmed in South Sudan in April and when sub-national conflict broke out during the dry season, before increasing again. Funding shortages and floods also reduced partners' frontline operational capacity, including the number of national NGOs in remote locations.

Weekly Jonglei State and GPAA Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings are held and chaired by OCHA's Bor sub-office. These meetings are attended by Bor-based cluster focal points and Deep-Field Coordinators (DFCs). DFCs are NGO representatives in deep-field areas, who on a voluntary basis enable coordination functions such as convening regular humanitarian coordination meetings with support from OCHA. Currently, DFCs in Jonglei and


GPAA are based in Akobo (Akobo town), Ayod (Jiech), Fangak, Nyirol (Lankien), Pibor (Pibor town and Boma), Pochalla, Uror (Pieri), Twic East and Duk and Mingkaman (in Lakes State). The primary response is coordinated as close to the area of humanitarian needs as possible, supported by teams at the Jonglei and GPAA-level and from Juba, as needed. A monthly coordination meeting is held to ensure coordination among humanitarian partners and authorities.


Where humanitarian needs transcend the response capacity of Jonglei-based actors, the Bor ICCG requests support from Juba-based mobile response teams like the Emergency and Preparedness Response (EPR) team. Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) teams, composed of food, livelihood and other response components, have prioritized hard-to reach communities in northern Jonglei State with urgent, lifesaving interventions.


A local Solutions Working Group is active to support the return of IDPs from Bor IDP site and beyond to their places of origin.

FLOOD RESPONSE


Humanitarian actors are responding to people's needs or are planning to do so in different flood-affected areas in all nine counties of Jonglei State (Bor South, Twic East, Duk, Ayod, Fangak, Nyirol, Uror, Akobo and Pochalla) and in the main locations of GPAA (Pibor, Likunagole, Gumuruk, Verthet, Dorein and Labrab). The flood response has been constrained by persistent heavy rains, infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility due to impassable roads and flooded airstrips, limited resources and insecurity. There is an urgent need for additional logistics support with air assets and riverine transport to move cargo to priority locations and for additional emergency response capacity to respond to the emergency needs of people in multiple deep-field locations. Many of these locations have seen the presence of static partners reduced due to COVID-19 and budget cuts compared to 2019. The COVID-19 emergency response depleted the ES/NFI and WASH core pipeline stock, which requires urgent replenishment. Sectoral highlights on the flood response are as follows.


 **Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items:** The first consignment of plastic sheets (7,000 pieces) transported by river arrived in Bor warehouse for response in Fangak (3,000), Pochalla (2,300) Ayod (2,450). A second consignment of plastic sheets is due for ES/NFI response in Duk, Twic East and Mingkaman.


 **Food Security and Livelihood:** Flood-affected areas have been responded to with several rounds of emergency food response; also livelihood support has been provided with response gaps remaining in a number of locations.

 **Health:** Flood-related health response is ongoing across Jonglei and GPAA. In Awerial, four mobile sites opened to respond to the needs of displaced people from Twic East and Duk and Bor South; in Bor South and Twic East, health mobile sites are operational for the next four months, while health partners are

responding in Pibor. Additional mobile sites are planned in Ayod and Pochalla and Fangak. A measles outbreak in GPAA was stopped through a reactive campaign. When flood waters recede, there is a risk of a cholera outbreak. To combat polio, an oral vaccination campaign in Pibor and Bor South and the required funding is planned.

 **Logistics:** The Rumbek-based helicopter continues to support the flood response out of Bor, but has been repositioned in Rumbek for a couple of weeks to clear backlog, after which it will be sent again to Bor. The Buffalo fixed-wing aircraft should soon become available again to preposition critical flood response supplies out of Juba. Airlifts to final delivery points from Bor are done by helicopter or boat.

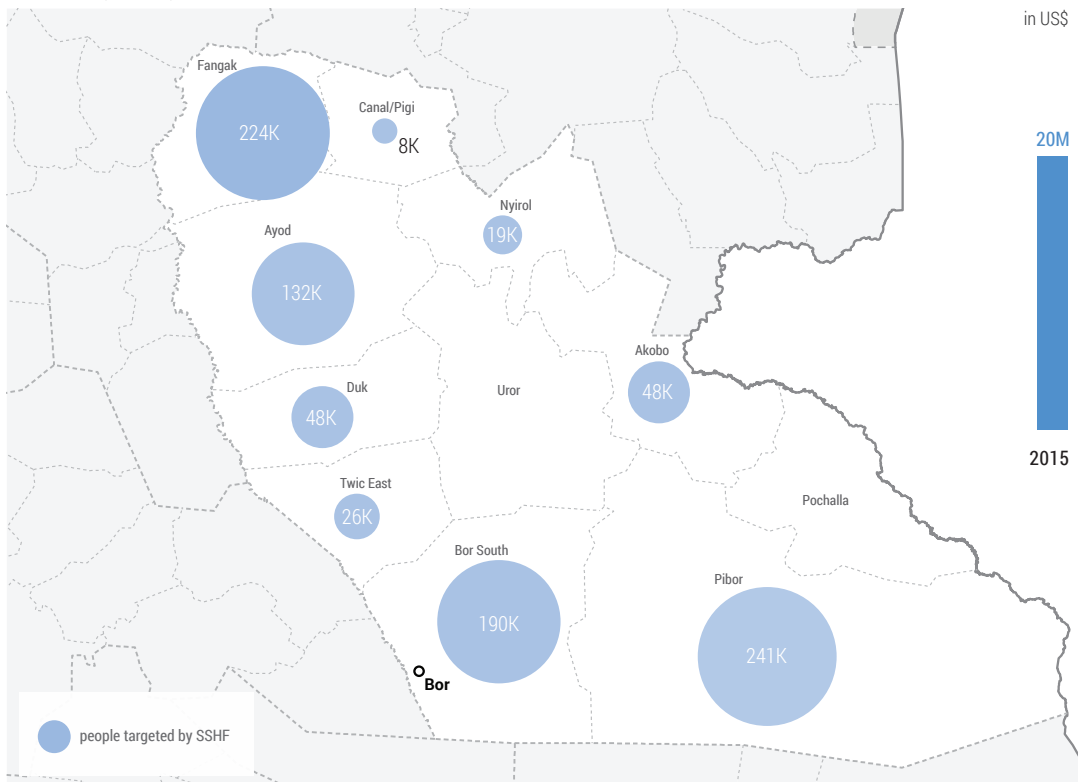
 **Protection:** Some response has taken place in Pibor, Duk, Ayod and Akobo, while Twic East and Uror have been targeted for future response.

 **WASH:** Major response gaps remain in Nyirol, Ayod, Bor South and Gumuruk (Priority 1 locations) and Fashoda and Koch (Priority 2 locations). Static partners are present in Nyirol, but have no funds to respond. Currently, there are three EPR WASH partners available, whereas in 2019 there were seven partners for rapid response through EPR. The WASH Cluster has requested support for urgent response capacity scale up of EPR.

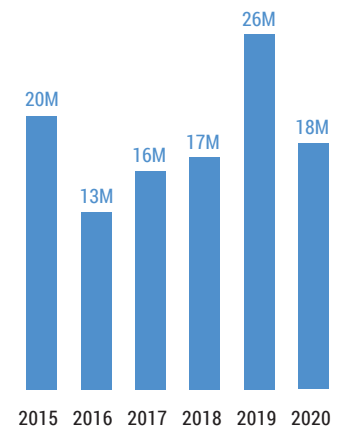
Integrated post-flood response: An integrated response will be carried out by the Health and WASH clusters in Bor, Pibor and Twic East to reduce the risk of vector-borne diseases. The Health Cluster will launch an oral vaccination campaign and scale up the health emergency response. WASH is urgently mobilizing funds to launch a campaign to rehabilitate and disinfect water points.

SOUTH SUDAN HUMANITARIAN FUND ALLOCATIONS TO JONGLEI

People targeted by SSHF in 2020



SSHF allocations from 2015 to 2020 in US\$



\$110 million
Total SSHF funding to Jonglei since 2015

FORECAST FOR 2021

It is highly likely that sub-national conflict and flooding will occur in Jonglei and GPAA again in 2021 and lead to large-scale displacement and a sharp increase in emergency needs, unless mitigating measures are taken to reduce their impact. Humanitarian partners operational in Jonglei and GPAA recommend the measures outlined below to reduce the impact of conflict and flooding on people in need and humanitarian partners.

Conflict preparedness (dry season)

- Monitor and ensure early warning system to alert communities and partners when conflict looms
- Engage with local authorities and communities, state and national governments, and protection partners for high-level advocacy and dialogue
- Advocate with UNMISS for deployment of protection forces to protect civilians as well as humanitarians and their assets in following priority locations in order of priority: 1) Pieri, Uror County; 2) Gumuruk, GPAA; 3) Duk Pajut, Duk County; and 4) Likunagole, GPAA
- Request UNMISS to provide security corridors during humanitarian response
- Sustain livelihood support to avoid potential conflict between displaced people and host communities where there is real or perceived competition for resources
- Allocate funds to support safety arrangements for staff in the field including basic security training
- Ensure NGO safety focal points' presence in response locations, working with UNDSS guidance
- Engage local chiefs to provide security as part of their primary responsibility to protect humanitarian workers and their assets and hold them accountable

Flood preparedness (rainy season)

- Advocate for national government or state policies for disaster risk reduction
- Encourage national government to support state institutions
- Advocate with the government to put aside funding to support first responders' initiatives
- Local authorities to encourage communities situated along flood-prone areas to relocate to higher grounds and provide basic services in relocated areas
- Activate/strengthen/form local flood committees and train them in early warning
- Train local communities/local authorities as first responders on early warning systems
- Train communities on climate change and the impact is having on them
- Disseminate information on local weather changes, alert communities of potential disruptive events
- Invest in disaster risk reduction and other mitigation measures – construct/maintain/strengthen/repair dykes and canals, and support resilience activities
- Preposition as much supplies as possible during the dry season
- Strengthen logistics capacity at local level to move supplies to distribution points
- Call for sufficient security on ground to protect prepositioned supplies

Invest in logistics and humanitarian hubs

- Invest in humanitarian hubs in deep field locations with sufficient security, warehouses, accommodation facilities, internet services, washing services and food for minimal recovery charges, to allow humanitarians to stay and deliver during conflict and flood