



12 November 2017

COUNTRY DIRECTORS' WEEKLY UPDATE

1. Key Takeaways.

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), South Sudan, released on Monday, 6th November 2017 at an event held at the National Bureau of Statistics in Juba. This is based on the findings from the IPC analysis conducted in September 2017 jointly by WFP, FAO, UNICEF, Government of South Sudan and NGOs active in Food Security in South Sudan. Relevant links are:

<http://ipcglobalalert.wixsite.com/southsudan-sept2017> and

<https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/harvest-season-provides-meagre-respite-south-sudan%E2%80%99s-hunger-crisis>

Key highlights include the following:

- South Sudan entered the harvest season in September 2017 with 6 million people (56% of the total population[1]) estimated to be severely food insecure[2], out of which 40,000 are in Humanitarian Catastrophe at a household level (IPC Phase 5) and 2 million are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity. Post-harvest gains in October-December 2017 are expected to reduce the number of severely food insecure people to 4.8 million (45% of the total population), with 25,000 in Humanitarian Catastrophe. However, an anticipated earlier than normal start of the lean season[3] will result in an estimated 5.1 million (48% of the total population) people being classified as severely food insecure in January-March 2018, with 20,000 in Humanitarian Catastrophe. The worsening situation is attributed mainly to the protracted conflict that affected farming activities and the ongoing economic crisis.
- In September 2017, there were populations in Humanitarian Catastrophe in all the three Greater regions[4] of South Sudan. Specifically, populations in humanitarian catastrophe existed in former counties of Nyirol and Ayod of former Jonglei; Kapoeta East of former Eastern Equatoria; and Wau County of former Western Bahr el Ghazal. In October-December 2017, populations will remain in Humanitarian Catastrophe in Wau and Ayod. In January-March 2018, Humanitarian Catastrophe is expected to persist only in former Wau county.
- Of great concern is Greater Baggari, a sub-area of former Wau County with an estimated population of 25 000, where 10% of the population is in Humanitarian Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in September 2017 as a result of sustained insecurity, sporadic humanitarian access since 2016, lack of freedom of

movement and extreme depletion of livelihoods. Should these very limited access conditions persist, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate and widen further. This calls for immediate and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance and close monitoring.

- Presidential Decree on Access to humanitarian was released on Thursday evening regarding facilitation of humanitarian access to populations in need. See copy attached.
- Forum has undertaken an analysis of the list of internationals released by the Deputy Chair of RRC and will present the findings to RRC in the week of November 12.
- From available data, the 301 Forum members employ of **20698** South Sudanese nationals (making 92% of the overall staffing) and **1719** internationals (making 8% of the overall staffing).

2. Bureaucratic Impediments

- New Work Permit fees were brought to the attention of Heads of Missions, including the IGAD Embassies. Forum has not yet been updated on Heads of Missions engagement with the Government.
- Effective date for implementation of new Work Permit fees as per the Circular from the Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Human Resource is November 12.
- OCHA and NGO Forum convened a meeting of NGOs that were named in the list of Internationals without Work Permit to be able to understand the concerns of members. OCHA requested that list be removed from public domain. NGO Forum undertook an analysis from 85% of Forum members responded to request made. Meetings agreed that individual members follow up with RRC.
- The analysis of names from the RRC list of Internationals without Work Permit showed the following:
 - There were **694** names and not **833** as listed;
 - **65** of the names were church members;
 - **167** names are from MSF who have a country agreement with Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - **11** names are from **6** NGOs that are not NGO Forum Members; and
 - **451** names drawn from NGO Forum Members, 35 NGOs.

We received information from **36** NGOs totaling to **395** people listed on the list which represent **85 %** persons named of which:

- **14%** have work permits (54)
- **47%** have applied for work permits (188)
- **29%** (left, visitors, duplicates, national staff, Not NGO Staff = 114)
- **9%** have not applied for work permits (34)
- **1%** have their work permits rejected (5)
- RRC has confirmed that they will continue to issue travel clearance to the fields for NGOs.

3. Security

- **General.**

Issue	Likelihood	NGO advised action
Ambushes / robberies on roads	HIGH	Basic convoy drills Min 2 vehicles / group with other NGOs if possible Avoid certain routes
Armed clashes between government and opposition forces	MEDIUM – HIGH	Observe local warnings Understand relocation procedure – by road and aircraft Relocate early
Cattle raiding / inter-communal fighting	MEDIUM – HIGH	Note indicators and warnings Avoid certain areas Relocate early
Warehouse / compound break-ins	MEDIUM	Continually review compound security arrangements
Staff targeted for robberies / harassment	MEDIUM	Basic security precautions
Staff targeted for kidnap	LOW	Basic security precautions

- **Weekly highlight.** At the time of writing the negotiations between former Chief of Staff Paul Malong and President Kiir remain opaque. On a positive note the armoured vehicles, which were placed around Malong's residence for much of the week, have now been removed and movement along Airport Road is back to normal. NGOs are, however, reminded to be vigilant and report unusual activities in order to share to other members.
- **Field outreach.**
 - DSFP will continue his security outreach programme as follows:
 - 22-24 Nov **KAPOETA**
 - 4-6 Dec **AWEIL**

The aim of the outreach engagements is to facilitate networks at field level, encourage best practice and better engage NNGOs.

- **NGO Safety and Security Guide.** The NGO Safety and Security Guide has been re-issued. CDs and Security Advisers are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with its content. It will also be available on the Forum Documents Portal next week.

4. Information / communications.

- Steering Committee Constituents are now available on our website. Please follow the link to know your SC Representative (<http://southsudanngoforum.org/sc-constituents>).
- The document portal now updated for better accessibility of documents. Please follow the link <http://docs.southsudanngoforum.org/> to access circulars, government acts and other documents. To access meeting minutes and security reports from the portal please ask for a login details from the Information Manager (infomgr@southsudanngoforum.org).
- Updated list of all CD contacts can be found here <http://southsudanngoforum.org/contacts/>

5. Training.

- NGO Forum and Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility successfully organised Conflict Sensitivity training, primarily targeting partners of DFID's HARISS programme and donor staff, on November 9 at NGO Forum Secretariat.

6. Secretariat Staff Issues / Movements.

- DSFP on leave 3-20 November.
- Information Manager is back at Post

7. Forward Look.

- Every Thursday at 13:15 hours, HCT representatives for the NGOs hold a pre-meeting to which all NGOs are welcome. Come and make your voices and concerns heard.
- **We encourage members to share with the Secretariat operational and access challenges that they face** so that matters may be brought to the attention of relevant authorities. Use the email addresses accessreporting@un.org and coordinator@southsudanngoforum.org.
- Constituency leads and members should familiarise themselves with the constituency list accessible through the

link:<http://southsudanngoforum.org/sc-constituents> Please print and know your constituency members and constituency lead once the list is sent out.

- Registration for new members for the NGO Forum for 2017 is closed. Interested new members will have to wait till January when registration for 2018 will be opened.

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