

Joint humanitarian messages addressing ongoing threats in Renk, Bentiu and other locations in South Sudan

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KM 1 Condemnation of violence

Violence is never the answer and must always be condemned. Humanitarians should not be targeted. To continue delivering relief, the humanitarian community in South Sudan calls upon authorities and communities at all levels to guarantee the safety and security of aid workers, of humanitarian assets, of the people who access humanitarian service, and to ensure unhindered access to and for people in need.

KM 2 Access, disruption of services and impact on people

Humanitarian workers in South Sudan are delivering lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable people, including women, children, older persons and people who have been forced to displace from their homes. These are the people paying the highest price for the disruption of humanitarian activities as a result of violence and threats against aid workers. Intimidating and attacking aid workers and forcing humanitarian activities to be suspended is unacceptable.

People in need must always have unhindered access to assistance and services, and humanitarian organizations need full and unimpeded humanitarian access to safely deliver this support.

In South Sudan, people are already grappling with multiple shocks, such as sub-national violence, flooding, economic shocks, COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks. The current impediments on humanitarian aid, if not swiftly addressed, will add significantly further impact for these already vulnerable people.

Humanitarian services have been disrupted by incidents of threat and violence in some locations. For example, in Renk, primary health care units are affected, disrupting services for nearly 350 outpatients per day. Children cannot be vaccinated and expecting mothers cannot receive help in childbirth. More people are likely to become hungry and gaps in services for those already malnourished will increase the risk to their well-being. Provision of safe drinking water has been disrupted to tens of thousands of people.

KM 3 Call to action

We call upon everyone – from local communities, the population who receive humanitarian assistance, and government authorities at both national and local levels – to address the issues, enable a safe environment, and support the necessary standards to allow humanitarians to continue assisting those in need. We acknowledge the constructive role played by authorities at all levels who have advocated for the safety and security of humanitarian workers and assets and resumption of disrupted services.

While the people of South Sudan continue on the road to long-lasting peace, the humanitarian community stands by the people of South Sudan. The humanitarian needs of affected women, men and children can only lessen when there is sustainable peace.

KM 4 On ongoing tension regarding recruitment

Humanitarians in South Sudan continue to experience frequent access issues related to operational interference and bureaucratic impediments. In the recent past, these tend to be related to employment opportunities.

All humanitarian organizations abide by the laws of South Sudan, including the Labour Law. It is admirable that so many young people are seeking employment and their role to be productive in society. South Sudanese people have the right to seek employment anywhere in their country. Humanitarian organizations continue to support the authorities, including the Ministry of Labour, in engaging local communities about the letter and spirit of fair and transparent recruitment practices.