

South Sudan: Flooding Situation Report

Inter-Cluster Coordination Group

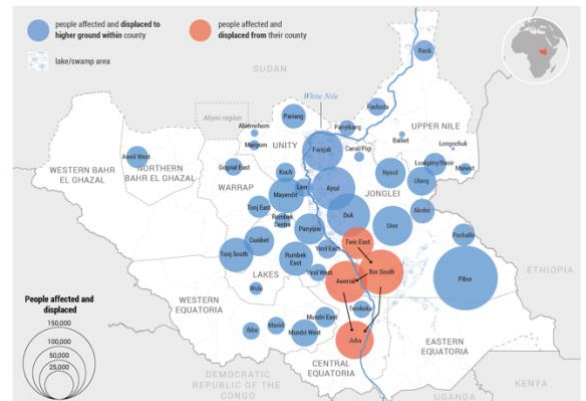
As of 31 January 2021



This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). It covers the period from 1 July 2020 to 31 January 2021. This is the final situation report covering the 2020 flooding response.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 1,066,000 people were affected by floods in South Sudan from 1 July 2020 to 31 January 2021.
- Some 495,000 people were affected in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, the worst affected areas.
- Flood-affected people's urgent needs included food and livelihood support, emergency shelter and non-food items (ES/NFI), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and protection services.
- Flood-response activities have been considerably constrained by persistent heavy rains, infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility, funding constraints, and insecurity.
- The COVID-19 emergency response depleted ES/NFI and WASH core pipeline stocks. Delays in replenishing core pipelines due to border and travel restrictions resulted in delayed flood response.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

1.06M

flood-affected people

504K

flood-displaced people

49

flood-affected counties

233K

people targeted for life-saving response in priority 1 locations

219K

people targeted for life-saving response in priority 2 locations

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Abnormally heavy rainfall from July to October 2020 led to the overflow of the Nile, Pibor, Sobat, Lol and other rivers. The rains led to inland flooding, mainly in the eastern and central parts of the country. The flooding caused large-scale displacement of people and cattle and damaged/destroyed crops and property. An estimated 1,066,000 people were affected by the flooding in eight of ten states and one administrative area in South Sudan between July 2020 and January 2021. Of the people affected, an estimated 504,000 were displaced. Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area have been the worst affected (495,000 people), followed by Lakes (147,000 people), Unity (126,000 people), Upper Nile (100,000 people), Warrap (60,000 people), Western Equatoria (53,000 people), Central Equatoria (40,000 people) and Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal (15,000 people).

Humanitarian organizations conducted 50 multi-cluster initial rapid needs assessments (IRNAs) between July 2020 and January 2021 to assess the impact of the flooding on affected people and to identify their key immediate needs. Most of the flood-affected counties have now been reached with assistance. A multi-cluster response complemented the response in many counties, especially by the ES/NFI, WASH and health clusters. A total of 13 'priority 1' counties were initially identified, and 233,000 flood-displaced people were targeted with lifesaving assistance. An additional 219,000 displaced people were targeted for emergency flood response in 22 'priority 2' counties. Women and children were identified as among the most affected and in need of urgent assistance.

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The ICCG launched a three-phased approach to respond to the needs of the flood affected populations. In the first phase, launched in August 2020 for an initial period of 3 months, partners delivered life-saving emergency assistance including ES/NFIs (mosquito nets, plastic sheets, rubber ropes, and face masks), WASH (aqua tabs, PUR sachets, collapsible jerry cans, filter cloth and soap), FSL (fishing kits and emergency food), health (replenishment of emergency health kits) and Protection (dignity kits for women and girls). Additional support was directed towards emergency repair and rehabilitation of dykes along densely populated areas in Bor South and Twic East counties. In the second phase, launched in November 2020 for an period of two months, partners delivered assistance to restore affected community services, health services including oral cholera vaccination campaigns in Pibor and Bor South as a preventive measure and to complement WASH infrastructure improvement measures such as sanitation of boreholes, repair of degraded/damaged schools and health facility latrines.

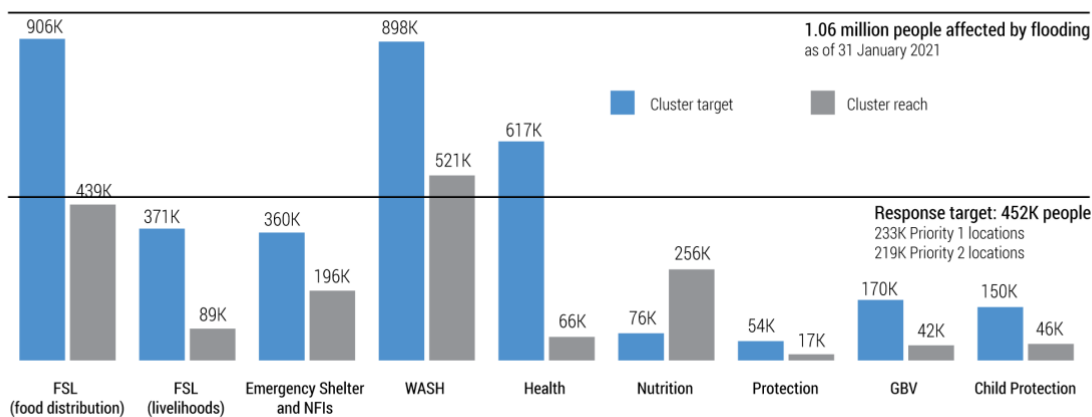
The third phase was launched in September 2020 running in parallel with phases 1 and 2 and involved Jonglei State dykes repairs. This phase is meant for an initial period of 2-4 years. The stakeholders involved in the Jonglei State dyke repairs include the Jonglei State Government, the Floods Management Initiative (FMI), WFP, IOM and UNMISS. Leveraging nexus opportunities, the stakeholders have agreed on an implementation framework for short- and medium-term dyke repair and initiatives to be ready before the onset of the 2021 flooding season, and longer-term (2-4 years) disaster management and strategy plan. The immediate short-term response started in September 2020 with quick dyke repairs and building of secondary dykes and community mobilization to engage in dyke repairs. The medium-term response started in December 2020 and included drainage of flooded roads and rehabilitation of roads to open up access to rest of Jonglei state. Longer term stage started in January 2021 and includes urban and drainage planning, sustainable flood control and establishment of National, State, and County level disaster management and early warning systems. In January 2021, the Clusters have completed a review of the lessons learnt and best practices of 2020 flood response and have started working on a flooding response preparedness strategy for of the 2021 flooding season.

FUNDING

The total financial requirements for the 2020 flood response were estimated at \$81.9 million. Following needs assessments to evaluate the flood impact, the ICCG prioritization exercise in September 2020 identified some 60,000 households most in need for support with an estimated ask of \$43.6 million.

As of 31 January 2021, the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) allocated a total of \$19.4 million to humanitarian partners to help scale up the response to the people’s needs. The SSHF’s second Reserve Allocation provided \$9.7 million for frontline responders, prioritizing life-saving assistance in the areas of food security and livelihoods, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and NFIs, and WASH. The CERF Rapid Response allocation of \$9.7 million filled gaps in core humanitarian pipelines and enabled frontline responders to scale up assistance to people in need. The CERF also financed community labor-intensive and cash-based initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of floods on communities, such as repairing broken dikes. In addition, more than \$16 million was mobilized from ECHO, DFID and USAID in response to the floods and displacements.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Summary of flood response since July 2020, based upon cluster reporting as of 31 January 2021

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs

- Some 250,000 flood displaced people were in need of CCCM services.

Response

- As of 31 January 2021, some 35,000 people mainly displaced from flooding in Jonglei received CCCM services in Mangalla in Central Equatoria.
- CCCM Cluster with technical support from CSRF conducted one conflict sensitivity assessment in Mangalla.

Gaps & Constraints

- CCCM Cluster was not successful in mobilizing funds to support a robust CCCM response and site level coordination in the early phase of the emergency to meet the needs of displaced population and host community.

Advocacy

- As of 31 January 2021, the four-month period that ICCG had established for flood displaced IDPs to be supported in Mangalla to prevent creation of new IDP settlement expired. However, the displaced IDPs were still residing in Mangalla. There is need to continue engagement with the Central Equatoria and Jonglei State Governments to finalise the MOU for land allocation in Mangalla in preparation for the 2021 rainy season.
- As of 31 January 2021, partners estimate 29,000 flood displaced people remain squatting in informal areas, unfinished buildings and marginalized neighborhoods in Juba City. Resources were required to meet the priority needs of these affected people and to ensure continuous updates are made to the plan through regular safety audits.

35K

people reached with
CCCM response

Education

Needs

- Heavy floods destroyed classrooms and education supplies and interrupted the learning of an estimated 170,000 children across eight states. Some 410 schools were either damaged by the floods or used as shelter by the flood displaced families.
- The most urgent needs included provision of temporary learning structures, repair and maintenance of classrooms and WASH facilities and provision of education supplies.
- The floods were an extra barrier to education on top of COVID-19 restrictions which affected children's learning. Worse still, Education partners were unable to respond due to lack of funding.

410

schools damaged or
used as shelter

Response

- Education cluster members' response to rehabilitate schools and restore learning services is however limited. Few schools were supported with handwashing facilities and emergency latrines. No major intervention is taking place.

Gaps & Constraints

- South Sudan reopened schools in November 2020 for the first time since April 2020 due to COVID-19 preventive measures. However, many schools remained closed due to flooding. As of 31 January 2020, the risk of school drop-out was much higher in flood affected counties and children particularly girls may not return to schools.
- Education cluster did not receive funding to support the rehabilitation of learning facilities and provision of essential education supplies.

Advocacy

- Education Cluster will continue advocating with CCCM and ES/Shelter Clusters to provide ES/Shelter materials to enable flood affected displaced populations vacate schools in preparation for the 2021 school season.
- Education Cluster will continue engagement with WASH Cluster to ensure that flooded water facilities in schools are disinfected and collapsed latrines rebuild in preparation for the 2021 school season.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs

- Some 360,000 people in need of ES/NFI response.
- A total \$2.5 million is required for 135,000 flood affected people.

196K

people reached with emergency shelter/NFI response

Response

- A total of \$3.2 million was secured through SSHF for 225,000 flood affected people. A total of 196,410 people out of the planned and targeted 360,000 have been reached with ES/NFI assistance as of 31 January 2021. The ES/NFI assistance provided two mosquito nets, two blankets, one plastic sheet and one rubber rope to each household.

Gaps & Constraints

- \$2.5 M funding required for the remaining prioritized 135,000 flood-affected people in need of ES/NFI response.
- Insecurity and violence in some flood affected locations in Jonglei and Warrap, affected delivery of response.
- The COVID-19 emergency response has depleted ES/NFI core pipeline stocks, resulting in delayed flood response
- Physical access to some remote and deep field locations delayed response. As of 31 January 2021, some areas in Jonglei and Upper Nile were still not accessible due to high flood water levels.
- The procurement processes of ES/NFI pipeline supplies from abroad took longer in 2020 than usual due to restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This resulted in pipeline breaks and delayed delivery of response. In Mundri East county in Western Equatoria, for example, by 31 January 2021, flood affected people assessed and verified in October 2020 have not yet received the supplies due to delays in pipeline replenishment.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Needs

- As of January 2021, the number of people in need of food assistance increased from 830,000 to 906,304 people. The number of people also in need of livelihood support increased from 370,824 to 371,000 people.

439K

people reached with food assistance

Response

- In December 2020, some 316,599 people were reached with emergency food assistance against a target of 536,555 people.
- In December 2020 and January 2021, some 88,928 people were reached with livelihood support consisting mainly of fishing kits and vegetables kits.

89K

people reached with livelihood support

Gaps & Constraints

- Insecurity and attacks on cargo barges on certain stretches of Nile river affected deliveries of supplies by river.
- Disbursement of funds for flood response was slow to address the immediate lifesaving needs of the affected people.
- Physical access challenges including flooded airstrips, damaged roads and bridges delayed delivery of response.

Health

Needs

- More than 600,000 people were in need of health support.
- Immediate needs included health awareness to prevent water-borne diseases, prepositioning of medical supplies in readiness to increased needs of flood affected population and strengthening of health outreach services.

66K

people reached with health response

Response

- By 31 January 2021, over 66,286 people were reached with health response.
- Health education on prevention of malaria, diarrhea, hygiene, sanitation and prevention of COVID-19 were integrated in health provision to flood affected populations.
- A pre-emptive oral cholera campaign (OCV) was concluded in Bor. During the first round of OCV campaign in December 2020, a total of 63,280 people were vaccinated representing coverage of 88 per cent. During the second round of the campaign ended on 14 January 2021, a total of 56,615 people were vaccinated against a target of 71,852 people representing 78.8 per cent coverage.
- In Pibor, the first round OCV began on 16 January 2021 targeting 93,250 individuals. A similar campaign is expected to be conducted in those payams in Upper Nile, Pibor and Eastern Equatoria bordering the regions of Ethiopia where Cholera outbreak has been declared.

Gaps & Constraints

- Physical access to some health facilities due to high flood water levels in particular in Upper Nile, Pibor, and Jonglei made it difficult for patients to cross streams and rivers to access the health facilities.
- Heavy flooding submerged 3 storage warehouses in Ayod and Twic East in Jonglei and Pibor and destroyed large quantities of medical supplies and drugs that had been prepositioned in those health facilities.
- Lack of availability of anti-venom in-country in particular in Jonglei meant that many health facilities were unable to respond to snake bites risking people of dying or developing other health complications.
- Dry land around some health facilities in particular in Jonglei and Upper Nile was used by flood affected population for shelter creating high congestion and easy environment for spread of diseases but difficult for health service deliveries.

Logistics

Needs

- Over 250 humanitarian organizations are in need of common logistics service provision to deliver cargo and passenger movement to flood affected locations.

3,182 MT

of humanitarian cargo delivered in flood affected locations.

Response

- Since July 2020, a total of 3,182 metric tons of assorted humanitarian cargo have been transported by air, road and river to more than 100 locations on behalf of over 80 partners. This included 814 metric tons of cargo transported by air to ICCG priority locations.
- In December 2020, the Logistics Cluster deployed an additional helicopter, positioned in Bor, to scale up cargo transportation to flood affected locations in Jonglei. The Logistics Cluster also temporarily relocated the Rumbek-based helicopter to Bor to scale up logistic service provision for Jonglei and Upper Nile.
- As of January 2021, UNHAS supported 16 flights dedicated to the flood response which enabled the facilitation of 10 missions for the ICCG and 6 flood relocations and evacuations in Ayod, Duk, Jiech, Labrab, Pathai and Yuai.
- In January 2021, the Logistics Cluster started to adjust the provision of common logistical services to take advantage of cheaper and more capacity road movements. In other locations, the cluster continued to offer alternative transport options (river and fixed wing movements) from Juba.

Constraints

- The 2020 wet season stretched further into January 2021 than usual and humanitarian cargo movement remained considerably constrained by the consequences of the heavy rains that have affected infrastructure damage and reduced physical accessibility.



Nutrition

Needs

- A total of 76,225 people were in need of nutrition response.

Response

- As of 31 January 2021, some 256,828 flood affected people were reached with nutrition assistance across eight affected states. More people were reached with nutrition services than planned figure because nutrition partners do not segregate treatment and admission of flood and non-flood affected cases.
- In 82 nutrition sites with structures damaged and the 47 nutrition sites made inaccessible by the floods, services were continued through mobile teams where boats and porters were used to the affected people. Some nutrition sites with structures affected by floods were relocated to higher ground to enable continuity of nutrition service provision.

256K

people reached with nutrition assistance in flood-affected areas

Gaps & Constraints

- Due to limited physical access to some nutrition facilities in particular in Jonglei and Upper Nile, beneficiaries have been unable to cross seasonal rivers to reach the nutrition facilities. Similarly, Community Nutrition Volunteers (CNVs) have been unable to conduct active case finding and defaulter tracing activities to some villages. Where canoes are available, transporters have taken advantage and charged exorbitant transport costs.
- Of the initial \$4.7 million required for nutrition response in all the flood affected areas, only \$1.8 million was received by 31 January 2021.



Protection

Needs

- A total of 53,658 people were in need of general protection response.
- A total of 150,400 children were in need of critical child protection response.
- A total of 170,066 people were in need of critical gender-based violence (GBV) response.
- Total target for overall Protection Cluster response was 374,124 people.

106K

people reached with protection support in flood affected areas

Response

- As of 31 January 2021, GBV sub-cluster members reached 41,890 individuals with GBV flood response in Twic East, Tonj South, Nasir, Akobo, Mayendit, Leer, Panyijar, Duk, Pibor, Bor South, Juba, and Yei. This included 1,344 individuals reached in December 2020 with case management and awareness in Yei, Bor South, Pibor, and Juba.
- As of 31 January 2021, Child Protection (CP) sub-cluster members reached 46,544 people including 22,766 children with child protection services. This included 18,168 children and caregivers reached with psychosocial support. It also included 910 children and 556 unaccompanied and separated children that were reached with case management. Of these, 14,042 people (4,015 girls, 4,621 boys & 5,406 adults) were reached in January 2021 in Ayod, Duk, Fangak, Pibor, Bor South, and Twic East in Jonglei, in Luakpiny/Nasir in Upper Nile and in Panyijar in Unity.
- Since July 2020, Protection Cluster members reached 17,344 people with general protection services in Leer, Mayendit, Panyijar, and Rubkona in Unity, Mundri West in Western Equatoria, Nyirol in Jonglei, and Pibor. This included deterrent civilian patrols / protection by presence to 30 individuals in Pibor in December 2020.
- In total, the Protection Cluster reached 105,778 people with protection response against target of 374,124 people.

Gaps & Constraints

- As of 31 January 2021, funding constraints continued to pose significant obstacles to fully meet protection needs in the flood affected areas especially with regard to case management. The dual challenge of responding both to flood affected and high food insecure populations in areas such as Pibor further highlights the need for additional resources.
- 5 spaces (Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces and Child Friendly Spaces) were submerged by flood waters and destroyed in Pibor. The spaces could not be rehabilitated due to funding constraints.

Advocacy

- Given the recurrent, scale and scope of consecutive years (2019 and 2020) of flooding in South Sudan, adequate resources should be allocated for protection services in 2021 to ensure centrality of protection and conflict sensitive approaches are integrated into emergency response.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Rehabilitation of existing water points to be scaled up to complement the delivery of temporary services with sustained solutions, especially in flood-affected locations that also face high food insecurity.

502K
people reached with
WASH response in flood
affected areas

Response

- Some 521,000 people were reached across eight states with WASH assistance including household water treatment products, hygiene promotion and soap distribution.
- Due to on-going works to be completed by March 2021, an additional 380,000 people are planned to be reached with temporary and/or semi-permanent WASH solutions (e.g rehabilitation of boreholes).

Gaps

- Physical access challenges to remote and hard to reach areas in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity affected the ability of Frontline workers to deliver WASH supplies and WASH services to the flood affected people.
- The COVID-19 emergency response depleted WASH core pipeline stocks in the middle of response, resulting in delayed flood response.
- Implementation of more permanent WASH response solutions to avoid further degradation of WASH conditions in the flood affected locations.

Advocacy

- As of 31 January 2021, funding is required to extend 3 sub-national coordination positions in 3 strategic states affected by flooding (Jonglei, Unity and Central Equatoria), beyond February 2021. Lack of funding for these 3 positions will lead to coordination challenges, including weak monitoring and poor identification of needs and gaps.
- Partners should advocate with donors and the development actors to consider longer term and more sustainable solutions to mitigate against the impact of future flooding.

GENERAL COORDINATION

During July 2020 to 31 August 2021, a total of 8 Flood coordination response meetings were conducted by OCHA at the Juba level. During the same period, other coordination meetings were held at the state and field levels by OCHA and deep-field coordinators. Many of the coordination meetings were held online or in areas where partners have limited community equipment keep social distancing protocols as COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Since July 2020, OCHA has issued three Situation Reports on the Flooding Situation with the first report released on 18 November and the second report on 18 December 2020 This is the final Situation Report.

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