

South Sudan: Response scale-up for highly food insecure areas

Situation Report No. 7

As of 31 May 2021

This report is produced by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). It covers the period from 1 to 31 May 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than one million dollars' worth of humanitarian supplies and assets were looted and destroyed during armed attacks in May, impacting the delivery of assistance to an estimated 131,000 people in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA).
- In May, FSL Cluster partners reached 224,000 people in GPAA with food assistance. This represents 49 per cent of the people targeted. It is part of a double distribution for May and June and will be completed in June. Sub-national violence led to the suspension of food distributions in Gumuruk in early May.
- The FSL Cluster reached 107,000 households (HH) in the six priority 1 counties with dry season livelihood support in May. This represents 63 per cent of the people targeted. Under the livestock support programme, around 1.75 million animals were vaccinated (66 per cent of target), and 416,000 animals were treated against infectious diseases (54 per cent of target).
- WASH partners reached 81,700 people, out of 175,000 targeted, with WASH/non-food item (NFI) kits and basic hygiene messaging in communities affected by high global acute malnutrition (GAM) and/or high incidence of diarrheal diseases. This represents 46 per cent of the people targeted. A total of 16 out of 64 water points in nutrition facilities were rehabilitated in the six priority 1 counties.
- The Health Cluster provided consultations to 65,000 people in the six priority 1 counties in May. Trainings in comprehensive management of rape cases and integrated disease surveillance and response system (IDSR) were provided.
- Nutrition partners treated 13,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 30,000 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) children and 26,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), in the six priority 1 counties during the reporting period. While prepositioning of supplies is ongoing, funding shortages is making it impossible to provide sufficient nutrition programme coverage and to reach people in remote areas. Other challenges include strengthening the capacity of health and nutrition workers and community volunteers on referral mechanisms and risk prevention.
- The Logistics Cluster transported 180 metric tons (MT) of humanitarian cargo by air in May to support partners in priority areas inaccessible by road, mostly in Akobo and Pibor. Some 480 m² of common storage space was made available to the humanitarian community in Akobo.
- In May, Protection Cluster partners reached 6,270 people with general protection interventions including through protection by presence, protection monitoring, awareness raising, protection and cash assistance. More than 9,200 people were reached with various gender-based violence (GBV) services, including Women and Girls Friendly Space (WGFS) activities and 56 people received psychosocial support or case management. Dignity kits were distributed to 3,160 women and girls. Child Protection (CP) partners provided services to 10,250 people, including 3,700 girls and 3,630 boys through case management, family tracing and reunification services for unaccompanied and separated children, and community-based psychosocial support to children and caregivers.

820K

people are facing IPC Phase 3 or higher in the six priority 1 counties

224K

people were reached with food assistance in GPAA in May

65K

people received health consultations in the six priority 1 counties in May

\$1M

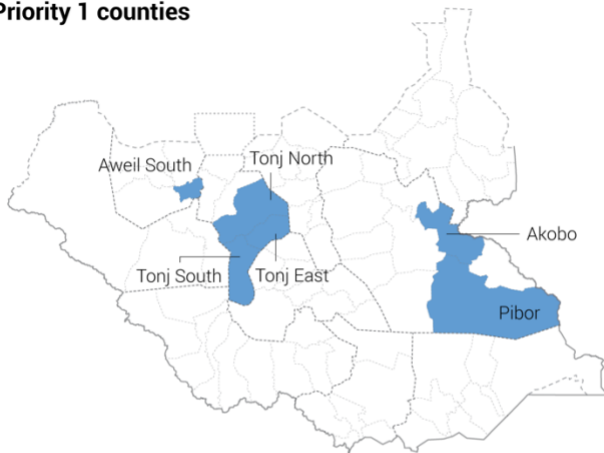
worth of humanitarian supplies looted during armed attacks in May

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In early 2021, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan deteriorated further as a result of compounding shocks, including persistent flooding, ongoing violence and displacement, the impact of which has eroded the livelihoods and coping strategies of vulnerable communities across the country. In December 2020, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projected that an estimated 7.2 million people representing 60 per cent of the population will face crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or worse from April to July 2021. In the six priority 1 counties, 820,000 people are deemed to be in crisis or worse levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) according to IPC projections.

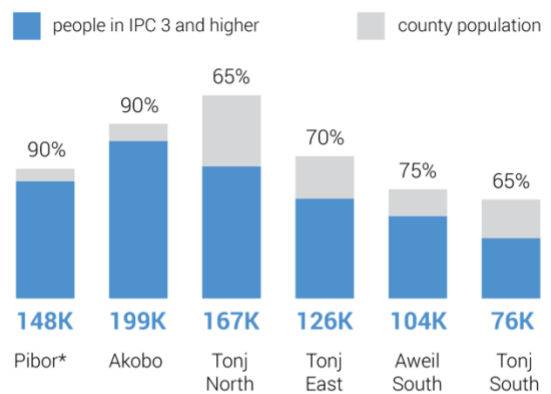
Based on food security and nutrition analysis, six counties were identified in late 2020 as priority 1 areas for a multi-sectoral response scale-up, including FSL, health and nutritional support, protection services and WASH assistance, supported by the Logistic Cluster and UNHAS. Humanitarian organizations started scaling up operations in December, targeting people in the six priority 1 counties. In May, sub-national violence in GPAA displaced an estimated 20,000 people according to Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Humanitarian supplies, facilities and warehouses were looted or destroyed, seriously affecting the ability of humanitarian organizations to assist people. Most people returned to their homes, however, some 8,700 people remained in Pibor town, according to an IOM/DTM verification exercise as of mid-May. Increased looting of supplies and sustained sub-national violence in Greater Tonj and GPAA, and threats and attacks on humanitarians by youth in several locations impeded humanitarian operations including in areas where people are facing high levels of food insecurity.

Priority 1 counties



Number of people in IPC Phase 3 and higher

(April to July 2021)



Partner presence

- 27 Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)**
27 humanitarian organizations including 12 INGOs, 10 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 15 Tonj North**
15 humanitarian organizations including 4 INGOs, 6 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 14 Akobo**
14 humanitarian organizations including 6 INGOs, 4 NNGOs and 4 UN agencies
- 11 Tonj South**
11 humanitarian organizations including 1 INGOs, 5 NNGOs and 5 UN agencies
- 10 Aweil South**
10 humanitarian organizations including 5 INGOs, 1 NNGO and 4 UN agencies
- 8 Tonj East**
8 humanitarian organizations including 1 INGOs, 5 NNGOs and 2 UN agencies

*Gumuruk, Pibor, Lekuangole, Verteth payams only

RESPONSE SCALE-UP IN PRIORITY 1 LOCATIONS

Greater Pibor Administrative Area

NEEDS

- The recent sub-national violence in GPAA compounded the urgent needs of communities.
- Based on IPC projections from April to July 2021, an estimated 148,000 people face crisis and higher levels of food insecurity (90 per cent of the population of Pibor County) with an estimated 33,000 people likely to face catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in western Pibor.
- An estimated 17,000 food insecure people in Labrab, eastern GPAA face the risk of increased vulnerability in the absence of health services, access to sanitation and hygiene practices as a result of the reduced humanitarian footprint in the area. A health partner reported that its Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) and three months-worth of prepositioned medical and health supplies were destroyed and medical materials looted.
- The only source of water in Gumuruk provided by a surface water treatment system was destroyed and is in urgent need of repair or replacement.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Following the violence and looting in May, humanitarian organizations restarted moving supplies to Gumuruk after the security threat risk was lowered. In May, FSL Cluster partners reached 56,778 people in Pibor County with food assistance including through its food-for-asset programme. This represents 56 per cent of the target for the county. Food distribution resumed in late May once the security situation improved. From January to May, FSL Cluster partners targeted 31,418 HHs with dry season support, reaching 85 per cent coverage. In June and July, another 34,000 HHs will be targeted with emergency cropping kits as well as vegetable and fishing kits. Some 266,000 animals were vaccinated and 15,000 animals, out of 53,500 targeted, were treated against infectious diseases.

The Health Cluster provided 20 emergency health kits to two health implementing partners to support people displaced from Gumuruk and Likuangole. A Health Cluster partner received its quarterly drug supplies to provide essential health services to the Primary Health Care Centres (PHCC) in Pibor town and the Verteth Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU). In total, 11 seriously wounded people were airlifted following the outbreak of violence in early May in GPAA. On 26 May, an international organization successfully airlifted the remaining five people with gunshot wounds from Pibor to Juba.

On 25 May, nutrition partners reopened three out of the 11 nutrition facilities in Gumuruk and plans are underway to deliver more nutrition supplies. Nutrition partners treated 3,107 SAM and 8,697 MAM children under five and 6,934 PLW. Nutrition Cluster partners have requested resupplies for the eight additional nutrition sites that were looted. An UN agency trained 55 nutrition staff members and volunteers on diagnosis and treatment of malaria and diarrhea, immunization, the use of water purifiers, and complementary feeding. The FSL Cluster provided seeds to support the Nutrition Cluster in establishing kitchen gardens at nutrition sites. Nutrition partners also requested malaria testing kits, anti-malaria drugs, Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) and zinc from health partners to support home treatment at locations without health coverage. Trained community nutrition volunteers will conduct home treatment of malaria and diarrhea using Boma Health guidelines. An emergency response partner will add an additional tent at the Stabilization Centre should the case load exceed bed capacity.

In Pibor, most WASH partners are not active due to limited funding. WASH partners conducted hygiene promotion messages to 2,398 people, including in all displacement settlements in Pibor town. WASH partners trained 20 hand pump mechanics and 31 Community Health Promoters (CHP) in public health. A total of 150 hygiene kits were distributed to mothers, 100 in Pibor town and 50 in Kuluguru settlement. The cluster carried out cleaning campaigns in all of the displacement sites in Pibor town. Protection Cluster partners identified and reached 300 people with protection concerns and provided cash assistance. Around 22 key community members were trained in safe protection programming as well as awareness raising on COVID-19 preventive measures, and 350 in GBV risk mitigation and protection messages. Fifty people with special needs were identified at the various displacement sites and provided with assistance. Other protection support activities include the construction of WGFS in Gumuruk, skills and case management trainings across all locations in Pibor, Gumuruk, Verteth and Likuangole before the fighting started on 7 May.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The sub-national violence in GPAA impacted the operations of four UN agencies, funds and programmes and 12 national and international NGOs. Five warehouses, three nutrition centres including one PHCU and one container with education materials were destroyed. More than half of the 27 nutrition centres in Pibor temporarily suspended operations, impacting the response. The WASH Cluster faced major funding shortfalls and several WASH partners were left without resources to respond.

FSL Cluster partners reported an estimated 1,170 MT of food prepositioned in Gumuruk to support more than 23,000 people were looted and destroyed. Unless replenished, people will not receive humanitarian assistance for two months. Several nutrition sites in Gumuruk were destroyed and more than 2,000 cartons of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic-Food were looted, leaving an estimated 2,000 children at risk of malnutrition. The transfer of children from the Stabilization Centre in Gumuruk to Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTP) was impossible because of lack of nutrition supplies and poor road conditions. The only facility in the county supporting prevention and response to GBV for women and adolescent girls was destroyed and two schools with education materials were burnt down. The only safe water system in the county was destroyed, leaving more than 15,000 people without clean water and at risk of disease. Local authorities in Gumuruk need to provide additional security assurances and measures to manage armed youth interfering with and hindering humanitarian operations.

Movement of supplies for prepositioning by road was hindered by insecurity and poor road conditions between Bor and Pibor, affecting the timely delivery of supplies to areas outside of Pibor town. The river water level in GPAA remains too low for speedboats to deliver humanitarian supplies. Air transport will be used to transport response teams and cargo in the coming weeks and months as the rainy season will worsen road conditions between Bor, Pibor and Gumuruk.

AKOBO

NEEDS

- Based on IPC projections from April to July 2021, an estimated 199,000 people (90 per cent of the population of Akobo County) face crisis and higher levels of food insecurity with an estimated 11,000 people likely to face catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) in Akobo.
- Health partners need to rapidly scale up in Akobo County to restore critical health services and resupply facilities.
- Gaps in WASH, health and protection services, including GBV have been identified. An ambulance service to support referral cases, adequate spacing to observe social distancing and mosquito nets for women and children are urgent immediate needs.
- Funding for critical protection case management and referral services, including CP and GBV will soon end. Dignity kits are urgently needed.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

FSL Cluster partners supported 17,000 people with general food distributions. This represents 21 per cent of people targeted. Food delivery is ongoing for May and June after some delays due to logistics constraints. From January to May, 27,000 HHs were supported with dry season response and 26,000 HHs targeted for the main season response from June and July.

A WASH partner in Akobo East rehabilitated 13 boreholes in Bilkey, Nyadit and Dengok payams and provided refresher training to 30 pump mechanics in the area. A total of 82 people in the three Payams were trained in water management and hygiene promotion. A WASH partner distributed WASH NFIs to 5,000 food insecure people and approximately 8,000 food insecure people will receive WASH NFIs in the next distribution. One of 15 boreholes in Akobo East and West was rehabilitated while 11 pump mechanics and 15 hygiene promoters were trained.

Health partners trained 25 health workers on the integrated surveillance response system and deployed health mobile teams to Bilkey, Dengiok and Gakdong payams as well as to the Meer PHCU in Nyadit Payam. The mobile teams conducted outpatient curative consultations, anti-natal clinic services, health education, hygiene promotion, community consultations, as well as an extended programme on immunization services. More than 3,200 people were treated for different types of diseases during outpatient consultations.

Nutrition partners treated 1,840 SAM and 2,359 MAM children under five and 2,447 PLW for malnutrition. A nutrition partner received a second consignment of nutrition supplies which was transported by river and air. The current stock of nutrition supplies is expected to last until August. Insecurity impacted service delivery in Dengjok, Wechkuari and Kueryaani and supplies were looted in Kueryaani. Two additional sites suspended services due to insecurity. Key gaps identified in OTP/TSFP sites are storage facilities and construction of toilets. A multi-cluster protection response including GBV, WASH, Health, Nutrition and FSL partners responded in East Akobo in an integrated approach across all sectors. They provided hygiene kits, mosquito nets, messaging to OTP/TSFP beneficiaries, and distributed goats and fishing kits to nutrition beneficiaries.

Protection partners in partnership with the RRC registered 211 people or 25 HHs returnees who were integrated in host communities. Some of the returnees were from the Malakal Protection of Civilian (PoC) site. In Akobo, protection partners trained 70 women and men in GBV prevention and response. Another partner provided livelihood small scale support and training to businesses managed by 140 men and 181 women.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Due to funding constraints, only five of the 23 health facilities, including the PHCU and PHCC in Akobo County, were operational in May. Two health partners have recruited health workers to start implementing health projects to cover the gap. Cold chains are unavailable in some payams and an ambulance system to support patients' referrals for further treatment is also not available. In Akobo, a referral system for patients with complicated medical conditions is absent. Health Cluster partners stated that there were limited waiting rooms with COVID-19 social distancing in place. High water conditions in many parts of the county exacerbated access challenges. Access was further worsened by insecurity caused by cattle raids.

WASH remains a major concern. WASH partners have limited capacity to rehabilitate boreholes to meet the communities' water demand. Access challenges to hard-to-reach areas due to poor road conditions as well as delays in preposition supplies have compounded the situation. Areas of Dengjok and Nyandit do not have hand pumps and the river water is contaminated. Many of the platforms in the water yards are broken and need to be repaired or elevated. Partners are facing

funding challenges in storage capacity and toilet construction in OTP/TSFP sites. Protection partners were unable to implement GBV programmes due to funding constraints. GBV partners cannot deliver specialized services to GBV survivors, especially in Akobo West, and have insufficient capacity to cover all payams in Akobo County.

AWEIL SOUTH

NEEDS

- There is a need for an additional protection partner to provide general protection services in Aweil South. Only one partner is implementing child protection activities, women protection and empowerment.
- Partners urgently need mosquito nets for PLW and children under five, and reproductive health kits.
- In the absence of additional funding, it will be impossible for the FSL Cluster to deliver dry season response kits to approximately 26,000 HHs, in addition to another 12,000 HHs the cluster had planned to support.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

A FSL Cluster partner distributed food to 36,910 people in Aweil South. Food distribution continued in addition to the repositioning of food supplies. FSL Cluster partners provided 31,000 people with dry season farming supplies since January. FSL Cluster partners managed to vaccinate approximately 266,000 animals (103 per cent of target) and treated 15,000 animals, out of 53,500, against infectious diseases (28 per cent of target).

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) enabled a health partner to renovate two PHCUs in Amercool and Majok Gai payams. Service delivery at the two PHCUs and three mobile outreach sites in Alueth, Mabiior and Machal Kou is ongoing in addition to two health community meetings in Alueth and Machal Kou bomas. Staff were trained on integrated disease surveillance and response reporting, comprehensive management of rape (CMR) and HIV minimum service packages.

Nutrition partners treated 1,521 SAM and 3,656 MAM children under five and 2,771 PLW. The admission of children suffering from SAM in May was low compared to previous months, and a follow up is needed to better understand why. Heavy rains made it difficult to reach communities. The multi-sector response continued, including scaling up WASH provision through kits to all nutrition sites, drilling water points in facilities, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) services targeting children and women, GBV referral pathways for vulnerable people and linking FSL activities with communities. A nutrition SMART survey identified 368 children between 6-59 months showing 23.1 per cent and 3.9 per cent based on weight for height with no cases of oedema. This is above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. The survey showed that 51.4 per cent of children had some form of illness in the past two weeks before the assessment, low immunization coverage and very low diet diversity (consuming less than four food groups).

A WASH partner assessed services in 15 health facilities and discovered that nine latrines were not functioning. The partner will repair the broken latrines as soon as materials arrive. The partner also identified 32 sites to install handwashing facilities. A WASH partner started drilling three boreholes at nutrition outreach sites in Alueel, Mabiior and Manyiel to ensure patients have access to safe and clean water. Drilling for the boreholes in Mayom Lach and Thuryeth will soon begin.

A child protection (CP) partner successfully trained 100 teachers including 78 men and 22 women on child protection in emergency, psychological first aid, psychosocial support, child rights and COVID-19. The training included identifying and reporting child protection concerns. Protection Cluster partners trained 35 people, including four men and 31 women as community nutrition volunteers and child protection volunteers. The team trained 168 men and 232 women on parenting skills, comprehensive case management and standard operating procedures such as Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Psychological First Aid (PFA). CP case workers were identified, registered and supported 60 vulnerable children - 38 boys and 22 girls - with high-risk protection concerns. CP partners screened severe and acute malnourished children for SAM and MAM. Those with protection concerns were enrolled into case management. CP partners rolled out awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 and child protection at OTPs. They reached 2,417 people - 240 men, 673 women, 580 boys and 342 girls.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The planting season is short this year due to the erratic rainfall and poor road conditions in Aweil South. The rains disrupted land preparation and the planting of seeds. Insufficient emergency cropping inputs and the timely delivery of supplies to partners were also identified as challenges. People who were not registered or supported during the intervention continue to reach out to livelihood partners for support. Access is a challenge due to the heavy rains, with some roads impassable. This makes it challenging to identify the most vulnerable people and ensuring they receive appropriate treatment. WASH Cluster partners were unable to support Nyieth and Tarweng payams due to the deteriorating road conditions.

The lack of mosquito nets for PLWs and children under five and reproductive health commodities are major gaps in Aweil South. A Health Cluster partner is working with two UN agencies to provide reproductive health kits. Nutrition sites face a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Lack of antimalarial drugs and RDT kits were also identified as a major challenge. The Child Protection Sub-Cluster is concerned about the low enrolment of children in schools. Children are currently working on farms and not going to school.

TONJ EAST

NEEDS

- Limited funding and capacity continues to hamper the WASH response in Tonj East.
- In Tonj East, two payams recorded an influx of returnees. Many returnees are food insecure and need humanitarian assistance. A joint needs assessment verification mission was conducted between 26 to 29 May and an assessment report will be shared shortly.
- Water or water distribution systems in water yards in villages, schools, public places as well as in PHCCs in Ngap-agok, Lang-Cak, Palal, Wunlit, Paliang, Makuac, Paweny and Pagor payams are urgently needed. The health facilities treated more diarrhea cases during the reporting season as water pans are drying out and there is an absence of boreholes. Ngabanet Payam was overwhelmed with diarrhea cases and a WASH intervention is urgently needed.
- Prepositioning supplies, including health, nutrition and WASH/NFI kits are a priority.
- Displaced people have started to return to their communities as the security situation improves. Shelter materials and NFIs are urgently needed.
- GBV partners need hygiene kits, including sanitary pad kits for girls in primary schools in eight payams, including Ngap-agok, Lang-Cak, Palal, Wunlit, Paliang, Makuac, Paweny and Pagor.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In May, FSL Cluster partners reached 18,000 people with its food-for-asset programme. Logistic constraints delayed the May food distribution. The cluster is now targeting 16,800 HHs for June and July. Some 20,000 animals were vaccinated (11 per cent of target), and 12,000 were treated against infectious diseases (79 per cent of target). Limited access and insecurity due to fighting were the main drivers of the low vaccination coverage.

With improved security in parts of the county, displaced people have started to return to their communities and WASH partners helped communities to access WASH services. Ten broken hand pumps were rehabilitated in the Rumabuth PHCC, Kuelcuk PHCU, Makuac PHCU, Mayen-Ador PHCU, Paweny PHCU, Wunlit PHCU, Paliang PHCU, Kuacat PHCU, Romich PHCU and Rumabuth PHCC COM BH. In addition to repairing hand pumps, WASH partners trained 12 water management committees in Ngap-agok, Wunlit and Palal payams. More than 24,600 people with disabilities received WASH NFIs supplies in Pala I, Anan Atak, Wunlit, Ngap-agok and Lang-Cak payams. Construction work began on six latrines in Palal PHCU, Makuac PHCU, Paweny PHCU, Anan Atak PHCU, Kuelcuk PHCU and Mayen-Ador PHCU.

Health Cluster partners conducted curative consultations for communicable diseases in May and reached 7,828 people, including 3,285 children under five and 4,544 over five in the 14 health facilities. The leading cause of morbidity was malaria. More than 4,100 malaria and 955 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases were reported. A total of 1,418 children under five cases were treated at the two health facilities. Other preventive services provided were immunization, anti-natal clinic and post-natal clinic interventions. Some 2,450 vaccines were received for a four-day polio campaign in Tonj East to vaccinate children between 6 and 59 months. Tonj East missed two rounds of the polio campaign due to inaccessibility in November 2020 and February 2021. The first round was conducted in April and the second round is planned for June.

Nutrition partners treated 745 SAM and 1,385 MAM children under five and 1,805 PLW across the county. Assessment of nutrition sites and construction of temporary stores were ongoing at four outreach sites. Partners continued to scale up their integrated response, providing hygiene kits and soaps to SAM and both SAM/MAM children respectively. Additionally, two boreholes were drilled in PHCU/PHCC sites. The construction of two latrines in PHCUs begun.

A protection partner documented 14 cases of unaccompanied and separated children (eight boys and six girls). More than 1,350 people, including 170 men, 1,000 women, 140 boys and 145 girls in Paliang Payam in Tonj East participated in a community awareness raising campaign on CP and GBV. A total of 195 children (95 boys, 100 girls) used child friendly spaces and participated in activities such as football, storytelling, drawing and traditional dances.

Shelter and NFI Cluster partners distributed S/NFIs to 1,510 HHs in Tonj East, who were affected by the 2020 flooding and sub-national violence. Amongst the items the HHs in Palal, Anana-tak, Wunlit, Palian, Makuac, and Paweng payams

received, were mosquito nets, blankets, reusable face masks, plastic sheets and rubber ropes. WASH, Health and Nutrition cluster partners organized integrated outreach activities and distributed WASH/NFIs, targeting the most vulnerable children between 6 and 24 months with blanket supplementary feeding programme.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The condition of major roads and supply routes deteriorated in May due to heavy rains. The ongoing rains are impacting the prepositioning of supplies. Lack of transport to Tonj East is another challenge, with many transporters reluctant to operate in the area due to the insecurity and poor roads. Based on a recent assessment, additional S/NFI support for 5,640 people or 940 HHs is needed. Patients are forced to travel long distances to access health services as only a few facilities are functional. Efforts to meet nutrition needs of women and children with treatment and prevention programmes continued but access constraints make it difficult to reach vulnerable communities. Most nutrition sites in Tonj East need additional supplies.

TONJ NORTH

NEEDS

- Additional Mobile Storage Units (MSU) for common storage for partners are needed to store dignity kits, WASH NFIs and WASH spare parts. The Logistics Cluster will soon set up an MSU to solve the need for storage.
- An Inter-Cluster Rapid Assessment (IRNA) recommended urgent NFI support for 2,225 HHs in Manlor Payam who were displaced by sub-national violence.
- Protection partners need to continue their advocacy for justice for women, girls and children killed as well as continuous community peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts to prevent communities from returning to conflict.
- Nutrition Cluster partners need additional funding to scale up nutrition services through mobile outreach. The additional funding would support nutrition sensitive programming, including kitchen demonstration gardens at the facilities, communities and schools, cooking demonstrations, integrated WASH and protection mainstreaming activities.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

FSL Cluster partners reached 38,000 people with food assistance and 21,000 people with its food-for-asset programme. Food distribution continued alongside food prepositioning. Approximately 18,200 HHs will be supported in the main season farming response. Due to funding constraints, the cluster vaccinated 98,000 animals (38 per cent of target) and treated 32,000 animals against infectious diseases (13 per cent of target).

WASH partners prepositioned WASH/NFIs and distributed the items to 2,000 HHs in Tonj North. In addition, 120 cattle keepers (90 males and 30 females) were reached with conflict mapping and resolution initiatives in Akop, Alabek, Rualbet, Pagol, Kiirik and Aliek payams.

Health Cluster partners reached 7,058 people, 3,375 children under five and 3,683 over five in the 14 health facilities through curative consultations. The leading cause of morbidity was malaria where 2,488 cases were reported, followed by 899 AWD cases. People were treated in 13 government-supported facilities in Tonj North. The cluster facilitated the safe delivery of 113 babies by skilled birth attendants. The health coverage and early referral of nutrition beneficiaries were further strengthened with integration of EPI, Outpatient Department (OPD) and Maternal Child Health (MCH) departments and providing Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) counselling services.

Nutrition partners treated 574 SAM and 1,547 MAM children under five and 1,692 PLW across the county. The team continued the multi-sector response and on-the-job training, social and behaviour change communication sessions included hygiene promotion and conducting passive screening. Nutrition Cluster partners, with support from the FSL Cluster, provided community members with seeds and farm tools and training on gardening best practices.

Protection partners distributed dignity kits to 257 women and adolescent girls. Two children were reunited with their parents through family tracing and reunification programme in Awul Payam. A total of 40 women and girls received case management services, including referrals. GBV partners prepositioned 800 dignity kits in the county. S/NFI Cluster partners distributed assorted NFI items to 2,255 HHs, including 1,305 in Awul and Manlor payam, and 955 in Awul centre, Pagakdit, Pankot, Manlor centre, Faraksika, Makuak, Warrap town, Kuanyigoi and Aporlang. The items distributed included plastic sheets, mosquito nets, kangas and bags.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Humanitarian organizations faced challenges in locating returned people, who had recently registered, in Tonj North. Displaced people sheltering in school compounds faced forced eviction as school authorities were eager to reopen schools. Additional funding is needed to address WASH gaps across the county. In Akop, Rual-Bet, Marial-Lou and some parts of Aliek and Alabek payams, the availability of shelter and NFI materials were identified as a significant gap. Nutrition partners faced poor storage structures, the poor condition of waiting areas and staffing gaps. Partners' operational costs were increased by the lack of storage facilities to preposition items and the cost of extra storage facilities, the need to hire vehicles to transport supplies and the high cost of on- and off-loading of supplies.

TONJ SOUTH

NEEDS

- Additional county-level coordination by cluster focal points is needed to determine who is doing what and where in payams to avoid duplication of humanitarian response efforts.
- The lack of specialized services at Tonj teaching hospital poses safety and protection challenges to GBV survivors. Training of clinical officers to manage rape cases and provide supplies for specialized GBV services is critical.
- Urgent needs for reproductive health delivery include hygiene and delivery kits, equipment for labour rooms, kits for infection control as well as drum incinerator or pit latrine for disposal of rubbish
- FSL partners requested additional sampling kits for testing of livestock and vaccinations.
- Improved storage facilities at nutrition sites is a need, especially during the rainy season.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

A FSL Cluster partner distributed food to 33,234 people and another 19,644 received support through the food-for-asset programme in May. A FSL Cluster partner supported 7,012 HHs with dry season support and planned to assist 11,400 HHs for the main season response. Some 228,000 animals were vaccinated. According to FSL partners, Tonj South is a more conducive environment for partners to scale up their response to food insecure people compared to Tonj East and Tonj North due to access and conflict-related constraints in those counties.

WASH Cluster partners prepositioned 700 dignity kits and WASH/NFI kits for an estimated 1,350 HHs in Tonj South. Some 1,350 HHs were also reached with hygiene promotion activities. Forty people (9 female and 31 males) participated in a conflict management workshop, while 636 HHs were reached with peace messaging in Pagol, Manlor and Tonj payams.

Health Cluster partners reached 9,665 people with curative consultations, including 4,255 children under age five and 5,410 children over five. The disease leading in morbidity was malaria, 4,949 cases were identified, followed by 952 AWD cases. A health partner treated 1,582 cases, including 408 children under age five and 1,174 children over five. The most common causes of morbidity in May were 164 AWD and 595 malaria cases. Other preventive services such as immunization and reproductive health care services were provided in fixed and mobile clinics. A health partner started an EPI vaccination programme in Tonj South and delivered cold boxes and immunization kits to Akon-Chok and the Jak-Ameth mobile clinic. The partner distributed essential drugs supplies for two to three months to Jak-Ameth and Akon-Chok.

Nutrition partners treated 498 SAM and 859 MAM children under five and 1,046 PLW across the county. Cluster partners trained 12 county nutrition volunteers (CNVs), eight females and four males in identifying and referring malnutrition cases. All facilities are easily accessible. Temporary stores at two outreach sites at Bapchok and Akonchok are being constructed.

Protection partners reached 25 women and girls under case management in addition to 120 women and girls reached with Psychosocial Services (PSS) in the WGFS. CP partners identified 12 cases of unaccompanied and separated children and are supporting 10 boys and two girls. Additionally, 150 men, 900 women, 120 boys and 137 girls in Thiet Payam benefited from a community awareness campaign on CP and GBV. CP partners trained 22 animators on child protection and case management. Some 479 children (253 boys and 226 girls) used the child friendly spaces. Activities at the WGFS include football, storytelling, drawings and traditional dances.

Nutrition partners provided nutritional assistance to 148 children between 6-59 months, screened 37 PLWs and admitted SAM and MAM cases into nutritional facilities for care and treatment. Cluster partners trained 12 CNVs, eight females and four males in identifying and referring malnutrition cases. As part of the ongoing response to conflict-affected people, the S/NFI Cluster distributed shelter materials and NFIs, including mosquito nets, blankets, reusable face masks, plastic sheets, and rubber ropes, to 1,015 HHs in Manyang, who were displaced by sub-national violence. Some 250 HHs in Ngok, 215 HHs in Thiet, 250 HHs in Tonj, 200 HHs in Walnhalel and 100 HHs in Jak received similar shelter and NFI supplies.

GAPS AND CHALLENGES

Displaced people in Tonj South, Tonj town, Thiet and Lak are in urgent need of FSL and S/NFI support. Critical gaps were identified in general protection, GBV and CP services, especially the physical protection to displaced people in Jak, Thiet and Tonj town. Poor road conditions due to the rains are cutting off some settlements in the county. Integrating WASH, health and FSL with nutrition in hard-to-reach locations remains a challenge. Nutrition monitoring and evaluation tools (PLW ration cards) are not available. Urgent funding is needed to support shelter/NFI activities for an estimated 1,163 displaced HHs in Tonj South, based on an IRNA conducted in March. Most do not have shelter and are sleeping under trees.

LOGISTICS

In support of the response scale-up, the Logistics Cluster transported 180 MT of humanitarian cargo by air (helicopter and fixed wing) to priority locations which were inaccessible by road, particularly in Akobo and Pibor. In May, road convoys from Bor to Pibor were delayed due to insecurity and the deteriorating physical road conditions. The window for road transport of cargo is closing fast with the start of the rainy season. The Logistics Cluster installed two MSUs managed by an international NGO to provide 480 m² of common storage in Akobo town. An additional MSU will be set up in June. The Logistics Cluster is planning to set up one MSU (240 m²) as common storage space in Tonj North/Warrap town. A Logistics Officer was deployed to Akobo to improve deep field coordination, facilitate the expansion of the common storage facilities, and identify alternative cargo delivery options to Akobo. The location was identified as a potential new river route for Logistics Cluster river cargo transport, which will be rolled out soon. This will enable the Logistics Cluster to move higher quantities of cargo in a cost-efficient way, allowing partners to meet their prepositioning needs and freeing up the limited and costly air transport for other priority locations not accessible by road or river.

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