

# South Sudan: Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

Issue 05 | Date: 01– 15 March 2021

## KEY FIGURES

<b>8.3 M</b> People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	<b>2.3 M</b> South Sudanese Refugees in neighboring countries
<b>1.6M</b> Internally Displaced	<b>1.4M</b> Malnourished Children
<b>125K</b> Persons living in PoC <sup>1</sup>	<b>483K</b> Malnourished Women
<b>77</b> Stabilization Centers	<b>5.82M</b> Severely Food Insecure

## COVID-19

<b>9 554</b> confirmed cases	<b>104</b> deaths	<b>121 504</b> Tests performed	<b>7 906</b> recoveries
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## IPC PHASE 5

<b>104 000</b> People targeted	<b>6</b> Counties	<b>10 822</b> consultations conducted
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- A cumulative of 9 554 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 104 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.1%) have been reported in South Sudan since the onset of the outbreak.
- South Sudan has launched the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan targeting to mobilize US\$1.7 billion to reach 6.6 million people with urgent life-saving assistance and protection by the end of the year.
- WHO delivered 131 interagency health kits (can support 176 000 people), 78 pneumonia kits, 13 cholera community kits and 20 cholera investigation kits to the responding partners in the six priority IPC 5 counties.
- 10 severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits that can support the management of 500 malnourished children have been supplied to partners operating stabilization centres in the six priority counties.
- An outbreak of the Rubella virus has been confirmed in Tambura County after five out of 12 samples tested positive for Rubella IgM antibodies.

<b>121 066 (20%)</b>	Children under one year vaccinated with oral polio vaccine
<b>962 158</b>	Initial numbers of children vaccinated against measles
<b>00</b>	Counties with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
<b>00</b>	PoC <sup>1</sup> sites with confirmed measles outbreaks in 2021
<b>02</b>	Counties with malaria cases surpassing their set thresholds



WHO, Ministry of Health and other partners conducted Measles follow up campaign targeting about 350K children 6 – 59 months in 13 hard-to-reach counties in South Sudan. Photo credit: WHO

<sup>1</sup> UN Protection of Civilians'

## Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- **South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021 launched:** The plan that was launched on 16 March 2021 is targeting to mobilize US\$1.7 billion to reach 6.6 million people with urgent life-saving assistance and protection by the end of the year. In 2021, South Sudanese are expected to continue to experience a substantial increase in vulnerabilities owing to the seasonally flooding, the ongoing sub-national violence in many parts of the country, combined with the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 on the economy, livelihood and service delivery. South Sudan is currently facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since independence.
- **Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site officially transitioned to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp:** The Governor of Unity State and the Chairman Community High Committee (CHC) in the Bentiu PoC site declared official re-designation of the PoC site to an IDP camp, effective 17 March 2021. The community will continue to receive humanitarian assistance in the camp after the transition. The state governor met with the humanitarian partners and discussed a wide range of issues from the withdrawal of threats from youths against workers from other states to labor rates for workers in the IDP to ensure continued provision of humanitarian services after the transition. Three other PoC sites, Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Bor in Jonglei and UN House in Juba, Central Equatoria transitioned to IDP camps months before.
- **Health organization appeals for the re-opening of a health facility in Mangalla, Juba County:** Mangalla Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) has remained closed since July 2020 due to tension between the Bari and Mundari communities over the administration of the area. Mangalla hosts flood-displaced IDPs. A health partner operating there has appealed to the State Ministry of Health to re-open the facility, indicating that they may be forced to withdraw their services and the project taken another location within the state if the facility is not re-opened.
- **Sub-national violence and insecurity in Warrap:** Sub-national violence and insecurity incidents had declined in Tonj North County in the past week during which peace rallies were held in Tonj North and Tonj South counties. An NGO reported that 20 of its staff who were relocated from Marial Luo in Tonj North County due to fighting on 26 February have returned and resumed work at Marial Luo Hospital. Services at the hospital were affected by sub-national violence over the past two months. A polio vaccination campaign that was postponed because of insecurity has begun.
- **Food Insecurity in South Sudan in 2021**

South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since independence. The ongoing sub-national violence and localized conflicts in many parts of the country, combined with the disruptive impacts of the COVID-19 on the economy, livelihood and service delivery have led to a substantial increase in vulnerabilities.

The scaling up of the humanitarian response will continue into the lean season (May-July) during which the situation in the Integrated Food Security Classification Phase 4 and 5 (IPC 4 and 5) is expected to worsen. Sub-national level violence, access challenges and inadequate funding are the main challenges hampering the inter-sectoral response.

The insecurity situation in Tonj North is improving in the past week according to reports. An Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) conducted on 17-19 March 2021 in Tonj South reported 6 971 IDPs from Tonj North conflict residing in three payams of Tonj South.

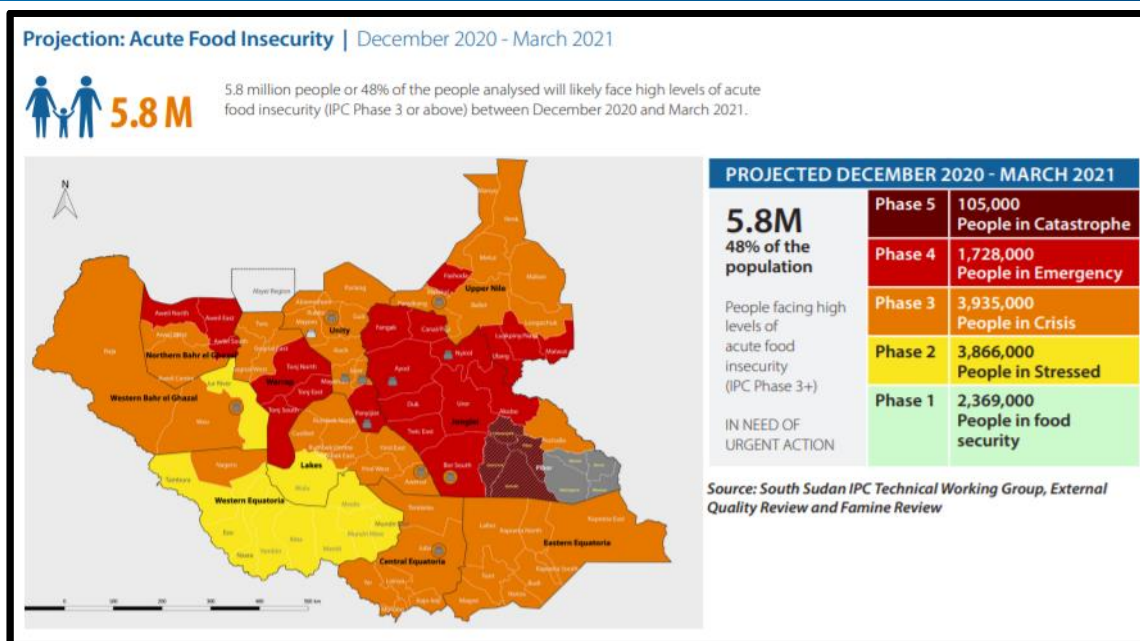


Figure 1: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

## Emergency Response Activities

### Health Cluster response in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 5 counties

- The Health Cluster partners continue to scale up health response by ensuring access to the primary health services across the six 'Priority 1' counties of Pibor, Akobo, Tonj East, Tonj South, Tonj North, and Aweil South. Over 103 825 consultations have been conducted by health facilities across the six counties since week 01 of 2021. In week 10 2021, 10 822 were reached with curative consultations for common endemic diseases.
- The counties and partners continue to implement outbreak prevention and control measures. Four locations (Gumuruk, Pibor, Verteth and Lekuangule) benefited from two rounds of oral cholera vaccination campaign reaching 86 313 (93%) in the first round and 98 458 (106%) during the second round. Furthermore, a plan is underway to conduct an oral cholera vaccination campaign in Boma, a county within the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, with the balance of the vaccine left from the vaccines earmarked for Pibor and Bor. In addition, the polio vaccination campaign in Tonj North that was postponed owing to insecurity has been implemented across nine payams on 16-21 March 2021. The state ministry of health and partners will continue to monitor the security situation in Tonj East to restart planning for the postponed polio campaign. The cholera preparedness and readiness measures are ongoing in Pibor, Akobo and other counties bordering Ethiopia where there is an active cholera outbreak.
- Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) has begun in Tonj North and Tonj South to augment the routine immunization at the health facilities. The vaccination activity has failed to kick off in Tonj East because of insecurity. Aweil South County has completed its first round of PIRI.
- WHO continues to ensure the availability of adequate stock of emergency health kits and other essential supplies to the partners and health facilities in the priority counties. 131 interagency health kits (can support 176 000 people), 78 pneumonia kits, 13 cholera community kits and 20 cholera investigation kits have been delivered to the responding partners. However, the delivery of the supplies to Tonj East has been impeded by insecurity.
- 10 severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits that can support the

management of 500 malnourished children have been supplied to partners operating stabilization centers in the six priority counties.

- WHO MMT continues to respond to the needs of affected populations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) through the provision of mobile health and nutrition services in areas cut-off from routine health services.
- Improving routine surveillance and timely verification of alerts is another component of health response in severely food insecure counties. Akobo (25%) had completeness for IDSR reporting below 80% for week 10 2021.

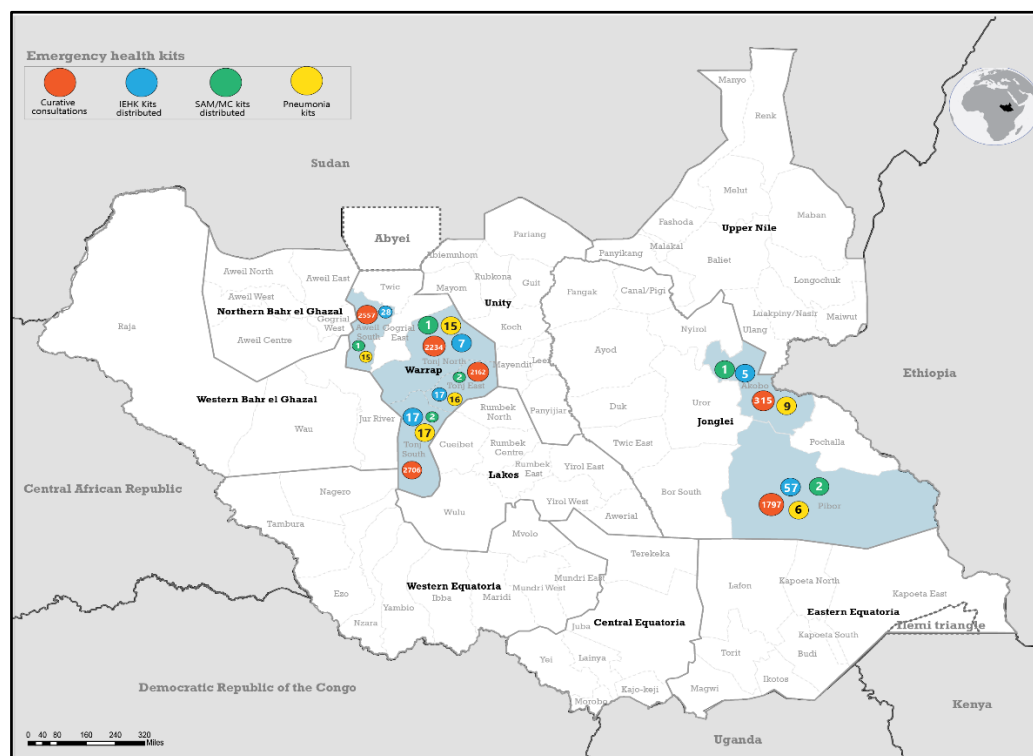


Figure 2: Emergency health kits delivered, and weekly consultations conducted in the six priority IPC 5 counties as of week 10 2021

### Update on floods and response

- Locations with unseasonal flooding that have been recommended for response scale up by partners include Nyirol (1, 600 people), Fangak (27 000 people in New Fangak and 48 000 people in Old Fangak), Panyikang (24 000 people) and Fashoda (11 000 people).
- The road from Bor to Mabior and Ayod remains inaccessible due to high water levels and swamps. Normally, these roads are dry and passable during this time of the year and allow for dry season pre-positioning of emergency supplies.
- Rainfall forecast showed that from March to May 2021, above-normal rainfall is expected over the eastern part of the country. The rainy season is expected to start earlier by one to two weeks in most of the areas in South Sudan.
- The probabilistic rainfall forecast showed that the risk of flooding for the third year is high.

### Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)

### Disease Outbreaks

- In week 10 of 2021, IDSR reporting completeness and timeliness were 92% and 87% respectively at the health facility level. Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN) reporting completeness and timeliness were 93% during the reporting period.
- Malaria (43 alerts), acute watery diarrhea (24 alerts), acute bloody diarrhea (13 alerts) and acute respiratory infections (12 alerts) accounted for the majority of the 104 alerts generated through EWARS. 65% of the alerts have been verified.
- An outbreak of the Rubella virus has been confirmed in Tambura County after five samples tested positive for Rubella IgM antibodies. Only one sample tested positive for measles IgM antibodies out of 12 samples that were tested. Since week 2 of 2021, a total of 20 suspect measles with no deaths have been reported. The recommended response includes continued surveillance, symptomatic case management and mobilizing communities to enhance uptake for routine immunization.

### Confirmed and suspected Outbreaks

#### Polio Virus Outbreak

- The circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreak was declared on 18 September 2020 and 47 cases have been confirmed positive for cVDPV2 to date.
- All cases that have been reported so far have dates of onset before the implementation of the nationwide campaign from 16-19 February 2021.
- The number of cVDPV2 cases reported from the environmental surveillance sites remains three, isolates were reported from Amarat and Roton environmental surveillance sites.
- All the states that started the second phase of the mOPV2 response campaign on 16 Feb 2021 have completed the campaign, except for some counties with security challenges.
- 19 counties are affected by the cVDPV2 outbreak and the geographical distribution of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus cases are: as follows Warrap state (19), Western Bahr El Ghazal (7), Central Equatorial state (5), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (4), Lakes (3), Western Equatoria state (1) Upper Nile (1), Jonglei (3), Eastern Equatoria state (1) and Unity (3).
- Clinical epidemiological investigations of new cases still ongoing, the majority of the cases have already been investigated.

#### Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in South Sudan

- Six hundred and seventy-eight new cases were identified in Week 10, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed cases to 95541, including 328 imported cases mainly from South Sudanese returnees (157), Uganda (52), and Kenya (19).
- Nine healthcare workers were confirmed as cases in Week 10 with an infection cluster continuing in Mapourdit Hospital, bringing the cumulative case tally among healthcare workers to 249.
- Similar to trends observed in the last three epi weeks (07-09), the case count and average positivity yield declined to 549 (12.4%) in Week 10 2021.
- There was a 75% decrease in reported deaths in Week 10 compared to Week 09, but mortality surveillance and reporting in the community needs to be active. One hundred four cases have died, yielding a case fatality rate of 1.1%
- The positivity rate has been more than 5% since Week 05, peaking at 22% in Week 07. Average positivity yields have been declining for the last three epi weeks. 35 (44%) out of the 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case.
- A partial lockdown imposed on 3 February 2021 that entails a ban on social gatherings, closure of schools, entertainment places and limiting the number of passengers in public vehicles is still in place.

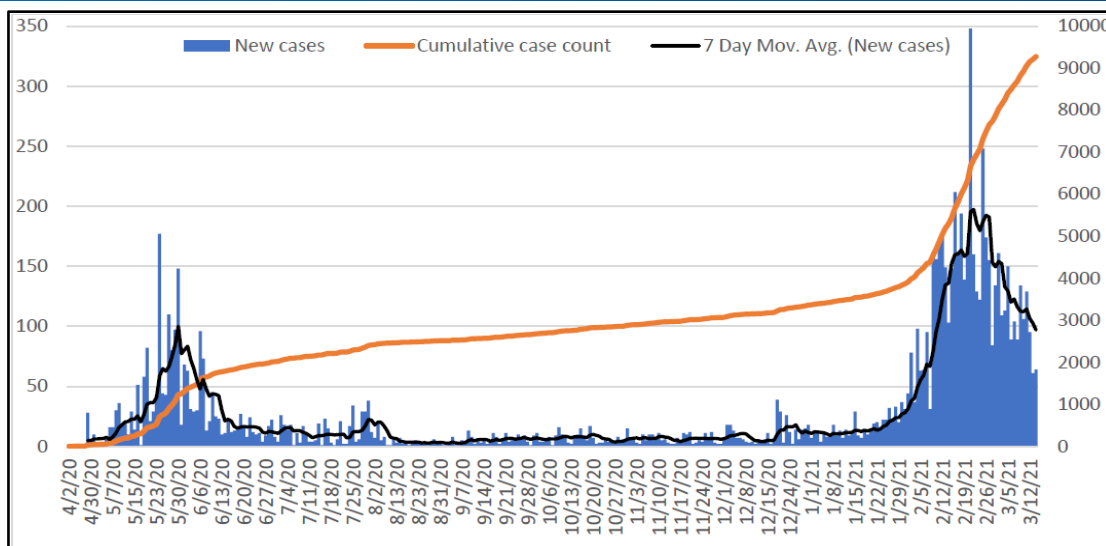


Figure 3: Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 10 2021, showing new cases (blue bars), rolling 7-day average of reported cases (black line), and total cumulative reported cases (yellow line)

For more information on the COVID-19 outbreak and public health response measures, please refer to the national weekly situation update. <http://moh.gov.ss/covid-19.php>

### Suspected Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Yirol, Lakes

- There were no new suspect human RVF cases reported in Yirol during the period under review.
- Joint outbreak investigations were conducted from 3 to 10 December 2020 and from 21 to 24 December 2020 to collect samples both human and animal samples. All the 22 human samples collected from the suspected human cases tested negative for Rift valley fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, Ebola virus, and Marburg. Of the 53 animal samples collected during this mission, six (6) tested IgM positive for RVF.
- A follow-up mission from 17-24 December 2020 collected 160 animal samples (70 cattle; 81 goats; 9 sheep) and tested them initially at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Juba. The test results revealed two IgM positive cattle samples and one IgM positive goat sample. There were IgG positive samples reported in cattle (27), goats (8), and sheep (1). The samples have been shipped to the OIE RVF reference laboratory in South Africa for confirmatory testing.
- Coordination between human and animal counterparts is ongoing and planning for another joint investigation and assessment mission has been initiated.
- Continued enhanced surveillance, risk communication, community sensitization and coordination between the human and animal health counterparts is recommended.

### Ebola virus disease (EVD) response readiness capacities in South Sudan

- Following the confirmation of the 11<sup>th</sup> EVD outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (North Kivu) on 7 February 2021, South Sudan activated the EVD preparedness platform. The updated EVD readiness for South Sudan is estimated at 44%. A costed preparedness and operational plan has been finalized to facilitate resource mobilization and its implementation to enhance readiness capacities.

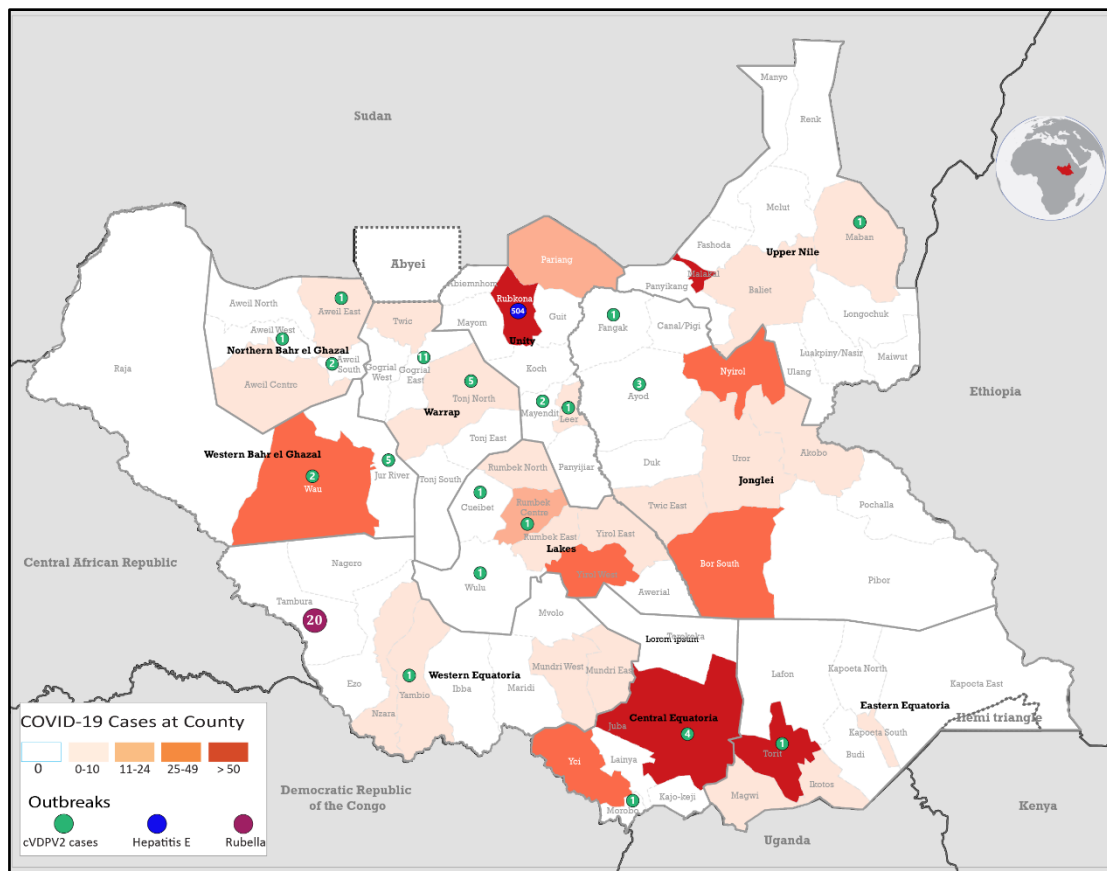


Figure 4: Active disease outbreaks by counties in South as of week 10, 2021

For more details, visit: <https://www.afro.who.int/publications/south-sudan-weekly-disease-surveillance-bulletin-2020>

## Operational gaps and challenges

- Limited resources to cover all the affected counties.
- Weak coordination mechanisms at the sub-national level.
- Insecurity and inaccessibility in conflict-affected counties.
- Huge operational costs measured against available donor funds
- Inadequate human resources for health at subnational levels

## Resource Mobilization

### Key Donors

Name of appeal	Required US \$	Secured in US \$	A gap in US \$
WHE Operations	<b>22 million</b>	<b>2 million</b>	<b>20 million</b>

WHO Country Office of South Sudan registers appreciation for the support provided by all our donors. The donors are listed in alphabetical order.

- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)
- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- European Union (EU)
- European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
- Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The Government of Japan
- The Department for International Development (DFID)

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- The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF)
- World bank

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