

South Sudan: Bi-Weekly Humanitarian Situation Report

Emergency type: Humanitarian Crises

Issue 06 | Date: 16– 31 March 2021

KEY FIGURES

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

COVID-19

10 281 confirmed cases	113 deaths	135545 Tests performed	9 835 recoveries
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IPC PHASE 5

108 000 People targeted	6 Counties	5 939 consultations conducted
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HIGHLIGHTS

- A cumulative of 10 281 COVID-19 confirmed cases and 113 deaths (case fatality rate of 1.1%) have been reported in South Sudan since the onset of the outbreak.
- 292 healthcare workers have been confirmed for COVID 19 since the start of the outbreak on 5 April 2020.
- South Sudan's COVID-19 vaccination drive kicked off on 6 April 2021 with health workers receiving their first dose of the Astra Zeneca vaccine in Juba.
- WHO has graded the humanitarian emergency occasioned by the severe food insecurity as a Grade 2 event that will require additional resources and support from the regional and headquarters for an adequate response.
- WHO delivered 164 interagency health kits (can support 227 000 people), 84 pneumonia kits, 10 severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits, and 21 cholera investigation kits have been delivered to the responding partners in the six priority IPC 5 counties.
- Five confirmed and 27 suspected rubella cases have been line-listed in Tambura where rubella virus transmission is going on

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



South Sudan rolled out the COVID-19 vaccine on 6 April 2021. Hon Elizabeth Achuei Yol, Minister of Health received the first shot. Photo Credit: WHO

¹ UN Protection of Civilians'

Overview of the Humanitarian Crisis

- **Insecurity in Central Equatoria State continues to disrupt the delivery of services:** The widespread incidences of insecurity in Juba, Kajo Keji, Yei, Lanya and Morobo counties of Central Equatoria continue to disrupt the delivery of humanitarian services to the communities in need. In Lainya and Yei counties fighting between opposing groups has displaced 1,500 civilians to Yei town. In Kajo Keji, 29 000 internally displaced people (IDP) in Logo IDP settlement remain in urgent need of emergency assistance. Increasing episodes of road ambushes and attacks on convoys and commercial vehicles along the major roads are hampering the movement of civilians, goods and services.
- **Insecurity along Bor-Pibor Road:** Banditry and looting of humanitarian supplies along the Bor-Pibor road has affected scaling up of the responses and pre-positioning of humanitarian supplies in the Greater Pibor Administrative Areas (GPAA) ahead of the rainy season.
- **Planned transitioning of Malakal PoC site:** The Malakal PoC site, the only remaining PoC site, is preparing to transition to an IDP site. Bentiu IDP site, the latest PoC site to transition to an IDP site, was handed over to Unity State on 24 March 2021 after completion of the transition processes.
- **Improving insecurity in Tonj North:** The security situation in the Tonj counties is improving although localized incidents continue to be reported. The sub-national violence in the Greater Tonj area had displaced over 50 000 people to Gogrial East, Tonj South and Tonj North in Warrap, and to Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal since January 2021. The improving security situation has enabled humanitarian partners to resume humanitarian assistance for the food insecure communities. The polio vaccination campaign that was postponed owing to insecurity has now been implemented between 16-20 April 2021.
- **Food Insecurity in South Sudan in 2021:** Humanitarian partners continue to intensify efforts to reach the food insecure populations with humanitarian assistance in the six 'Priority 1' counties. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report released in December 2020 projected that over 810 000 people will be in Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity out of which over 108 000 people will be in IPC Phase 5 catastrophe in the six most affected counties. The scaling up of the humanitarian response will continue into the lean season (May-July) during which the rainy season and expected flooding may worsen the situation. The ongoing multisectoral response continues to face multiple access challenges owing to insecurity, limited resources for the responding partners, and limited functional health facilities that can provide the basic primary health services in the most affected counties.

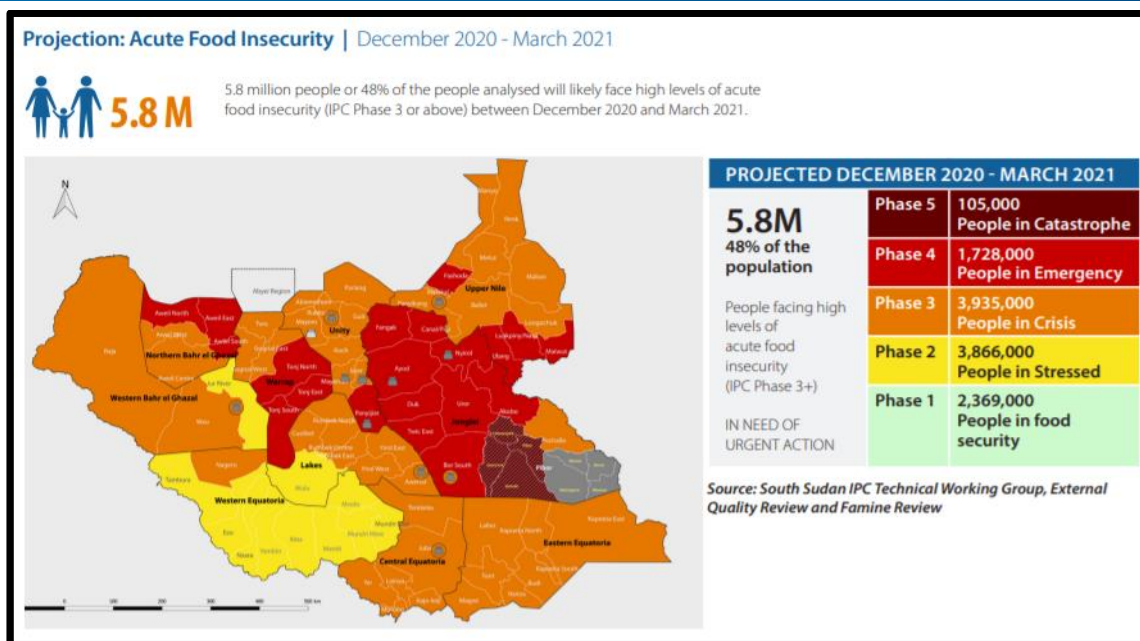


Figure 1: population estimates by IPC Phase and State based on the compilation of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group

Emergency Response Activities

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

- The humanitarian emergency occasioned by the severe food insecurity has been graded as a Grade 2 event through a grading teleconference call between the WHO country office, regional office and the headquarters. Additional resources and support from the regional and headquarters will be availed to the country office to further scale up the ongoing response.
- Efforts by health partners towards ensuring access to health services through both static and mobile are continuing across the six 'Priority 1' counties of Pibor, Akobo, Tonj East, Tonj South, Tonj North, and Aweil South. Over 128 196 consultations have been conducted by health facilities across the six counties since week 01 of 2021.
- Prevention and preparedness to respond to potential infectious disease outbreaks in the severely food insecure and undernourished populations are paramount in averting excess morbidity and mortality during such emergencies. So far oral cholera vaccination campaigns have been done in four locations (Gumuruk, Pibor, Verteth and Lekuangule) in Pibor while another county, Boma, within the Greater Pibor Administrative Area will benefit from the campaign in the coming weeks. benefited from two rounds of oral cholera vaccination campaign reaching 86 313 (93%) in the first. Further, alert investigation and sample collection and testing for cholera, measles and other epidemic-prone diseases are ongoing. The counties have also benefitted from two rounds of polio vaccination campaigns in response to the confirmed vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreak. However, the campaign in Tonj East could not be conducted because of insecurity in the area. 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.
- Efforts towards improving routine immunization coverage are continuing in the IPC 5 priority counties. Aweil South, Tonj North and Tonj South have completed a round of Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) to augment the routine immunization at the health facilities. The vaccination activity has failed to kick off in Tonj East because of insecurity.
- Resource mobilization to ensure the availability of adequate essential and emergency stocks for responding partners is continuing. WHO is supporting emergency partners in the six "Priority 1"

counties to enable them to provide consistent access to the basic health services in the counties. 164 interagency health kits (can support 227 000 people), 84 pneumonia kits, 10 severe acute malnutrition with medical complication (SAM/MC) kits, and 21 cholera investigation kits have been delivered to the responding partners.

- Weekly trends of the top infectious diseases are being monitored for potential upsurges and timely investigation.

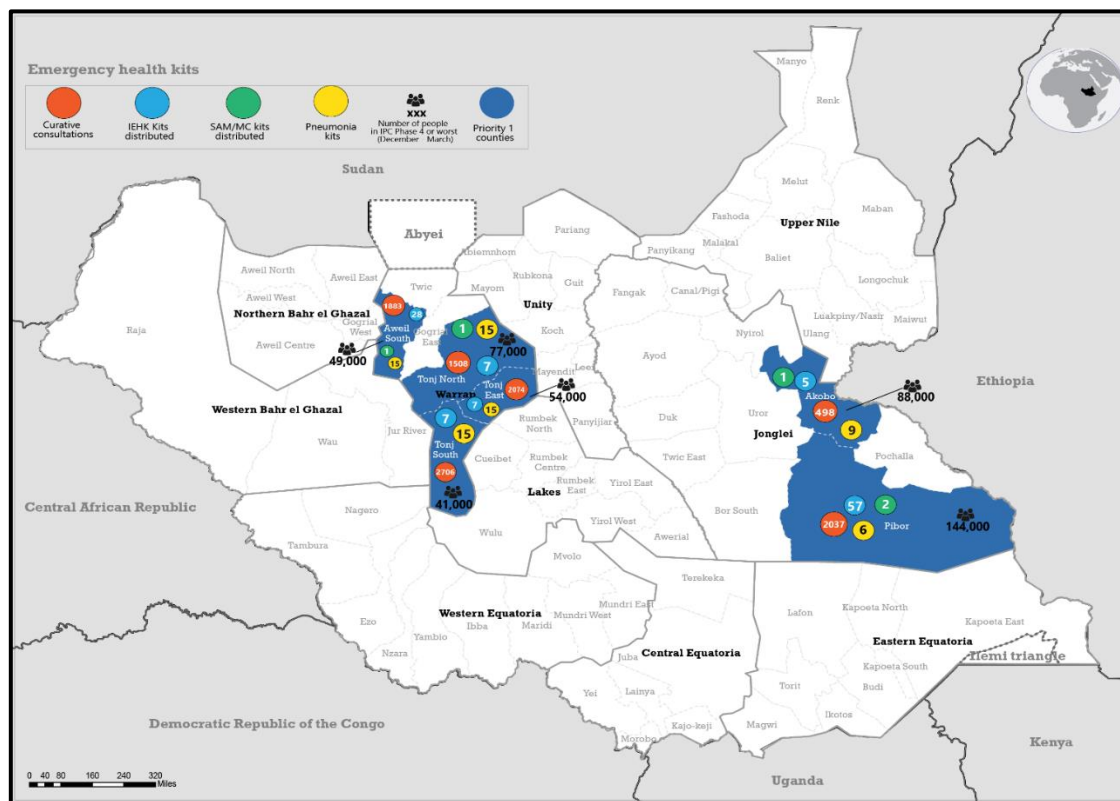


Figure 2: Emergency health kits delivered, and weekly consultations conducted in the six priority IPC5 counties as of week 13 2021

Update on floods and response

- To reduce the impact of the predicted flooding in 2021 during the rainy season, rehabilitation of dykes in Bor South and Twic East counties is ongoing. The rehabilitation works on the dykes are expected to be completed by the end of April 2021. Further, prepositioning of critical humanitarian supplies is going on while the roads are still passable.
- Humanitarian responses scale up for locations affected by unseasonal flooding have been recommended. The affected locations 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).

Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)

- In week 13 of 2021, IDSR reporting completeness and timeliness were 88% and 68% respectively at the health facility level. Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN) reporting completeness and timeliness were 95% and 85% respectively during the reporting period.
- Malaria (30 alerts), acute watery diarrhea (28 alerts), acute respiratory infections (17 alerts) and acute bloody diarrhea (12 alerts) accounted for the majority of the 98 alerts generated through EWARS. It is critical that the alerts are verified, investigated and samples collected for testing to identify the causative agents. Isolating and serotyping to identify the specific etiologies is

particularly key for acute bloody and watery diarrhea where the agents with the potential of causing major outbreaks should be identified.

- 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. Thirty-two cases have been line-listed since week 2 of 2021. The recommended response includes continued surveillance and testing, symptomatic case management and mobilizing communities to enhance uptake for routine immunization.

Confirmed and suspected Outbreaks

Polio Virus Outbreak

- No new circulating Vaccine-Derived Polio Virus, type 2 (cVDPV2) case was reported during the reporting period. Only four cases have been confirmed in 2021. The cumulative caseload in the country stands at 54 cases and 21 contacts.
- The outbreak has affected 25 counties across the 10 states although 20% of the cases reside in Warrap state. The geographical distribution of the cases is as follow: Central Equatorial state (5 cases), Eastern Equatoria state (2 cases), Jonglei (4 cases), Lakes (4 cases), Northern Bahr El Ghazal (4 cases), Unity (6 cases), Upper Nile (1 case), Warrap state (20 cases), Western Bahr El Ghazal (7 cases), and Western Equatoria state (1 case)
- The date of onset of symptoms for the most recent case was 25 January 2021 while the first case's date of onset was 11 June 2020.
- All the states that started the second round of the mOPV2 response campaign on 16 Feb 2021 have completed the campaign, except for some counties with security challenges.
- Genetic sequencing has indicated that the virus circulating in the country is closely related to the virus circulating in Chad, Sudan, and Ethiopia, however, 69% of the cases are related to local transmission.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in South Sudan

- There are 10 281 (331 imported) cumulative cases in South Sudan since April 2020 when the outbreak was confirmed in the country as at the end of epidemiological week 13, 2021.
- A decreasing trend cases, alerts and test positivity rate continues to be observed for seven consecutive weeks. The average positivity was 3.5% as of the end reporting period.
- Cumulatively, most cases occur among the 20-49 age group with males accounting for the majority of the confirmed cases.
- Two hundred and fifty-six health workers have been infected with COVID-19 including a new case that was confirmed in Week 13 2021.
- The majority of the cases are asymptomatic and are managed at home with very few requiring admission for critical care.
- 35 (44%) out of the 80 counties in the country have a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- 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.
- South Sudan's COVID-19 vaccination drive kicked off on 6 April 2021 with health workers getting their first dose of the Astra Zeneca vaccine in three main health facilities (Juba Teaching Hospital, Juba Police Hospital and Juba Military Hospital) in Juba. The country received 132,000 doses of the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine through the COVAX facility on 25 March 2021. The initial phase of the vaccination activity will be targeting healthcare workers and the elderly (65 years and above).

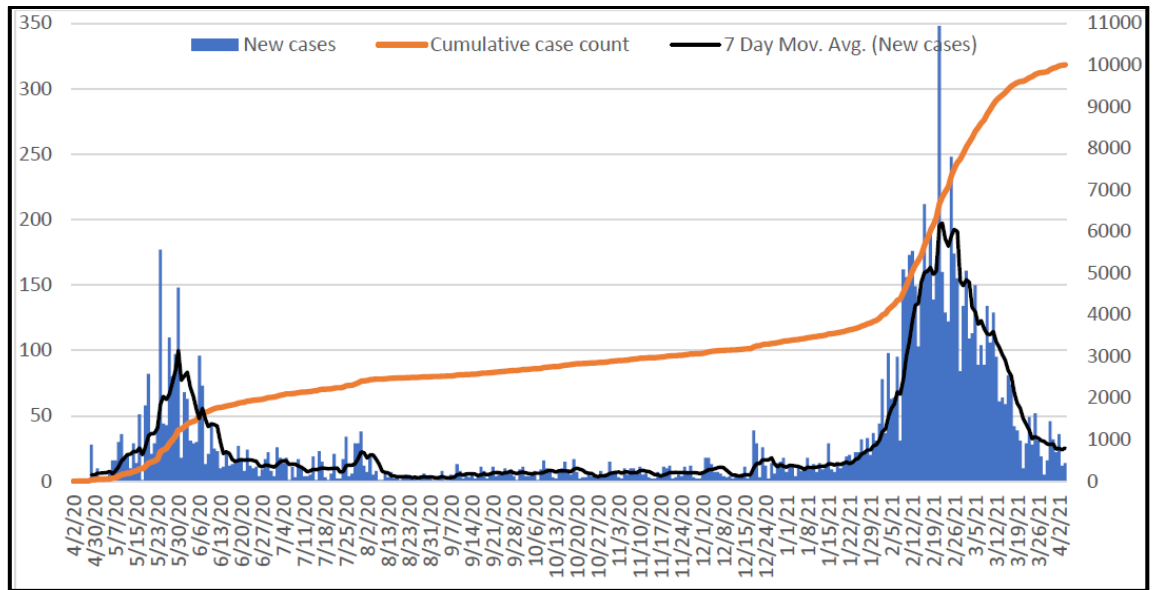


Figure 3: Epidemiological curve of reported cases through Week 13 2021, showing new cases (blue bars), rolling 7-day average of reported cases (black line), and total cumulative reported cases (yellow line)

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>

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

- South Sudan’s activated EVD preparedness platform continues to monitor the outbreak situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). A costed preparedness and operational plan has been finalized to facilitate resource mobilization and its implementation to enhance readiness capacities. The updated EVD readiness for South Sudan is estimated at 44%.

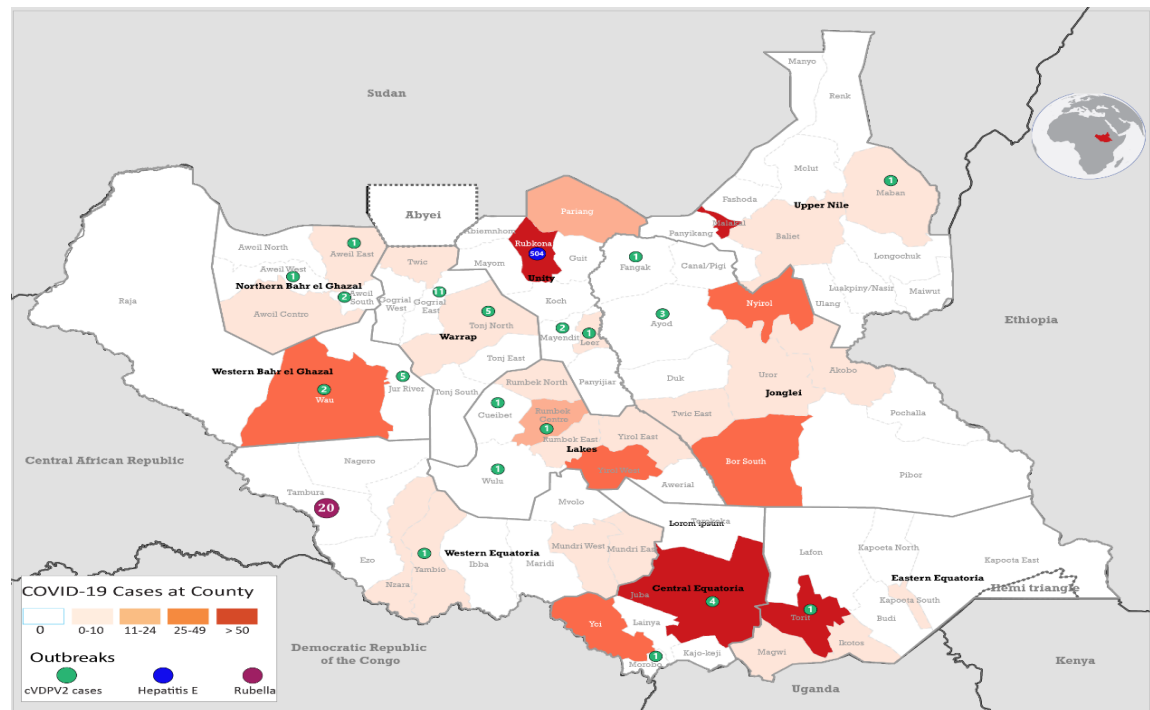


Figure 4: Active disease outbreaks by counties in South Sudan as of week 13, 2021

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Operational gaps and challenges

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

- 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

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

Key Donors

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

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