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HIGHLIGHTS

• More than 48,000 people receive food in Yei town. The last distribution of food was in November 2016.
• Fall armyworm outbreak affects farms and likely to exacerbate South Sudan’s food crisis.
• In the last 13 months, South Sudan has experienced the deadliest cholera outbreak since its independence.
• South Sudan Humanitarian Fund allocates $28m to 90 priority projects to provide humanitarian assistance.
• Over 9,600 IDPs and host communities receive assistance in Pading, Jonglei.

FIGURES

No. of Internally Displaced People 1.94 million
No. of refugees in neighboring countries 1.94 million
No. of people severely food insecure (June-July 2017) 6 million

FUNDING

$892 million funding received in 2017*
54.4% of appeal funding received in 2017
$1.6 billion requirements for South Sudan 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

Fund allocates $28m to humanitarian assistance in South Sudan

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) has allocated US$28.1 million to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection in 24 priority locations. The second standard allocation round will fund 90 top priority projects to be implemented by national and international non-governmental organizations (NGO) and United Nations agencies.

This round prioritizes health (16 per cent), protection (14.2 per cent) and water, sanitation and hygiene (14.2 per cent), emergency shelter and non-food items (12.5 per cent), food security and livelihoods (10.7 per cent), and nutrition (10.7 per cent). It also provides funding to common logistics services (10.7 per cent) to support the transportation of aid workers and supplies to hard-to-reach areas during the current rainy season.

In line with the Grand Bargain adopted at the World Humanitarian Summit, this round promotes principled humanitarian action that is “as local as possible and as international as necessary”. Some 30 per cent ($8.3 million) in this round was allocated to national NGOs. Guided by the principles of proportionality and acuteness, the SSHF also promotes the efficiency of the humanitarian response. To this end, the second round allocated 27 per cent ($7.5 million) to procure emergency supplies (core pipelines), 11 per cent ($3.2 million) to support logistics while 62 per cent ($17.4 million) of the total allocation will go to the front line response.

This round brings the total funding allocated in 2017 to $50.6 million. The SSHF enables targeting of funds to the most critical needs, and improves efficiency and timely response to emergencies in South Sudan.

Fall Armyworm outbreak could worsen food crisis

An outbreak of fall armyworm may further damage South Sudanese farming, exacerbating food shortages in areas of the country where half the population is already facing hunger, experts have warned. The crop-eating caterpillars have been reported by the Government of South Sudan in Magwi in Eastern Equatoria, Yei and Juba in Central Equatoria, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and parts of Jonglei.

*According to the Financial Tracking Service (https://fts.unocha.org). Additional pledges have been announced but not yet recorded.
Fall armyworm outbreak poses an additional challenge to South Sudan’s prospects of agricultural recovery.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that the outbreak poses an additional challenge to South Sudan’s prospects of agricultural recovery. Partners will launch a country-wide strategy and awareness campaign to promote effective and efficient control interventions. However, options for immediate response are limited as knowledge of control interventions is low, and costs are high, leaving them out of reach for the majority of farmers in South Sudan. As a result, it will be nearly impossible to eliminate and will most likely spread to all areas of the country at an alarming rate.

A new pest in Africa, fall armyworm prefers maize plants but also feeds on sorghum, millet, vegetables and other crops. As maize and sorghum are staple foods in the country, the infestation is putting an increasing number of people at risk of hunger. The fall armyworm outbreak is an additional challenge for South Sudan which is currently facing an unprecedented food crisis. More than 80 percent of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

An estimated 6 million people (50 per cent of the population) are severely food insecure this lean season (June-July). This is the greatest number of people ever to experience severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) in South Sudan.

Read more: FAO press release on fall armyworm outbreak in South Sudan -- http://bit.ly/2tFOv4x

Thousands assisted in Central Equatoria

Humanitarian partners are responding to the needs of thousands of people who have been affected by conflict in Central Equatoria.

In Lainya and Wonduruba counties, an inter-agency team has recently provided water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), seeds and tools, food rations, medical supplies and essential household items to about 4,500 conflict-affected households. Several thousands of people displaced by conflict since July 2016 have reportedly started returning from their hide outs deep in the bush. Partners are planning to distribute seeds, tools and food in the coming days.

In Yei town, a food distribution for 48,000 people was completed on 24 July alongside immunization and nutrition services. At the same time, partners worked closely with the community on sensitization around gender-based violence victims, access to safe water, and cholera prevention measures. Child Protection partners were also on standby to identify unaccompanied children and Protection partners were present to identify possible vulnerable cases.

Access to food and farmland is a major challenge in Yei, with reports of civilians abducted when attempting to reach their plots. Many people are planting in and around their gardens, however this will not allow them to produce enough food.

Access to some areas in Central Equatoria, including parts of Kajo-Keji County, remains a challenge. Partners are also unable to access some areas outside Yei town, including Mukaya and Kupera, due to continued access denials by non-state armed actors, and

Humanitarians respond to needs of thousands of people affected by conflict in Central Equatoria.

Fall armyworm attack on maize plant. Photo: FAO.

Vaccination campaign in Yei town on 19 July. Photo: OCHA.
New arrivals in Uganda continue to cite deterioration of the security situation, with ethnically motivated attacks, prolonged violent conflict and forced recruitment by armed groups.

Insecurity is preventing internally displaced people in Gemeiza islands from accessing their homes, which could interrupt their planting season, as well as delayed the provision of humanitarian assistance.

**Refugee outflow continues**

The number of South Sudanese people who have fled to Uganda continues to increase. About 9,437 South Sudanese refugees arrived in Uganda between 5 and 18 July—representing an average daily rate of 674 people. There are now 990,761 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda and their number is expected to reach one million within the next few weeks if the current arrival rate continues. Half of all South Sudanese refugees are in Uganda.

The majority of new arrivals are women and children, who cite the deterioration of the security situation, with ethnically motivated attacks, prolonged violent conflict and forced recruitment of young people by armed groups as their main reasons for fleeing. New arrivals also report armed clashes in Morobo County in Central Equatoria.

Refugees continue to use informal border points in Adjumani, Moyo and Lamwo to reach relative safety in Uganda, with many having travelled for several days through the bush in order to avoid armed groups who have reportedly set up roadblocks along the main roads to the border.


**Cholera response scaled up, but emergency remains**

Humanitarian organizations are scaling up efforts to contain South Sudan’s longest and most widespread cholera outbreak, by improving access to medical care, cholera vaccines, water, sanitation and hygiene services, and bolstering surveillance and social mobilization.

For the last 13 months, South Sudan has experienced the deadliest cholera outbreak since its independence. Cholera is an acute enteric infection caused by the ingestion of bacteria present in contaminated water or food.

Cumulatively, 18,040 cholera cases, including 328 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.8 per cent), have been reported in 24 counties across South Sudan between 18 June 2016 and 23 July 2017.

Active transmission continues in 11 counties including Ayod, Duk, Juba, Kapoeta East, Kapoeta North, Kapoeta South, Nyirol, Tonj East, Uror, Yirol East and Yirol West. However, in the past three weeks, health partners have observed a general decline in the number of reported cholera cases in the country.

At least 50 cholera treatment facilities, including cholera treatment centres and units, and oral rehydration points, are currently operational in the areas with active cholera transmission. Hygiene promotion activities are also ongoing.

To complement the current response in areas with active cholera transmission, 500,000 people are expected to be vaccinated against the disease in Kapoeta South, Kapoeta North, Kapoeta East and Tonj East in the coming days.

Since the beginning of 2017, nearly 261,500 people have been vaccinated as part of first
round campaigns and about 161,320 people vaccinated as part of second round campaigns in Ayod County and Bor Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Jonglei; Aburoc and Malakal town, Upper Nile; Leer, Bentiu PoC, Bentiu and Rubkona towns, Unity; Mingkaman IDP settlement, Lakes; and Don Bosco settlement, Juba.

An additional two million doses of oral cholera vaccines are in the process of being delivered to mitigate the further spreading of cholera in high-risk areas and to interrupt transmission in areas currently affected. Partners are also enhancing cross-border surveillance and response, as all the states in Sudan neighbouring South Sudan are affected by acute watery diarrhoea with active transmission.


**Jonglei crisis: Partners in Pading response**

An Inter-Cluster Response Mission to Pading in Nyirol County, Jonglei has recently supported over 9,600 displaced people and their host community, who were in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Pading hosts over 15,000 people, including over 7,400 internally displaced people (IDPs) who fled conflict and hunger in Pigi, Kaldak, Khor Flush, Tariel, Canal and other locations in Ayod County.

Humanitarian partners have reported that some vulnerable people are surviving on wild leaves for food and small fish from rivers. Most of the people fetch drinking water from contaminated water sources, and sanitation is reportedly poor, as a lack of latrines forces the population to practice open defecation.

Health and education services are nearly non-existent. The lack of a school in the area means that children are involved in cattle keeping, and some opt to join armed groups. Nyirol County is also affected by the current outbreak of cholera, with 39 cases and two deaths reported. During the mission, partners screened a total 2,080 children under age 5. A total of 3,896 children were vaccinated against polio and measles, and over 1,280 women of child bearing age were also vaccinated against tetanus.

The humanitarian partners also distributed Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and non-food item kits including buckets, collapsible jerry cans, soap and filters for water purification to over 1,600 vulnerable households. To improve access to food, partners distributed fishing kits including hooks, twine for making nets, and three varieties of fast-growing vegetable seeds were also provided. The response mission also coincided with a general food distribution exercise targeting over 9,200 people.

According to recent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) data, most of the 1.7 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4)—one-step below Famine/Catastrophe on the IPC scale—are in Jonglei. Partners continue to scale up humanitarian assistance in the most affected counties, especially in Ayod, Canal/Pigi, Duk, Nyirol and Uror, where IPC projected continued deterioration of the situation if humanitarian assistance did not reach the intended beneficiaries.

Humanitarian partners have launched two response missions in which more than 80,000 people in Akobo, Nyirol and Uror counties received assistance and protection. Jonglei’s humanitarian situation deteriorated rapidly following April’s fighting which displaced more than 100,000 people and forced nearly 60 humanitarian workers to relocate.

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