

HIGHLIGHTS

- Freedom of movement critical during the planting season.
- Livestock disease increased dramatically since last year.
- Common Humanitarian Fund supports rebuilding markets.
- Refugee influx in Unity State.



Women in Nimule collect Emergency fishing kits. Source: FAO

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FIGURES

# of internally displaced people	1.5 million
# of refugees in neighboring countries	515,000

FUNDING

\$235 million

commitments received against Nairobi OCHA-IGAD High Level Event

\$529 million

pledged at Nairobi high-level event

\$1.8 billion

requirements for South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan

Freedom of movement critical to food security

Food security under threat

In March, the rains started in South Sudan, meaning the planting season was just around the corner. The ongoing conflict continued to restrict civilians' freedom of movement, limiting their ability to access land to plant crops, tend to their livestock, and trade.

For South Sudanese to take advantage of the planting season, they need to be able to move freely without the fear of violence. Traditional livestock migration patterns have been severely disrupted - increasing livestock disease. In 2014, planting in conflict affected-areas was dramatically reduced, pushing millions of people into hunger. The conflict has also disrupted trade and degraded markets.

Already in March, more than 2.5 million people were severely food insecure. During the lean season, between April and August, millions more may face starvation and disease. In the worst affected areas, the lean period has started earlier than usual. Civilians must be able to provide for themselves to prevent hunger.

Markets are weakened

Continued hostilities have depressed the economy and restricted trade routes, especially in the most affected states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity. Markets in Bentiu and Malakal were not functional or functioning poorly.

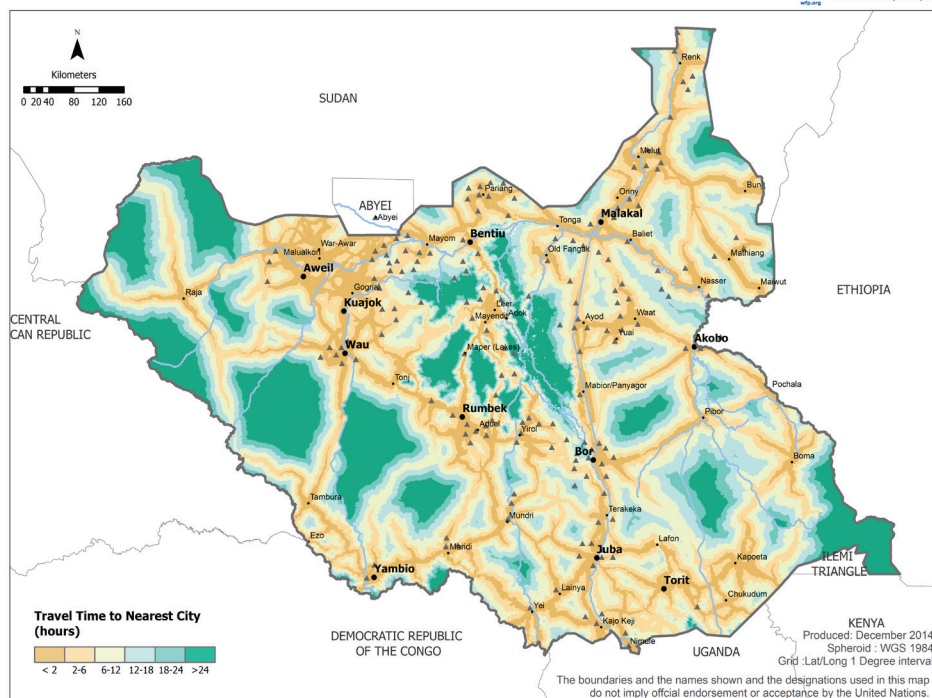
Suppliers were fearful to deliver goods to conflict areas, reducing the supply of goods in those areas, and increasing prices. In Akobo, Jonglei State, the number of traders had, as of October 2014, dropped to 15 per cent of normal - with similar numbers in Malakal. In Bentiu, Bor, and Renk, the number was closer to 30 per cent of normal.

The maps on page 2 show how mobility has reduced since the crisis broke out. People and markets in conflict affected states are increasingly isolated. States outside major conflict areas were also affected. Market capacity in Rumbek was down due to poor road conditions, although these vary seasonally.

Increased livestock disease

The conflict also continued to limit the movement of herders and their animals. This has not only exacerbated community tensions, but led to an increase in animal disease, further threatening food security.

SOUTH SUDAN - Pre-Conflict Travel Time



From September to December 2014, 22 livestock disease outbreaks were reported in South Sudan - mainly foot-and-mouth, East Coast fever, and trypanosomiasis. During the same period in 2013, there were no outbreaks reported.

The increase in animal disease and death further stretches household coping capacity. Household income decreased, and malnutrition in pastoralist communities who rely on milk, especially for children or pregnant women, rises.

Planting season approaches

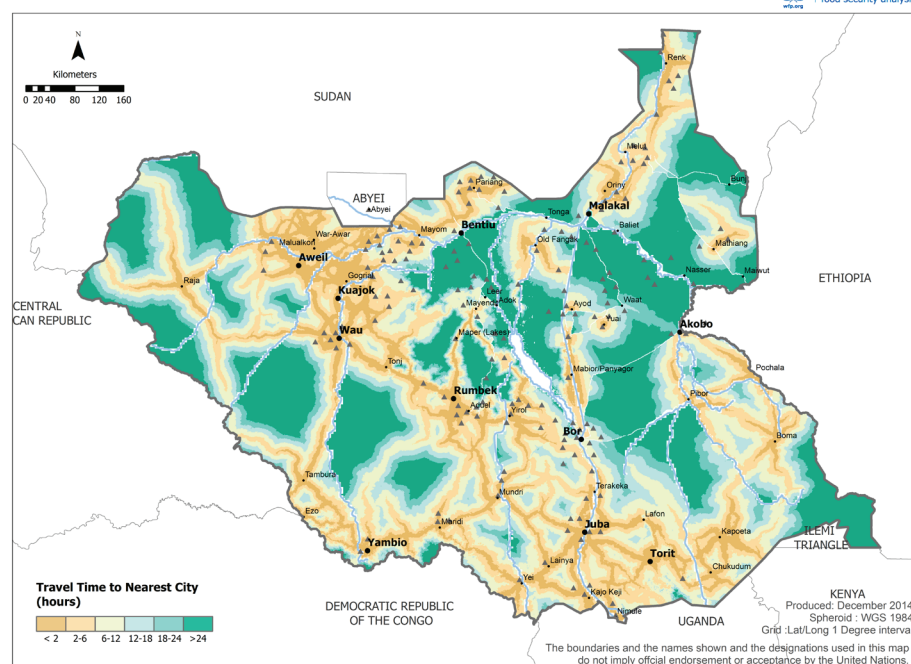
As planting season approaches farmers need to be able to access their land freely in order to harvest. In conflict affected states, tranquillity is particularly important. If people fail to plant this season, like last year - when up to 80 per cent of people in conflict affected areas were unable to cultivate - the risk of hunger will grow.

Response continues

The few weeks ahead are a critical opportunity to implement food and livelihoods programmes to prevent a further deterioration of the situation. Drawing from lessons learnt in 2014, when the aid operation prevented famine in some counties, aid agencies continue to scale up food aid and livelihood support. Distribution of seeds and farming tools, including vaccinating livestock have already started. Food pre-positioning and distributions are ongoing.

Partners are also working to prevent animal disease, improve milk availability through supplementary feeding, and build partner and government capacity to respond to animal disease. However, only peace will allow pastoralists to return to normal grazing areas, traders to trade, and farmers to plant a full harvest. If South Sudanese are allowed to help them-

SOUTH SUDAN - Current Travel Time



The conflict has increased "travel time to nearest city" in the most conflict affected states in the north-east of the country - the deep green indicates the longest travel time. This hinders trade and increases food prices, further threatening food security. Data and map Source: WFP. (VAM-Food Security Analysis) "Market Assessment South Sudan" February 2015

selves, deepening crisis can be averted.

Read more: Freedom of Movement Vital During the Planting Season. HC Statement: <http://t.co/pMx9G3OTpj>. Market Assessment South Sudan: February 2015. World Food Programme: <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/market-assessment-south-sudan-february-2015-data-collected-october-2014>. South Sudan Livestock Alert: December 14. Food and Agriculture Organisation. <http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/food-crisis-escalates-south-sudan>.

CHF supports markets

The Common Humanitarian Fund supported the construction of stalls in Akobo, Jonglei to revive markets.



Market stalls constructed at Akobo market. Source: Nile Hope

Limited earning opportunities and early depletion of family food stocks will push millions more people into destitution.

With market functioning degraded by the crisis, partners are helping South Sudanese to strengthen trade and markets with support from the Common Humanitarian Fund. In Akobo in Jonglei, one of the areas worst affected by the current crisis, partners have supported the construction of stalls for communities to sell fish, meat, vegetables and other products.

Continued fighting has also disrupted markets which are, to a large extent, the traditional backbone of the South Sudanese economy. There are growing fears that limited earning opportunities and early depletion of family food stocks will push millions of people into destitution.

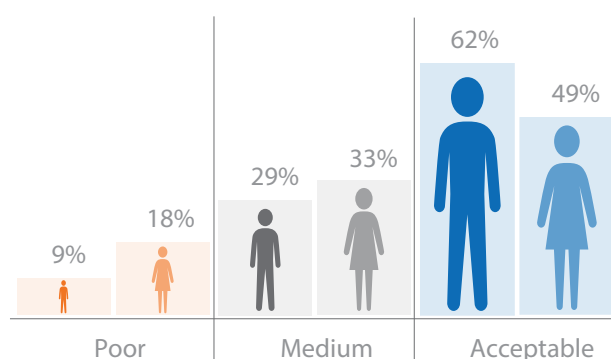
The South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund is a multi-donor pooled fund established in 2012. In 2015, the CHF has allocated \$135 million in South Sudan. Current donors include: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Women and food security

Most of those whose income sources are unreliable or unsustainable are women.

Women and girls are among the groups most affected by the crisis in South Sudan. Female headed households are more likely to have a poor or medium food consumption scores, compared to households headed up by men, making women-headed-households even more vulnerable to the effects of conflict.

Sex of head of household by food consumption score



Source: South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, FSL cluster. 2014.

Aid agencies are working on projects that support women and female-headed households in building livelihoods. One example is the “Emergency Livelihood Programme” which uses crop and vegetable kits designed to be light-weight, enabling women to carry them easily. Partners are also training women farmers on improved vegetable production techniques.

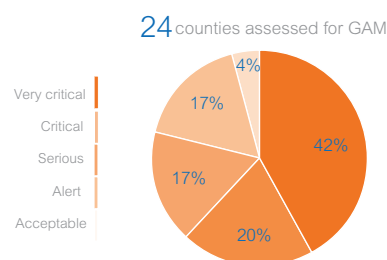
Scaling up nutrition response

South Sudan’s planting season precedes the “hunger gap” or lean season, when malnutrition rates reach their seasonal peak as families stretch to their last reserves from the harvest and rely more heavily on food purchased at market.

This year, for some of the most conflict-affected counties, the lean season is arriving earlier due to stressed household food security caused by the conflict, poorer harvest in worst affected areas, and weakened markets.

Poor access to safe water and sanitation were chronic contributors to malnutrition long before the current conflict.

Malnutrition rates remain high
Global acute malnutrition rates in select counties*



Source: Nutrition cluster, September 2014

Malnutrition prevalence is expected to remain above the emergency threshold in most parts of the country in 2015. The causes are myriad, including inadequate consumption supplies, constrained service delivery, and the impending rainy season which will limit humanitarian access.

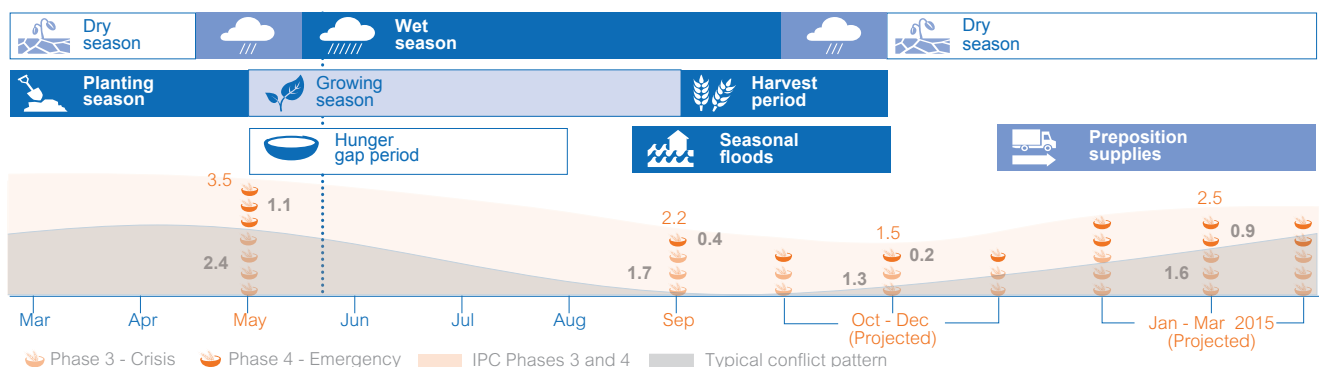
The conflict is not the only cause of malnutrition. Many underlying factors are chronic. Poor access to safe water and sanitation, were among the many problems South Sudanese faced before the current conflict.

Southern Unity, in particular, is an area of concern. An increase in nutrition treatment admissions has been reported in Leer - and while this may be more indicative of better coverage (reaching more people) than poorer nutrition indicators, nutrition partners are monitoring the situation closely.

By the end of March, over 20,000 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition so far in 2015. Over 415,000 children under five were reached with blanket feeding and 75,000 pregnant and lactating women were reached with nutrition treatment. Nutrition partners plan to reach 1.9 million people with nutrition support by the end of the year.

Over 40,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition have already been pre-positioned ahead of the rainy season.

Seasonal events in crisis-affected states and population in IPC Phases 3 and 4 (in millions)



Sources: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission Reports 2010-14; IPC Alert South Sudan September 2014

Refugee influx in Unity State

Insecurity in Sudan driving cross-border movements

Since December 2014, some 9,800 Sudanese refugees arrived in South Sudan.



Newly displaced civilians from Sudan's Nuba Mountains approach Yida in South Sudan.

Source: UNHCR/S.KuirChok

Even as South Sudanese continue to flee their homes due to the ongoing conflict and displacement, South Sudan is itself a refuge for people fleeing violence in Sudan. There are currently nearly 260,000 refugees inside South Sudan, most of them living in six camps in Unity and Upper Nile. Many of them are from South Kordofan in Sudan, and recent months have seen an increase in the number of new arrivals from this area.

Since 23 December 2014, some 9,800 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan have been transported to Ajuong

South Sudan hosts nearly 260,000 refugees, 236,000 of whom are from Sudan.

Thok camp from Yida border town. Most of these - 85 per cent - are new arrivals, fleeing ongoing conflict and insecurity in the Nuba Mountains. The remainder are long time residents of Yida, originally a spontaneous settlement sheltering nearly 70,000 refugees.

The new arrivals from South Kordofan are stretching existing camp infrastructure, creating gaps in essential services like sanitation, health, and education. Schools have as many as 140 students per classroom. To accommodate new arrivals and provide expanded services, partners are working with authorities to extend Ajuong Thok, improve services there, and establish a new camp in Pamir - a project that will require US \$20 million. Overall, some US \$291 million is needed to support refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and CAR who have sought refuge in South Sudan.

Read more: UNHCR Tracks: One Mother's Courage: http://tracks.unhcr.org/2015/02/one-mothers-courage/#_ga=1.32927934.165223347.1415112864

New arrivals are stretching the existing facilities in the camps.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at unocha.org/south-sudan |