

# Flooding in Maban

24 October 2019

Heavy flooding in Maban is hampering aid delivery to more than **150,000** refugees and over **70,000** members of the host community. This intensity was last witnessed in 1984.

The only **road** that leads to Maban (Bunj – Melut) has been cut off since August and there is a looming **shortage of food** for refugees, host communities and aid workers.

Maban is on the verge of a **health hazard** and **service delivery** to UNHCR's persons of concern will continue to be disrupted with increased **criminality**.

## KEY INDICATORS

**83%\***

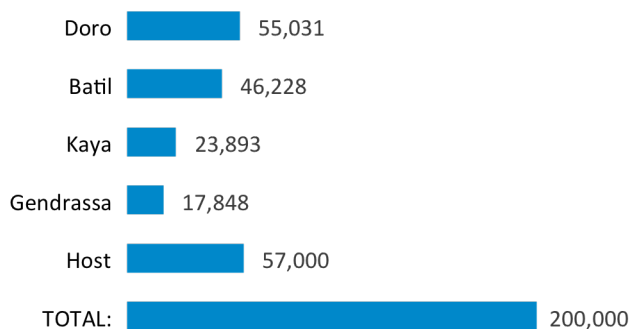
Percentage of households in refugee and host community affected by floods that started on Sunday, 13 October 2019

*\* [83%] Estimate based on information received from persons of concern*

## ESTIMATE NUMBER OF AFFECTED REFUGEE POPULATION & HOST COMMUNITY

**200,000**

## BREAKDOWN AFFECTED REFUGEE POPULATION & HOST COMMUNITY



UNHCR staff examines the extent of destruction in Bunj town.



Bunj airstrip was submerged but currently repaired. The airstrip has been receiving flights since 21<sup>st</sup> October.

## OVERVIEW

- In South Sudan, floods are a chronic and acute problem during rainy season. Historically, flooding in Maban happens every year at different intensities, often submerging villages and destroying shelters, WASH facilities, education activities, roads and airstrips. The floods in Maban are caused mainly by heavy rains from the neighbouring Ethiopian highlands. On average, two days after it rains in Ethiopian highlands, the floods into Maban.
- This year, from July to October, Maban has experienced flooding at a severity not witnessed since 1984. Families from both refugee and host communities have been displaced, roads are impassable, crops are destroyed, and humanitarian operations have been interrupted. Seeing as the rainy season runs to November, more flooding is expected.
- The only available airstrip was submerged and damaged last week. Work has been done by Action Africa Help International (AAHI) to rehabilitate 1,600 metres of the runway. The airstrip has been receiving flights as of Monday 21 October 2019.
- The only road leading to Maban (Bunj-Melut) has been impassable since August and there is a looming shortage of food for refugees, host and aid workers.
- Maban is on the verge of a health emergency. Service delivery to UNHCR's persons of concern will continue to be disrupted with increased criminality.

## FLOOD IMPACT

### OPERATIONAL

- At the height of the flood last week, 150 partner staff moved to the UNHCR compound and 146 staff were relocated to Juba. With the water level receding, several partners have started moved back to their compounds.
- Road sections are cut off, making it difficult to access Yusuf Batil, Gendrassa, Kaya and parts of Doro refugee camp. Humanitarian gained access to most parts of Doro refugee camp.
- Goods in the market are scarce and market prices have increased significantly.
- Sanitation facilities were submerged and some collapsed. Ten (10) water source points (motorized boreholes) and five (05) generators were submerged by flood waters in Doro, Yusuf Batil and Gendrassa refugee camps.
- Food distribution in the refugee camps and host community in Doro began this Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 and distribution for host community finished on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. In preparation, UNHCR and partners began a series of meetings with local authorities and refugee leaders to ensure the smooth distribution to the most vulnerable.
- UNHCR has pre-positioned emergency shelter kits and material assistance to help more than 5,000 affected families/some 25,000 people to rebuild and repair damaged shelter before October flooding. Since the reopening of the airstrip this Tuesday, UNHCR has

airlifted additional 18,000 core relief items including blanket, sleeping mats and kitchen set.

- Educational services are disrupted with displaced families occupying schools.



### **DORO REFUGEE CAMP**

- According to communication with refugee protection monitors via telephone, refugees in central, western, and southern part of Doro and Doro extension site were affected. Some of those who relocated are now occupying schools and community centres.
- Health services are open at Benamayo Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC), Mayak Primary Health Care Unit and Doro Extension Primary Health Care Unit with both skilled staff and refugee workers.
- All water collection points are now functional.

### **YUSUF BATIL REFUGEE CAMP**

- According to protection monitors, the flood damage was severe with water levels still high. Refugee families are occupying schools, churches, community centres and the UNHCR field post compound.
- Technical health and nutrition staff are providing essential lifesaving curative services at Gentil hospital and Yusuf Batil Primary Health Care Centre. The PHCC currently has all essential medicine and medical supplies, except malaria treatment drugs and rapid tests.

West Primary Health Care Unit is temporarily closed due to high water levels in the compound.

#### **KAYA REFUGEE CAMP**

- Kaya refugee camp, the farthest refugee camp from Bunj town, is still inaccessible. Though some sections of the camp have not been affected.
- Health services are being provided by skilled refugee workers. The health centre is currently full with the majority of cases being malaria. Medical supplies have been distributed through Gendrassa refugee camp.
- Refugee families are currently staying at community centres, distribution sites, humanitarian compounds and offices.

#### **GENDRASSA REFUGEE CAMP**

- Protection monitors reported Gendrassa Refugee Camp was also flooded, and refugees had begun moving to the UNHCR field post compound.
- WFP warehouses have been also affected by the floods.
- Refugee families are currently staying at community centres, schools, health facilities and humanitarian compounds and offices.
- The majority of shelters have collapsed.

#### **HOST COMMUNITY**

- Bunj hospital is functioning.
- Some shops in Bunj town are now open but with limited supplies.

## **INTER-AGENCY MISSION 23 OCTOBER 2019**

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- On 23 October, an inter-agency mission to Maban was conducted to assess at first hand the magnitude of the floods and to show solidarity with the affected population.
- The mission was led by UNHCR Representative a.i. Mr Adan Ilmi and joined by focal persons from South Sudan's Commission for Refugee Affairs together with WFP, UNICEF, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Relief International (RI), ACTED and Lutheran World Federation (LWF).
- The team met with local authorities to assure them that UNHCR and humanitarian agencies would support and provide them with the necessary assistance as needed. The delegation also met with refugee leaders and visited the food distribution centre in Doro refugee camp where both refugees and hosts were being provided with food rations.
- In all the meetings with the various groups, the urgent need for plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, tents and kitchen sets were highlighted as the top priority for the persons



affected. In consultation with the team in Maban, the airlifts are being delivered based on the above needs.

## NEED

- **Emergency NFI assistance:** Quality basic domestic items are not available in local markets. In-kind assistance is a most appropriate modality to respond rapidly and effectively to the needs of the affected communities in this emergency context.
- **Emergency shelter assistance:** Mudbrick houses and tents have been severely affected by floods with many collapsing due to the extended exposure to flood waters.
- **WASH assistance:** Collapsed and submerged latrines pose a high contamination risk. The provision of materials for construction of emergency communal latrines is critical to prevent health hazards. Chlorine for water treatment and disinfection of latrines are also required.
- **Health support:** An increase of water-borne diseases and public health hazards are expected. Morbidities from diarrhea, cough, skin diseases and pneumonia are also expected to increase while potential for cholera is omnipresent. Sanitation facilities have collapsed or seriously affected. Essential medicines and medical items are needed to ensure 9 health facilities in 4 refugee camps and Bunj hospital are supported to decrease the risk of any disease outbreak in the region. Note that all health services are open to all those in need.
- **Infrastructure repairs:** An estimated 50 kilometres of roads to access refugee camps have been significantly damaged and are currently not operable by vehicle. Facilities, including schools, warehouses, health centres, religious facilities, community and vocational training centres have been damaged. Repairing damaged roads, bridges and other buildings is critical to ensure access to persons of concern. Additional repairs are needed for the only airstrip in Maban, and represents the only access point for all humanitarian workers serving the refugee operations.

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