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In Bentiu, humanitarian assistance continued to over 22,500 people sheltering in the UN peacekeeping base.

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The number of people displaced within South Sudan rose to 923,000, with the highest increase in Upper Nile State.

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**Highlights**

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- In Bentiu, humanitarian assistance continued to over 22,500 people sheltering in the UN peacekeeping base.
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- The number of people displaced within South Sudan rose to 923,000, with the highest increase in Upper Nile State.

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**Situation overview**

Heavy fighting broke out in the northern parts of Upper Nile State on 23 April, especially Renk County. The scale of damages and casualties is yet to be confirmed. Unconfirmed reports suggested that some 30,000 - 40,000 displaced people are heading towards Melut fleeing fighting.

Tensions remained high in Bor town in Jonglei State, with more people reported to be moving out of the town. Fighting has also caused a wave of displacement in Duk and Twic East counties. In Unity, the situation in Bentiu and Rubkona towns was rather unpredictable. There were reports of fighting on 24 April. Humanitarian assistance continued to people sheltering in the UN peacekeeping base. The number of people seeking protection in the UN base has increased from 8,000 on 15 April to approximately 22,500 on 24 April. In total, over 78,000 people are sheltered in eight UN bases across the country.

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**People in need of humanitarian assistance**

4.9 million

**People reached with humanitarian assistance**

1.2 million

**People internally displaced by violence**

923,000

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*IDP figures, per state, as of 25 April 2014. Source: OCHA*
Humanitarian needs and response

Almost one million people are currently displaced within South Sudan and almost 300,000 more have fled to neighbouring countries. Continued violence against civilians, displacement, market destruction, food shortages, unusual livestock migrations, destroyed health facilities, and disrupted farming may aggravate the humanitarian crisis. The ongoing conflict has made the aid operation more difficult, restricting movement of supplies and aid workers to areas of need. Since January, humanitarians have reached more than 1.2 million of the 3.2 million people targeted by June this year.

Humanitarians remain deeply concerned by attacks on civilians in Bentiu and Bor. At least 400 people were reportedly killed in Bentiu, Unity, and 48 people lost their lives in Bor, Jonglei. Aid agencies have deployed emergency surgical teams to both towns, to assist people in need of emergency health care. Food distribution was ongoing in both locations. The water and sanitation situation in the UN base of Bentiu remains critical, with people receiving between 1-3 litres per person per day. Aid agencies are working to improve water supply.

Camp Coordination and Management

Response:

- Some 219,800 displaced people have been assisted through registration, site management and monitoring in Awerial, Malakal, Bentiu, Pariang, Bor, Dethoma, Juba, Nimule, Torit and Twic.
- In Bor, Jonglei State, 48 displaced people lost their lives during the attack in the UNMISS compound last week. A new verification exercise reports that 4,829 people are sheltering inside the UN base where a significant number of families have left following the attack. Community mobilization is being conducted to raise awareness for the need of documentation to assist with the identification of bodies.
- In Malakal, Upper Nile, the construction of a new camp for displaced people inside the UN base is ongoing.
- In Awerial, Lakes State, registration for displaced people is ongoing. Monitoring the movement of people arriving and leaving Mingkaman is also ongoing. More land has been cleared for site preparation by partners.
- In Bentiu, Unity State, displaced people are seeking shelter in the UN base for fear of further attacks. The number of people seeking protection in the UN base has gone up from 8,000 on 15 April to approximately 22,500 on 24 April.
- Partners continue to carry out community mobilization activities to encourage people to move from the over-congested Tomping base to UN House. The new site alongside UN House is scheduled to be completed in early May, and will have the capacity to host 13,000 people.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- All sites of displacement are at risk of flooding. There are delays in the construction of new sites in Malakal UNMISS base and Mingkaman. Contingency measures for relocation are being put in place.
- The UN Tomping site in Juba is still over-congested. This is limiting space for installation of latrines, health and education facilities.
- There is an urgent need to increase support in the UN base of Bentiu, particularly through the provision of site planning technical expertise.
### Education

**Response:**

- In the past week, 3,723 students have accessed emergency education in Central and Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile states. Forty percent are girls.
- Partners established two new temporary learning spaces and provided emergency education services for 210 preschool children and 3,471 primary school students.
- Supplies were distributed to 3,400 students (1,376 girls) in Central and Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, Upper Nile and Unity states.
- Seven occupied schools have been vacated during the week. Out of 75 schools are occupied either by armed forces, other actors or displaced people, 62 schools remained occupied across South Sudan.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

- Immediate access to education services inside and outside camps and host communities remained a constraint. Provision of emergency learning spaces, teaching and learning supplies, rapid training on life skills and psychosocial support for teachers and education personnel require urgent attention.
- Predictable human and financial resources are urgently needed to scale up emergency education to get children, youth and teachers, to return to schools.
- Many teachers are unwilling to teach as they have not been paid.
- Many primary students have not sat for their final examination due to the crisis. Education partners have facilitated some exams in UN bases and displacement sites by collaborating with the Ministry of Education.

### Emergency Telecommunications

**Response:**

- A mission was deployed in Maban, Upper Nile, on 23 April to carry out maintenance of telecommunications equipment and assess the needs of humanitarian partners.
- Partners are providing 8 sites with internet connectivity through the cluster.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

- Procurement of Information Technologies (IT) and communication equipment continued to be challenging in light of the volatile security situation. Availability of internet connectivity kits and solar panels, continued to be limited due to insecurity.

### Food Security and Livelihoods

**Response:**

- As of 24 April, food partners had reached about 726,605 people under the emergency operation. Food assistance has also been provided to 534,290 other food-insecure people, including refugees and displaced people in areas not directly affected by violence.
- Food airdrops were carried out in Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity states.
- Crop kits (Maize, Cowpea and Sorghum) for 10,286 families, vegetable kits for 9,300 families and fishing kits for 2,000 families were delivered to Torit in Eastern Equatoria.
- In Bor, Jonglei State, partners have distributed a total of 121 metric tons of assorted food commodities to 17,376 displaced people.

**Needs, gaps and constraints:**

- The response is facing significant logistical constraints. Increasing difficulties in moving supplies overland will make airlifts unavoidable as the rains limit road access.
Health

Response:

- 256,300 outpatient consultations were conducted since the beginning of the crisis.
- A disease surveillance system is in place with 32 reporting sites for priority disease.
- Vaccinations campaigns continued with 242,000 children immunized against measles, 54,000 children immunized against polio, 62,000 people were vaccinated against cholera (Juba, Malakal and Mingkaman).
- Nationwide, there were 6,300 surgical interventions with 352 medical evacuations.
- Health and hygiene promotion are conducted on a weekly basis.
- Emergency kits were distributed in Bentiu, Bor and Juba hospitals.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- In Bentiu, the increase in the number of new arrivals is putting pressure on available healthcare facilities.
- Although a surgical team and other health partners are on the ground, transferring supplies and staff remains the challenge due to insecurity.

Logistics

Response:

- During the week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the airlift of 75 metric tons of humanitarian supplies to Akobo, Bentiu, Ganyiel, Malakal, and Mayendit.
- Riverine deliveries are currently ongoing to Ulang in Upper Nile. However, barge movements to Bor and Malakal are on hold due to insecurity.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Because of heavy rains, flights to Bentiu were suspended on 23 April. Only 60 per cent of the airstrip was usable.

Mine Action

Response:

- Mine action partners continued to clear explosive remnants from within and around the UN base in Bentiu. Partners completed road clearance on the main road from Bentiu to Guit, the site of an anti-tank landmine strike which killed four people in early March, allowing for the resumption of humanitarian assistance.
- Mine action partners cleared an unexploded ordnance from a market area in Juba on 15 April.

Multi-Sector Response to Refugees

Response:

- Airlifting of household items and fuel for refugee camps in Upper Nile State continued to Pochalla, Jonglei State, where over 3,000 refugees from Ethiopia are residing.
- Partners continued to provide protection, education, nutrition, health and WASH support to refugees in Central Equatoria, Unity and Upper Nile states.
Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The food insecurity situation in Upper Nile continued to be critical, with various constraints to the delivery of food by road and air. Aid agencies continued to explore options for rapid pre-positioning of food.
- Protection concerns continued to arise from the erosion of the civilian character of refugee camps in both Unity and Upper Nile states, including recruitment of both adults and children to armed groups. Protection actors continued to undertake advocacy, monitoring and other practical interventions in an effort to improve the protection environment.

Nutrition Response:

- 344,557 children were screened for acute malnutrition (including 3,889 last week) since January. 17,685 children (5.1 per cent) were identified with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 41,564 (12.4 per cent) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- 18,390 children were admitted to SAM treatment programmes. Since January, 64 per cent of these children were discharged.
- 29 per cent of the children defaulted. Defaulting rate decreased from 49 per cent in January to 13 per cent in March.
- 18,162 children were admitted to the MAM treatment programmes. Since January, 6,400 children were treated (54 per cent).
- From January to date, 69,771 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for acute malnutrition and 20,047 (28.7 per cent) were identified with acute malnutrition (MUAC less than 23.0cm). 6,677 PLW women were admitted to acute malnutrition treatment programmes.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Gaps exist in the provision of comprehensive malnutrition prevention and management programmes throughout the priority states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile, and other locations. The cluster is working to identify partners who can scale up to fill the gaps in the priority counties.

Protection Response:

- Missions were deployed to Bentiu and Bor, and partners surged additional staff in both locations, including Pariang County. Protection actors documented serious concerns with respect to physical security of displaced people in the perimeter areas of UN bases and advocated for enhanced UN patrols.
- 25 organizations are implementing protection activities.
- 102 unaccompanied, separated and missing children have been reunified since December 2013.
- Since January, 26,480 children have been reached by Child Protection in Emergencies activities (17 per cent increase).
- Gender-based violence partners are conducting group counseling/referrals for women/girls impacted by the recent fighting in Bentiu. Twice weekly awareness radio programmes were broadcast in both Juba and Mingkaman in Arabic, Dinka and English languages, and will continue for the next two months.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The conflict continued to increase needs including arising from grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law, physical harm, family separation, destruction of property and increased Gender-based violence (GBV) risks, in particular in Bor and Bentiu. Ongoing conflict continues to hamper staff access.
- There is a need to continue speeding-up the registration and tracing of children identified as separated into the interagency database.
Shelter and Non-Food Items

Response:

- In the UN base in Bentiu, new arrivals received plastic sheets, blankets and sleeping mats.
- In Juba’s UN House, a shelter kit distribution to displaced people transferred from Tomping was ongoing.
- In the UN base in Malakal, a household item distribution in all UN bases was completed.
- In Ganyiel, Unity State, a distribution of household items was completed this week to 2,490 families.
- People sheltering in the three displacement sites in Melut, Upper Nile have now received household items.
- In Rom, Upper Nile, a distribution of household items continued to 500 newly arrived families.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The lack of logistic capacity is constraining the movement of material to field locations.
- The response in UN bases is constrained by the lack of space. Ground work improvements have to be completed first.
- Shelter remained the largest need.
- Pipeline supplies are depleted due to delays at the Nimule border crossing. This is of concern as more pipeline stocks have been ordered from external suppliers.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- 30 WASH partners have reached 382,330 displaced people in over 40 sites with life-saving emergency WASH assistance.
- Partners continue to maintain emergency WASH service provision in various sites, and reach new locations through deployment of teams into remote locations to meet the acute needs of displaced people. Other vulnerable people in crisis-affected and non-crisis affected states have also reached with WASH services.
- So far global emergency standards for water supply (15 liters per person per day) have been met in 10 sites.
- Meeting sanitation standards (1 latrine per 50 people) is proving more challenging, in many cases due to the lack of space.
- Site upgrading activities and cholera preparedness measures are being implemented to prevent and prepare for a potential outbreak of diseases.
- In Bentiu, WASH partners are working around the clock to scale up WASH services to meet the needs of displaced people in the UN base.
- In Malakal, Upper Nile, continued to provide WASH services inside the UN base for displaced families.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Funding is needed to scale up (prepositioning of pipeline supplies and increased front line services) activities in order to prepare for potential disease outbreaks in major displacement sites.
- Funding is needed for deployment of mobile teams into remote rural locations that have not been reached.
- Additional qualified WASH personnel are needed to coordinate and implement quality WASH programmes in hard to reach areas.
Funding

The South Sudan Crisis Response Plan (CRP) seeks US$1.27 billion. This encompassed pipeline requirements for the whole year, and frontline requirements for the first half of the year. As of 25 April, the amount of recorded commitments is $491 million which is 39 per cent of the total requirements.

The Humanitarian Community has developed an operational plan for the April-June period, prioritizing key activities in priority sectors and states. $232 million is required to immediately preposition stocks and supplies, and for the most urgent interventions. The overall funding gap is close to $800 million. The mid-year review of the operational plan is ongoing and will be finalized by mid-June.

Background on the crisis:
Violence broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, on 15 December 2013 and quickly spread to several other states. Within weeks, thousands of people had been killed or wounded in the violence, and hundreds of thousands displaced from their homes. Despite the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement on 23 January 2014, fighting between Government and opposition forces has continued, especially in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, where towns and rural areas have been ravaged by the violence. The crisis has led to a serious deterioration in the food security situation, and some 3.7 million people are now at high risk of food insecurity in the coming year.

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