UNICEF SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION REPORT

1.92 million
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
(OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2019)

2.29 million
South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries
(UNHCR Regional Portal, South Sudan Situation 28 February 2019)

5.25 million
South Sudanese who are severely food insecure
(January-March 2019 Projection, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification)

Funding Status

- Carry-over from 2018: USD 26,142,536
- Funds received: USD 37,344,437
- 2019 Funding Requirement: $179.2 M
- Funding gap: USD 115,743,527

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

UNICEF’S Response with Partners in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<th>UNICEF and partners for 2019</th>
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Highlights

- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projections for February to March, indicate 57 per cent of the population will face acute food insecurity or worse. Currently, UNICEF is funding gap of 42 million in nutrition section. There is a high-risk of a ready-to-use-therapeutic food (RUTF) pipeline break during the last quarter of 2019, if adequate funds are not mobilized before September 2019.
- On 26 March, the EU-funded Education in Emergency programme was launched in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal. The programme will be jointly managed by UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), the largest collaboration ever between these two agencies in the field of education in South Sudan. Lasting two years, it aims to reach 75,000 children (33,000 girls) in 150 schools, providing them with access to quality education and school feeding.
- In the response to the measles outbreak in two Melut and Aweil South counties, reactive measles vaccination campaigns were initiated, targeting 15,502 and 22,071 children aged 6 months to 5 years in Melut and Aweil South respectively.
**Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs**

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projections for February to March 2019, a total of 6.5 million people or 57 per cent of the population will be in crisis (IPC phase 3) acute food insecurity or worse, including 45,000 in catastrophe (IPC phase 5). Approximately 860,000 children under five estimated to be acutely malnourished including over a quarter million with severe acute malnutrition (SAM). To reach 2019 targets, UNICEF must to mobilize USD 42 million before September 2019 for the RUTF procurement and frontline cost of the programme. There is a high-risk of an RUTF pipeline break during the last quarter of 2019, if UNICEF fails to mobilize adequate resources before September 2019.

The decrease of hostilities following signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution on the conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), as well as proactive efforts by UNICEF and partners to expand access, has led to incremental but consistent gains in access in many parts of South Sudan. Key road and river routes remain open in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states, improving access to vulnerable people and the transport of supplies for both static and integrated rapid response mechanism (IRRM) programmes. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, UNICEF and partners are exploring ways to expand service provision to displaced communities in Greater Baggari. And through the joint efforts of WFP and UNICEF together with community leaders, the road from Raja to Dolo was opened, enabling the first road-based IRRM mission to the location since services began in early 2018. After several access denials to Koyoki and Birigo in southern Central Equatoria state, UNICEF contributed to successful advocacy efforts by OCHA to secure the agreement of state government officials to enable consistent humanitarian access. And with the decrease in hostilities in the Yei area, humanitarians including UNICEF are beginning to access locations outside of Yei town for the first time since December 2018.

At the same time, UNICEF and its partners continue to face a number of access challenges in reaching vulnerable women and children. UNICEF and partners faced 12 recorded access incidents in March, mostly due to operational interference and violence / intimidation of humanitarian personnel and contractors. Several IRRM missions in Jongeli and Upper Nile were suspended indefinitely due to opposition by state authorities for WFP to biometrically register the population. Several incidents of the looting of nutrition supplies took place in Jongeli following clashes near outpatient treatment centers. In southern Central Equatoria, a humanitarian assessment mission to Koyoki and Birigo was denied access for the second time by state government authorities. And several clashes between state security forces and armed youths in Unity and Upper Nile led to the temporary suspension of humanitarian activities and/or the relocation of humanitarian staff.

**Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination**

UNICEF is co-leading three clusters and one Area of Responsibility (AoR) of a total ten clusters and three AoRs currently active in South Sudan. UNICEF co-leads at national level both the Child Protection AoR and the Education Cluster with Save the Children, the Nutrition Cluster with Concern, Action Against Hunger (ACF) and the World Food Program (WFP) and the WASH Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between UNICEF and each co-lead agency at country level to guide effective and efficient co-coordination and ensure clear roles and responsibilities of each party. UNICEF co-lead clusters and AoRs are all part of the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) led by OCHA at the national and sub-national levels.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

In 2019, in line with UNICEF’s [Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC)](https://www.unicef.org/humanitarian-action-for-children) and the inter-agency [Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info), UNICEF continues to strengthen and expand its programmes. UNICEF will provide life-saving humanitarian assistance through a timely and effective integrated package of nutrition, health, WASH, child protection and education services delivered through interconnected, complementary responses. To ensure that support has a wide reach, services will be delivered through static operations, direct outreach and rapid response modalities. UNICEF’s operations will be led by its 13 field offices to enable wide coverage and quality programming across the country. UNICEF’s leadership of the nutrition and WASH clusters and child protection area of responsibility and its co-leadership
of the education cluster will enable strategic planning, coordinated response, capacity building of partners and advocacy both at the national and state levels.

Emergency cash programming will be implemented through UNICEF’s strong existing collaborations and inter-agency mechanisms such as the Cash Working Group. The response will expand in 2019 to include recovery and resilience programming in selected field locations, including basic social service delivery, community-based system strengthening and accountability to affected populations.

UNICEF will invest in increasing the localization of aid in South Sudan through capacity building and targeted resource allocation. Following the peace deal, UNICEF will invest in building the capacities of central and sub-national state authorities.

In 2019, the IRRM will continue to prioritize hard-to-reach communities with urgent, life-saving interventions. WFP, FAO and UNICEF will consider deploying IRRMs to areas of the country that fit the criteria of extraordinary humanitarian needs in otherwise inaccessible locations. A partnership with WFP and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) on biometric registration will strengthen data collection, management, follow up, displacement tracking and harmonized reporting. UNICEF will roll out the systematic integration of biometric registration into the IRRM modality as well as pilot a Cash Based Approach into the IRRM package of intervention in locations benefiting from functional markets.

The IRRM is a critical instrument for delivering life-saving aid. In February-March 2019, four IRRM missions were deployed to Chuil in Nyirol County, Jonglei State; Tonga in Panyikang Upper Nile state; New Fangak, Fangak County, Jonglei state; and Old Fangak, Fangak County, Jonglei state. These missions took place along with WFP and FAO to conduct joint response along integrated Biometric Registration (BRM), using the SCOPE digital beneficiary management system. These multi-sectoral missions have reached 55,649 beneficiaries including 11,091 children under five years.

As operational costs continue to rise in South Sudan, the IRRM partnership will also revisit its business model to optimize efficiency gains by reducing its dependency on air assets and leveraging access by waterway and road to preposition IRRM supplies when and where possible.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Health:** UNICEF with partners reached 103,184 individuals (57,869 females and 45,315 males) with curative consultations, including 37,368 children under five years of age through health facilities, community outreach and the IRRM. Most consultations were for malaria (34 per cent), followed by acute respiratory infections (24 per cent). In addition, 117,877 children aged 6 months to 15 years were immunized against measles through health facilities, outreaches, reactive vaccination and the IRRM. Thirty health workers were trained on effective vaccine management in five counties in Unity State and 15 solar fridges were installed to strengthen the cold chain system through GAVI-supported Cold Chain Equipment Optimization Platform (CCEOP) Project. The target is to provide 1000 sets of solar refrigerators from 2018 to 2022. A total of 41,675 children and pregnant women were provided with long-lasting insecticide treated nets through UNICEF and partners to help prevent malaria.

An additional, 6,710 pregnant women received antenatal care services and 1,253 deliveries took place with assistance from skilled birth attendants. Meanwhile, 298 pregnant women were counselled and tested for HIV; 10 were positive and all commenced antiretroviral therapy (ART). Additionally, 248 adolescents were counselled and tested for HIV, 38 were positive and commenced antiretroviral therapy (ART) while seven survivors of sexual-related gender-based violence admitted were managed according to the national protocols.

A meningitis vaccination campaign was implemented in Maban Refugee camps (Batil, Doro, Gandrassa and Kaya), from 20-30 March during which 29,096 of 31,286 (93 per cent) individuals 1 to 29 years were vaccinated. A reactive yellow fever vaccination campaign targeting 19,578 individuals aged 9 months to 65 years in Sakure Payam, Nzara County
was conducted with 19,981 (102.06 per cent) individuals vaccinated. UNICEF provided support for vaccine and cold chain management and social mobilization.

**Nutrition:** UNICEF, in partnership with 40 Civil Society Organizations (CSO), is providing key nutrition interventions for children and women in all counties of the country. As of March 2019, 52,738 children affected by SAM were identified and treated with high quality services. Infant and young child feeding counselling services reached more than 291,000 caregivers of children and pregnant women.

In order to reach 2019 targets, UNICEF Nutrition Programme need to mobilize USD 42 million before September 2019 for the Ready To Use Therapeutic food (RUTF) procurement and frontline cost of the programme. There is high risk for RUTF pipeline break during the last quarter of 2019, if UNICEF fails to mobilize adequate resources before September 2019. We therefore appeal to donors to support in order to alleviate pipeline break for this life saving nutrition intervention. As nutrition cluster lead, UNICEF has provided technical and financial support for the organization of the national annual nutrition review with the participation of representatives from sectoral ministries, local government authorities, CSO and United Nations Agencies. In addition, technical capacities of subnational cluster coordinators were strengthened and a session on cluster coordination performance monitoring was carried out with the support of global nutrition cluster.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** UNICEF has continued to provide WASH life-saving interventions in all states through the creation of access to safe water and basic sanitation services to the vulnerable and affected host communities, POCs, and in IDPs in collective sites. As a result, 344,463 targeted beneficiaries have been provided with access to safe drinking water supply through water trucking, construction of new boreholes, rehabilitation of non-functional water facilities, mainly boreholes, and operation and maintenance of Surface Water Treatment (SWAT) Systems. Likewise, a total of 157,003 vulnerable population have been supported with access to basic sanitation facilities through the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of emergency communal latrines and household latrines. A total of 22,548 targeted population have been reached with key hygiene promotion messages, of which a total of 7,349 individuals have benefited from WASH non-food items (NFI) distribution including jerrycans, buckets, Aqua Tabs and soap.

UNICEF and implementing partners have trained 12 community-based, Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) monitors from 12 villages in Aweil, Northern Bahr El Ghazal to strengthen and support vulnerable communities to strive towards attaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and declared 17 additional locations as open defecation free (ODF) in March, raising total ODF villages to 36 this year. In addition, post triggering follow-up and monitoring activities have been conducted in a total of 5,520 households of which 3,966 (72 per cent) households were found to have completed the construction of their own latrines.

**Education:** The security situation in most of the country remained calm, enabling expansion of education services to previously inaccessible areas, including the return of households to New Fangak (Jonglei) from Khartoum resulting in an enrolment increase of 1,580 (1,100 boys; 480 girls) new learners in UNICEF-supported schools.

In Baggari, Western Bahr el Ghazal, with support of implementing partner Peace Corps Organisation, UNICEF mobilised the community to reopen Farajallah primary school, which had been closed since 2016. So far, 1,504 children (677 boys; 827 girls) have now enrolled at the school and mobilisation to reopen more schools in the area is ongoing. In addition, through the efforts of UNICEF and partners, a total of 14,092 children (5,589 boys; 8,503 girls) and 332 teachers (202 men; 130 women) in Wau and Baggari counties have received teaching and learning materials.

On 26 March, the EU-funded Education in Emergency programme was launched in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal. The programme will be jointly managed by UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), the largest collaboration ever between these two agencies in the field of education in South Sudan. Lasting two years, it aims to reach 75,000 children (33,000 girls) in 150 schools in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Eastern and Western Equatoria State, providing them with access to quality education and school feeding.
Child Protection: UNICEF and partners reached 14,617 children (6,346 girls, 8,271 boys) with psychosocial support (PSS) activities in child-friendly spaces, schools and other community-based interventions in 10 former states. A total of 104 unaccompanied and separated children (53 girls; 51 boys) were registered in Central Equatoria, Upper Nile, Unity, Lakes, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei and Warrap States.

The 121 children associated with armed groups (49 girls; 72 boys) that were released in February, received reintegration services during the month of March. Medical and mental health screening has been conducted and children have been receiving case management services including coordination and referral to appropriate services. Based on the registration exercise of Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), around 200 children are to be released in and around Nzara, Yambio town, Lirangu and James Diko town and another 100 from Unity state in the coming months.

A total of 31,098 individuals (10,089 girls; 11,190 boys; 5,907 women; 3,912 men) living in high-risk mine areas were reached with life-saving mine risk education messages in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria, and Western Bahr el Ghazal states. In addition, 13,757 community members (9,144 women; 4,613 men) received life-saving child protection messaging, including on prevention of family separation, recruitment into armed groups and grave child rights violations.

UNICEF and partners reached 7,551 individuals (1,535 girls; 1,440 boys; 3,173 women; 1,403 men) through GBV prevention and risk mitigation interventions including awareness raising and social norms transformation and response services consisting of individualized case management, PSS, skills building courses, recreational activities in the women and girls-friendly spaces and referrals for other specialized services. Of these individuals, 760 (272 girls; 488 women) who participated in the women and girls’ friendly spaces (WGFS) activities received psychosocial support and GBV case management. The outcome of two safety audits conducted by UNICEF will be shared with the GBV sub-cluster and will be discussed with other clusters.

The International Women’s Day was organised by UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare at the national and state levels. The team rallied around the global theme of ‘Think equal, Build smart and Innovate for change’ to advocate for better services for children, women and girls and to create awareness on the importance of women’s empowerment and equal opportunities for women and girls.

UNICEF worked together with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare at the national and state levels to celebrate the International Women’s Day. The team rallied around the global theme of ‘Think equal, Build smart and Innovate for change’ to advocate for better services for children, women and girls and to create awareness on the importance of women’s empowerment and equal opportunities for women and girls.

Communication for Development (C4D): The National Ministry of Health together with State Ministries of Health, WHO, UNICEF and partners have implemented a polio Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) campaign which was scheduled on 12-15 March 2019. The campaign, which targeted over 2.2 million children aged 0 to 5 years children, reached 87.6 percent with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in the 56 counties across the country according to the Independent Monitoring report. Supporting the campaign, UNICEF, through its Integrated Community Mobilization partners and respective County Health Departments, carried out social mobilization and community engagement activities ranging from house-to-house mobilization focusing on face-to-face interactions with parents and caregivers, advocacy and sensitization meetings with stakeholders including community and religious leaders, radio messaging, megaphone announcements, display of IEC materials, church, mosques and market announcements. As part of the campaign, over 1,500 community mobilizers were deployed to conduct house-to-house awareness reaching about 1.8 million households with polio key messages.

UNICEF in collaboration with State Ministry of Health, WHO and implementing partners on 25-30 March carried out yellow fever reactive vaccination in Sakure Payam, Yambio. The vaccination was a respond to the confirmed yellow fever cases in Sakure and UNICEF C4D supported the vaccination with social mobilization and community engagement activities that included trained mobilizers creating awareness and crowd management, stakeholder’s sensitization,
radio talk-shows and mass awareness in public places. An estimated 22,000 people were reached with yellow fever messages in Sakure Payam.

**Ebola Preparedness:** UNICEF Health section continued to support the government in preparedness activities for Ebola through active participation in the Case Management and Surveillance Technical Working Group (TWG), Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), taskforce meeting at state and national level and supported with cold chain management in the ongoing Ebola vaccination for targeted frontline workers.

As part of WASH Ebola preparedness efforts, the assessment for WASH Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) was completed in 70 front line health facilities and findings of the report are underway. UNICEF has also continued to co-lead WASH IPC TWGs, whilst participating in a SAG, National Task Force (NTF) and supporting state level coordination and the identification of critical gaps and needs in collaboration with donors. Furthermore, UNICEF provided 50 hand washing facilities and delivered hygiene promotion including EVD messaging in public places (schools, markets and churches/mosques) and trained 33 individuals on basic IPC measures.

UNICEF, together with implementing partners, supports risk communication, social mobilization and community engagement activities including rumour tracking and feedback mechanisms in all EVD high-risk areas. In Torit and Nimule, a total of 2,541 pupils and students including paramedics were sensitized on EVD case definition, signs and symptoms and prevention measures. Through other channels, 52 community stakeholders, comprised of local chiefs, youth and women representatives, religious leaders and child protection committees. In Maridi and Ibba, 32 trained community mobilizers conducted a series of sensitization sessions in markets, churches, schools, health facilities and water points reaching over 24,000 people with Ebola messages. Meanwhile in Yambio, Tambura/Nzara, Ezo, and Nagero, 170 trained mobilizers reached 10,358 households (62,100 individuals) through household visits and over 90,000 people with messages in markets, schools, health facilities, water points and churches. In Yei, UNICEF partner TRI-SS reached 2,814 households (29,625 individuals) with EVD messages through 42 mobilizers deployed in all the residential areas of Yei. Also, as part of rumour trucking and feedback mechanism for EVD, a compiled report on rumours was shared on community’s perceptions and practices around bush meat consumption.

**Supply and Logistics**

Multi-sectoral supplies valued at USD 4,889,624 were dispatched directly to implementing partners country-wide and through warehouse-to-warehouse transfers as part of the Dry Season Prepositioning plan. The bulk of the dispatches comprised Nutrition supplies delivered to various locations, followed by Education.

A total of fifty-nine haulage trucks were dispatched from the Juba warehouse to Rumbek, Wau, Bentiu, Bor, Aweil and Kuajok using Logistics Cluster Humanitarian Convoy. Multi-sectoral supplies valued at USD 912,362 were also collected directly by the Implementing Partners from UNICEF warehouses.

**Media and External Communications**

The external communication section supported the launch of South Sudan’s first curriculum on 07 March, with good coverage in national and international media. Later in the month, the communication section assisted media to Renk in the north-eastern part of South Sudan for the launch of the largest joint- UN programme in the education sector in South Sudan. In March, the communication section has produced the quarterly cluster newsletter and the country office annual report, Recognized World Water Day and International Women’s Day. The section supported the launch of a new partner portal in South Sudan which generated some coverage in national media. The communication section conducted a multimedia mission to Kapoeta and the first murals with donor recognition on UNICEF supported programme sites were finalized. In the reporting period the section supported the finalization of 25 donor reports with visibility requirements. UNICEF continued to take active part in the UN Communication group and UN EVD communication group as co-chairs of both groups.

**Security**

As the Pre-Transitional Period of the R-ARCSS draws to its stipulated conclusion of 12 May, the bottlenecks being faced by the various committees and boards tasked with the implementation of the various articles of the peace agreement
have failed to deliver mainly due to lack of funding and institutional capacity. An acute lack of funds has hampered mobilization of troops and subsequent cantonment efforts and the delay by the Technical Border Committee in determining the number of states and their boundaries.

Additionally, the establishment of the “Joint Juba Defence Force” by the Joint Defence Board (JDB) has also delayed and the ongoing recruitment and training of soldiers in Northern Bagh eL Ghazal is being seen by some as a one-sided training of members of the Tiger Forces for the JDF, likely to generate mistrust among the opposition as defeating the provision of establishing an integrated, unified and properly trained national army as outlined in the R-ARCSS. Unverified information received, however, indicates that funds have been deposited in the coffers of the opposition to enable it to mobilise 350 men to Juba. That notwithstanding, the 700-man JDF as a condition for the return of Riek Machar and others cannot be achieved in the timeframe implying that, the 12 May target for the establishment of the Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) cannot be met.

On 16 March, President Kiir and Pope Francis held a meeting in the Vatican to discuss the peace agreement and the role of the Catholic Church in achieving reconciliation in South Sudan. According to the communique published by the Vatican Press Office, discussions highlighted the good bilateral relations between South Sudan and the Vatican, as well as the contribution of the Catholic Church in education and health fields, as well as in the process of reconciliation and reconstruction. Other issues discussed included concerns surrounding the implementation of the R-ARCSS by different actors and political groups, with a view to the definitive resolution of the conflict, the return of refugees and displaced persons, and the country’s development. The Pope confirmed his planned to visit South Sudan (date to be announced).

**Funding**

As of March 2019, there is a funding gap of 65 per cent against UNICEF South Sudan’s 2019 HAC requirements of USD 179.2 million. Funding available under HAC 2019 include carry-forward funds of USD 26.1 million from 2018 and USD 37.3 million funds received since January 2019. UNICEF wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.
### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS 2018

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1 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, WASH Strategic Objective 1.