UNICEF SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION REPORT
31 May 2018

1.74 million
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
(OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin, 23 May 2018)

2.47 million
South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries
(OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin, 23 May 2018)

7.1 million
South Sudanese who are food insecure
(May-July 2018 Projection, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification)

30 APRIL – 31 MAY 2018: SOUTH SUDAN SITREP #121

Highlights

• On 17 May, 210 children were released from the pro-Machar SPLA-iO and National Salvation Front (NSF) in Pibor. This represents the third release in 2018, bringing the total number of children released from armed forces/groups and supported with reintegration services in 2018 to 806.

• The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report projects an increase from 6.3 to 7.1 million people facing food insecurity from February-April and May-July respectively. Seven out of eight Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) surveys conducted in Jonglei and Unity highlighted Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates above the 15 per cent WHO emergency threshold.

• In May, UNICEF and partners reached 96,407 people (51,924 women) with preventive and curative health consultations, including 43,029 children under five years of age, through health facilities, community outreach and integrated rapid response mechanism (IRRM) missions, bringing the cumulative total of children under five years of age reached in 2018 to 219,424.

UNICEF’s Response with Partners in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Cluster for 2018</th>
<th>UNICEF and partners for 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Cumulative results (#)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition: # of children aged six to 59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment</td>
<td>209,140</td>
<td>66,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health: # of children aged six months to 15 years in conflict-affected areas vaccinated against measles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH: # of people provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards (7.5–15 litres per person per day)</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>901,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection: # of children reached with psychosocial support (PSS)</td>
<td>271,000</td>
<td>112,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education: # of children and adolescents aged three to 18 years provided with access to education in emergencies</td>
<td>674,619</td>
<td>416,321 (173,117 girls)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Status

Carry-over from 2017:
US$ 64,843,099

Funding Gap:
US$ 89,420,95

2018 Funding Requirement:
US$ 183.3M

Funds Received:
US$ 29,045,816
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Insecurity and an uptick in clashes between government and opposition forces continue to impede humanitarian efforts in many areas of the country. During the month of May, several incidents including the unnecessary stoppage and restriction of humanitarian vehicles; the abduction of aid workers; violent clashes between opposition and government forces; and criminal activity, affected local communities and aid efforts in Central and Western Equatoria, Upper Nile, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Accessibility was further constrained by the arrival of the rainy season that has rendered many locations in need unreachable and has limited the movement of many communities. UNICEF's IRRM remains the primary modality to deliver assistance to these areas and, in May, four IRRM missions were conducted in Udier and Mathiang, Longochuk County; Katdalok, Ayod County; and Iholong County, in Eastern Equatoria state.

As per IPC May-July 2018 projections, the number of South Sudanese facing food insecurity (Phase three, four and five) is expected to rise from approximately 6.3 to 7.1 million. Fears of a further deterioration of the nutrition situation in the country are evidenced by results of SMART surveys conducted in May in Jonglei and Unity State. Recent assessments conducted in Duk, Pibor, Twic East, Fangak and Nyiro of Jonglei and Abienhmom and Mayom counties of Unity showed typical lean season GAM rates above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 per cent in seven out of the eight surveys (Graph 1). A slight improvement was noted in Pibor from 26.8 to 20.7 per cent in October 2017 and May 2018 respectively. A SMART survey conducted in Leer just before the recent conflict showed GAM rates of 12.2 per cent. Due to severe deterioration of the situation in Leer, chances of further serious nutrition deterioration are likely.

Humanitarian Strategy

In 2018, in line with UNICEF’s Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) and the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNICEF will strengthen and expand its programmes through four modalities that will increase the capacity and reach of interventions: (1) static operations in stable areas; (2) outreach programmes; (3) mobile campaigns; and (4) IRRM missions. These four modalities will facilitate sustained service delivery in both secure and highly inaccessible locations. UNICEF will continue to invest in strengthening national partner capacities and improving accountability to affected populations by building on existing community-based networks. This approach includes 180 Days Scale-Up Plans (1 March to 31 August 2018), targeting 11 priority counties in light of the expected significant deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation during the lean season.

While waiting for additional donor funding, UNICEF has undertaken a comprehensive reprioritization exercise to leverage core resources and all donor funding flexibility to ensure critical response is funded. To ensure timely and cost-effective response, the dry season supply pre-positioning plan was fully funded. Efforts to transport supplies via road during the dry season significantly increase as airlifting supplies in the rainy season is nearly 10 times more expensive. However, moving supplies even in the dry season is not free from challenges: fuel shortages, road blocks, clashes, insecurity and looting continue to impede movement. By pre-positioning over 60 per cent of nearly US$ 40 million worth of multi-sectoral supplies before the start of the rainy season, UNICEF has taken steps to ensure timely access to the most remote locations, allowing for the appropriate response to address violent conflict, drought,
deteriorating food security, disease outbreaks and malnutrition, and mitigating increased costs of transport. Eighty-six civil society organization (CSO) partnership interventions were identified as critical for immediate response and are being fast-tracked for finalization and funding.

UNICEF aims to conduct five IRRM missions per month as the situation permits. So far in 2018, 14 joint (with WFP) IRRM missions were conducted in 8 counties namely; Ayod, Torit, Panyijiar, Baggari, Nassir, Raja, Rubkona, Wau, and Longochuk counties, reaching 154,480 people, including 33,198 children under five years of age. These missions accessed hard-to-reach locations such as Dolo, Farajalla, Gaireang, Ganyiel, Gum, Iholong, Jazeera, Kiechkuon, Kodalok, Mathiang, Mboro, Meer (Gum 2), Raga and Udier. Since April, the UNICEF-WFP IRRM partnership has expanded to include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), enabling beneficiaries to receive additional critical services, including livelihood kits containing fishing nets and agricultural inputs. FAO has participated in seven joint RRM missions to date. UNICEF is advocating at national and local levels to bring about increased and sustained humanitarian access. UNICEF is also facilitating coherent coordination through UNICEF leadership of the WASH, Education and Nutrition clusters, as well as the Child Protection sub-cluster.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Health:** In May, UNICEF and partners reached 96,407 people (51,924 women) with curative consultations, including 43,029 children under five years of age, through health facilities, community outreach and four IRRM missions in three counties (Ayod, Longochuk and Torit counties), bringing the cumulative total of children under five years of age reached in 2018 to 219,424. Malaria, Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) are the leading causes of morbidity. In addition, 4,549 households were provided with two long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLITNs) in May, bringing the total number of households reached this year to 27,110. Antenatal care services were provided to 4,443 pregnant women and 538 deliveries took place with assistance from skilled birth attendants, while 2,121 pregnant women were counselled and tested for HIV. Thirty-four cases tested HIV positive, of which 19 commenced antiretroviral therapy.

In 2018, at least 313 suspected measles cases have been reported, resulting in one death (Case Fatality Rate - CFR of 0.3 per cent). While during the same period in 2017, 665 suspected measles cases were reported with one death. Of the 2018 cases, 84 suspected cases have undergone measles case-based laboratory-backed investigation with 68 samples collected, 14 of which were clinically confirmed, while three were confirmed by epidemiological linkage. UNICEF and partners have provided vaccines and raised awareness through social mobilization. A total of 489,401 children aged 6 months to 15 years have been vaccinated against measles in 2018. UNICEF and C4D partners continue to raise awareness around measles and the need to immunize children with intensive community mobilization through household visits, community meetings and radio and street announcements.

At least 41 suspected cases of Hepatitis E Virus (HEV) have been reported in 2018 in Old Fangak County, Jonglei State and Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) site, Unity State. UNICEF is providing key HEV messages through local radio programmes and community sensitization.

**Nutrition:** Recent and renewed fighting, coupled with the start of the rainy season, could potentially worsen the nutrition situation in the country as access to services will be limited by insecurity and poor infrastructure. In Southern Unity, 17 nutrition facilities across Leer, Mayendit, Koch and Panyijiar remain non-operational. In Upper Nile, 16 Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) and 19 Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes (TSFP) are still suspended in Mawot, Manyo, Fashoda and Melut counties. Movement is restricted across government and opposition held territories in Uror county and has affected programme activities in the area. As the rainy season intensifies, many areas will become inaccessible by road, debilitating access to services, outreach and supply delivery to OTP sites.

The nutrition situation is expected to deteriorate during the lean season. SMART surveys conducted in May in Jonglei and Unity showed GAM rates above the 15 per cent WHO emergency threshold in seven out of the eight surveys. The Leer county survey, conducted just before the conflict, showed GAM rates at serious level but below the emergency threshold. Further deterioration in Leer, Mayendit and Koch counties, currently experiencing active conflict, is likely.

IRRMM remains the only modality to deliver in hard-to-reach areas. Through IRRM missions in May, 4,350 children aged 6 to 59 months were screened with a proxy GAM of 8.5 per cent in Katdalok (Severe Acute Malnutrition - SAM 2.1 per
cent); 17.8 per cent in Mathiang (SAM 3.1 per cent); 3.4 per cent in Udier (SAM 0.8 per cent); and 29 per cent in Ihologo (SAM 8.2 per cent). A total of 98 and 343 children were identified to be suffering from SAM and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), respectively, and were admitted for treatment. All eligible children screened were provided with Vitamin A (4,118 children) and deworming treatment (3,402 children). Mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC) screening of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in four locations (1,181 women) revealed that 195 (16.5 per cent) had a MUAC less than 23.0 cm. Poor nutrition status of pregnant women increases the risk of stillbirth or low birth weight of the unborn child. A total of 2,314 PLW received key infant and young child feeding messages.

In May, 150,015 children 6 to 59 months were screened in all states with 5,808 and 19,332 children identified with SAM and MAM, respectively. The highest incidences of acute malnutrition among children were identified in Warrap, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) with 25.1 per cent, 23.1 per cent and 19.8 per cent, respectively. UNICEF and partners have admitted 67,300 into various OTP/Stabilization Centre (SC) from January to May. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), WFP and International Rescue Committee (IRC) conducted a five-day roll-out training on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition for 24 nutrition partners in NBeG, including four women.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** During the reporting period, UNICEF provided access to safe water supply to 23,072 people, while 2,447 individuals gained access to basic and improved sanitation facilities. Furthermore, 17,316 people in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, as well as Central, Western, and Eastern Equatoria and NBeG and Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeG) states received WASH non-food items including soap, jerrycans, buckets, hygiene/dignity kits and water treatment products.

Following recent evacuations out of Koch County due to insecurity and conflict between pro-Machar SPLA-iO and SPLA, partners, including Mercy Corps, redeployed to the area. Recurrent security constraints continue to challenge the delivery of WASH services in Koch, Mayendit and Leer counties of Southern Unity state.

UNICEF-supported partner, Mentor Initiative, has helped improve Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) targeting 19 villages, 13 of which were verified with local government and certified as Open Defecation Free (ODF). As part of the WASH emergency response, in May UNICEF supported a rapid needs assessment in Khor Fulus and Gelachel payams, Upper Nile State, where internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Ulang and Northern Jonglei have settled.

**Education:** In Pibor, age-set fighting continues to present a problem, with clashes reported between the Lango and Kurenken age-sets. Members of these groups include school-age children. This has led to temporary closure of at least four schools in Pibor town and interrupted functioning of several other schools around Pibor. The violent age-set clashes also cause irregular attendance of children and teachers affecting curricular and co-curricular activities.

In Southern Unity, clashes between government and opposition forces has led to the closure of 59 schools in Leer, Koch and Northern Mayendit, affecting education service delivery to 26,978 children (10,791 girls).

The 210 children associated with armed forces/groups released in Pibor will be enrolled in schools in the area. Various educational materials were distributed to the children to ease re-integration into communities and schools.

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, hygiene kits were distributed to three schools to retain adolescent girls in school, benefitting 1,271 girls. Across the rest of South Sudan, schools were closed for the first term and opened during the final week of May 2018.

**Child Protection:** On 17 May, 210 children, including three girls, were released in Pibor. Of these, 202 were children associated with the pro-Machar SPLA-iO and eight with the NSF. The release brought the total number of children released from armed forces and groups in 2018 to 806 (214 girls). UNICEF is supporting comprehensive case management and reintegration services for all released children.

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1 Age-sets are the key organizing feature of Murle society in which male youth from a certain age segment become members of an age-set, an identifier that is then carried for life. In fighting and demonstrating its superiority over others, an age-set gains access to women and decision-making for the greater Murle community.
In May, UNICEF and partners reached 27,424 children (11,892 girls, 15,532 boys) through psychosocial support (PSS) activities in child-friendly spaces, schools and other community-based interventions in all 10 states. An additional 152 unaccompanied and separated children (72 girls and 80 boys) were registered in Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Greater Bahr el Ghazal states. UNICEF and partners reunified 50 children (30 girls, 20 boys).

A total of 27,183 individuals (8,347 girls, 5,300 women, 8,836 boys, 4,700 men) living in high-risk mine areas were reached with life-saving mine risk education (MRE) messages in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. In May, 11,950 extremely vulnerable children (6,479 girls) received lifesaving child protection messaging, including on family separation, recruitment into armed groups and grave child rights violations.

UNICEF and partners reached 14,493 individuals (7,109 women, 4,147 girls, 1,996 boys, 1,241 men) through gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services including community awareness on GBV and GBV services, case management, including accessing PSS in women’s and girls’ friendly spaces and referrals to specialised services.

**Communication for Development (C4D):** In May, UNICEF supported the social and community mobilization and advocacy components that are anticipated to contribute to the release of almost 1,000 children from the ranks of armed groups in the coming months. Community mobilizers conducted 10 awareness sessions during the assessment and verification exercise for Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG). Over 300 children were reached with key messages on the importance of going to school, as well as good health and hygiene including cholera and diarrhoeal control.

In collaboration with MoH, WHO, and partners, UNICEF continued to support cholera prevention and control social mobilization interventions in high risk states. Interventions focused on enhancing skills of families and communities in water treatment methods, oral rehydration solution (ORS) preparation and proper handwashing to curtail active cholera transmission as a part of prevention. In Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan Red Cross in collaboration with the MoH and the County Health Department reached 262 households (2,561 individuals) through house-to-house visits and 1,460 individuals through 13 community meetings with cholera prevention and control messages. In Central Equatoria, 25 schools benefited from school-based interventions in the high-risk areas of Gurei, Northern Bari Payam, Gumbo-Rajaf Payam and Munuki Payam, reaching a total of 16,557 students and 289 teachers.

UNICEF continues to work through the integrated community mobilization network in conflict-affected states of Bentiu, Malakal and Bor. In Bentiu, 315 community volunteers continue to educate communities and caregivers on a daily basis and have reached 76,500 households through house-to-house mobilization in various sectors on essential family care practices such as prevention of HEV, malaria, toilet and latrine use, as well as the importance of handwashing.

As part of preparedness activities for diseases with epidemic potential, UNICEF continues to work closely with the MoH to scale up Ebola preparedness as a result of the recent outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In partnership with MoH, UNICEF has prepared a national viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) preparedness and response plan considering three scenarios of outbreak with strategic response from respective programmes. An Ebola preparedness and response plan has been developed, focusing on Yambio and Yei due to their proximity to DRC and movement of South Sudanese refugees from DRC to Uganda refugee camps via South Sudan.

**Supply and Logistics**

In May, multi-sectoral supplies valued at US$3.4 million (US$2 million of which were Nutrition supplies) were dispatched country-wide directly to partners and through warehouse-to-warehouse transfers.

Twenty-two truck convoys carrying multi-sectoral supplies departed Juba for the Western Corridor to make deliveries to Bentiu, Rumbek, Wau, Warrap and Aweil as part of the dry-season prepositioning exercise. Six trucks carrying Nutrition, Health and Child protection supplies were also dispatched to Bor. Despite security incidents and poor road conditions, 17 trucks containing multi-sectoral supplies were delivered to Yambio, Mundri, Torit and Kapoeta. As of 29 May, trucks en route to Bentiu arrived in Wau; most trucks destined for Rumbek arrived; all trucks destined for Warrap and Aweil remain en route; and all trucks destined for Wau have arrived.
Health, WASH and Nutrition Supplies airlifted to Iholong as part of a Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) mission were also airlifted to Panyijar Nyal.

**Media and External Communications**

In May, UNICEF issued a press release on the third release of children associated with armed forces and groups in Pibor, and ensured widespread media coverage. UNICEF also facilitated the production of a story on GBV for the ECHO-financed Aid Zone programme, which was aired on Euronews on 31 May. UNICEF also supported the Japanese news service, Mainichi, in the coverage of vocational training provided to children, formerly associated with armed groups. UNICEF’s social media channels continued to grow in May with Facebook followers surpassing 100,000.

**Security**

The overall security situation remained volatile and fluid with continued armed skirmishes between government and opposition groups mainly in Unity, with sporadic confrontation in Western Equatoria. Continuous movement of government forces has been reported in Bentiu and NBeG throughout the month. The movement of troops could be related to the presence of opposition forces in Unity and Paul Malong-supporting elements in NBeG. There has been an overall increase in the detention/abduction of humanitarian staff and convoys specifically in opposition-controlled areas on the outskirts of Western Equatoria. Armed skirmishes resulted in increased suffering of the local population, particularly in Unity, and forced local communities to move to swamps and the bush. The skirmishes also resulted in looting and plundering of NGO supplies. Information also suggests that commercial convoys are being ambushed in Unity and across Greater Equatoria.

**Funding**

As of end May, there is a funding gap of 49 per cent against UNICEF South Sudan’s 2018 HAC requirements of US$ 183 million. Funding available under HAC 2018 includes carry-forward from 2017, mainly due to multi-year funding, as well as substantial funding received in December 2017. UNICEF wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.

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### UNICEF South Sudan Appeal

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## Annex A
### SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS 2018

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<tr>
<th>Cluster for 2018</th>
<th>UNICEF and partners for 2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target (Jan-Dec)</td>
<td>Results (Jan-May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of targeted children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted to therapeutic care</td>
<td>209,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of exits from therapeutic care by children 6-59 months who have recovered</td>
<td>&gt;75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of pregnant and lactating women with access to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling for appropriate feeding</td>
<td>1,013,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children 6 months to 15 years in humanitarian situations vaccinated for measles</td>
<td>1,514,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of long-lasting insecticide treated nets (LLITN) distributed</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of preventive and curative consultations provided to children under five years of age</td>
<td>700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of target population provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards (7.5-15 litres of water per person per day)</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of target population provided with access to appropriate sanitation facilities</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children reached with psychosocial support (PSS)</td>
<td>271,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and missing children registered</td>
<td>13,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children reached with life-saving mine risk education (MRE)</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td># of people reached by gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children and adolescents 3 to 18 years provided with access to education in emergencies</td>
<td>674,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of teachers and members of parent-teacher association (PTA) and school management committee (SMC) trained</td>
<td>5,465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2 The Nutrition Cluster target does not include refugee children who are covered under the Multi-Sector Refugee Appeal, while UNICEF’s nutrition response covers all children, including refugee children residing in the country.

3 The Child Protection target against the HAC 2018 differs slightly from the HRP 2018 target due to the reduced funding for the Child-Protection sub-cluster. The HPM targets are based on HAC funding needs.

4 UNICEF achievement is higher than CPSC achievement (national DB) as national DB registration of cases takes more time as there are procedures to complete before registration.