**Highlights**

- Approximately 4,500 people have arrived to Malakal Protection of Civilian (PoC) site since 3 April due to inter-communal violence in Akoka, Bentiang, Lul and Rom. The new arrivals bring the total number of civilians in the site to close to 26,000. UNICEF is providing tents to accommodate the new arrivals. UNICEF and child protection partners are closely monitoring the situation of children and potential cases of separation, while UNICEF and IMC are screening newly arrived children under 5 and referring cases of malnourished children to the existing nutrition facilities in the PoC.

- A measles outbreak was declared in Bentiu PoC following 112 suspected and two confirmed cases. Suspected cases have been treated and active case searching, contact tracing and vaccination of close contacts conducted. An integrated measles and polio vaccination campaign was launched on 7 April targeting 34,300 children under 5, including vitamin A supplementation for children 6 months to 5 years. Preliminary results from the first two days of the campaign show 4,964 children vaccinated against measles and 5,512 against polio with 2,547 receiving Vitamin A.

- World Water Day was commemorated in the last week of March 2015 with celebrations in Aweil, Malakal and Juba. Only 41 per cent of people have access to safe water in South Sudan. So far this year, UNICEF has provided 193,741 conflict-affected people with access to safe water.

**1.5 million**

People internally displaced since 15 December 2013

(OCHA, SitRep #81 dated 3 April, 2015)

**802,122***

Estimated internally displaced children under 18 years

**Outside South Sudan**

**514,947**

Estimated new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries since 15 December 2013 (OCHA, SitRep #81 dated 3 April, 2015)

**Priority Humanitarian Funding needs January - December 2015**

US$ 165.6 million**

* Disaggregated data is yet to be made available, as registration has not been completed across the country. Children under 18 years have been calculated based on census

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**UNICEF’s Response with Partners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Cluster for 2015</th>
<th>UNICEF for 2015</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH: # of target population provided with access to water as per agreed standards (7.5-15 litres of water per person per day)</td>
<td>Cluster Target</td>
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<td>Nutrition: # children 6-59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted for treatment</td>
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<td>Health: # of children 6mo-15y vaccinated for measles</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Child Protection: # of children reached with critical child protection services</td>
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Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs
Since the beginning of the conflict in December 2013, over two million people have fled their homes in South Sudan, including 1.5 million people who remain displaced inside South Sudan and 514,947 who have fled to neighbouring countries. According to the UN Mission in South Sudan, the number of people sheltering in Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites is 112,590 as of 7 April.

Approximately 4,500 people have arrived to Malakal PoC due to inter-communal violence in Akoka, Bentiang, Lul and Rom. The new arrivals bring the total number of civilians in that site close to 26,000. UNICEF is providing tents to accommodate the new arrivals. UNICEF and child protection partners are closely monitoring the situation of children and potential cases of separation, while UNICEF and IMC are screening newly arrived children under five years of age and referring cases of malnourished children to the existing nutrition facilities in the PoC. As the situation remains volatile in northern Upper Nile, further displacements may occur to Malakal PoC or to the northern counties of the State as populations flee to safer locations.

As the rainy season sets in, humanitarian access is constrained by the resumption of violence across the conflict-affected states, with fighting during the reporting period in Ayod town in Jonglei and Nasir County in Upper Nile. There are also reports of military movements in Longochuk County in Upper Nile, while crime is on the rise on the Juba-Pibor road.

Biometric registration for the new arrivals in Bentiu PoC, showed 21,000 individual arriving from January to March 2015, bringing this number to 73,906. However, based on the MSF house to house weekly survey, it is estimated that the population staying in the PoC on a constant basis is around 50,000 with the rest journeying between the PoC and their place of origin to access services.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination
UNICEF actively participates in the Humanitarian Country Team and the Inter Cluster Working Group, which lead strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of humanitarian programmes. UNICEF leads the WASH, Nutrition and Education clusters as well as the Child Protection sub-cluster. Within the Health cluster, UNICEF provides leadership on vaccination, communication and social mobilization. UNICEF also supports the core supply pipelines for the Education, WASH and Nutrition clusters, providing essential humanitarian supplies to all partners. While continuing to focus on the delivery of life-saving interventions, UNICEF is also investing in providing access to education and a protective environment for affected children.

Humanitarian Strategy: Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)
As part of the interagency rapid response teams, UNICEF continues to expand activities in remote locations together with WFP and partners. More than 729,000 people, including over 154,000 children under 5, have been reached by the 43 UNICEF and partner RRMs to date. In 2015, nine RRM missions in northern Jonglei and northern Unity States have reached over 126,000 people, including 27,000 children under five. Two missions are currently ongoing in Old Fangak, Jonglei State, and Ngop, Unity State.

UNICEF recently conducted a follow up RRM mission to Turkei in Mayom County (Unity State), three months after the initial mission which took place in December 2014. The main objective was to re-assess the nutrition situation and provide immediate treatment for acute malnourished children in the area as there had been no presence of nutrition partners since the first RRM mission. 462 children were screened for malnutrition with results indicating that 3 per cent of these children are severely malnourished and 7.4 per cent moderately malnourished. All identified cases have been referred for treatment. Key infant and young child feeding messaging were provided to all pregnant and lactating women and mothers of children under 1 through individual counselling and group messaging. Health interventions were also undertaken with the vaccination of 1,424 children against measles and 1,949 children against polio, while 236 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus. Four separated girls under 5 years of age were identified and registered, and a child friendly space established.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

HEALTH: A measles outbreak was declared in Bentiu PoC following 112 suspected and two confirmed cases. Suspected cases have been treated and active case searching, contact tracing and vaccination of close contacts conducted. An integrated measles and polio vaccination campaign was launched targeting 34,300 children under 15, including vitamin
A supplementation for children 6 months to 5 years. Preliminary results from the first two days of the campaign show 4,964 children vaccinated against measles and 5,512 against polio with 2,547 receiving Vitamin A. In addition to providing vaccines and related supplies, UNICEF is conducting social mobilization to ensure high coverage of the campaign. A large number of recent newcomers to the PoC originate from areas which have been inaccessible for mass vaccination campaigns since the beginning of the current conflict, and, due to arrival during late evening hours, have bypassed the vaccination points at the entrance gates of the PoC. UNICEF, WHO and partners are looking into how to ensure all new arrivals under 15 are vaccinated against measles and polio before allowed entry into the main camp, irrespective of time of arrival.

Integrated campaigns are planned also in the PoC, refugee camp, and selected IDP settlements in Malakal, Fashoda, and Maban counties of Upper Nile State. Micro plans have been developed and UNICEF will provide vaccines and related supplies as well as materials and funding for social mobilization activities. Measles and polio vaccination is ongoing also at the entry points to Malakal PoC as well as Juba PoC, Mingkaman and Bor PoC, reaching a total of 2,729 children under 15 years with polio vaccination and 1,208 with measles vaccination during the reporting period. Routine immunization services continue being offered to infants and pregnant mothers by partners providing health services in these locations.

The mortality rate in IDP settlements remained below the alert threshold as reported to the Ministry of Health (MoH). UNICEF continued support to partners to provide emergency lifesaving health interventions in Bentiu, Malakal, Bor, and Juba PoCs, and Mingkaman and Wau Shilluk IDP camps. During the reporting period, 19,101 people accessed basic health care services (a 40 per cent increase from the previous period, possibly due to population movements) of which 23 per cent were children under 5. Acute respiratory tract infections, malaria, and diarrhoea remain the top causes of morbidity among children. Since January, a total of 94,951 consultations have been provided. To prevent malaria, 626 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLITNs) were distributed to children under 5 and pregnant women in Bentiu and Juba PoCs. So far this year, a total of 38,701 LLITNs have been distributed through RRsMs and in PoCs.

During the reporting period, UNICEF partners counselled and tested 177 pregnant women, with 2 women testing HIV-positive and given ARV prophylaxis to reduce transmission of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. This includes women from Malakal, Bentiu and Bor PoCs and Mingkaman IDP camp. So far this year, out of 5,191 mothers attending antenatal care in these sites, 3,416 were counselled and tested for HIV and 36 mothers identified to be HIV positive were enrolled in long term ARV treatment.

In Bentiu PoC, community volunteers continued to provide an integrated child survival package including health, nutrition and WASH interventions and messaging on the importance of breastfeeding. During the reporting period, the volunteers provided home treatment for common childhood illnesses to 3,142 children under 5, and referred 1,309 severe cases for further treatment in health facilities. 2,040 pregnant women were referred for antenatal care services at health facilities in Bentiu PoC. At the end of March, UNICEF in collaboration with Health Link, a community based organization, expanded the implementation of integrated community case management to Mingkaman IDP camp. Since the launch, trained community drug distributors have provided treatment for common childhood illnesses to 1,429 children under five.

In response to the circulating vaccine derived polio virus (cVDPV2) outbreak confirmed in October 2014, short interval additional dose (SIAD) campaigns are on-going targeting children under 15 in the three conflict affected states. SIAD round one started 2 December 2014 and so far 870,461 children have been reached in 27 of 32 counties. The second round is also on-going, with 421,276 children vaccinated to date in 14 counties, whereas the third round has been completed in 11 counties reaching 301,949 children. In addition to provision of vaccines, logistics and cold chain, UNICEF together with MoH and partners is undertaking community and household social mobilization. The 3-months cVDPV outbreak response assessment took place 23-27 March 2015.
with participation from UNICEF HQ/RO, WHO HQ/IST, and CDC providing key recommendations for further improvement.

The second round of Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) for 2015 took place from 24-27 March in all seven stable states targeting 2.1 million children under 5 years of age. The results are being collated by WHO. Both first and second rounds of polio NIDs have been expanded to include accessible areas of conflict affected states but being implemented in a staggered manner as soon as counties have first completed their three rounds of SIAD campaigns.

**NUTRITION:** So far in 2015, UNICEF and partners have admitted 22,939 children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) for therapeutic feeding. UNICEF continues to provide both financial and technical assistance to partners implementing nutrition programmes as well as undertaking direct implementation of emergency nutrition services through RRM missions in remote and inaccessible areas where there are no services by other partners.

During the reporting period, in Bentiu PoC, 4,004 children were screened for malnutrition, of which 1,442 were new arrivals screened at the gate and 2,562 children were in the PoC, with a proxy GAM and SAM of 13.8 per cent and 4.0 per cent respectively. It was noted that new arrivals had a better nutritional status (GAM of 1.9 per cent and SAM of 0.4 per cent) than children in the PoC (GAM of 20.2 per cent and SAM of 6.0 per cent). This is unexpected as children in the PoC are likely to have better access to nutrition, health and other basic services. The status of children in the PoC is being reviewed to understand the causes of malnutrition and weekly MUAC screening is being instituted in the PoC.

In the four Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTPs) in Bentiu PoC, 266 children with SAM were admitted during the reporting period, an increase from the previous period. The admission trend for Bentiu PoC has been intermittent but follows the pattern of MUAC screening. Potential reasons for the intermittent trend are population movement, partner implementation scale up and the overall public health situation.

In Jonglei out of the 8,452 children screened there is a proxy GAM and SAM of 27.2 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively. Counties of Akobo, Old Fangak and Nyirol recorded the highest proxy GAM rates. UNICEF, in collaboration with SCI and IMC, is planning to conduct nutritional causal analysis in Akobo in May 2015 in order to understand, and respond to, the causes of the consistently high malnutrition rates. During the reporting period, 137 children were admitted to therapeutic feeding in the state.

In Upper Nile, out of the 10,238 children screened during the reporting period, the GAM and SAM rates were 16.2 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively, remaining above the 15 per cent WHO emergency threshold. The number of new admissions of children under 5 in the therapeutic feeding programme during the reporting period stands at 304, of which 19 children with SAM were admitted to Stabilization Centres with complications; 63 children with SAM admitted to OTPs without complications and 222 children with moderate acute malnutrition admitted to targeted supplementary feeding.

Social mobilizers continue to screen children for malnutrition in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, with a total of 135,483 children 6-59 months screened. Of this, 4,168 and 10,040 children were identified as severely and moderately
malnourished for a proxy GAM and SAM of 10.5 per cent and 3.1 per cent. The admissions through the social mobilization referrals account for 62 per cent of the total admissions in the state. These mobilizers also reached 102,333 households with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and WASH messages. Nutrition radio spots and talk shows continue to be aired on Aweil Radio creating awareness on nutrition with emphasis on good feeding practices. The social mobilization initiative is expected to expand to Warrap state in the coming months.

**WASH:** UNICEF WASH interventions continue to serve over 148,000 residents of Bentiu, Malakal, Bor and Wau PoCs and the IDP site of Mingkaman with safe water supply and improved sanitation. Optimization of WASH services continues through the installation of solar pumps to reduce operations costs and the engagement of IDPs in the management of WASH facilities. This is enabling UNICEF to provide these services according to recommended Sphere Standards of 7.5-15 litres per person per day (L/p/d) of safe water and 1 latrine stance for 50 people. Hygiene promotion on hand washing, household water treatment and proper use and maintenance of latrines continues.

The influx of IDPs into the PoCs and in other IDP sites is expected to have a negative impact on the availability of WASH services. Drilling of two additional boreholes in Bentiu PoC has started and are expected to be completed in two weeks. These boreholes will increase the provision of safe water from the current 12.5 L/p/d to over 15 L/p/d based on a population of 53,000. Materials for the construction of 500 elevated emergency latrines have been delivered to Bentiu PoC, with the latrines expected by the end of May.

WASH services continue to be extended to vulnerable host communities, including the construction and rehabilitation of boreholes, construction of latrines in schools and market areas and hygiene promotion activities. Since the beginning of 2015, UNICEF emergency programmes including RRM missions have resulted in 202,997 people accessing safe water; 121,642 accessing basic sanitation and over 63,723 reached with hygiene promotion activities outside of PoCs. Furthermore over 176,253 people have benefited from supply distributions that include soap, water purification products, filter cloths, buckets etc. A number of implementing partners are winding up their activities in areas such as Rom (Upper Nile State) and Mingkaman (Lakes States) due to lack of funding which will affect the pace of implementation of WASH activities in the affected areas.

UNICEF continues to establish facilities to provide the WASH needs for the demobilized child soldiers in Pibor, Gumuruk and Lukuangole, in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. In Gumuruk, poor ground water potential remains a major challenge to the provision of sustainable water supply. Water trucking will continue until an alternative water source is established through surface water catchment. To support the provision of safe water, supplies including buckets and water purification products were distributed to 1,800 people in Gumuruk.

World Water Day was celebrated in the last week of March by all WASH-related national and state line ministries and county administrations. Only 41 per cent of people have access to safe water in South Sudan. Over 500 people including 150 children commemorated the event in Malakal and over 100 people in Aweil town. In Juba, over 200 people including school children gathered to commemorate World Water Day with speeches, school debates and drama that were broadcast on radio and television channels on importance of sustainable water resources.

To date, 50 per cent of the rainy season requirement of WASH supplies have been prepositioned in all the major hubs (Juba, Rumbek, Malakal, Bentiu, Wau and Bor). During the rainy season, UNICEF will focus on operations and maintenance of WASH facilities and services; as well and strengthening preparedness and response capacity to prevent outbreaks of WASH related diseases.
EDUCATION: To date UNICEF has provided 58,768 children (36 per cent girls) aged 3-18 with Education in Emergencies services through the provision of technical assistance, supplies and operating costs to partners as well as through RRM direct implementation. A total of 1,986 (22 per cent females) teachers, PTA members and other education personnel have been trained to effectively support EiE.

In Warrap, the state Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF, launched the Back to Learning campaign in Kuajok on 25 March. The event was opened by acting Governor and the Minister of Local Government and was attended by Ministers of Education and Social Development, along with other officials, children from 13 schools, women groups and parents. A total of 30,000 children are expected to be enrolled in Warrap state though Back to Learning.

In Jonglei, with partners C&D and CADA community mobilization was completed in both Fangak and Twic East counties. 13,000 out of school children were identified and will be enrolled in schools in the coming days. Twenty-one schools are currently closed; UNICEF partners are now working with communities to get the schools reopened and ready, identify teachers and volunteers, and conduct basic EiE training in advance of the in service training that will be provided by Windle Trust by June 2015. In both Malakal and Bentiu, community mobilization and supply distribution activities are on hold outside the PoCs due to renewed fighting.

In Pibor Town, both Pibor Boys and Pibor Girls Primary schools are now functioning with a total of 859 children (29 per cent girls) attending classes. Accelerated learning programme (ALP) classes in Pibor Boys School continue for 433 students (4 girls and 27 released boys). Placement tests took place at Pibor Town Interim Care Centre for released boys; schools and ALP centres are in the process of enrolling these new tested candidates. So far two schools have been vacated by armed forces, Kondako Primary School and Lekuongole Primary School; 1,703 students (14 per cent girls) have already registered.

In Gumuruk, schools continue to function. Four additional temporary learning spaces (TLSs) were constructed with three sets of gender-sensitive latrines. There are 938 children and adolescents enrolled so far (16 per cent girls and 20 per cent released children.) Additionally, six more TLSs will be constructed in other Gumuruk Bomas for an estimated 500 children. All boys released from Cobra Faction are currently attending either ALP or Primary School.

Through the Peacebuilding, Education and Advocacy programme, since February 2015, three youth Village Saving and Loaning Associations (37 participants; 76 per cent female) have been established and trained in Malakal (2) and Wau Shilluk (1). The Associations build capacities in budgeting, planning and provide support to members wanting to start small-scale businesses.

CHILD PROTECTION: A major focus of this reporting period was the roll out of International Mine Awareness Day activities. Events throughout the country included a half-day event at the cultural centre in Juba and a range of child-focussed activities in Bor in Jonglei State. An additional 8,179 people (2,369 boys, 2,174 girls, 1,858 men and 1,778 women) were reached with accredited mine risk education in Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Jonglei States, including Great Pibor Administrative Area. This brings the total reach for this year to 22,900.

The total number of boys released from Cobra Faction remains at 1,314. So far, 205 of the children released in Gumuruk have now been reunited with their families. Family tracing is on-going for the remaining 44 children. In Pibor all the 303 children have now returned home and UNICEF is in the process of converting the Interim Care Centre into a community youth centre. Psychosocial support and family tracing services are continuing and community-based monitoring systems are in place to support family tracing and post-reunification support. Initial indications from Pibor and Fertet are that, in common with children released in Gumuruk, there has been a marked and noticeable improvement following intensive psychosocial support interventions post release. UNICEF is continuing to maintain its advocacy on the prevention of recruitment of children, with no reported re-recruitment to date. Preparations for the release in Pochalla are underway, with the next release scheduled in the coming week.

To date, the number of new children reached with child protection services remains at 43,703. With 57 new cases and 437 cases now closed, the number of children registered unaccompanied, separated or missing children in the national database was 7,617, of which 1,205 are unaccompanied (40 per cent girls), 4,523 are separated (48 per cent girls) and 2,329 are reported as missing (44 per cent girls) and 437 cases have been closed. One hundred and seventeen reunifications were undertaken in this period, bringing the total to 1,074. An upgrade to the RapidFTR was completed last week and will address some of the bottlenecks and resolve potential duplications that have hampered partners’ reporting of tracing and follow up efforts. Through this upgrade, partners in more remote areas are being provided.
with tablets which will increase connectivity and enable unreported follow ups to be more easily synced with the CPIMS. This is expected to increase the rate of reported follow ups, which remains at approximately 20%, despite partners’ reports that the actual number is much higher.

UNICEF, through its partners, continues to widely promote information sharing on available GBV response services, provide medical and psychosocial support to survivors of GBV, conduct assessments to inform interventions and build capacity of staff and community actors to improve performances. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued working with the GBV working group and partners to enhance the quality and access to survivor-centred services, reaching approximately 1,902 women, 505 men, 494 girls and 335 boys, supporting them to access useful information on GBV awareness and psychosocial services for the first time. One hundred per cent of reported cases of GBV received timely medical support and appropriate psychosocial case management support.

Outreach activities conducted during the reporting period include house to house sessions on GBV awareness (GBV prevention and response; access to GBV services, timely reporting of survivors to health facility), community dialogue and mentoring programmes targeting men, women, youth, religious leaders and community leaders, awareness sessions in churches, schools and through radio.

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D): Intensive social mobilization activities were conducted during the second round of the Polio National Immunization Days on 24-27 March 2015 in the seven non-conflict affected States. Over 12,000 social mobilizers conducted house-to-house mobilization. Additional activities included 196 advocacy meetings; 1,114 radio spots; 21 talk shows; 138 street announcements; and 1,437 Churches, 40 Mosques, and 700 schools reached with polio messages.

In Central Equatoria, 70 trained mobilizers conducted house-to-house mobilization on cholera prevention and control in Yei and Kajo-Keji, areas with cholera cases in 2014. The mobilizers reached 105,119 people (65 per cent female) with key messages on cholera prevention and control.

SUPPLY & LOGISTICS: UNICEF has prepositioned more than 50 per cent of nutrition supplies required before the rains in Unity State, Jonglei and Warrap States, though less than 30 per cent of requirements have been delivered to Upper Nile State. Prepositioning of nutrition supplies to Upper Nile remains difficult, with deliveries only possible by air.

To date, UNICEF has dispatched 46 trucks of humanitarian cargo from Juba and Rumbek warehouses to Bentiu, representing 1,840 tonnes. The cargo consists of WASH, Nutrition, Health supplies, heavy machinery and two vehicles for programme usage. A further nine trucks will be dispatched in the coming week from Juba and Rumbek warehouses to Bentiu, transporting 9,000 cartons of RUTF and other nutrition cargo. The Logistics Cluster barge arrived in to Malakal, carrying 100 tonnes of UNICEF humanitarian supplies, belonging to WASH, Child Protection, Education and Health programmes. A charter plane delivered 30 tonnes of Nutrition cargo from Juba to Malakal, including 2,015 cartons of RUTF. A charter plane delivered children’s clothes and WASH supplies from Juba to Pochalla in preparation for further releases of children associated with Cobra Faction in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

FUNDING: UNICEF South Sudan would like to thank the Government of Canada for the pledge of CAD 2 million. The continued support from the Government of Canada to meet the humanitarian needs in South Sudan is greatly appreciated.

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<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements in US$ **</th>
<th>Funds Received in US$*</th>
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<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>Nutrition</td>
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* ‘Funds received’ does not include pledges. ** The requirements noted above include the indirect cost recovery of 8% as per UNICEF’s Executive Board decision. It also includes a cross-sectoral cost (covering fuel, security, ICT etc) to meet the high operating costs of working in South Sudan.

Next SitRep: 23 April 2015

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