

UNICEF South Sudan Sudan Crisis SitRep 12 May 2023



Situation Overview:

- As of 12 May, 2023 over [54,000](#) individuals crossed into South Sudan fleeing conflict in Sudan, although true figures are expected to be higher, due to porous borders and no registration at night.
- Over 90% of people arriving are South Sudanese and most were registered as refugees in Sudan. Women and girls make up 54% of new arrivals, while men and boys 46%. Over 25,000 (47%) are children.
- Transportation remains a challenge from border locations with transit sites becoming congested, creating harsh conditions for arrivals and host communities. IOM registered 6,679 individuals for onward transportation from Renk, whilst the Government continued with flights from Paloich to Wau and Juba.
- Populations are now arriving into Wau, Juba, and Malakal which is being planned as a secondary transit site from Renk where further options for onward transportation and settlement can be provided.

Situation of Children and Communities.

Women and children are highly vulnerable and arriving to South Sudan exhausted, hungry, weak, and dehydrated and many without the means to reach their final destinations. The vulnerability of families arriving is visibly increasing, with high numbers of malnourished as well as those in need of medical attention. Women and children may also be facing access issues in reaching their final destinations or places of origin, as the majority of those arriving at Wau and Juba by flight are observed to be male. Refugees in Juba have started to form queues at UNHCR and The Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) premises, whilst The CRA are also proposing to establish new refugee camps in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal. With the cost of basic commodities soaring and services strained tensions have been observed between host communities and new arrivals including refugees and returnees, as well as with nomadic and pastoralist groups whose movements have been impacted by the conflict. Furthermore, in Renk, youth protests took place due to grievances over services, which caused a temporary suspension of some activities in the transit site.

UNICEF Response to Date

Health:

- Health screening and referral is being conducted by UNICEF and implementing partners Relief International (Renk and Paloich), IMC (Malakal) and CORDAID (Roriak, Unity) through mobile clinics and outreach from existing health services.
- In Renk, 2,007 consultations have been conducted, and 17 patients transferred to hospital for secondary care.
- 182 children have been vaccinated with penta 1, 2, 3 and measles in Unity state.
- Additional vaccines have been deployed to Renk for measles campaign and bolstering routine immunization.
- 10.5 metric tonnes of emergency essential medical kits were dispatched to Renk to cover emergency needs.

Nutrition:

- UNICEF and partners GOAL, Relief International, Concern Worldwide (CWW) and ACF-USA have expanded existing nutrition program coverage to ensure outreach, screening and referral in all border entry and transit locations.

- A total of 4,021 children have been screened for malnutrition in Roriak transit site in Unity, Renk Transit Site in Upper Nile, and the 3 border and transit sites in Northern Bahr El Ghazal.
- Of those screened, 518 children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were admitted in the nutrition program. 129 children under 5 years, and 14 PLW were identified as severely malnourished (SAM), and 375 children were identified as moderately malnourished (MAM) .
- UNICEF and partner IMC started screening returnees arriving to Malakal, and with partner RI scaled up outreach services in Paloich for stranded returnees.
- 3 UNICEF nutrition surge staff deployed to affected areas.
- Additional emergency nutrition supplies (98 cartons of RUTF, tents for mobile clinics and amoxicillin)



Figure 1: Awad Peter, a 21 days infant being checked by a clinical officer at Renk transit site mobile clinic @UNICEF/Dajjang

Child protection:

- Child protection continues to be a major concern with many children reported missing.
- 38 were children identified and registered as unaccompanied and separated and are being provided with specialized case management services and psychosocial support (PSS), 10 children have been reunified with their families.
- Child protection screening is ongoing in Roriak, Unity State with partner Women Vision, at Roriak Transit Centre and mobile PSS is established at the transit site.

WASH:

- UNICEF provides WASH Cluster Core pipeline supply through the warehouses in Malakal , Wau and Bentiu which is well stock with pre-positioned emergency supplies, however there will be need for replenishment of supply.

Social Behavior change (SBC):

- SBC mobilizers are deployed in Roriak, Unity providing risk communication and community engagement reaching over 2,000 individuals to support service providers and share messaging, including where to get basic services.

Humanitarian Coordination:

- Following the decision of the HCT, the Bentiu inter-cluster group conducted a rapid needs assessment to inform inter-agency immediate response plans in Roriak, UNICEF Health, Nutrition and Child protection joined the assessment.
- In Malakal UNICEF health, nutrition, WASH and Child Protection teams participated in planning for the returnee arrivals and transit site and initiated children protection, health and nutrition screening and referral with partners.
- The WASH cluster coordinator deployed to Renk to support harmonizing and coordinating WASH response identifying partner and resourcing gaps and support needs.

Challenges Gaps:

- With food prices soaring, inflation rising and fuel trade disruptions there is high risk for steep deterioration of the humanitarian situation, resulting in increased malnutrition, food insecurity and disease outbreaks in coming months.
- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) remain largely underfunded (27% and 28% respectively), there is urgent need for additional resources to support existing and new humanitarian needs.
- Community tensions over limited resources, as well as communal and ethnic tensions are increasingly observed, and humanitarian partners should ensure conflict sensitive approaches through all programming.
- As the rainy season approaches access to many remote border locations and entry points is going to become increasingly challenging and humanitarian actors need to work with UNMISS to identify all season access options.

In South Sudan, UNICEF is requesting for 6.6 million USD to scale up essential life-saving health, nutrition and child protection services for women and children fleeing conflict in Sudan.