



FLOODING IN SOUTH SUDAN

UN AGENCIES CONTINUE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE

More than 800,000 people in South Sudan have been affected by the current flooding which started in 2021. And the flooding is not yet over. Contrary to past years, water levels in many locations are not receding, despite the onset of the dry season.

In this flooding season, a higher number of people are now exposed for longer periods of time to the risks and vulnerabilities associated with the impact of floods, including lack of access to basic social services. Women and children are particularly impacted, including on their rights to protection against abuses and exploitation.

Climate change is impacting the most vulnerable people in South Sudan as never before. Due to extreme weather conditions and flooding, families are displaced to higher grounds, whilst life-saving services are often cut off or inaccessible. Families lack access to clean water and proper health care, contributing to increased sickness and malnutrition.

Women and girls are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence as they are displaced and seeking services and resources in faraway areas. As their schools are flooded, children cannot access education, impacting their learning. Without the protective environment of the school, they become more vulnerable to child rights abuses and exploitation like early pregnancies, recruitment in gangs and armed groups, child labor and gender-based violence.

To reduce the impact of floods on the most vulnerable population, UNICEF invests in flood resilience of local communities and preparedness activities, including pre-positioning of supplies during the dry season when roads remain accessible. UNICEF and partners continue to respond to the need of children and communities affected by extreme weather conditions and floods, but they face serious funding challenges. More flexible funding is needed to address the needs of children and their families affected by the consequences of climate change and flooding. The flooding has severely impacted the displaced population who have already been in vulnerable conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN agencies continue to respond to the needs of the affected people (PG. 1)
- UNFPA meets the hygiene needs of women and girls affected by floods in Unity state (PG. 2)
- News from UN Agencies, Funds and Programs (PG. 3)
- UN WFP Story on floods featured in Newsweek (PG. 4)



As a lead agency, UNHCR worked closely with the Protection Cluster to conduct profiling of persons with specific needs and enhanced community-based protection mechanisms to reach out to some 260,000 affected people. Working with partners, UNHCR delivered of life-saving core relief items to more than 100,000 individuals.

To find out women, girls, men and boys experiences, needs and capacities during floods and other climate-related disasters, UN Women partnered with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM) and Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) to conduct a gender analysis in the aftermath of the floods.

There is a need for humanitarian actors to commit to collection of sex, age and disability aggregated data throughout the flood response, to ensure that all response actions are tailored to the needs of the communities. Including women's perceptions and traditional knowledge through all the adaptation in disaster risk reduction phases is also important. While the analysis filled some of the data gaps in South Sudan, more gender analysis is needed as inclusive humanitarian action yields better and more effective responses

UNMAS INCREASES SAFETY AWARENESS OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY FLOODING

UNMAS increases safety awareness of people displaced by flooding, through explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in Unity. The worst rainfall in 60 years caused devastating floods, affecting 200,000 people in Unity alone.

In November 2021, UNMAS conducted EORE sessions to children in the Naath Primary School within the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Bentiu, Unity. Concurrently, the team trained community committee members, sector and block leaders of the IDP camp on threats of explosive ordnance, strengthening the leadership capacity of the IDPs' community. UNMAS will continue supporting IDPs to develop skills and awareness against risks of explosives.



Awareness creation session in action. Photo Credit: UNMAS

835,000 people affected by floods

31 out of 78 counties affected

501 schools affected

68 nutrition centers affected

UNFPA MEETS THE HYGIENE NEEDS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN UNITY STATE

During conflicts, natural disasters and public health emergencies, sexual and reproductive health needs are often overlooked with staggering consequences. Women and girls become more vulnerable to sexual violence, exploitation, and HIV infection as they often become sexual abuse and exploitation targets.

To ensure that the basic hygiene needs of flood-affected women and girls are met, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its implementing partners provided 2,540 Dignity kits - a pack containing essential hygiene supplies, including bag, soap, multi-purpose garment, pair of slippers, sanitary napkins, reusable menstrual pads, underwear, t-shirt, and solar flashlight to the flood-affected victims in various counties of Unity State and the IDP sites in Bentiu through its GBV partners.

Additional 1,000 kits were distributed in Site C (Bilnyang), Site D (Thoan), and Site E (Bieh) by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) with support from UNFPA.

The contents of the dignity kits were assembled by IRC, using locally produced materials, including the reusable sanitary pads made by women, who were trained on hygienic pad production through a UNFPA-funded project.



UN IN SOUTH SUDAN RECEIVES A NEW DSRSG/RC/HC

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on 6th December 2021, announced the appointment of Ms. Sara Beysolow Nyanti of Liberia as his new Deputy Special Representative in the United Nations Mission, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan.

Ms. Nyanti comes to South Sudan at a time when the country is still recovering from the impact of a protracted conflict and the social economic impact of COVID-19, with over 2,341,902 people living in refugee camps in neighboring countries and another 1,465,542 living in IDP's camps scattered across the country.

In her first month in office, Ms. Nyanti visited and interacted with the people living in the Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camp in Juba and UN mine operation site in Gondokoro. The visits were aimed at getting first-hand information, understanding the condition and needs of the people, and together work out actionable solutions. She has started laying the foundations for strengthening the Triple NEXUS programming and has chaired a UNCT Retreat and Staff Town Hall Meeting.

She also held meetings with very senior government dignitaries including the President and the Vice Presidents to better understand the context, government priorities and strategize on how best the UN can support the country to ensure that it transitions on a path to recovery and sustainable development.

She termed the relationship between the government and the UN as one of mutual respect and collaboration and sees the UN as a valued partner of the government and the people of South Sudan.

“The UN will continue to work together with the government of South Sudan and its people to recover from the effects of the long protracted armed conflict, building back new and laying a foundation for a gender -equal, more inclusive and climate friendly country which is on a recovery path heading to sustainable development,” said Ms. Nyanti.

Ms. Nyanti brings more than 20 years of experience in international development and humanitarian affairs including in conflict and post-conflict settings, most recently serving as Resident Coordinator in Nepal (2021).

She also served as United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Yemen (2019-2020) and in The Gambia (2015-2017). Prior to her senior-level representational roles, she served in numerous technical capacities in UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti speaking to IDPs at the Juba IDP camp. Photo Credit: RCO



DSRSG/RC/HC Sara Nyanti in a meeting with the 1st Vice President. H.E Riak Machar. Photo Credit: RCO



DSRSG/RC/HC touring the mine action site at Gondokoro. Photo Credit: UNMAS

CLIMATE: WFP AT HAND IN SOUTH SUDAN, REACHING NEARLY 600,000 PEOPLE WITH EMERGENCY FOOD AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE. READ THE FOLLOWING STORY IN [NEWSWEEK](#) TO FIND OUT HOW FLOODS ARE THREATENING THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF MORE THAN 830,000 PEOPLE

Gunshots past midnight startle Nyaloka Puok wide awake in Old Fangak, South Sudan. Confused, she wonders if fighting is breaking out in her village of Paguir but fear grips her heart as she remembers her community had agreed to use gunfire as a warning: water is coming.

The 37-year-old single mother of four rolls off the cot onto the ground and scrambles out of her hut. Standing on her homestead, she watches gushing floodwaters swallow up her farm her lifeline. The dyke has burst again.

"This time I could see the water rising, with my own eyes," Puok told me, recalling the year when massive floods came to stay, washing away her precious crops and forcing her and her children to live on wild fruit and water lily bulbs, food foraged to supplement diets, but not sufficient to replace them.

Two years later, the floodwaters have not receded, making cultivation impossible. "Under this water is my land," said Puok while pointing to where her crops of sorghum once stood. "Hunger has been with us for two years. My children and I always sleep hungry."

Harvests lost in the past three years since massive floods swept across South Sudan—affecting 49 counties in eight states—would have fed local populations for up to eight months of the year, but all the crops were destroyed. Initial studies from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) suggest about 65,000 hectares of cultivated land have been damaged due to floods, while 800,000 livestock have died. The World Food Programme (WFP) forecasts a rise in food insecurity this year as families who are subsistence farmers—like Puok—have no way of sustaining themselves.

Much of South Sudan is now under water. Experts say it is unclear when the water in the flood zones is likely to recede or whether it can evaporate fast enough before the rain season begins this April, meaning more danger may be ahead for the country.

Jonglei and Unity states are the worst affected, with floodwaters flowing for miles on end, turning entire regions into a kind of water world with no dry land in sight. We sailed for two hours on what used to be a roadway, now completely under water. Arriving on the edge of Paguir, we then waded through waist-high murky floodwaters to reach Puok's homestead

Many people fled Paguir to dryer grounds, including well-off families who left Jonglei altogether to settle in Juba and even Khartoum, according to Puok and other locals. The mass exodus has meant that fewer well-to-do families on whose goodwill locals have depended on remain in their places of origin.

But Puok refuses to leave, despite feeling that her life is wasting away. There is one thing that she is desperately trying to protect: her mango tree.

"I planted this tree many years ago," she said. "It survived these floods and the danger we have experienced," said Puok. "It is my miracle tree."

Many trees in South Sudan's flooded regions have died, the result of consecutive inundations that have kept forest floors waterlogged and boggy three years in a row.

Searching for Noah's Ark

Puok's story is one of millions in South Sudan, home to the largest wetlands in Africa. The shape of those wetlands is changing dramatically. The most recent estimates of the impact of floods based on satellite images taken in January 2022 show that the areas currently affected by flooding exceed three times the usual average recorded in the same period between 2002 and 2019.

This change in topography is leading to less and less dry arable land while more and more people resettle to dryer locations where other communities already live.

South Sudan is a landlocked country of about 12 million people, most of whom live in settlements flanked by a body water on one side such as a riverbank or swamp and a dirt road on the other. Tensions arising from limited access to resources often lead to conflict as internally displaced South Sudanese including rival pastoral groups move in and out of communities, vying over arable land and more habitable grounds

READMORE: [South Sudanese Struggle to Survive Climate Change Effects | Opinion \(newsweek.com\)](#)



Nyaloka Puok in front of her inundated plot of land in Paguir.
Photo Credit: WFP

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WORLD BANK AND UNICEF ON BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

The Ministry of Health, the World Bank and UNICEF are rolling out in South Sudan a communication campaign to highlight their ongoing joint health programme and to increase awareness among a broad coalition of partners to increase investment in the health sector.

The objective of the campaign is to highlight the need for continued investment in the health sector as South Sudan has some of the lowest indicators globally for infant and child mortality, malnutrition, and access to basic health services. Preventable diseases like malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia continue to have a heavy toll on children and women nationwide.

The current World Bank funded USD 53.5 million project supports COVID-19 vaccine deployment in the country and the provision of essential health services for the most vulnerable populations in two of the most hard-to-reach areas – the States of Jonglei and Upper Nile.

The national communication campaign will run through the month of March across multiple media platforms and messaging on the joint health services will be featured on billboards, videos, public service announcement and a TV special on the South Sudan Broadcasting Company which will highlight the achievements in the different health sectors.



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND WHO STRENGTHEN SOUTH SUDAN'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE WITH PHASE TWO OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The government of South Sudan has inaugurated its Public Health Emergency Operations Center designed to respond promptly and effectively to public health risks and emergencies of international concern.

The center is part of a \$4.2 million African Development Bank grant-financed COVID-19 response project that included

procuring an oxygen plant, vehicles, a wide range of essential medicines, lifesaving biomedical equipment and personal protective equipment.

The World Health Organization (WHO) implemented the project.

African Development Bank Country Manager for South Sudan Themba Bhebhe and Dr Fabian Ndenzako, WHO South Sudan Representative, handed over the facility to the health minister, Honorable Elizabeth Achuei Yol, in a ceremony attended by senior health ministry officials, development partners, WHO South Sudan staff and journalists.

During phase two, the Center was equipped with hardware and software to facilitate emergency response operations.

“The African Development Bank and WHO have played a crucial role in strengthening our capacity to reduce, mitigate and manage the adverse impacts of COVID-19,” said the Dr Victoria Anib, the Undersecretary, Ministry of Health. “I would like to thank [them] for enhancing national health security and supporting us in the fight against COVID-19 and request them to continue doing so going forward.”

“The facility is a critical building block in helping South Sudan prepare for, and respond to, public health emergencies in terms of coordinating the preparation for, response to, and recovery from public health emergencies,” Bhebhe said. READMORE:

<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/south-sudan/news/african-development-bank-and-who-strengthen-south-sudans-emergency-response-phase-two-public-health>



The Minister of Health Hon: Elizabeth Achuei Yol officially receives the phase 2 public health emergency operations center.

Photo Credit: WHO

NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

IFAD SPEARHEADS RELIEF FOR COVID 19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE VICTIMS IN SOUTH SUDAN

Launched in April 2020, the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), is an emergency multi-donor fund meant to help the most vulnerable and marginalized communities survive the challenges caused by COVID 19 and climate- related crises.

The RPSF is proving to be a life -changing programme and remains a key project being implemented by IFAD to ensure the plight of the rural poor continues to be front and centre.

The RPSF focusses on boosting recovery and resilience and ensuring the availability of vital inputs like seeds, fishing equipment among others, while maintaining liquidity, keeping markets open and helping small-scale farmers enjoy uninterrupted food supply. RPSF's goal is to accelerate the recovery of poor and vulnerable rural people from the Covid 19 crisis.

Since its implementation began, the project has registered significant progress in several areas which including:

- Beneficiary trainings on post-harvest handling, processing, and preservation technologies.
- Project inputs distribution
- Covid-19 awareness and sensitization
- Post Distribution monitoring (PDM)



Farmers irrigating their fields in Jalle using watering cans provided by project.
Photo Credit: FAD

According to the RPSF December 2021 progress report, the following activities were carried out with commendable success:

- 55 beneficiaries trained during the establishment of demonstration plots which resulted in enhanced Knowledge of the beneficiaries on agronomic practices
- 30 fishers received size 5 fishing hooks, with each fisher given 3 boxes of 100 hooks, this was meant to enhance crop, vegetable and fisheries production
- 1381 House Holds (HHs) received crop and vegetable kits in Torit
- 2355 HHs received crop and vegetable kits in Juba
- Outreach covid-19 messaging to 30 fishers in Bor; 1381 HHs in Torit and 2355 HHs in Juba in total 34 sessions at boma level during the trainings/demos and input distribution resulting in increased awareness on covid-19 prevention

STUDENT'S PRESS CLUB LAUNCHED AHEAD OF THE WORLD RADIO CELEBRATIONS IN JUBA

The National Press Club and Juba University in partnership with UNESCO and the Canadian Embassy launched a student's press club at the University of Juba ahead of the World Radio Celebrations in Juba. This year's World Radio Day celebrates the trust, accessibility, and long-term viability of the radio industry.

At the occasion, Hon. Moyiga Nduru, Information Commissioner of the Access to information Commission, urged journalism students to have trust in the broadcast media especially the radio to be able to use it effectively. He also advised students to take mentorship and training seriously to have vast skills that will benefit them and the public they will be serving.

Mr. James Ochaya, Executive Director of the National Press Club South Sudan, noted that the press club will be aimed at providing opportunities for journalism students among which will include engagements with veteran journalists, training, mentorship, fellowship and scholarships and networking opportunities. While Prof Chaplain Kara, Deputy Dean at the School of Journalism at Juba University noted that "it is important that a home-grown press club has been created to cater for the future of Journalists in South Sudan.



NEWS FROM UN AGENCIES, FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

NEW THREATS TO HUMAN SECURITY IN THE ANTHROPOCENE, UNDP HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FINDS DATA AND INSIGHT ON WHY COUNTRIES FEEL MORE ANXIETY FOR THE FUTURE

UNDP's flagship knowledge product, the Human Development Report (HDR) launched on the 8th of February by Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator.

"Despite global wealth being higher than ever before, a majority of people are feeling apprehensive about the future and these feelings have likely been exacerbated by the pandemic", said Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator. *"In our quest for unbridled economic growth, we continue to destroy our natural world while inequalities are widening, both within and between countries. It is time to recognize the signs of societies that are under immense stress and redefine what progress means. We need a fit-for-purpose development model that is built around the protection and restoration of our planet with new sustainable opportunities for all."*

The imperative to act now has never been more clear, as new findings also show that global life expectancy at birth is falling for a second year because of COVID-19, and overall human development measures are also moving downward. Furthermore, climate change is likely to become a leading cause of death around the world. Even with moderate mitigation of emissions, some 40 million people might die because of changes in temperatures before the end of the century.



The report examines a cluster of threats that have shifted to become more prominent in recent years including those from digital technologies, inequalities, conflicts, and the ability of healthcare systems to tackle new challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other findings in the report include:

- The more highly developed countries tend to capitalize more on the benefits from planetary pressures and suffer less of their consequences, highlighting how climate change is pushing inequalities further apart.
- About 1.2 billion people live in conflict-affected areas, with almost half of them (560 million) in countries not usually considered to be fragile.

UNDP, UN WOMEN AND FAO SIGNED TRILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

UNDP enters a two-fold partnership deal with the African Development Bank Group to digitalize financial services for entrepreneurs using mobile pay nation-wide. The partnership builds on UNDP's portfolio to build its safety net programme in youth Enterprise Development and Capacity Building. In the span of four years, the digital platform aims to target over 700 MSEs in South Sudan and inject private-sector partnerships in market driven services.

The need to support and boost the private sector is essential especially with the continuing havoc wreaked by the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic and social fabric of the country. UNDP's study showed that more than 53% of MSEs closed operations for a period as a result of the pandemic. More than 22% of MSEs downsized its labor force with those affected being women (69%).

In 2020, UNDP conducted a social safety baseline study and highlighted that 66.7% of businesses indicated the lack of access to financing as the main challenge faced in their continued operation and growth of their businesses. This is followed by difficulties in accessing markets.

Therefore, the intervention of an inclusive financial platform with UNDP and AfDB addresses the fundamental need to penetrate more financial access for entrepreneurs in South Sudan. The impetus of the tool is designed around the concept of "globalizing trade" - allowing local MSEs and businesses access to markets at national, regional (EAC), and continental levels.



Minister of Finance Hon. Agak Achuil and UNDP Resident Representative Samuel Doe after signing the agreement.

Photo Credit: UNDP

UN WOMEN SUPPORTS THE MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILD, AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

As part of its support for the Government of South, UN Women is technically and financially supporting the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare (MoGCSW) in developing a new Strategic Plan for 2022-2026.

The new Strategic Plan replaces the previous Strategic Plan 2013-2018 and will be aligned with the R-ARCSS, the AU's Agenda 2063, and the SDGs. It also provides a coordination mechanism with the ten states and will be aligned with the states' plans.

As a next step, the Ministry will hold consultations in all ten states and three administrative areas followed by a validation workshop. The Strategic Plan is expected to be finalized by April 2022.



UN WOMEN CONDUCTS AN ASSESSMENT OF THE GENDER STATISTICS SYSTEM IN SOUTH SUDAN

During August 2021 and January 2022, UN Women conducted [an assessment of South Sudan's gender statistics system](#) to identify data and capacity gaps and potential opportunities to strengthen gender statistics systems in South Sudan. Variety of stakeholders, including relevant line Ministries, departments, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and UN Agencies, were engaged in the exercise.

The assessment demonstrates a need to prioritize disaggregated data collection to ensure intersectional, inclusive, and evidence-based interventions.

A validation workshop to review and endorse the preliminary findings was held on 15 Feb and drew participants from line Ministries, diplomatic missions, UN agencies, NBS, gender advisors and focal points from various departments, and CSOs.

The next step will be to integrate the inputs received from the workshop into the assessment report. This initiative forms part of the UN Women global flagship programme entitled [Making Every Woman and Girl Count](#), initiated in 2017.

In South Sudan, UN Women is partnering with the National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare.

