



People affected

6.1 million people affected
1.6 million displaced prior to the escalation of the conflict
4.7 million people in need of health services

Impact on the health sector

78 health facilities damaged
1638 cases of cholera
1621 cases of measles
1.27 million cases of malaria

Funding needs

Health Cluster

US\$ 110 million requested
US\$31.5 million received

WHO

US\$ 17.6 million requested
US\$ 4.5 million received

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Internally displaced persons in South Sudan collect water. (WHO/G. Novelo)

At a glance

- In the midst of conflict, South Sudan faces many disease outbreaks.
- Recent escalation of the conflict has forced many people to flee, including many supporting the health response.
- Preventable and curable diseases, such as malaria and acute watery diarrhoea, are major causes of death among the growing number of internally displaced persons.
- Many people do not have access to adequate shelter, which may increase rates of malaria and upper respiratory infections.
- The ongoing rainy season is increasing the risk of water-borne diseases, such as cholera.
- Even before the recent resumption of hostilities, the health system in South Sudan was facing crisis due to near economic collapse.

Current situation

Severe shortages of medicines, payment of health worker salaries and operational costs for running hospitals and ambulance services have been impacted by the recent conflict.

On 12 August 2016, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 December.

Before July, WHO led 67 partner organizations in the country, as the head of the Global Health Cluster. By mid-August, about one-third of these partners remain and, of those, many have retained only a skeleton staff.



Major health risks:

- Conflict-related injuries
- The spread of diseases including cholera, malaria, Khalazar and measles
- Gender-based violence
- Psychosocial distress
- Severe malnutrition
- Reduced access to emergency maternal and newborn child health services

Health risks

The health system in South Sudan is near economic collapse. WHO is concerned about the overall health needs of the people of South Sudan, especially the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Juba, Wau and other States as a result of the recent hostilities. Coupled with the conflict, the country is battling threats to health security due to outbreaks. This includes an ongoing cholera outbreak as well as measles and malaria cases.

The Ministry of Health in South Sudan has officially confirmed a cholera outbreak. As of 24 August, a total of 1435 cholera cases including 23 deaths have been reported nationwide.

Limited access to primary health care services, safe water and sanitation, combined with poor hygiene practices, facilitates the spread of diseases. Malaria (53%) and Acute Watery Diarrhoea (6%) are currently the major causes of illness.

Action taken by WHO and Health Cluster partners

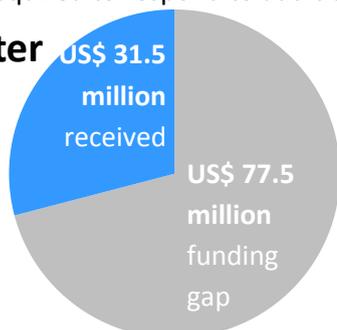
Despite many challenges, WHO is working with the Ministry of Health in South Sudan and Health Cluster partners to respond to people’s critical health needs. To cover the growing number of IDPs near Juba and Wau, while availability of health workers decreases, WHO and the Ministry of Health supported 15 new Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) sites capable of monitoring diseases for up to 50 000 more people. This brings the total number of EWARS sites to 71 in South Sudan, which provides the capability of monitoring 300 000 people for disease outbreaks. For other outbreaks, WHO has deployed teams to investigate and offered technical guidance for the response.

WHO sent newly designed kits containing supplies for the medical management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children. WHO has delivered essential medicines and supplies to South Sudan, including surgical and intravenous infusions kits to save the lives of injured patients. WHO has also donated body bags for the management of dead bodies. To ensure that those affected have continued access to healthcare, a combination of mobile and fixed health units have been established in Juba.

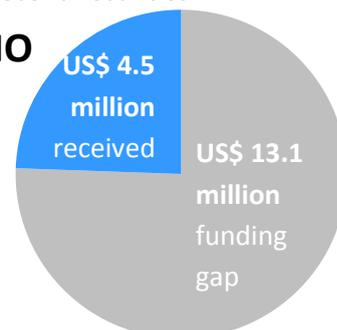
Funding needs

Urgent funding is needed to respond to rising needs. The South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, launched earlier new this year, requested a total of US\$ 110 million, of which US\$ 31.5 million has been received so far. WHO requires US\$ 17.6 million of this total amount for 2016, of which US\$ 4.5 million has so far been received. More funding will be required to respond to additional needs arising from the recent hostilities.

Health Cluster



WHO



Recent contributors to WHO’s work in South Sudan

WHO would like to acknowledge financial support from CERF, ECHO, Japan and the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund for the Organization’s response to the ongoing crisis in South Sudan in 2016.