

Alert note*South Sudan Floods, October, 2024*

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Date completed: 6/11/2024.

Forum: ACT South Sudan Forum (ASSF)

Type of emergency: Floods

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 6th November.2024

Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the Emergency Steering Committee assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey within 24 hours of Alert publication.

1. The nature of the emergency

South Sudan flooding is caused by torrential rains and rising water levels around Lake Victoria, one of Africa's Great Lakes, generated a wide swampy area of flooding in the country¹. In the Sudd region of South Sudan, the Nile passes through a vast network of smaller rivers, swamps, and floodplains. It is one of the world's largest wetlands. Flood levels vary significantly from year to year, mostly caused by fluctuations in water levels in Lake Victoria and controlled releases from the dam in Uganda where the lake empties into the Nile.² South Sudan is a global hotspot of flood risk, ranking 7th for the share of its population exposed to river floods June, July, August and September-2024.³

On 3rd October 2024, the Council of Ministers endorsed the declaration of a state of emergency in flood-affected states. (OCHA, 4 Oct 2024).⁴ The State of Emergency includes measures to protect food security, provide adequate shelter, and safeguard national production, particularly in agriculture and livestock.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

According to the ACT South Sudan forum members and other UN agencies assessment reports flooding in South Sudan represents a complex humanitarian crisis driven by medium to large-scale flooding⁵. The country has faced severe and persistent flooding in recent years and even this year, affecting millions of people across the country. This emergency requires immediate intervention to save lives and prevent more death. It is based on this the government of South Sudan has come up South Sudan Flood Preparedness and Response Plan for June to December 2024.⁶

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/severe-floods-expected-ravage-south-sudan-over-coming-months>

² <https://theconversation.com/south-sudan-floods>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/severe-floods-expected-ravage-south-sudan-over-coming-months>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-floods-snapshot-4-october-2024>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/dtm-south-sudan-event-tracking-report-flood>

⁶

<https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/South%20Sudan%20Floods%20Preparedness%20and%20Response%202022%20June%202024.pdf>

As of 1 November, UN OCHA reports that more than 1.4 million people are impacted by floods in 43 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area, with Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states comprising about half of the affected population. About 375,000 individuals are displaced in 21 counties and the Abyei Administrative Area.⁷

According to UN OCHA So far in November 2024, flood-affected people per state include Unity 199,024, Warrap 158,646, Lakes 145,854, Jonglei 433,152, Northern Bahr el Ghazal 286,308, Upper Nile 80,313 Abyei Administrative Area 24,468, Central Equatoria 20,103, Western Bahr el Ghazal 26,850, Eastern Equatoria 18,173 and Western Equatoria state 2,655.⁸

Joint partner assessments identified that in Unity State, 65 schools have been submerged due to flooding, affecting 20,214 students – 8,976 girls and 11,238 boys. This includes 18 schools in Panyijar, 12 in Koch, 14 in Leer, 6 in Guit, 4 in Rubkona (Rotriak) and 11 in Mayendit. While In Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, an inter-agency rapid needs assessment in Aweil East and Aweil South counties essential services have been disrupted, with 58 health facilities, 103 water points and 127 schools damaged. Over 53,100 farmers and cattle keepers lost crops and livestock. In Unity State, a rapid needs assessment in Koch County heavy rains submerged classrooms in 11 schools in Ganyiel.⁹

Food security and livelihood

Flooding has caused displacement in those mentioned states and heighten the risk of food insecurity, impacting millions of people. The flooding has destroyed crops, displaced communities, and disrupted supply chains. Infrastructure destroyed hinder access to markets and services, disrupt livelihoods, destroy people's homes and submerging farmlands. Provision of food rations or cash-based transfers to meet basic needs are important.

Gender & Protection

Due to the flooding, there has been breakdown of protective community structures because of displacement, overcrowding and lack of privacy especially for women and girls at the protection sites. Lack of cooking fuel and no alternative expose vulnerable women and girls to gender based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Gender and protection issues in flood-affected communities are critical considerations in humanitarian response and recovery efforts.

Health & Nutrition

Stagnant waters breed waterborne diseases such as malaria and cholera, placing an additional strain on the already weakened healthcare system further exacerbating vulnerabilities among the flood affected people in South Sudan. At this point of writing malaria cases are on the rise, with more than 120,000 cases and 31 suspected deaths reported. In five weeks, 80 case of snake bite incidents have been reported.¹⁰ Needs to provide tents to support mobile health clinics and antimalarial drugs is required.

Emergency Shelter & NFIs

Many families have been displaced and live in temporary shelters, however, the items provided are inadequate for long-term residence for most the affected people by the flood. Providing emergency shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) to flood-affected communities in the country is vital for their immediate survival and recovery. Provide materials for temporary shelters, such as tarpaulins, tents, or prefabricated shelters while NFI such as blankets and sleeping mats, Hygiene kits (soap, sanitary pads) and water containers.

⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-floods-snapshot-1-november-2024>

⁸ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-floods-snapshot-1-november-2024>

⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-flooding-situation-flash-update-no-4-18-september-2024>

¹⁰ <https://www.radiotamazuj.org/en/news/article/parieng-records-80-snakebite-cases>

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Joint assessments by partners indicated several water points were damaged in flood-affected areas of South Sudan. It is extremely hard to get clean water for the Flood-affected areas. Addressing Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is crucial for protecting health and ensuring the well-being of affected communities.

Education

Joint assessments by partners also indicated several schools have been submerged due to flooding. Teaching and learning supplies and infrastructure were damaged. Supporting education in emergency for flood-affected communities is fundamental for the well-being and prospects of children and youth. This can be done through set up safe, accessible temporary learning spaces using tents or other structures in areas that are safe from flooding and protective environment for children. Provide training for teachers to adapt to emergency teaching methods and trauma-informed approaches is important.

3. Local and national capacity

The coping mechanisms in the flood affected areas are through digging of dykes and migrating to highland areas and other people seek refuge with relatives including in less affected states. For food security, livelihoods, health, nutrition, shelter and WASH needs, people have resorted eating one meal per day, hunting for wildlife, fishing, gathering wild fruits, selling livestock, burning, and selling charcoals to raise income for survival.

National Organisation and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) play a crucial role in disaster preparedness and response. They provide immediate assistance, disseminate early warnings, and support vulnerable groups within their communities. They provide awareness regarding early warning, raising awareness at the community level about the flood risks and engaging with communities on peaceful coexistence in anticipation of displacement to reduce the risk of conflict.

Structures have been established through clusters where partners and government departments deliberate on how best affected populations can be supported. OCHA has coordination offices at national and state level working in collaboration with government department for Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), state government authorities with communities having flood task forces, peace committees, ICCs extension workers, Participatory Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (PVCA) with community action plans put in place. In addition, the South Sudan Preparedness and Response Plan 2024 was developed in consultation with the Government of South Sudan. Technical staff from the line ministries including health, water and irrigation, and humanitarian affairs and disaster management were part of the joint analysis and modelling for the flood impact.¹¹

Juba, 11 October 2024. — The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) of the Republic of South Sudan and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) have signed a key agreement to procure essential flood mitigation supplies for the counties of Bor and Fangak in Jonglei State, and Pibor in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area¹²

4. Key needs and gaps

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<https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/South%20Sudan%20Floods%20Preparedness%20and%20Response%202022%20June%202024.pdf>

¹² <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/ministry-water-resources-and-irrigation-signed-agreement-unops-procure-flood-mitigation-supplies>

Humanitarian partners are responding to the immediate needs of flood-affected people across the country, focusing on life-saving sectors like health, WASH, food, shelter, livelihoods, and non-food items, although there are still huge gaps. The flooding has caused extensive damage across the affected communities, with significant destruction of houses, schools, and markets centres, forcing many residents to flee their homes.

Food security is a primary concern for the affected population due to significant crop losses and disruptions to livelihoods such as informal market/trade. Provision of food rations or cash-based transfers to meet basic nutritional needs targeting malnourished children and pregnant/lactating women, including ready-to-use helpful foods. It is also imperative to provide support for recovering livelihoods, including seeds and tools for replanting. **Health & Nutrition.** South Sudan, As of 27 October 2024, 49 cholera cases have been reported among refugees, returnees, and local communities, due to stagnant water and disrupted health services. In response, the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, and other partners are taking steps to manage the outbreak.¹³ There need to establish mobile clinics to provide primary healthcare, maternal and child health services, and treatment for communicable diseases including vaccination campaigns and health education to prevent outbreaks, especially in crowded settings. **Gender & Protection** Particularly in crowded or temporary shelters, flooding has exacerbated violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment. The Protection cluster's Protection Risk Assessment (PRA) conducted in August 2024 highlighted that GBV is a pressing issue with alarming prevalence rates due to displacement.¹⁴ Measures to ensure the safety of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly at this stage is vital. including Psychosocial Support. **Emergency Shelter & NFIs** In Jonglei state and other part of the flood affected states, partners provided emergency shelters and non-food items. However, since many families have been displaced and live in temporary shelters thus the items provide are in adequate for long-term residence. Addition, tarpaulins, tents, and other materials for temporary shelters. Essential items such as blankets, cooking utensils, and hygiene kits to support basic living needs is required. **Education-** The Global Partnership for Education (GPE)-funded Flood Response under the Multi-Year Resilience Programme for South Sudan, implemented by Save the Children and partners, is supporting schools in flood-affected areas by constructing flood-resilient classrooms, strengthening resilience among school communities through early warning systems, preparedness, and response planning. This initiative ensures that children do not miss classes during the flood season.¹⁵ Although effort were put in place, however, there is need to establish temporary classrooms or learning centers and provision of teaching and learning materials to accommodate more school going children. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** in Upper Nile, partners secured two batches of 30 MT of supplies for WASH, protection, nutrition, and shelter were dispatched from Malakal to Tonga and new Fangak, but this is still inadequate. However, emergency water supply through, borehole rehabilitation, and water purification are imperative as well as construction of temporary latrines and hygiene promotion to prevent waterborne diseases.

Despite prioritization, rising flood impacts are outpacing humanitarian reach. Impassable roads and floodwaters are cutting off access in many areas. In Jonglei, a rapid assessment revealed severe gaps in WASH, health, education, and other sectors. In Western Bahr el Ghazal, leaders

¹³ <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2024-000201-ssd>

¹⁴ https://globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/south_sudan_spotlight_july-august_2024

¹⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/rising-above-floods-transforming-education-south-sudan-flood-resistant-classrooms>

report restricted access to flood-hit areas due to impassable roads. In Eastern Equatoria, Lafon County is inaccessible, with rampant snakebites and no antivenom, causing fatalities.¹⁶

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
LWF	Upper Nile and Jonglei state	Food Security, Livelihoods, Education, WASH, Shelter/NFI, Protection and social cohesion	Funding	USD 550,000
NCA	Warrap, Northern Bahr El Gazal, Upper Nile	WASH, Shelter/NFIs, GBV Peace building	Funding	USD 500,000
FCA	Upper Nile. Central Equatoria and Jonglei State	Education in Emergency, Food security and livelihood, Peace building,	Funding	USD 500,000
DCA	Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Unity State	Peace and conflict mitigation, Education, Food security and livelihood, women empowerment	Funding	USD 500,000
CA	Unity (Panyijiar) and Northern Jonglei (Fangak, Ayod and Pigi Canal)	livelihoods, unconditional cash, safeguarding and accountability.	Funding	USD 500,000
PRDA	Upper Nile State	Food security and livelihood, Health and Education	Funding	USD 130,000

¹⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-flooding-situation-flash-update-no-3-12-september-2024>

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)	Jonglei State (GPAA, Akobo& Bor)	DRR, Food security and livelihood, protection	Funding	USD 300,000
Mission 21	Upper Nile and Central Equatoria State	Food security and livelihood, WASH and peace building	Funding	USD 400,000

3. Potential responses

ACT members (LWF, Christian Aid, NCA, FCA, PRDA & Mission 21, DCA, DKH) When flooding hits, ACT Alliance members quickly mobilize to provide emergency relief, including food, clean water, and emergency shelter. They often coordinate with local partners to distribute aid efficiently and reach the most affected communities. Currently, the requesting members are present in the states Upper Nile, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Unity, and Western Bahr El Ghazal) in which the refugees/returnees and host communities settled.

ACT members have long term experience in working a country often undergoing flooding and conflict sensitive context of South Sudan with specialized skills in sectors of various intervention. They have been jointly implementing ACT appeals and programmes to leverage resources, capacity and added value with EPRP and contingency plans in place. Forum members mobilize resources bilaterally and through the ACT appeal to contribute to Total ACT Response in the country.