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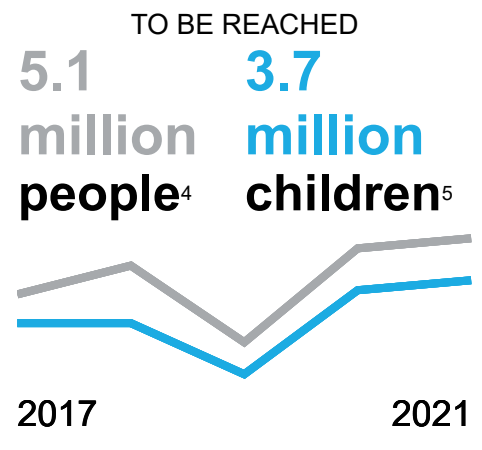
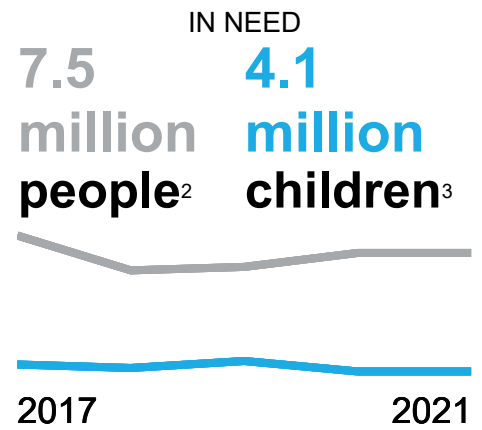
Humanitarian Action for Children

A boy washes his hands at a water supply tap-stand installed by UNICEF.

South Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS

- South Sudan is facing multiple humanitarian crises. More than 7.5 million people, including 4.1 million children, need multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.¹
- In 2021, UNICEF and partners will aim to reach more than 3.7 million children (90 per cent of those in need) affected by multiple shocks, including conflict, disease outbreaks – including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) – drought and flooding with services designed to improve their physical and mental health, nutrition, safety and learning.
- UNICEF requires US\$197.8 million to provide a humanitarian response that meets critical basic needs in South Sudan. The largest financial requirements are in nutrition to help children survive and thrive (30 per cent); education to support access to safe learning (26 per cent); and WASH to prevent waterborne diseases such as cholera (23 per cent).



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



1.1 million

primary caregivers receiving infant and young child feeding counselling



105,000

people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies and services



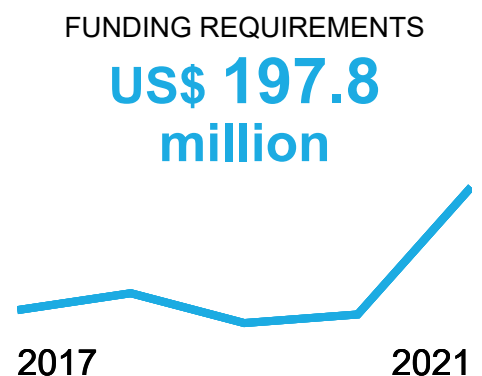
100,000

women and children accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation/prevention/response



770,000

children accessing educational services



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

While there has been more stability for children in South Sudan since the formation of the Transitional Government in February 2020, the situation remains fragile and humanitarian needs are significant. Many areas of the country are still affected by concurrent inter-communal violence, armed conflict, cyclical drought and perennial flooding.

The cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services have left 7.5 million people, including 4.1 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.⁶ Nearly 4 million people are displaced, including 1.5 million who are internally displaced and 2.2 million who are living as refugees in neighbouring countries.⁷

Critical social services such as primary health care and education are facing significant disruptions due to inter-communal violence, the COVID-19 pandemic and operational interference. As of 29 September 2020, the country has registered some 2,700 cases of COVID-19 and 49 deaths (1.8 per cent case fatality rate).⁸ Limited coverage of health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, combined with high levels of food insecurity, have given rise to vaccine-preventable diseases. Across the country, school closures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have left over 2 million children out of school. This is in addition to the 2.2 million children that were out of school prior to the outbreak.⁹

Market assessments indicate that food prices are on the rise. Some 1.6 million people, including the urban poor, are newly vulnerable due to their dependence on these markets.¹⁰ Reports reflect the increased scale and severity of acute food insecurity at the peak of the lean season in July and August, with widespread emergency levels of food insecurity.¹¹ The prevalence of global acute malnutrition remains high at 12.6 per cent.¹² An estimated 1.3 million children under 5 years are malnourished, including 292,300 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).¹³ Over 6 million people are at risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera.¹⁴

South Sudan is also experiencing significant protection concerns and affected populations continuously express fear over persistent insecurity, threats to their safety, human rights violations and gender-based violence. Only 6.5 per cent of at-risk children have access to psychosocial support and other child protection services.¹⁵

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

1.3 million children are at risk of acute malnutrition¹⁶



Health

3.3 million people need essential health care services¹⁷



Water, sanitation and hygiene

5.2 million people lack access to safe water¹⁸



Education

3.1 million children need education support¹⁹

STORY FROM THE FIELD



“They are talking about twins, how you sometimes get two babies instead of one,” Jar Maduk Aleer says while biting at the end of her pink pen. The fourteen-year-old girl is listening to a science class on Radio Miraya. She doesn't have a radio, so she is using her older brother's phone which has built-in FM radio.

In March 2020, all education facilities in South Sudan were closed due to COVID-19. To keep learners engaged, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, UNICEF and education partners rolled out radio lessons for students in primary and secondary school.

[Read more about this story here](#)

A fourteen-year-old girl listens to a science class using a phone in Juba.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

In South Sudan, UNICEF will work with central and sub-national urban and rural authorities, and humanitarian and development partners, to provide health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and risk communication services. The response will actively link humanitarian action and development programming by maintaining services in crisis-affected areas and using pre-positioned supplies and partnerships.

In flood-prone areas, UNICEF will support mitigation planning to strengthen local capacities for coping, reduce damage to health and WASH infrastructure and minimize disruptions to children's lives.

UNICEF will contain the COVID-19 outbreak and mainstream these interventions – including distance learning and the safe return to schools – within regular programmes. Risk communication and community engagement initiatives will focus on the prevention and mitigation of disease outbreaks and the promotion of appropriate behaviours for preventing the transmission of communicable diseases. Key messages will be shared on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, including on safe and accessible reporting channels.

UNICEF and partners will maintain the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide a lifeline to marginalized children in otherwise inaccessible areas. UNICEF will also strengthen coordination in the humanitarian response through its co-leadership of the WASH, education and nutrition clusters and the child protection area of responsibility.

Gender-based violence risk mitigation will be integrated into multi-sector humanitarian action to ensure that survivors of sexual violence have access to and receive specialized and non-specialized services. Non-governmental organization staff members and front-line workers will be sensitized on the heightened risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, the Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse²⁰ and safe reporting channels.

As part of the transition of United Nations Protection of Civilians sites into camps for internally displaced persons, UNICEF will facilitate durable solutions to displacement and spontaneous returns, including integrated basic services. A needs-based approach will be used to prioritize the most vulnerable populations, and prioritize resources for areas of return. Cash and voucher schemes will be provided to facilitate the transition from blanket support to targeted support in urban camp settings. UNICEF will also strengthen the linkages between humanitarian cash programming and social protection initiatives under the National Social Protection Working Group, and in coordination with the Cash Working Group.

Humanitarian action will be implemented through decentralized operations conducted by 13 field offices that will assess, plan, supervise and support local partners.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/south-sudan/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **272,978** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **1,133,149** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **2,971,481** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation every six months



Health

- **540,000** children aged 6 months to 15 years vaccinated against measles
- **340,000** pregnant women and children provided with insecticide-treated nets in malaria-endemic areas



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **105,000** people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services
- **817,000** people accessing the agreed quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **303,500** people accessing appropriate sanitation facilities



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA²¹

- **127,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support²²
- **100,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions



Education

- **770,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning²³
- **1,400** schools implementing safe school protocols (infection prevention and control)
- **2,500** teachers trained on child-centred teaching



Social protection and cash transfers

- **30,000** households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors

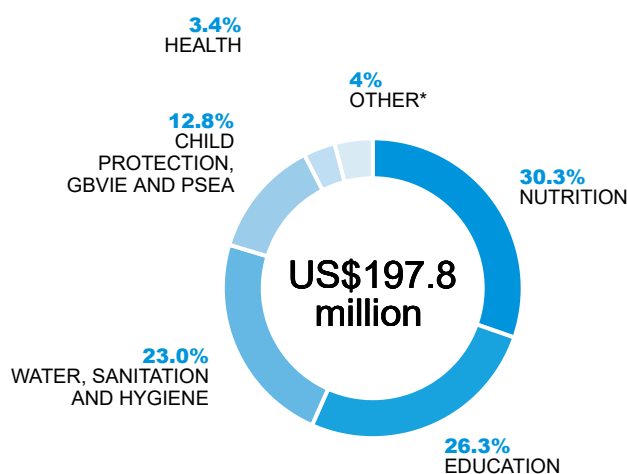


C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **4,000,000** people reached with messages on access to services
- **400,000** people who shared their concerns and asked questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, UNICEF requires US\$197.8 million to meet the critical and life-saving needs of children and women in South Sudan affected by multiple and concurrent shocks, including conflict, cyclical droughts, flooding, the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks. This funding will help UNICEF build the resilience of children and women through social protection, communication for development, health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH services. This includes supporting marginalized children to safely resume learning and restart their educations. Without adequate resources, UNICEF will be unable to fulfil the rights of affected children and positively impact their well-being. The largest financial requirements are in nutrition to help children survive and thrive (30 per cent); education to support access to safe learning (26 per cent); and WASH to prevent waterborne diseases such as cholera (23 per cent).



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	60,000,000
Health	6,776,000 ²⁴
Water, sanitation and hygiene	45,587,800 ²⁵
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	25,292,600 ^{27,28}
Education	52,032,200
Social protection and cash transfers	4,117,000 ²⁶
C4D, community engagement and AAP	4,000,000
Total	197,805,600

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Social protection and cash transfers (2.1%), C4D, community engagement and AAP (2.0%).

Who to contact for further information:

Mohamed Ayoya
Representative, South Sudan
T +211912176444
mayoya@unicef.org

Manuel Fontaine
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS)
T +1 212 326 7163
mfontaine@unicef.org

Carla Haddad Mardini
Director, Public Partnership Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7160
chaddadmardini@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview', OCHA, 2020.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. This figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme targets of 2,971,471 children aged 6 to 59 months to be reached with vitamin A; 770,000 children aged 3 to 16 years to be reached with education; 1,133,148 pregnant and lactating women to be reached with infant and young child feeding counselling; and 179,740 men to be reached with WASH services (22 per cent of the total WASH target for safe drinking water to avoid double counting). The total figure includes 2,678,816 women/girls (53 per cent) and 2,375,543 men/boys (47 per cent). This also includes 401,822 women/girls and 356,333 men/boys with disabilities, based on a 15 per cent disability rate as per 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of 2,971,471 children aged 6 to 59 months to be reached with vitamin A and 770,000 children aged 3 to 16 years to be reached with education. The total figure includes 1,982,984 girls (53 per cent) and 1,758,496 boys (47 per cent). This includes an estimated 297,447 girls and 263,774 boys with disabilities, based on a 15 per cent disability rate as per 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
6. 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
7. Ibid.
8. South Sudan Ministry of Health Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, 'COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report', September 2020.
9. United Nations Children's Fund, 'South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report No. 144', UNICEF, April 2020.
10. World Food Programme, 'WFP Global Response to COVID-19: June 2020', WFP, 29 June 2020.
11. Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 'Sudan Food Security Outlook Update', FEWS NET, August 2020.
12. Ibid.
13. South Sudan Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System, December 2020.
14. Ibid.
15. 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.
20. Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 'IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, 2019', IASC, <<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>>, accessed 28 October 2020.
21. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
22. To be adjusted. 'South Sudan: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview'.
23. Ibid.
24. The 2021 budget estimate has increased due to a 10 per cent increase in targets and increased unit costs including for incentives for vaccinators.
25. The cost for 2021 is largely the same due to reduced unit costs. The reduced costs are based on UNICEF's stronger focus in 2021 on cost-effective and sustainable systems for water provision, including the use of high yielding boreholes simultaneously for institutions and communities and the increased use of community engagement to maintain emergency latrines.
26. The 2021 budget estimate is calculated based on 30,000 households targeted for emergency cash transfers (two cycles). It also considers identifying a group of very vulnerable children to target with monthly child grants.
27. The budget requirement for gender-based violence risk mitigation and response is US\$6.5 million.
28. The 2021 budget estimate has increased based on targeting in harder-to-reach areas of the country, far from field office locations. This has increased the overall unit costs due to the cost of operating in a context with poor road infrastructure.