South Sudan – Complex Emergency

JULY 23, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- Attacks by unidentified armed actors result in the deaths of four humanitarian workers between late May and June.
- Relief actors report rising food needs during the June-to-September lean season.
- USAID/BHA partners highlight protection risks, including child protection and GBV concerns, in Akobo and Pibor.
- USAID/BHA staff monitor the humanitarian response effort in Kajo Keji.

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the South Sudan Response in FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USAID/BHA</td>
<td>$622,850,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>State/PRM</td>
<td>$10,100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$632,950,974</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

1 USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
2 U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Armed Actors Kill Four Humanitarian Workers in May and June

Attacks by unidentified armed actors resulted in the deaths of four humanitarian workers between late May and June, bringing the total number of aid workers killed in South Sudan in 2021 to eight, according to a security-focused non-governmental organization (NGO). On May 21, unidentified armed actors killed a doctor working for a U.S. Government (USG) international NGO (INGO) partner in Unity State’s Panyijar County. Unknown gunmen subsequently ambushed a humanitarian convoy traveling through Lakes State’s Yirol West County on June 7, resulting in the deaths of two staff members working for Doctors with Africa, an NGO. Later in the month, unknown armed actors fatally shot an individual working for a USAID/BHA international INGO partner in Panyijar on June 15.

In addition to deadly attacks, USAID/BHA partners continued to report instances of armed actors looting humanitarian assets and destroying relief commodities between May and July. Unidentified gunmen looted a UN World Food Program (WFP) warehouse in Warrap State’s Marial Lou town during intercommunal clashes between opposing Dinka groups in Tonj North County from July 8 to 9, resulting in at least 13 deaths and the displacement of approximately 5,000 people, according to the UN agency. The theft marks the largest looting incident in South Sudan since May, with armed actors stealing more than 230 metric tons (MT) of emergency food commodities from the warehouse and nearly 1 MT of nutrition commodities from a nearby hospital. The incident follows a May 13 incident in which unidentified armed actors destroyed approximately 800 MT of food commodities stored in warehouses operated by USAID/BHA partners during sub-national violence in Jonglei State’s Gumuruk town. Relief actors have expressed concern that the recent attacks may exacerbate existing vulnerabilities among food-insecure households in conflict-affected communities—particularly in Pibor and Tonj North, which are both counties experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—or worse levels of acute food insecurity—and called on the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GoRSS) to hold the perpetrators accountable.3 4

South Sudanese Face Heightened Food Needs During Lean Season

More than 60 percent of the population of South Sudan will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity as the country enters the height of the June-to-September lean season, when food insecurity traditionally peaks, according to relief actors. Humanitarian agencies project that populations in Jonglei’s Akobo County will experience particularly severe food insecurity outcomes due to limited income-generating opportunities and delays and gaps in the provision of emergency food assistance due to access impediments, recent flooding and procurement challenges in Ethiopia. Conversely, food insecurity has declined in Jonglei’s Pibor County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State’s Aweil South County, and Warrap’s Greater Tonj Area, where scaled-up emergency food assistance from USAID/BHA and other donors has helped prevent Famine—IPC 5—conditions in Pibor and likely reduced the number of households facing Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity in Aweil South and Greater Tonj.

USAID/BHA Partner Highlights Protection Risks in Akobo and Pibor

Armed conflict, the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and widespread food insecurity have exacerbated intercommunal tensions and generated significant protection risks and

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3 The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

4 A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.
violations among vulnerable populations in Akobo and Pibor, according to a USAID/BHA partner INGO. In Akobo’s Buong and Walgak payams, challenges registering internally displaced persons (IDPs) have prevented many displaced households from receiving emergency food assistance, contributing to heightened tensions between host community members and IDPs struggling to meet their basic food needs. The recent arrival of hundreds of returnees adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has further strained local food resources, according to the INGO.

In addition, the USAID/BHA partner noted heightened child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risks in Akobo and Pibor, citing numerous reports of forced marriage and intimate partner violence. The INGO also warned of the possible forced recruitment of children into organized armed groups, having received reports of youth participating in ongoing hostilities with neighboring Murle communities and witnessing several young children carrying firearms through the community. In response, relief actors are coordinating to ensure the mainstreaming of protection principles within multi-sector response activities, such as food assistance, as well as the continuation of protection services. In response to the humanitarian needs that the INGO identified in Pibor, USAID/BHA supported the INGO to provide multipurpose cash and individual protection assistance to more than 1,800 women and girls—primarily former abductees—in June, helping them rebuild their lives and seek protection services. The INGO also provided approximately 1,300 dignity kits to women and girls, as well as assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to 21 persons with disabilities in Pibor.

**USAID/BHA Staff Observe Multi-Sector Assistance Activities in Kajo Keji**

USAID/BHA staff visited Central Equatoria State’s Kajo Keji County—where armed clashes between South Sudanese security forces and organized armed groups continue to threaten civilian populations—on July 15 to assess the humanitarian situation, meet with government officials, and observe USAID/BHA-funded health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities. During the visit, the team met local government officials, who advocated for the provision of additional agriculture, food, and shelter assistance, as well as relief commodities, to support the county’s residents. The team also inspected a women and girls friendly space providing psychosocial support to GBV survivors and visited the Lire and Kangai Primary Health Care Center, which provides complimentary medical services to residents of underserved areas.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA supports multiple UN agencies and NGOs to bolster food security, livelihoods, and early recovery efforts in South Sudan. With nearly $371.6 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA partners provide emergency food assistance, including U.S. in-kind food aid, locally and regionally procured commodities, and cash transfers, to food insecure households across South Sudan. USAID/BHA also provides agricultural inputs, fishing kits, and livelihoods training to support vulnerable populations across the country. USAID/BHA partners reached approximately 1.3 million beneficiaries with food assistance monthly in FY 2020.

**HEALTH**

With more than $25.4 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA provides health care services in South Sudan through community health facilities and
mobile medical units (MMUs). Through MMUs, partners provide a range of primary care, mental health, and maternal and newborn health services. USAID/BHA also supports integrated community case management services in South Sudan, which deliver life-saving curative interventions for common childhood illnesses, particularly where there is limited access to facility-based services. To mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID/BHA partners are training local healthcare workers in infection prevention and control methods and strengthening community health coordination. Additionally, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address the specific health care needs of refugees and other vulnerable populations in South Sudan. Health interventions are integrated with nutrition and WASH services wherever possible to ensure a sustainable system of clinical services and support.

**WASH**

USAID/BHA has provided more than $21 million in FY 2021 funding for WASH programming in South Sudan to provide access to safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, sanitation services, and solid waste disposal to more than 3 million people—including more than 1 million IDPs. WASH programming includes interventions to help prevent cholera outbreaks among vulnerable populations, as well as mitigate GBV risks by providing safe access to latrines, sanitation services, and other WASH assets. USAID/BHA also supports hygiene promotion activities through public health campaigns and the distribution of essential supplies, such as buckets, soap, and dignity and hygiene kits.

**NUTRITION**

USAID/BHA supports partners in their efforts to prevent and treat wasting across South Sudan. In partnership with the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and NGOs, USAID/BHA nutrition assistance reaches children and pregnant and lactating women nationwide with specialized food products to treat wasting and provide supportive supervision to frontline health nutrition staff. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education to manage acute malnutrition. USAID/BHA has dedicated nearly $106 million in FY 2021 funding for nutrition assistance in South Sudan.

**PROTECTION**

With nearly $21.5 million FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supports multi-sector protection interventions that ensure the safety and dignity of more than 5 million people—including approximately 200,000 IDPs—in South Sudan. Protection activities include assistance to GBV survivors through case management, emergency protection-led assessments, mobile emergency response teams, psychosocial support, and referrals to health specialists. Additionally, State/PRM partners provide protection services to IDPs, refugees, and conflict-affected communities countrywide, including
through GBV prevention and response programs, mental health and psychosocial support activities, family reunification, and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation. USAID/BHA is also working to strengthen protection coordination and capacity-building by funding the GBV Sub-Cluster in South Sudan.

LOGISTICS

With $22.6 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA provides countrywide support to the humanitarian response through the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and Logistics Cluster for South Sudan. UNHAS offers air transportation to relief actors throughout the country, while the Logistics Cluster provides coordination and information management services for humanitarian workers, delivery of essential humanitarian relief items, common warehousing of basic relief commodities, and geographical information system mapping. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports fellow humanitarian partners’ responses across South Sudan by procuring, storing, and transporting critical relief supplies, including emergency shelter and WASH commodities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the southern-based Sudan People’s Liberation Army officially ended more than two decades of north–south conflict during which famine, fighting, and disease killed an estimated 2 million people and displaced at least 4.5 million others within Sudan. In July 2011, South Sudan became an independent state following a referendum earlier in the year.

- On December 15, 2013, clashes erupted between factions within the GoRSS in Juba and quickly spread into a protracted national conflict, prompting displacement and humanitarian needs. On December 20, 2013, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the USG response to the crisis in South Sudan and stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the DART.

- After nearly seven years, USAID transitioned the South Sudan DART and RMT to a normalized response under BHA on November 6 and November 20, 2020, respectively. USAID/BHA remains committed to maintaining a robust humanitarian response in South Sudan, and USAID/BHA partners continue to carry out life-saving programs to meet the ongoing humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people.

- On November 12, 2020, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Jon Danilowicz redeclared a disaster in South Sudan for FY 2021 due to ongoing conflict and population displacement; restricted humanitarian access; and disruption of cultivation activities, markets, and trade, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.
### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USAID/BHA</td>
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<td>CONCERN</td>
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<td>Shelter and Settlements</td>
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<td>Mercy Corps</td>
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UNICEF  
Nutrition  
Countrywide  
$25,000,000

UNHAS  
Logistics  
Countrywide  
$21,500,000

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
HCIMA  
Countrywide  
$2,500,000

WFP  
Food Assistance—Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition  
Countrywide  
$220,000,000

WFP  
Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition  
Countrywide  
$175,968,424

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières  
Agriculture  
Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile  
$1,745,499

World Relief International (WRI)  
Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, WASH  
Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile  
$2,529,172

World Vision  
Agriculture, Health, Food Assistance—Complementary Services, Nutrition, Protection, WASH  
Upper Nile, Warrap  
$10,725,726

World Vision  
HCIMA  
Countrywide  
$157,045

Program Support  
$228,567

**TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING**  
$622,850,974

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</strong></td>
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</table>

**TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021**  
$632,950,974

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work