



Context for operational challenges

Insecurity continues in many areas of the country, with an increase of fresh fighting in the Greater Equatoria region. Direct distribution activities for the second planting season have been specifically affected by insecurity in Greater Mundri area (Western Equatoria).

Weather conditions and flooding continue to disrupt transport networks, particularly affecting direct distribution activities in Western Equatoria with bad roads making transport to certain locations very difficult.

Highlights

- **Rapid response missions** are ongoing in Haat, Jonglei and another being prepared for Ayod, Jonglei to take place in the second week of September.
- **Seed fairs complete for the second planting season** in Central Equatoria (Juba and Terekeka counties) and Western Equatoria (western region), targeting 16 258 households.
- **Direct distribution** of livelihood kits for the second planting season is complete in Terekeka and ongoing in Western Equatoria, targeting 32 293 households.
- **IPC analysis** is currently taking place, with the vetting workshop underway in Juba.
- **Harvesting** is ongoing throughout the county which is slightly bringing down food prices.
- **Food and nutrition data** are being analysed for Baggari, Western Bahr el Ghazal, following a FAO-led interagency assessment in late August 2017.

Greater Equatoria second planting season

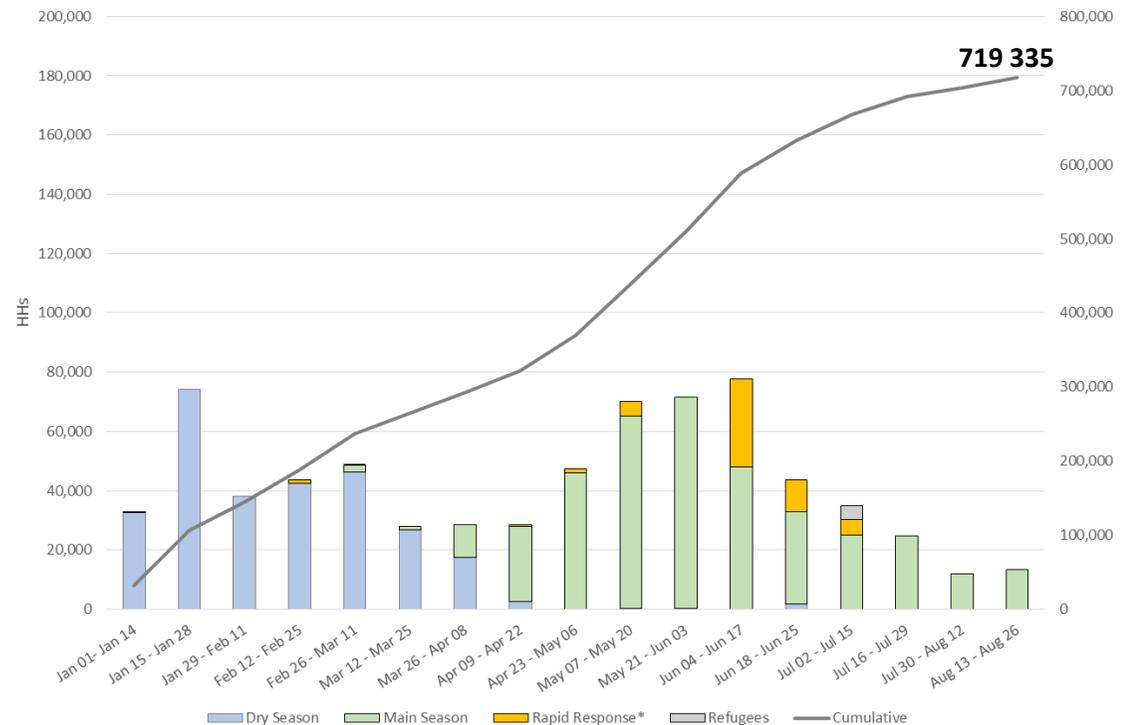
Insecurity displaced Cecilia and her husband from their home and farm in Bazunga, where they have 3 feddans of land. They are now living about 12 km away, in Sugu Pazuo, Yambio. As a result of being displaced, they only managed to harvest 100 kg of groundnuts from that year's planting season. The couple was unable to take care of the farm, and what remained of the crops was spoiled by pests.



By mid-2017, security had improved, and Cecilia received groundnut seeds at a seed fair organized by FAO in late August 2017. She plans to plant the seeds at her farm in Bazunga, and hopes to use the harvest not just for her own food, but also to sell in order to purchase clothes, soap, fuel and pay her two children's school fees.

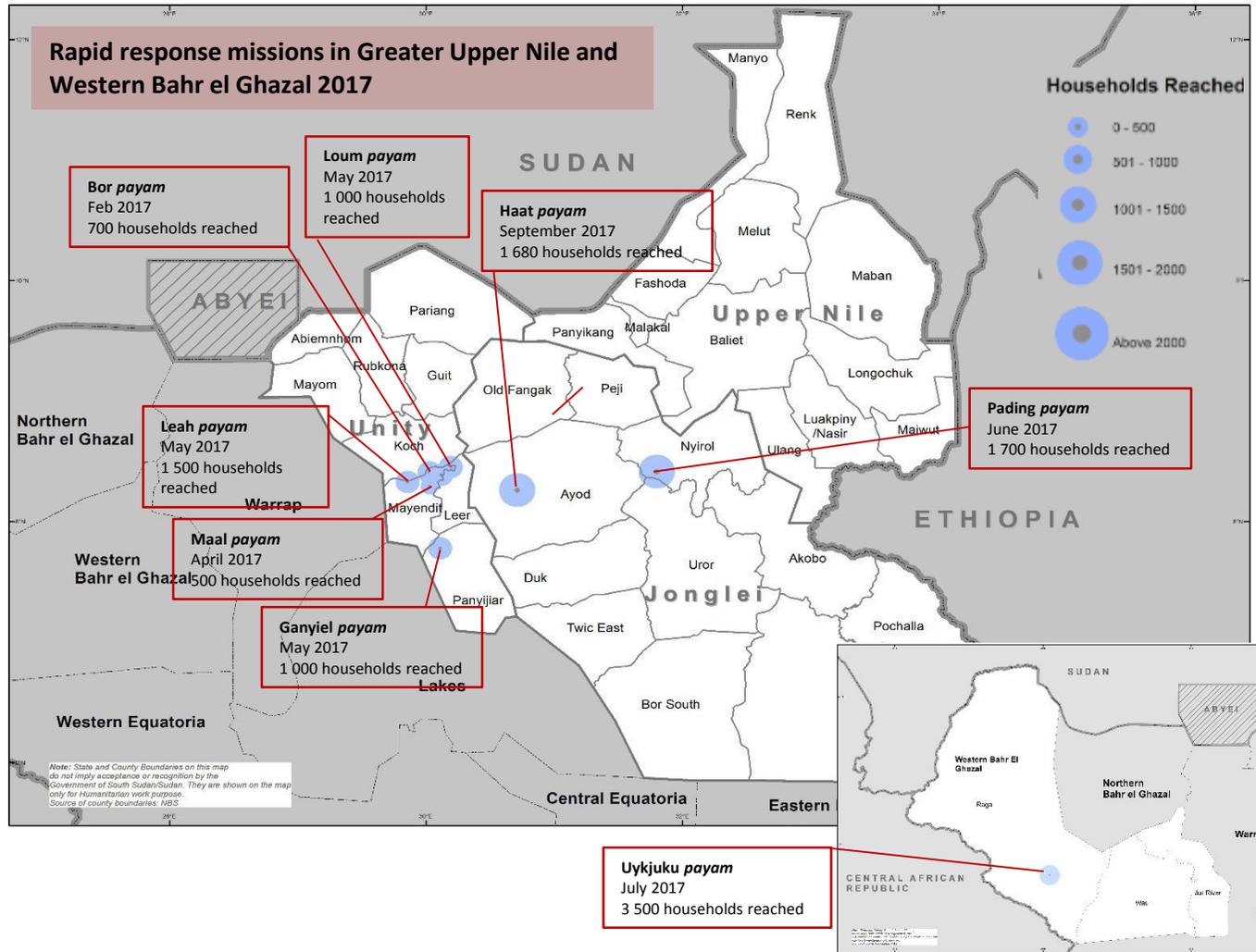
FAO provides timely support to farmers like Cecilia through seed fairs, where local traders are encouraged to supply the market and exchange the seed for vouchers. The vouchers they receive are redeemed by financial service providers, who then redeem the value of the vouchers from FAO.

Emergency livelihood kit distribution by household: January – mid-September 2017



FAO rapid response missions

In 2017, FAO set up a new mechanism to respond to people severely affected by conflict, in the shortest possible period of time. A buffer of 30 000 livelihood emergency kits is kept to react and rapidly address the expanding emergency food insecurity situations in South Sudan. Rapid response missions are initiated on the basis of rapid assessments, comprised of rapid needs assessments coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) or by FAO implementing partners and usually in partnership with other United Nations agencies. Assessments take into account population movements and livelihoods needs, and are usually initiated in places where implementing partners are unable to provide assistance due to safety and security concerns. FAO rapid response missions highlight FAO's strength in accessing locations and beneficiaries that need to overcome challenges due to displacement or looting. Since February 2017, FAO rapid response missions have reached **11 580 households** (69 480 beneficiaries).



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 FAO rapid response distribution under the HARISS project (supported by UKAID DFID)
 Photo by Yoal Manyang