



URGENT APPEAL

FAO's role in the Crisis Response Plan (CRP)

South Sudan Crisis (January – March 2014)

URGENT FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD CLUSTER FUNDING NEEDS: USD 61 MILLION



201 000 people

estimated displaced since 15 December.



628 000 people

need immediate humanitarian assistance out of 4.4 million people in need in 2014.



USD 209 million

sought for the Preliminary Response Plan.



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The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated rapidly since fighting broke out in Juba on **15 December**. The violence has spread across five states, causing widespread displacement and disrupting ongoing humanitarian and development activities. Hundreds of people are thought to have been killed.

- **By 8 January**, at least 201 000 people were displaced, with the real number likely much higher.
- Difficulties accessing affected communities, particularly those in rural areas, hamper efforts to assess their needs and provide them with vital assistance.
- South Sudan already faces massive humanitarian needs – the aid operation in the country is one of the largest in the world.
- The current crisis adds further stress to already highly vulnerable people. It is critical that immediate efforts are made to support those affected and prevent the reversal of gains made in recent years.
- An estimated **60 000 people** are currently seeking refuge in UN bases.

Crisis Response Plan Objectives

- 1 Provide an integrated lifesaving coordinated response to immediate humanitarian needs of internally displaced people, refugees and host communities, including addressing protection concerns.
- 2 Provide key emergency health services to affected populations, with a focus on emergency surgical support and medical evacuation capacity for people wounded.
- 3 **Support the resumption of livelihoods activities of the affected population as soon as possible through integrated livelihoods assistance so as to build resilience.**

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Continued violence will likely cause a spike in food insecurity levels, eroding the modest but positive gains made since Independence in reducing food insecurity.

The **planting season** for maize, groundnut and sorghum begins as soon as March 2014 in some parts of South Sudan. The risk of a food security and nutrition crisis will rise if crucial agricultural assistance is not provided in time for upcoming planting seasons.

Many of those displaced are sheltering along the Nile and Sobat Rivers, and food security and livelihoods responses will therefore need to include support to **fish capture and marketing among crisis-affected communities**.

Large-scale population movements and the setting up of makeshift camps can place **considerable pressure on the environment** and have a lasting impact, as people rely on unsustainable resources – such as charcoal – for cooking and income generation.

The livelihoods of a large proportion of South Sudan's population depend on livestock ownership and production. In some states, the existing **cold chain infrastructure** for livestock vaccinations has been looted and destroyed, while community-based animal health networks are breaking down, increasing the threat of animal disease outbreaks. This is of particular concern as mortality levels in young animals have reached 40–50 percent owing to some endemic diseases. FAO estimates that over half the country's capacity for vaccine storage and distribution has been lost and must urgently be restored.

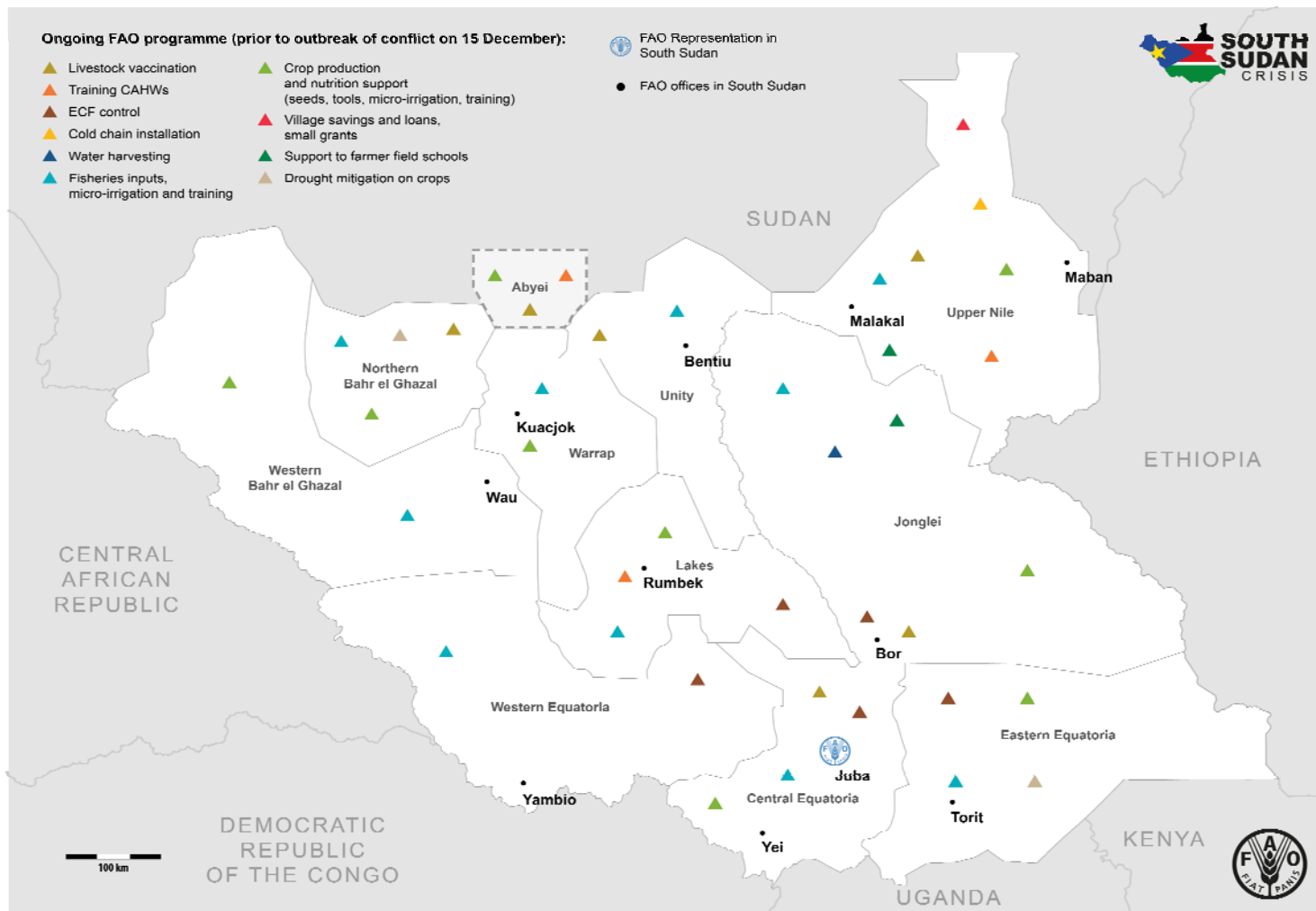
In some areas, **local markets have collapsed** as key commodity supply routes have been disrupted, traders have fled their stalls and farmers are unable to bring their produce to markets.

PLANNED LIVELIHOODS RESPONSE

The majority of South Sudan's total rural population relies on agriculture (cropping, livestock rearing, forestry, fisheries, trade and wage labour) for their livelihoods. Those displaced have had to abandon their assets, risking spiraling further into destitution if they cannot quickly resume some basic components of production. Livelihoods activities under the Cluster will therefore focus on helping those affected to quickly rebuild their livelihoods. Proposed support to mitigate the devastating impact of the conflict reflects the diversified nature of local livelihoods, with activities including:

- increasing access to the minimum set of agricultural inputs and technologies (seeds, micro-irrigation, etc.);
- preventing the spread of plant diseases – already a threat in South Sudan – by organizing input trade fairs;
- improving animal health (rebuilding the cold chain and ensuring the continuation of the community-based animal health system);
- supporting fishing and fish marketing;
- linking small-scale producers with the nutritionally vulnerable through milk, vegetable and fish vouchers; and
- seeking opportunities to minimize the environmental impact of the conflict and related displacement.

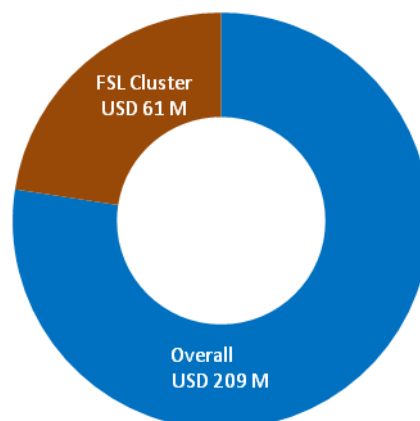
As **co-lead of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster**, FAO will continue coordinating Cluster partners, and is also assisting the wider humanitarian effort by hosting at its Juba offices NGOs and UN agencies responding to the IDP crisis at the UNMISS bases in Juba.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD CLUSTER PRIORITIES

The Cluster is currently reviewing its response plan to meet the significant challenges of accessing the population in need of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan.

FUNDING NEEDS UNDER CRP (as of December 2013)



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