



IMPACT OF FLOODS ON CROP PRODUCTION, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SECURITY

SOUTH SUDAN / 20 December 2021

Background

Following heavy flooding across the country, particularly in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states, wide-scale damages to livelihoods are reported. Most people affected by the floods find it difficult to survive, as flooding from previous years has not yet receded and the new influx of water exacerbates the situation, making the prospect of recovery difficult if not impossible.

It is estimated that more than 835 000 people in eight of the 10 states have been impacted by flooding since May 2021. Only Eastern and Western Equatoria states have been spared. Homes, nutrition and health facilities, water sources, schools and all means of livelihood including markets were submerged, impacting access to essential services and exacerbating the vulnerability of communities. In some areas, people are now experiencing hunger at a time which would normally be one of abundance in the post-harvest period.

Preliminary FAO analysis indicates that about **65 107 Ha** of cultivated land has been damaged due to floods, with an estimated loss of **37 624 tonnes** of cereals, which is expected to have negative consequences on food security of the affected populations.

The **Livestock Sector** has experienced higher loss of livestock than initially anticipated, with about **10 million livestock affected**:

- i. widespread livestock mortality – In the worst-hit states, over 10 percent of livestock affected by flooding have perished (Table 1);
- ii. a threefold increase in livestock disease alerts – foot rot, black quarter, East Coast Fever, lumpy skin disease (especially in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal), trypanosomiasis, anthrax, haemorrhagic septicaemia, worm infestation and peste des petits ruminants;
- iii. and limited availability of forage as pastures are submerged. The impact is very pronounced in Unity state. These factors will see a significant decrease in livestock productivity and production with huge negative impact on livelihoods of livestock-dependent communities. Small ruminants (sheep and goats), typically owned by poorer and more vulnerable households, were more affected.

Resources are urgently needed to enable humanitarians to reach people affected by the flooding. Currently, resources are stretched to adequately support the affected population. Thus far, FAO has managed to reach more than 222 000 people through the rapid livelihood interventions (mainly vegetable seed and fishing kits).

In addition to humanitarian assistance by responsible agencies and non-governmental organizations, the following agricultural livelihood interventions are required to improve the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households in the flood-affected areas:

- humanitarian coordination and support working groups
- early warning and assessments, including market assessment for cash voucher and nutrition-based purchases and training technical staff including Community-Based Animal Health Workers
- provision of fishing kits to exploit fish abundance in flooded areas that can contribute to the food and nutrition security of the population
- vaccination of animals to prevent spread of disease, and treatment of infected animals as well as support for communities and local authorities to conduct disposal of carcasses, slaughter destocking and restocking (as appropriate)
- support for recession farming to take advantage of receding flood waters
- provision of longer term Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and preparation of contingency and water management plans as part of flood mitigation measures
- agricultural risk assessment and vulnerability mapping for South Sudan.

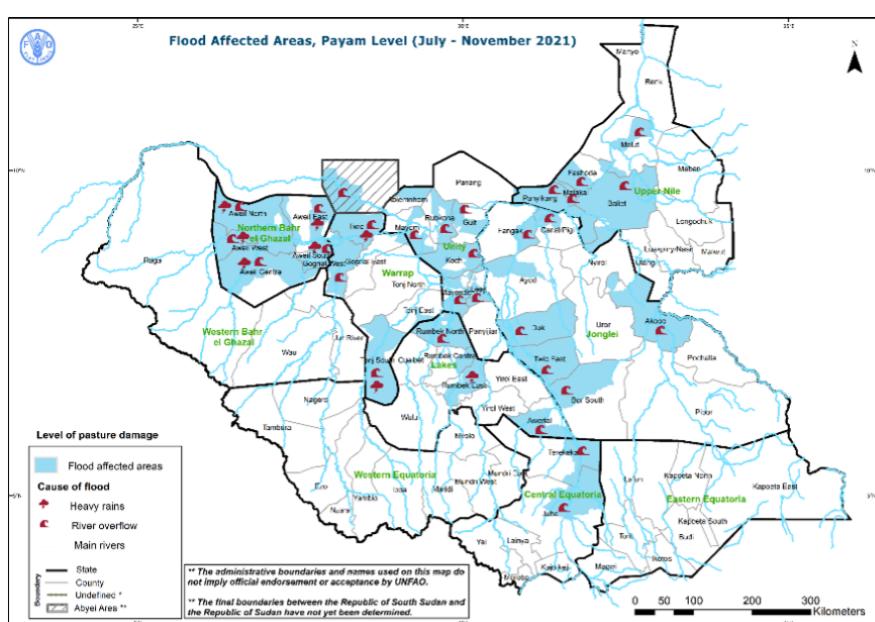
Table 1 – Preliminary estimates of crop losses and affected livestock due to flooding in 2021 season

NAME OF STATE and (# of affected counties)	Expected production as in 2021 (tons)	Cereal area damaged (ha)	Estimated cereal production loss in 2021 (tons)	Total livestock (cattle, goats and sheep) affected	Total livestock death	% of Livestock death to affected
Lakes (5)	45,290	1,133	637	740,668	7,431	1.0
Upper Nile (6)	6,691	1,493	506	1,893,408	143,210	7.6
Northern Bahr el Ghazal (5)	148,658	17,691	7,764	846,130	12,789	1.5
Warrap (6)	133,601	28,491	21,126	1,689,564	25,368	1.5
Central Equatoria (2)	41,621	1,620	773			
Jonglei (8)	24,317	14,513	6,681	2,354,850	251,325	10.7
Unity (7)	10,916	236	137	2,589,634	354,725	13.7
WBE (3)				33,460	356	1.1
Eastern Equatoria				27,823	354	1.3
Grand Total	411,093	65,177	37,624	10,175,537	795,558	7.8

Note 1: There are no reports of significant flood impact on crops in Eastern and Western Equatoria in 2021 and no reports of flood impact on livestock in Central Equatoria.

Note 2: Livestock numbers are estimated heads of livestock affected by the floods.

Figure 1: Flood Affected Areas



Contact

Mr. Meshack Malo

FAO Representative

FAO South Sudan

Juba, South Sudan

FAO-South-Sudan@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
www.fao.org