

Situation Report #1

South Sudan Humanitarian Crisis

Country:	South Sudan
Emergency type:	Conflict and complex humanitarian crisis
Start Date of Crisis:	February 2025
Date Issued:	March 27, 2025
Covering Period:	15 February, 2025 to March 26, 2025
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Key Figures



Highlights

- The security situation in South Sudan has further deteriorated, with intensifying armed clashes, airstrikes, and intercommunal violence, particularly in Upper Nile state. The conflict in Nasir County has deepened nationwide instability, while continued delays in implementing the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) are fueling political uncertainty. Ongoing power-sharing disputes, rising ethnic tensions, cross-border incursions from Sudan, and complex regional dynamics are compounding the crisis and heightening risks to humanitarian operations.

- Despite rising tensions in the capital, Juba, and other parts of the country, UNFPA remains fully operational through its Country Office in Juba and field offices in Bentiu and Wau. Amid severe funding shortages and access constraints, UNFPA continues to deliver life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) services to those most in need.
- A severe funding shortfall has left the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) only 10 per cent funded, leading to cuts in essential services, including maternal health, sexual and reproductive health, and gender-based violence prevention and response. The suspension of U.S. aid, alongside broader donor reductions, is further compounding vulnerabilities and escalating both humanitarian and security risks.
- UNFPA is also actively engaged in development programming, providing policy and technical support to the Government at the both national and sub-national levels. Programme delivery and staff safety are guided by the UN Country Team (UNCT), under the leadership of the RC/HC, with support from UNMISS and the Government.

Situation Overview

The security situation has rapidly deteriorated, following intensified clashes between the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) and White Army militias affiliated with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO). These confrontations have led to significant civilian casualties and widespread displacement. The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) has warned that South Sudan is on the brink of renewed civil war, with rising violence posing a broader threat to regional stability. Political tensions have further escalated following the reported house arrests and removal of senior SPLM-IO officials, drawing international concern and placing further strain on the fragile coalition government formed under the 2018 peace agreement.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan continues to deepen, with over two-thirds of the population in need of assistance. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, facing increasing barriers to accessing life-saving SRH services and protection from GBV. The ongoing influx of refugees from neighboring Sudan is placing further strain on already overstretched resources, while continued violence is disrupting aid delivery and limiting access to critical services. The healthcare system remains overwhelmed and underfunded, leaving many women without access to maternal care or GBV support.

South Sudan is also grappling with a severe economic crisis: 76 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, and the collapse of oil production since February 2024 has brought basic public services to a halt. Civil servants and armed forces have gone unpaid for over a year. With a projected 11.7 per cent GDP deficit in FY24/25 and inflation reaching 105 per cent in 2024, the cost-of-living crisis is worsening food insecurity and further eroding the resilience of women, girls, and vulnerable communities.

UNFPA Response

GBV Prevention and Response

- UNFPA, in partnership with the GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR), has procured 3,000 dignity kits with essential items to support displaced women and girls in Nasir. These kits are currently awaiting security clearance for airlifting by the Logistics Cluster.
- UNFPA has also set up a Women and Girls' Friendly Space for deployment in Nasir to provide comprehensive GBV prevention and response services. This includes GBV case management, cash assistance, and psychosocial support to ensure survivors have access to critical care and protection.
- In Malakal in Upper Nile and in Bentiu in Unity state, UNFPA operates One Stop Centres in delivering integrated medical, psychosocial, and legal services for GBV survivors. In Renk, Fashoda, and Malakal, UNFPA—through its implementing partners—has deployed nine GBV case workers to provide psychosocial support and case management. UNFPA also supports three Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces in these locations, offering safe havens and essential services. Additional Women and Girls' Friendly Spaces are operational in Bor, Pibor, Mingkaman, and Bentiu, providing integrated support to vulnerable women and girls.
- To ensure more efficient and coordinated care, UNFPA, in collaboration with the GBV AoR, has updated referral pathways in Malakal and Bentiu. These updates aim to strengthen the response system and improve survivors' access to medical, psychosocial, and legal support services.




Sexual and Reproductive Health

- In collaboration with its implementing partners, UNFPA has successfully mobilized 12 inter-agency emergency reproductive health kits to support health facilities in Nasir. The supplies, which will serve the needs of 120,000 people over three months, are en route to Madeng, a neighboring village that hosts displaced families from Nasir and surrounding villages.
- UNFPA has also distributed 278 inter-agency emergency reproductive health kits through its Health Cluster partners. These kits are critical for delivering the MISP — a standard package of essential services aimed at meeting the immediate reproductive health needs of populations affected by crises. This nationwide distribution ensures that SRH services remain accessible to affected populations, contributing to the health, safety, and dignity of vulnerable women and girls during emergencies.
- Five UNFPA-supported mobile medical teams are currently operating in Nasir, Fangak, Aweil East, Mayendit, and Bentiu, delivering essential SRH services directly to remote and underserved communities. In addition to these mobile teams, UNFPA is supporting six health facilities in Akobo, Bor, Mingkaman, Malakal, Wau, and Juba. These facilities are equipped to provide the Minimum Initial

Service Package (MISP) for SRH, including clinical management of rape survivors, delivery assistance, and the treatment and management of sexually transmitted infections.

Results Snapshots



	5,200	Dignity kits mobilized for distribution in Nasir, Renk, Malakal, Fashoda and Fangak
	278	Reproductive health kits were distributed to health facilities providing the minimum initial service package for SRH services across the country. Furthermore, 12 kits were mobilized to be airlifted to Nasir.
	7	Women and girls' friendly spaces supported to provide integrated GBV prevention and response services.

Coordination Mechanisms

Gender-Based Violence

- UNFPA is the coordinator, along with IRC at national level. At the state level, UNFPA co-leads with State Ministries of Gender, Child and Social Welfare.
- Updated GBV referral pathways.
- Supported conducting multi-sectoral GBV safety audits.

- Trained non-GBV actors on GBV pocket guide.
- Supported community-based complaint mechanism networks.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

- UNFPA is a member of the Health Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG).
- UNFPA is the co-lead of the SRH technical working group at national level.
- At the State level, UNFPA co-leads the RH working group with State Ministries of Health.

Other working groups led by UNFPA

- UNFPA is the new co-lead of the Protection against Sexual, Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEA) Taskforce at national level. At state level, UNFPA co-leads the PSEA Taskforce in Wau.
- UNFPA is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Country Team (UNCT), Security Management Team (SMT), UN Management Group and the inter-cluster coordinator group.

Funding Status

UNFPA South Sudan requires a total of US\$8.8 million – US\$2.5 million for GBV response, US\$4.1 million for SRH programming, and US\$2.2 million for the refugee response. To date, the country office has received US\$1.2 million, representing only 14 per cent of the total funding requirement. In light of recent U.S. funding cuts and to ensure a timely and effective response to urgent needs across the Greater Nile region while strategically positioning UNFPA as a central coordination actor in Upper Nile.