

# UNICEF Strategy 2017

## Situation overview

Renewed conflict since July 2016 has deepened the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, with women and children facing immediate risks of violence, displacement, hunger and life-threatening diseases. Since December 2013, more than 3.8 million people have fled their homes, including 1.97 million people who remain internally displaced.

The country is facing a critical food security crisis, with children among the most vulnerable. An estimated 5.5 million people (47 per cent of the population) are projected to be severely food insecure at the height of the 2017 lean season (May – July), and over 1.1 million children are estimated to be acutely malnourished this year.

Renewed outbreaks of cholera and measles continue, while malaria remains the primary cause of morbidity among children under the age of five years. Countrywide, 51 per cent of children are out of school, and only 40 per cent of those accessing education are girls.

Violence has been escalating across the country since the conflict reignited in July 2016. Current hotspot areas include Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei and Central Equatoria states. Insecurity is restricting access to many areas, leaving vulnerable populations without access to services. Fighting typically reduces during the rainy season (June – September), but the rains also cause significant flooding, impeding access to many areas.

## UNICEF strategy

In 2017, in line with [UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#) and the inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF will continue to give priority to the current integrated scale-up strategies in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Greater Equatoria, while maintaining preparedness to respond to any emergency across the country. UNICEF will build upon existing community networks and other community-based resources to assess, plan and implement the response, in order to build local capacities and ensure accountability to affected populations. Where possible, resilience-based programming will aim to bridge the humanitarian-development divide. There will be a focus on ensuring the delivery of quality of services and monitoring the impact of the programmes. This year, UNICEF is stepping up efforts to deliver integrated programming focused on addressing three main issues: malaria, malnutrition and cholera.

UNICEF programme sections are identifying new partners for scaling up operations while expanding existing partnerships with civil society organizations to address the emerging needs on the ground.

UNICEF is also working to step up the integration of gender-based violence risk mitigation measures in all its programmes through implementation of the *IASC Guidelines on Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action*.

## Situation of children



**Over 1 million**  
children are displaced within the country



**9 out of 10**  
states affected by active conflict

## Key strategies



**Scale-up strategies in Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Equatoria**



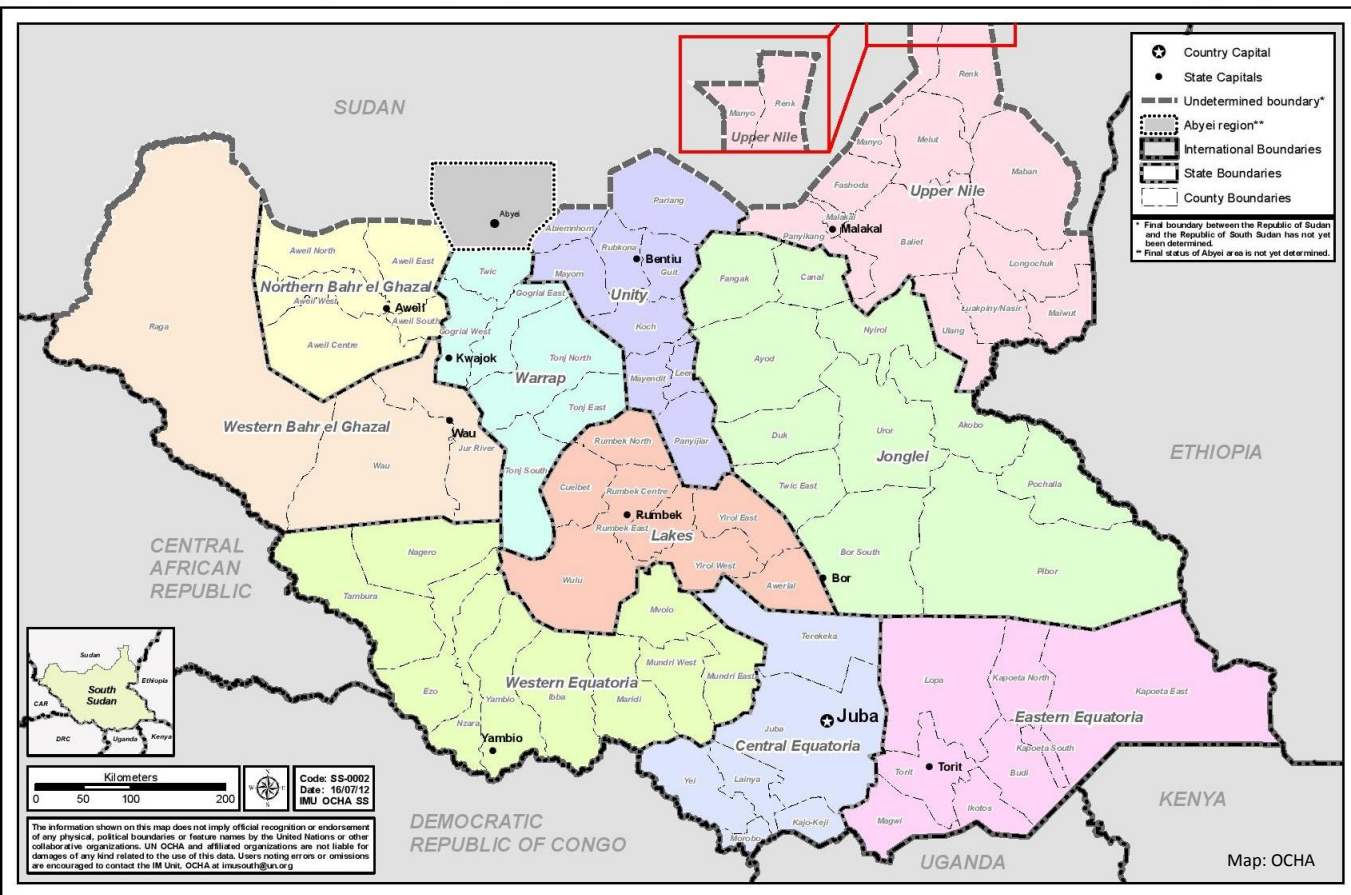
**Northern Bahr el Ghazal resilience project**



**The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**



**Integrated programming to maximize effectiveness**



### Scale-up programmes

Following the declaration of famine in southern Unity in February 2017, UNICEF launched the Southern unity Response Plan. The strategy includes interventions across all of southern Unity – beyond famine-affected areas – due to the overall critical nutrition situation. Limited access is compounding the emergency.

UNICEF is implementing a scale-up response strategy in the Greater Equatoria region. As part of this scale-up, UNICEF is establishing a more permanent presence in Central Equatoria, while increasing its footprint in both Eastern and Western Equatoria. The response is focused on addressing breakouts of cholera and measles, as well as mitigating the consequences of drought in Eastern Equatoria.

The integrated nutrition scale-up plan for Northern Bahr el Ghazal is ongoing. While continuing to deliver key lifesaving services, UNICEF together with WFP and FAO has also engaged in a resilience

project for Northern Bahr el Ghazal. As the only state almost entirely unaffected by conflict, this is an ideal location for piloting longer-term projects aimed at building capacity and resilience, as well as bridging the gap between humanitarian and development activities. This includes focus on ensuring social protection.

UNICEF programme sections are also identifying new partners for scaling up programmes and operations in Water and Sanitation, Education, Child Protection and Health, while expanding existing partnerships with civil society organizations to address the emerging needs on the ground. UNICEF and WFP are also continuing their collaboration on the scale-up of nutrition services. UNICEF is working to identify and implement drought mitigation and response preparation activities.

### The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

In the face of escalating conflict and

unprecedented levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, combined with inaccessibility and increased displacement due to conflict, UNICEF will continue to deploy integrated RRM missions in collaboration with WFP, focusing on reaching otherwise inaccessible populations with urgent, life-saving interventions. In 2017, UNICEF remains committed to conducting five RRM missions per month together with WFP.

While the RRM itself is an immediate-term mechanism, there will be increased focus on field monitoring and follow-up missions and ensuring that partners establish or re-establish static presence or other viable mechanisms in locations visited by the RRM teams as much as possible. Moving forward, the RRM will also work directly with community networks to support coping mechanisms in extremely remote areas where partnership development is more challenging.

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More information on the situation in South Sudan and UNICEF’s response, including the latest situation reports, can be found at [www.childrenofsouthsudan.info](http://www.childrenofsouthsudan.info)

