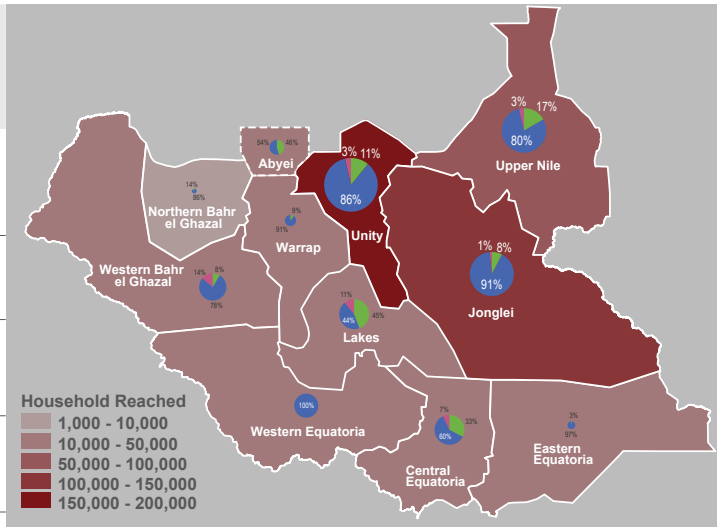


OVERVIEW

SOUTH SUDAN 2013-2016 / COMPLEX

CRISIS	Complex, 2013 onwards Conflict, economic decline and food insecurity provoking protracted internal and cross-border displacement.
TOTAL PEOPLE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE	10 million (approx. 88% of the total population)
TOTAL DISPLACED PEOPLE	1.83 million¹
SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES	1.17 million¹
TOTAL PEOPLE SUPPORTED (shelter-NFI)	748,430 households² (Dec 2013 - Nov 2016)
SHELTER-NFI RESPONSE OUTPUTS (households)	569,422 non-food items 146,917 shelter solutions 32,091 shelter-related NFIs



Cumulative figures of households served with shelter and NFI assistance, Dec 2013-Nov 2016: (Source: Shelter-NFI Cluster South Sudan). The pie charts represent the percentage of assistance for each state (Blue = Household NFIs, Green = Shelter, Pink = Shelter-related NFIs).

SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSE

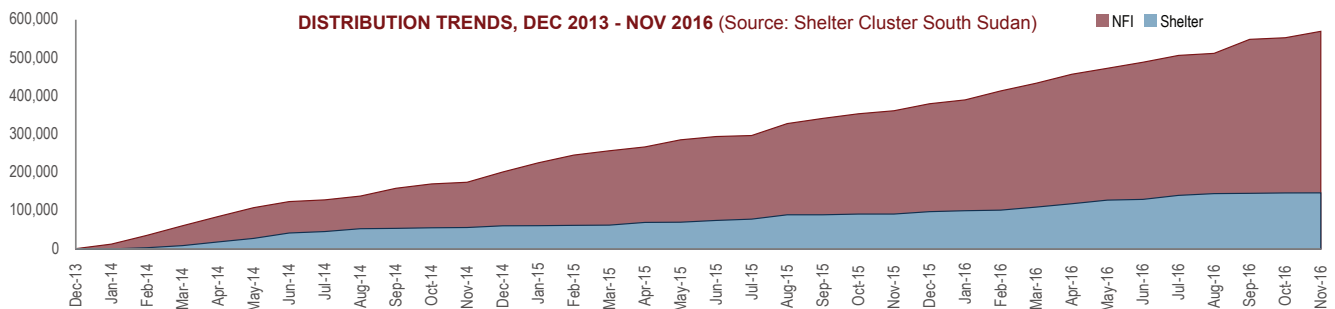
The complex emergency in South Sudan – after the breakout of violence in December 2013 – created massive displacement and required a flexible approach to planning, coordination and implementation. The response focused primarily on meeting immediate needs through emergency NFI distributions. As the crisis continued, increasing efforts were made to include more durable (emergency) shelter support options for individuals in protracted displacement, particularly within Protection of Civilians sites (PoCs).

¹ South Sudan Humanitarian Update, 24 Jan 2016, <http://bit.ly/2kRPMln>.
² Data reported by the Shelter-NFI Cluster.
³ Humanitarian Response Plan 2015, <http://bit.ly/2krYDfp>.
⁴ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2016, <http://bit.ly/2kh9uqe>.

15 DEC 2013



- 1 15 Dec 2013: Conflict starts in South Sudan.
- 2 Feb 2014: Humanitarian response scaled up.
- 3 Sep 2014: 1.43 million people internally displaced; 470,000 refugees in neighbouring countries³.
- 4 31 Dec 2014: 267,573 households assisted with shelter-NFI.
- 5 May 2015: Emergency airlift operation in Greater Upper Nile begins.
- 6 17 Aug 2015: Agreement on the resolution of the conflict.
- 7 Sep 2015: Population in PoC sites reaches about 196,000 individuals.
- 8 15 Dec 2015: 1.66 million people internally displaced; 646,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. 6.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance⁴.
- 9 31 Dec 2015: 491,943 households assisted with shelter-NFI.
- 10 11 Jul 2016: Battle in Juba and resuming of hostilities.
- 11 30 Nov 2016: 748,430 households assisted with shelter-NFI.





Large-scale displacements in South Sudan led to a significant minority of hundreds of thousands of people seeking refuge in and next to UN bases. These sites were known as Protection of Civilians sites, or PoCs.

BACKGROUND

Following its independence on 9 July 2011, South Sudan was the world's newest state, with high hopes for the future. However, civil conflict started on 15 December 2013 and led to massive internal and external displacement of citizens, with extreme violence, harassment, and the deliberate destruction of community and civil infrastructure. Since then, South Sudan has been experiencing a complex crisis: political, economic and security-wise.

The situation in certain locations, such as Greater Upper Nile and Jonglei, continued to decline throughout 2014-2016. Other areas that were considered stable, such as the Equatorias and Greater Bahr el Ghazals, have experienced intense periods of fighting. Rising food insecurity and the effects of conflict on trade and crop planting have further impacted displacement dynamics and mobility shifts.

The August 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict was set-back after major conflict episodes in 2016. Crucially, in July 2016, a major battle in Juba killed hundreds and led to thousands fleeing in fear. This led UN, Embassies and NGOs to evacuate or relocate staff.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS SITES

Prior to the conflict, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases had hosted civilians under threat of physical violence, with limited humanitarian response. The continual violence from 2013 on caused people to flee to Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites and stay there for far longer than ever before. International debate has arisen over the sustainability of these sites; resources have continually been stretched and it has become obvious that IDPs in PoC sites require long-term assistance.

Initially, response was difficult, as many organizations were development-based and did not have the capacity or security

protocols to respond to a quick-onset emergency. Shelter provision has been, for the most part, in concentrated IDP sites, such as the PoC sites in UNMISS bases, and the towns of Mingkaman and Melut – where large numbers of displaced people settled. While the majority of NFI response has taken place along the same lines, people in need across each state have been assisted with NFIs, since the beginning of the crisis.

SITUATION DURING THE CRISIS

There has been little satellite mapping or systematic collection of housing and construction data in the country, nor on the type of and damage to residential dwellings that have been destroyed. Additionally, South Sudanese people normally migrate between different localities, depending on the season or movements of livestock. Sections of certain towns were assessed post-conflict, however the lack of baseline data complicates assessing damage and, therefore, the collection of information is ad hoc. South Sudan is mostly rural, with underdeveloped infrastructure and roads, which have also been damaged through season weather patterns, conflict or neglect. People have generally been assisted in areas far from their homes, where this type of information would be more easily collected. **Thus, the focus of assistance in South Sudan has not necessarily been to rebuild shelters, but to provide new emergency shelters in areas of displacement, where people fleeing their homes have found relative safety.**

SHELTER-NFI RESPONSE

The Shelter-NFI Cluster has been in existence since 2011, when it had been assisting returnees from Sudan to the newly independent South Sudan. Returnees had differing shelter and NFI needs, according to the stage of their journey, and whether they were returning to rural or urban locations. The Cluster Strategy emphasized development and sustainability interventions, which took into account local context and community dynamics, such as disaster risk reduction for



Protection of Civilians sites, such as the one in Bentiu, are heavily secured because of the constant threat of attack by armed groups.

flooding, livelihoods support and cash transfers, linked to the intended three-year Humanitarian Response Plan.

In the first months after the 2013 crisis, operations were scaled up to respond to the vast increase of needs and scope. At a certain point, the mobile team increased from three members, to more than ten. Further, the team employed four technical experts and engineers in shelter design and site planning, to advise on shelter interventions in concentrated sites.

Given the changing and diverse contexts, a flexible approach to response, coordination and strategy was needed. During 2013-2014, the focus was on emergency shelter designs. Due to the protracted displacement and continued conflict, focus then shifted to more durable solutions. This included **developing robust designs and re-enforcing existing shelters**, with complementary framing support to enhance structural strength. With the extreme space limitations and increasing populations flowing into the PoCs, **communal shelter designs were introduced** to ensure space efficiency. At locations where this was not an issue, the Cluster advocated for individual shelters. However, progressive designs have not been an option, due to the protracted emergency.

In 2015, the Shelter-NFI Cluster worked with other clusters to coordinate the **delivery of multisectoral survival kits**. In May 2015, an emergency airlift operation began, to provide lifesaving assistance to civilians who were cut off due to insecurity and access constraints in Greater Upper Nile. The operation delivered lightweight, portable, survival kits, which included: essential, multisector, items such as mosquito nets; short-maturity vegetable seeds; fishing supplies; water containers, water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts and nutritional biscuits; and kitchen sets. By the end of 2015, agencies had delivered more than 27,800 survival kits in 14 deep-field locations, reaching 140,000 people.

COMMON SHELTER-NFI PIPELINE

Following several years of humanitarian needs in Sudan and the former southern Sudan region, a common Shelter and NFI pipeline was established in 2011, to increase efficiencies of scale, as well as the timeliness and predictability of service to beneficiaries.



Annual flooding affects people across South Sudan every year. With crowded conditions in PoCs, this caused significant additional public health concerns.

With the outbreak of political conflict in December 2013, the pipeline scaled up significantly. With ongoing and protracted conflict, multiple waves of displacement, and the need for continuous service in large displacement sites (e.g., the PoCs), **the distribution of NFIs and shelter materials through a common pipeline remained the primary method** of delivering humanitarian shelter assistance. As of late 2016, the pipeline has been used to reach 1,585,850 individuals, though in some cases the same people were reached multiple times, due to protracted displacement.

SITUATION IN 2017

By January 2017, more than 2.6 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. There were 1.83 million IDPs and 1.17 million others had fled to neighbouring countries (98,000 per month, since July 2016). More than 224,000 IDPs were seeking refuge at existing PoC sites in Bentiu, Unity; Malakal and Melut, Upper Nile; Juba, Central Equatoria; Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal. The scale and protracted nature of internal displacement into PoC sites is unprecedented, throughout the UN's history.

The following case studies deal with the set up and operation of the common shelter-NFI pipeline (A.24) and a shelter project and site works conducted in the PoC site in Bentiu (A.25).