



Delivering malaria control activities during extreme flooding - South Sudan

In recent months, South Sudan has experienced its most devastating floods in 60 years, with torrential rains ravaging several parts of the country. More than **1 million** people across half of South Sudan have been affected by devastating flooding since July 2020 (1). Entire communities have fled to higher ground to escape the rising waters and approximately **366,000** people are currently displaced, with women and children being most heavily affected (2).

PEOPLE AFFECTED AND DISPLACED BY FLOODS

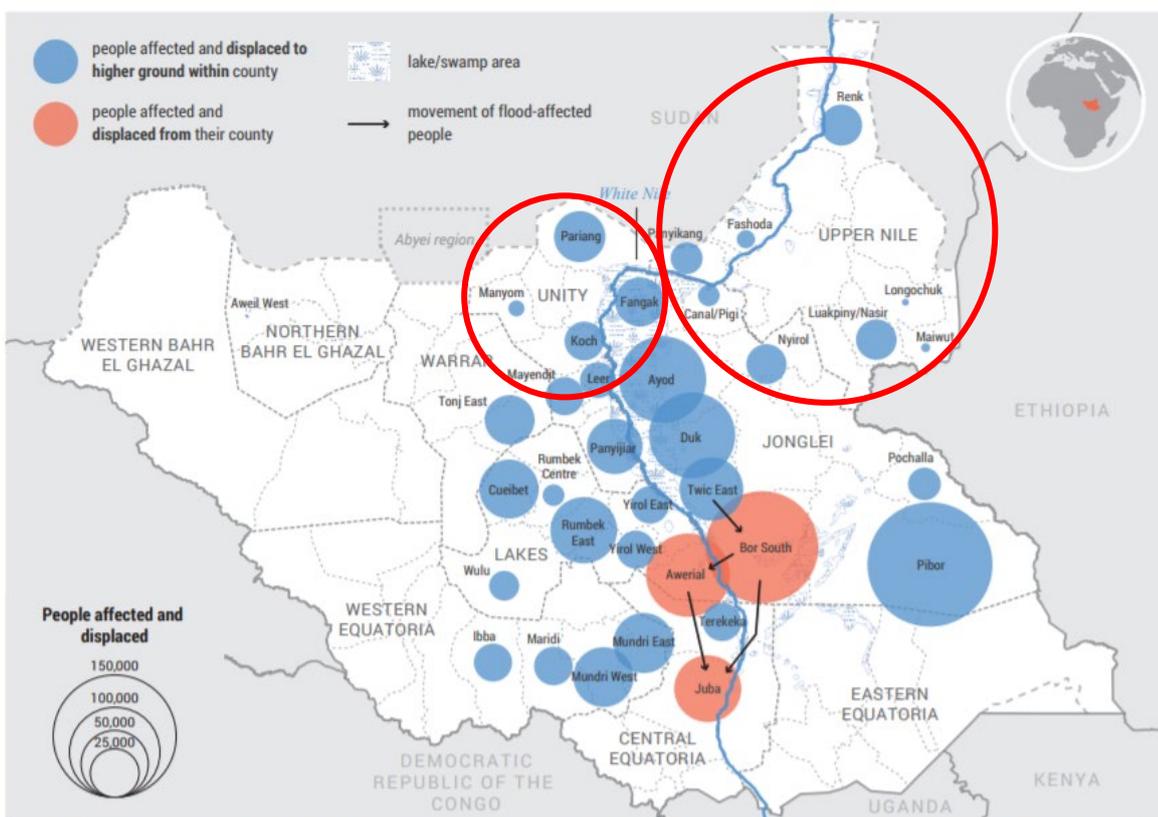


Figure1: People affected and displaced by floods (MENTOR activity areas circled in red) (2)

MENTOR, together with partners on the ground, have been working tirelessly, to overcome challenges and deliver routine disease control activities in the flood-affected areas of our target communities in Upper Nile and Unity State. This includes **5 major operational sites** Renk, Ulang, Bentiu, Maban and Jamjang where MENTOR provides life-saving activities to **6 refugee camps, adjacent host communities and 1 Protection of Civilian site**.

Challenges faced on the ground have included issues of accessibility, further amplified by COVID-19 preventative measures. This, coupled with insecurity and resource constraints has created a testing environment for our staff. Nevertheless, during this period of extensive flooding MENTOR was able to deliver IRS activities in target areas of both states, providing protection from malaria and other vector-borne diseases to some **24,988 households** and approximately **195,542 beneficiaries**. Larviciding and fly control activities were conducted where feasible and across the 5 operational sites a total of **50,877 breeding sites** have been treated for mosquito larvae and some **36,867 for fly control**.

Other activities delivered during this period have included; health education sessions and information education communication (IEC) messaging and materials reaching some **6,767 individuals**. MENTOR has also provided official training to **48 health workers** in the correct diagnosis and management of malaria and other vector-borne diseases. These health workers were drawn from the Ministry of Health, as well as various agency/INGO-run health facilities.

Surplus to these activities MENTOR has been committed to ensuring that medical services continue to be delivered undisrupted and has supplied **159,000 malaria RDTs, 14,100 malaria treatment tablets and 4,700 doses of injectable Artesunate** to health partners in the field.

Challenges	MENTOR Approach
<p>Access issues due to extensive flooding</p> 	<p>Staff have been using boats to reach locations inaccessible by land. In areas where the flooding is less severe staff have been carrying IRS equipment and walking on foot through water to reach target locations.</p>
<p>COVID-19 preventative measures</p> 	<p>Staff have been ensuring to adhere to COVID-19 preventative measures during programme implementation which include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate social distancing between staff and beneficiaries - Mask wearing during programme delivery - Installation of hand washing facilities at training venues - Risk communication on COVID-19 and delivering messaging on preventative measures such as hand washing and social distancing
<p>Security incidents</p> 	<p>MENTOR has been collaborating closely with partners on the ground in order to tackle security issues. Close collaboration with the NGO Forum as well as local officials, UN and government representatives have helped to resolve disputes and security issues with both the host communities and refugee populations.</p>



Wading through flooded land to access hard to reach communities



Transport of staff and equipment by boat to reach locations cut off by heavy flooding



Close collaboration with local officials in order to ensure community buy-in, overcome security issues and tackle challenges on the ground