



Republic of South Sudan National Mine Action Authority



The 20th Meeting of the State Parties 21-25 November Geneva

South Sudan Presentation on Rehabilitation during Emergency during VA Experts meetings 23-25 2022



Nyayak Olo Bapit, a Shilluk woman from Malakal, pictured in Juba. She was forced to flee Malakal after a bullet struck her left thigh during fighting there in January 2014

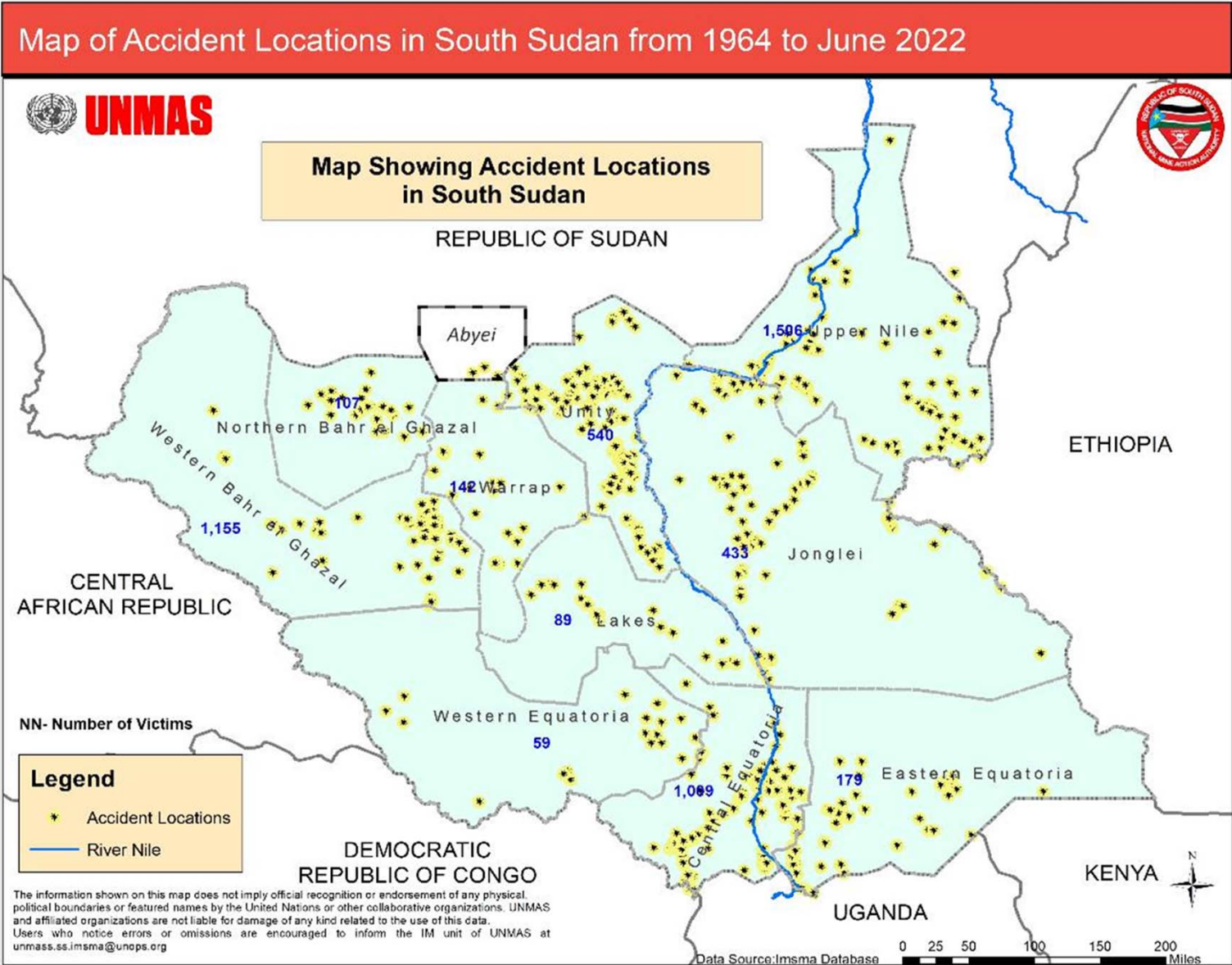
Data

PWDs are accounted for 5.1% of the population 20% of impairments is linked to South Sudan's long conflict.

5,219 landmine victims are registered, of which 1,426 have been killed and 3793 injured. No information on the indirect victims are recorded.

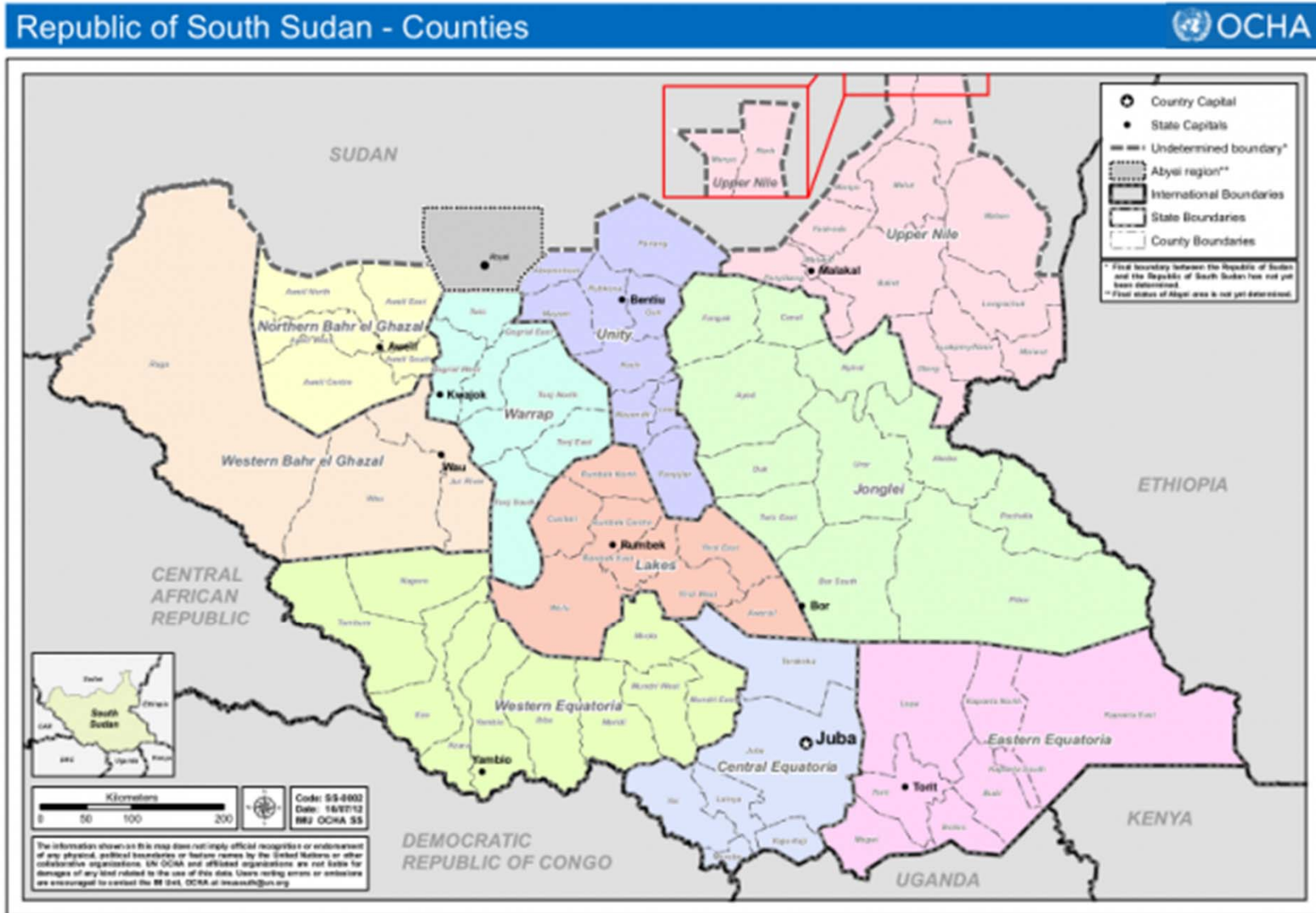
Total population 12.4million, 8.9m population in need and 6.8m targeted 1.3 m are with disability in HRP 2022.

Impairments types include: physical, visual, hearing, intellectual and speech



General information

- Total area 644,330 km².
- Nile river geographically splits the country
- Population over 12 million (2008)
- 10 States & 3 Administrative units, 540 Payams



Historical Context

- Long term decades of conflict coupled with social and political instability 2013-2017 led to massive internal and cross-border displacement of people in South Sudan .
- Person with Disabilities' and the elderly were left behind tortured, sexually abused, experiences gender based violence, sometimes burned alive and killed because they are abandoned.
- The previous humanitarian response were not inclusive of PWDs and older persons
- They persons with disability faced difficulties in accessing basic services at the IDPs & refugees settlement.
- No data collection and report on the needs & challenges of person with disability
- Challenge of mobility device to aid their safety to flee war zone.
- Communication barriers to speech impairment with no sign language interpreter, mental & vision impairment in war zone.

Government Institution working on Disability Issues

- National Ministry Gender Child and Social Welfare.
- Ministry of Defense & Veteran Affairs.
- War disabled , Widows and Orphans Commission.
- National Mine Action Authority

Government Policies with Disability Matters

- The Transitional Constitution 2011
- National Disability and inclusive Policy 2015
- National Social Protection Policy
- National Disability Action Plan 2020
- National Action Plan UNSCR 1325 (women, Peace & 2015-2020)
- Revised National Development Strategy 2018-2022
- National Disaster Risk Management Policy
- National Disaster Management Strategic Plan
- South Sudan humanitarian response plan 2022 & South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview. 2022

Current context

- In 2019 South Sudan expressed for the first time “serious concern about the horrible situation of persons with disabilities by UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan & INGOs (UNMISS) to the government.
- The first report on protection to acknowledged civilians older people and people with disabilities in armed conflict, that influenced great protections concerns for PWDs at risk.
- Governments raised concerns for protection of people with disabilities following reports by INGOs & UN on PWDs.
- The governments emphasis protection of people with disabilities and older people in any emergency response especially on data collection, monitoring and reporting of abuses and ensure their meaningful participation humanitarian response planning with all the development partner's.
- To ensure inclusive humanitarian response plan and needs in all disaster response where PWDs are expressively involved in planning, response, decision-making in any emergencies consultations.

Intervention in conflict

- In conflicts ICRC Mobile Surgical Teams performed emergency surgeries & evacuation of the wounded by providing emergency medical and surgical attention on both sides of the front line.
- In Juba ICRC support the Military Hospital running an operating theatre and providing training, surgical materials and medicines and also supported the opening of a blood bank.
- Humanitarian organizations provides persons with disability mobility devices in conflict emergency to support evacuation from war zone.
- PWDs are targeted in all data collection and interventions by all implementers on ground,



South Sudan. Mobile surgical team at work. CC BY-NC-ND / ICRC / Yamila Castro

Intervention during COVID -19

- People with disabilities were affected by COVID 19 global crisis. They faced health risks, that left many unprotected during COVID-19 rapid increase in south Sudan.
- There was comprehensive non-inclusive awareness campaigns on COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response in the community, IDPs and protection of civilian sites.
- Persons with disability face discrimination and barriers in their access to services, support and information regarding COVID-19. There was limitation of communication of the COVID -19 Messages to sign language users.
- PWDs experienced severe challenges due to lockdown.
- Supporting INGOs played active role identification, evaluation and referral of PWDs who were extremely vulnerable for provision of food to families affected by income loss.



More Voice: translating COVID-19 Awareness for Person with disabilities
Together with Disabled Action Group, the South Sudan hosted a COVID-19 training session for visual and hearing impaired people that was also translated into sign language.

Intervention in Floods

- September, 2022 the Government of South Sudan declared the flood-affected states as national disaster areas.
- The government prioritizes development of policy for disaster prevention & response to support resource mobilization.
- The Floods affected nine states & more than 900,000 people including persons with disability.
- Floods have damaged crops and livestock, buildings and transport infrastructure (roads, bridges).
- Floods have killed over 68 from drowning or snakebites including PWDs .
- Floods affected IDPs, refugees, returnees, & host communities & resulted in secondary displacement for some.



Yel Aguer Deng, who does not know his age, walks through water from his compound to the Wanyhok-Akon road, near Maluakon in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021. The worst flooding that parts of South Sudan have seen in 60 years now surrounds his home of mud and grass. His field of sorghum, which fed his family, is under water. Surrounding mud dykes have collapsed. The United Nations says the flooding has affected almost a half-million people across South Sudan since May. (AP Photo/Adrienne Surprenant)

More challenges

Challenges in using assistive devices such as wheelchairs, prostheses, crutches, or hearing aids provided by INGOs during emergency.

Children with disability are faced by in accessible schools within the settlement camps that are not inclusive.

Persons with disability are faced with floods that deny access to clean and safe water.



Floodwaters submerged boreholes rehabilitated by UNICEF in Pibor, South Sudan. The water is not potable but can still be used for clothes washing. The boreholes will need to be rehabilitated again after the floodwaters subside.



A relative pushes John Biel Dups wheelchair through the dirt paths of protection of civilian caps 3 in Juba. The uneven path makes it difficult for people with physical disabilities to move around the camps.2017 Joel Van Eeckhout for Human Right Watch,

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Continuation of Challenges

- Lack of development programs that integrate disaster prevention and mitigation measures to ensure poverty alleviation to most persons with disability.
- People with disabilities still faced challenges in accessing basic services and earning a livelihood especially at the villages not targeted for humanitarian areas.
- Discrimination & communication are still challenge in emergency especially the sign language interpreters.
- Limited assistive devices such as wheelchairs, crutches supplied by ICRC.
- South Sudan health facilities lack of medical capacities to conduct surgical activities in most parts.
- There are few functioning health facility, lack of equipment's and medicines government heavily rely on donation by INGOs.
- Poor logistics to the other states coupled with bad weather conditions .
- Worsening insecurity situation in some areas

Way forward

- All development programs must develop contingency plans to avoid disruption of ongoing development programs when an emergency occurs in the disaster-prone region.
- The persons with disabilities are targeted in information gathering in all assessments.
- There is need for the government to create conducive peaceful environment to help reduce this violence and its impact on communities.
- Most protection assistance in emergency response the OPDs are ensuring their meaningful participation in all humanitarian response through the led institution.
- should be inclusive of PWDs e.g prevention of GBV ,sexual abuse.
- Efforts to mainstream disability inclusion in protection and all humanitarian assistance.



Thank you

