



REDUCING DEATHS AND SUFFERING  
FROM TROPICAL DISEASES

## COUNTRY PROFILE

# SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan faces a **severe humanitarian crisis** caused by conflict, climate shocks, economic instability, and public health challenges. Floods, droughts, and extreme heat have devastated livelihoods and displaced communities. Intercommunal violence and the influx of over **900,000 people fleeing** Sudan have overwhelmed infrastructure and services. Health systems are fragile, with limited access to care and rising disease outbreaks. Food insecurity, lack of clean water, and inadequate shelter persist. Women and girls face heightened protection risks.

**Malaria** remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality accounting for 66.8% of outpatient consultations, 30% of hospital admissions, and approximately 50% of reported deaths. In 2024 alone, 2.7 million suspected cases and 1,800 deaths were reported<sup>1</sup>. Years of flooding have expanded mosquito breeding grounds, intensifying transmission. Limited access to healthcare, poor nutrition, and low immunisation coverage worsen the situation.

The country also faces risks from other vector-borne and **Neglected Tropical Diseases**, with 19 of 20 such diseases present. Strengthening disease surveillance, expanding access to treatment, and improving sanitation are critical to reducing the burden of these preventable illnesses.

In 2012, MENTOR began working in South Sudan in response to the high number of Sudanese refugees that fled the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile,

establishing a **malaria control programme** in Maban County where many thousands of refugees had fled to and formed several camps. Since then, vector control efforts together with **community health activities** supporting community health workers, supply chain, health facilities were expanded in other humanitarian settings such as Jamjang, Bentiu, Malakal, Renk and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal.

MENTOR also implemented a **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme** in Eastern Equatoria based on latrine and borehole rehabilitation, borehole solarisation, Community-Led Total Sanitation, school hygiene clubs, and hand pump mechanic associations.

Neglected Tropical Diseases are highly endemic in South Sudan. Since 2017, MENTOR supported the Ministry of Health in the delivery of Mass Drug Administration campaigns for the prevention and elimination of **lymphatic filariasis** and **onchocerciasis** (river blindness). Technical and logistical support has been provided across all levels of the health system, fostering **capacity building, knowledge transfer, and local ownership**.

**Operational research** and the implementation of **innovative tools** such as SC Johnson's Guardian Spatial Repellent, used for the first time at scale in a humanitarian setting, have improved strategies to ensure that new methods protect as many people as possible.

1. OCHA. South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025. December 2024

## IMPACT FIGURES 2024



**335,773**

people protected against malaria through Indoor Residual Spraying



**43,500**

Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets distributed



**10,866**

people trained to deliver Mass Drug Distribution campaigns



**1,282,989**

people treated to prevent onchocerciasis (river blindness)



**694,528**

people treated to prevent lymphatic filariasis

## CURRENT PROGRAMME LOCATIONS



### Malaria and disease control programme:

- 1 **Maban County**, Upper Nile State: Doro, Gendrassa, Batil, and Kaya refugee camps
- 2 **Pariang County**, Ruweng Administrative Area: Pamir and Ajuong Thok refugee camps
- 3 **Renk County, Upper Nile State**: Renk Transition Centre and Renk Town

### Neglected Tropical Diseases programme:

- 4 **Upper Nile State**: Maban, Longochuk, Nasir, Maiwut counties
- 5 **Jonglei State**: Akobo County
- 6 **Greater Pibor Administrative Area**: Pibor and Pochalla counties
- 7 **Western Bahr el-Ghazal State**: Raja, Wau, Jur River counties
- 8 **Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State**: Aweil Centre, Aweil South counties

### Our activities include:

- **Mass Drug Administration campaigns** against lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis.
- **Training and capacity building of community volunteers** on delivery of drugs for the prevention of Neglected Tropical Diseases.
- **Logistical support** to distribute the large-scale distribution of drugs.
- **National Ministry of Health technical support** on NTDs.
- **Vector control activities** including indoor residual spraying, distribution of bed nets, larviciding and fly control, and distribution of spatial repellents.
- **Improvements to water and sanitation systems in communities and health facilities** including constructing and repairing boreholes, latrines and community-led sanitation.
- **Social Behaviour Change Communication** through community health workers about disease control communication sessions and prevention of vector- and water-borne diseases.

## PAST AND CURRENT DONORS

- Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
- The END Fund
- UNICEF
- South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
- Rapid Response Fund

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