Situation Overview

- The security and political situation remains tense, with sporadic fighting between armed groups and killings of civilians and aid workers in various states.
- The threat of gender-based violence remains high as levels of displacement and the ethnic dimensions of the conflict worsened. Reports of attacks on women and girls seeking firewood, food or trying to find relatives outside of Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites and IDP camps continued throughout the country.
- As the country’s economy continues to decline, it is likely that cases of forced marriage will increase. Marrying off girls is a way of generating income through dowries for families who are suffering from the prevailing poverty and hunger.
- The ability of humanitarian actors to reach internally-displaced persons is becoming more difficult due to the ethnic strife. Letters circulated threatening Equatorian humanitarian staff by Dinkas, and vice versa. Equatorian humanitarian staff had to be evacuated from some parts of the country, which is a new constraint on humanitarian service delivery.
- Of the USD1.29 billion funding required for the 2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), 64 per cent is funded by the end of October.

Highlights of UNFPA Response for the Month of October

- GBV is now a standing agenda for the weekly Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings and UNFPA takes the lead in presenting the issues and status of actions on GBV.
- UNFPA has advocated for a separate objective on the protection of women and children in the drafting of the 2017 HRP. This focuses special attention on GBV and would also assist GBV actors in resource mobilization.
- UNFPA supported IsraAID in training 31 health service providers on clinical care and psychological first aid for rape survivors. Another batch of 24 health service providers participated in a training of trainors in Juba. They will roll out the training throughout the country to address the need for better access to CMR/PFA services in health facilities.
- 6,396 women received reproductive health services including antenatal care (3,435), delivery (649), postnatal care (970), and family planning (1,342). 7,326 condoms distributed for family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.
- 4,183 women, girls, men and boys participated in GBV awareness-raising sessions (1,924), and adolescent and youth reproductive health (2,259). 16 cases of gender-based violence referred for case management and psychosocial support services.
- Out of the USD13,318,907 required by UNFPA to mount a humanitarian response in South Sudan, USD5,985,000 (about 45 per cent) has been mobilized from various sources including the Government of Japan, CERF, Common Humanitarian Fund, Government of Denmark, Emergency Fund and Core Funds.

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Nyador Dagey, 35, was three months pregnant and bleeding from a gunshot wound when she fled her village in Rubkona County, in South Sudan’s Unity State, in March. The hostilities between government and rebel forces separated her from her husband and four children. “They ran into the bush during the fighting, and I was left behind because I had been shot,” Nyador said.

She had been wounded in the upper leg, and moved only with great difficulty. Still, she traveled on foot for two days, accompanied by her younger sister.

“My sister had a small portion of food that we finished early on in our journey,” she recalled. “For the rest of the way, we survived on wild fruits in the forest.”

Together, they made their way to a protection camp in Bentiu, which now hosts more than 100,000 displaced people.

UNFPA volunteers in the camp helped Nyador receive medical treatment for the gunshot wound. They also ensured she had access to antenatal care at the camp clinic.

She has been at the protection site ever since, living with her mother and sister. UNFPA volunteers regularly reached out to her, making sure she went for antenatal check-ups and knew where to go for care when she went into labour.

On 29 September, she gave birth to healthy twins – a boy and a girl – at a clinic supported by UNFPA.

Nyador marvels that she and the twins survived their ordeal. But her joy is incomplete because she has yet to be reunited with her husband and other children.