South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot (January 2019)
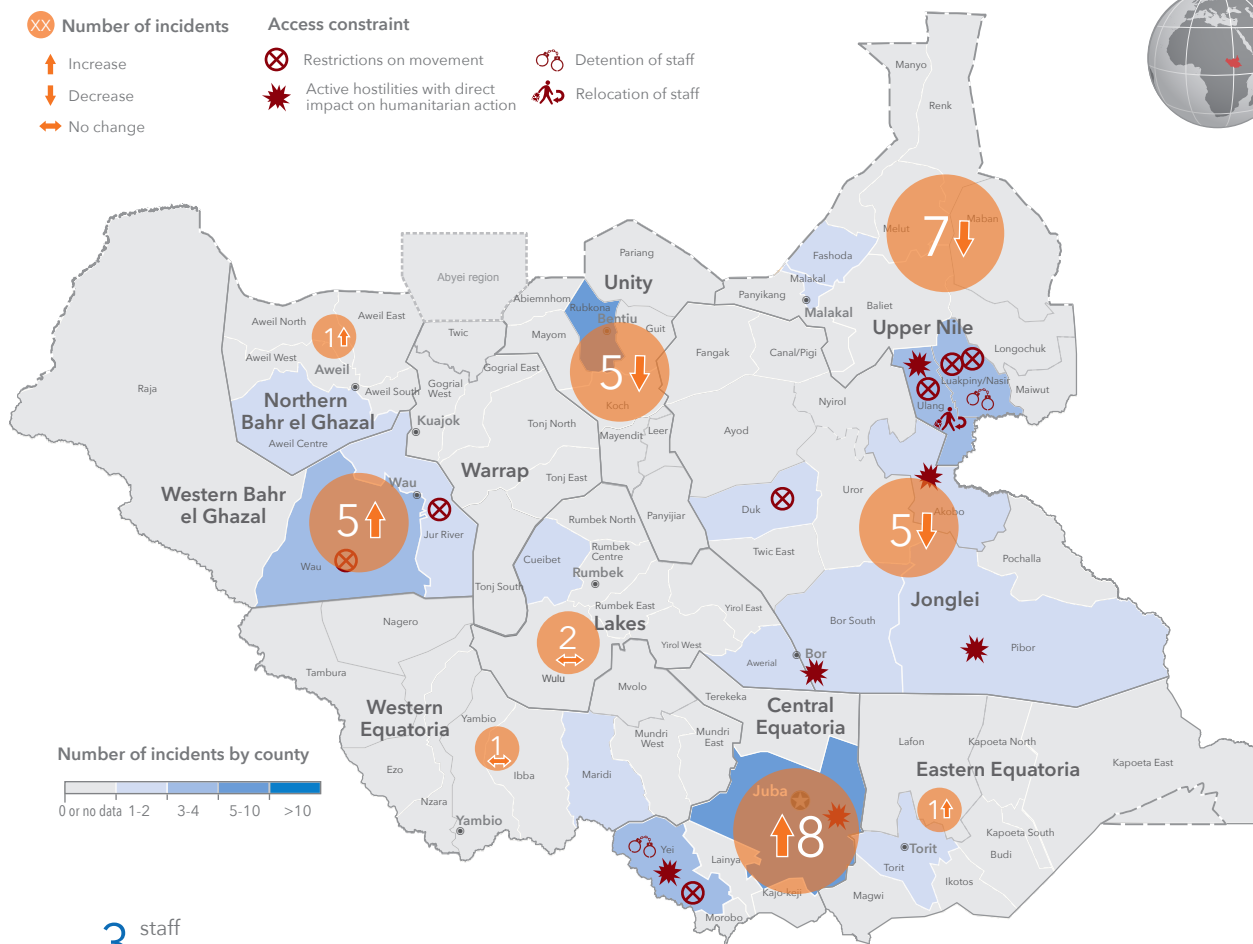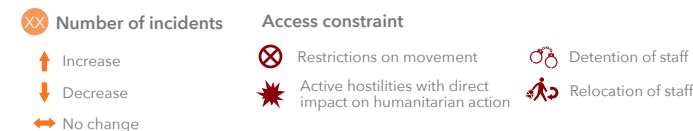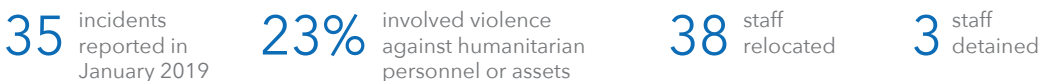
OCHA

OVERVIEW

Thirty-five humanitarian access incidents were reported in January. Nearly a quarter (23 per cent) involved violence against humanitarian personnel and assets. This represents a reduction in violent incidents as compared to the 2018 monthly average of 52 per cent. Bureaucratic impediments, on the other hand, nearly tripled from the 2018 monthly average of 12 per cent. They accounted for a third (31 per cent) of all incidents in January and included substantial delays and blockages related to importation, fees at check-points and staff taxation. State civilian authorities and criminals or unknown perpetrators were responsible for half of all access incidents. Eleven incidents (31 per cent) were significant in severity, including the detention and relocation of staff, commandeering of vehicles and convoy blockages.
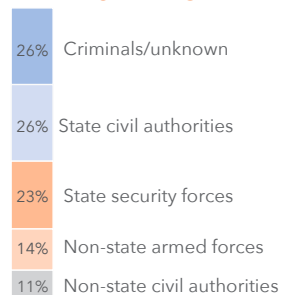
IMPACT

The security situation in Ulang, Upper Nile, resulted in the relocation of 38 humanitarian staff from the area and minor disruptions to programmes. Non-state authorities in Jikmir, Upper Nile, claimed there were new exit clearances required from the security officials. This resulted in one aid worker being arbitrarily detained by the non-state authorities and held in a pit in the ground in Mandeng. State security forces detained two staff in Yei town and confiscated funds meant to pay incentives to volunteers working at Ebola screening points in Otogo County. The deterioration in security in Central Equatoria due to heavy fighting continued. This negatively impacted on humanitarian movement and Ebola preparedness in areas such as greater Morobo, Otogo and Mukaya counties. Humanitarians were not able to reach around 23,000 people around Yei. Humanitarian supplies were blocked at border entry points following the December 2018 republican order on import duties and unclear definition of humanitarian goods. While the backlogged goods started to flow by the end of the month, some items remained contested, such as vehicles. An increasing number of checkpoints and fees demanded were reported along the Juba-Bentiu corridor with an average of 700,000 South Sudanese pounds (around US$4,500) per truck being paid across an estimated 57 check-points. This contradicted the 2017 republican order for free and unhindered movement of humanitarian assistance convoys, and has delayed the dry season pre-positioning of lifesaving supplies. Operational interference and bureaucratic impediments continued to hinder response in both state and non-state areas, such as Fangak, Juba, Nasir and Rubkona. In Yirol East in Lakes, inter-communal violence prevented health teams from conducting a reactive measles campaign.
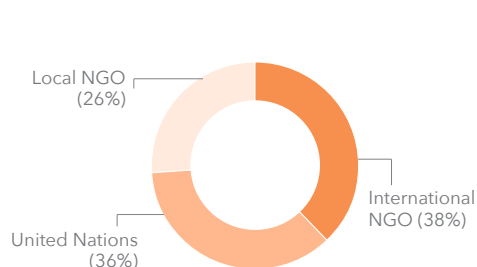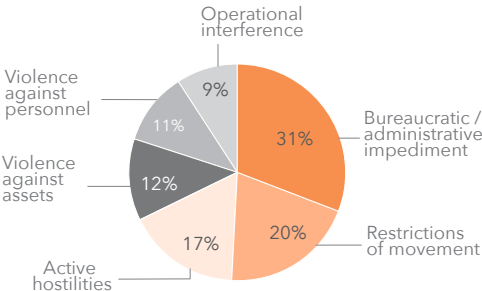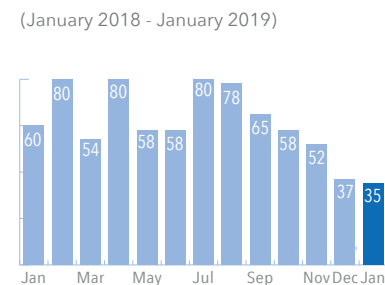
KEY FIGURES

35 incidents reported in January 2019

23% involved violence against humanitarian personnel or assets

38 staff relocated

3 staff detained

Legend

XX Number of incidents
↑ Increase
↓ Decrease
↔ No change

Access constraint
⊗ Restrictions on movement
✸ Active hostilities with direct impact on humanitarian action
Detention of staff
Relocation of staff

Number of incidents by county
0 or no data | 1-2 | 3-4 | 5-10 | >10

ATTRIBUTED TO

- 26% Criminals/unknown
- 26% State civil authorities
- 23% State security forces
- 14% Non-state armed forces
- 11% Non-state civil authorities

AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS

- Local NGO (26%)
- International NGO (38%)
- United Nations (36%)

INCIDENT TYPE

- Operational interference 9%
- Violence against personnel 11%
- Violence against assets 12%
- Active hostilities 17%
- Restrictions of movement 20%
- Bureaucratic / administrative impediment 31%

TREND
(January 2018 - January 2019)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
60	80	54	80	58	58	80	78	65	58	52	37	35

INCIDENT SEVERITY*

- Minor: 10 (29%)
- Moderate: 14 (40%)
- Significant: 11 (31%)