



South Sudan Floods Dire Impact - UNHCR 29 March 2022

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Shotlist

STORY: South Sudan Floods Dire Impact - UNHCR

TRT: 2 mins 16s

SOURCE: UNTV CH

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

DATELINE: 29 March 2022

VIRTUAL PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

SHOTLIST

1. Exterior wide shot: UN flag alley UN Geneva.
2. Cutaway: Wide shot, Press room, UN Geneva
3. **SOUNDBITE (ENGLISH) Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:** “Parts of South Sudan, such as Fangak in Jonglei (State) and Bentiu in Unity State, are still affected by high water levels from last year’s flooding, and it seems

unlikely that the waters will recede completely before the onset of the next rainy season. And IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), which is the Regional Institute, forecasts that the rains in 2022 will be even more than last year. These two circumstances combined, set the tone for what appears will be a disastrous rainy season.”

4. Cutaway: wide shot of press room
5. **SOUNDBITE (ENGLISH) Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees:** “Just to put it in perspective, you've got elderly women, you've got vulnerable populations who are basically grabbing mud and trying to build up the berms around their villages. And this is during summer. This is during the dry season. The wet season hasn't even started yet. So, we have to expect that many of these very defenses will be overcome by the upcoming rainy season.”
6. Cutaway: medium shot, podium
7. **SOUNDBITE (ENGLISH) Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees:** “As more and more people get displaced from their safe zones and they have to encroach into an area where they're not the traditional population, then, there will be conflict. We're seeing that time and time again. So, you have people, you have villages which are holding out, doing whatever they can in order not to be forced to move to where they may face violence.”
8. Cutaway: Medium shot journalists listening in the Press room
9. **SOUNDBITE (ENGLISH) Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action to the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees:** “The other issue that will be coming to the fore is the food insecurity. As you have crops wiped out, as you have livestock dying, season after season, you have this compounded series of disasters and a lack of international response in terms of providing support for food security, then you will be facing the situation of a famine in that region. I don't think it's “if”, it's going to be “when”.”
10. Various: Medium shot journalists taking notes and listening

B-Roll from UNHCR, shot between March 7-10, 2022 in South Sudan available on:

<https://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/asset/2723/2723593/>

Story

UNHCR warns of dire impact from floods in South Sudan as new wet season looms

South Sudan battles record floods amid changing climate.

Prolonged flooding and displacement are expected to worsen when the wet season begins in May, the refugee agency warned on Tuesday. Urgent action is needed to protect already vulnerable populations from its worst impacts.

Returning from a visit to South Sudan's most affected areas, Special Advisor on Climate Action to UNHCR, Andrew Harper, said that parts of the country were "still affected by high water levels from last year's flooding, and it seems unlikely that the waters will recede completely before the onset of the next rainy season." The rains forecast for 2022 are expected to be even worse than last year, he emphasized. "These two circumstances combined, set the tone for what appears will be a disastrous rainy season."

In all, 33 of South Sudan's 79 counties have been badly affected by flooding. Thousands of people have been displaced, while others are marooned in dyke-ringed compounds, holding back floodwaters with mud, sticks and plastic sheeting. Residents need water pumps and heavy equipment to build sturdy flood barriers and keep their livestock above water, UNHCR insisted.

To put the situation into perspective, Mr Harper said, "you've got elderly women, vulnerable populations who are basically grabbing mud and trying to build up the berms around their villages. This is during the dry season. The wet season hasn't even started yet. So, we have to expect that many of these very defenses will be overcome by the upcoming rainy season."

The fragile country has been struggling to overcome political and economic challenges since it gained independence in 2011. The worst flooding on record was in 2021, killing an estimated 800,000 livestock, submerging crops and impacting more than 835,000 people, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). South Sudan counts the largest refugee population in Africa with 2.5 million people displaced. Those multiple factors of instability fuel violence, warned Mr Harper: "As more and more people get displaced from their safe zones and they have to encroach into an area where they're not the traditional population, then, there will be conflict. We're seeing that time and time again. So, you have villages which are holding out, doing whatever they can in order **not** to be forced to move to where they may face violence."

Amid a backdrop of climate events that are worsening globally, UNHCR warned that floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and intense, and that catastrophic food insecurity is looming. "As you have crops wiped out, as you have livestock dying, season after season, you have this compounded series of disasters and a lack of international response in terms of providing support for food security, then you will be facing the situation of a famine in that region. I don't think it's 'if', it's going to be 'when'."

Ends