

Can a Climate Lens improve Humanitarian Response to Floods?

Preliminary results of an analysis of Médecins Sans Frontières' flood preparedness and response in Pibor, South Sudan.

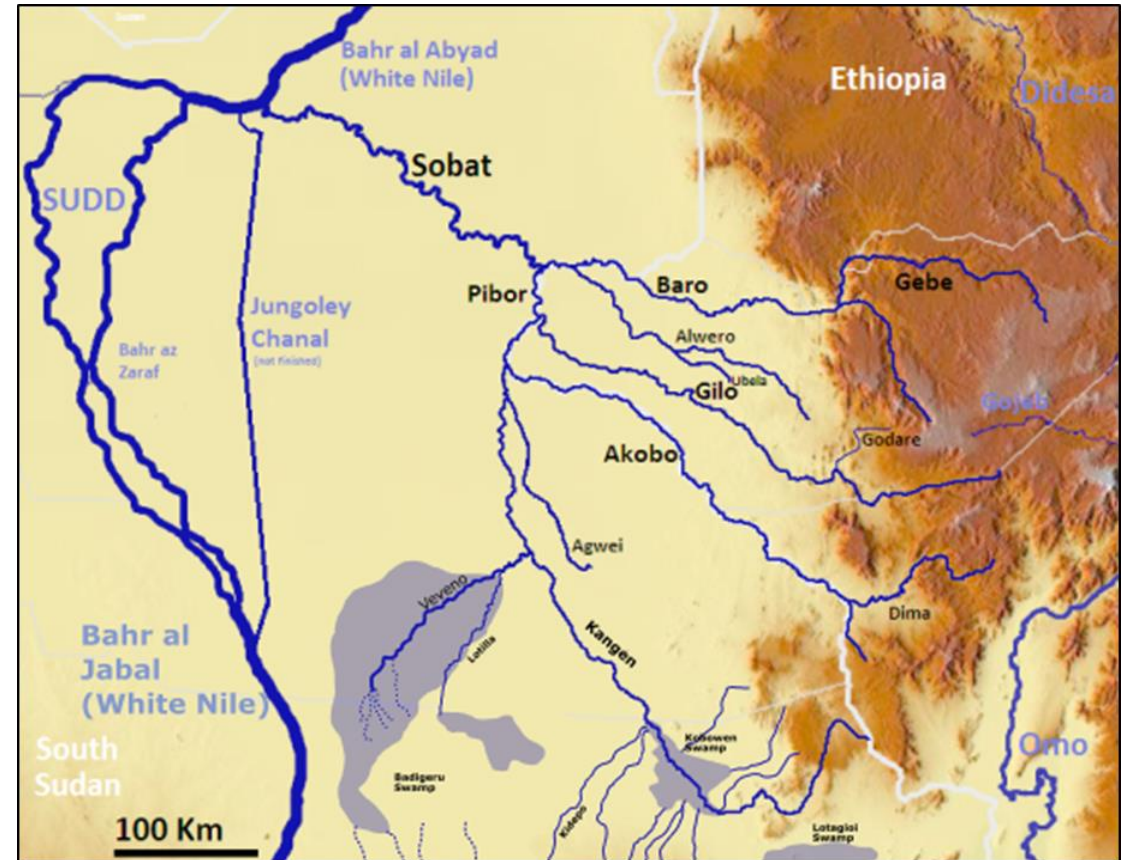
Rob D'hondt (Médecins Sans Frontières)

Be-cause Health Conference on Climate Emergency and Health

Nov 24 2021

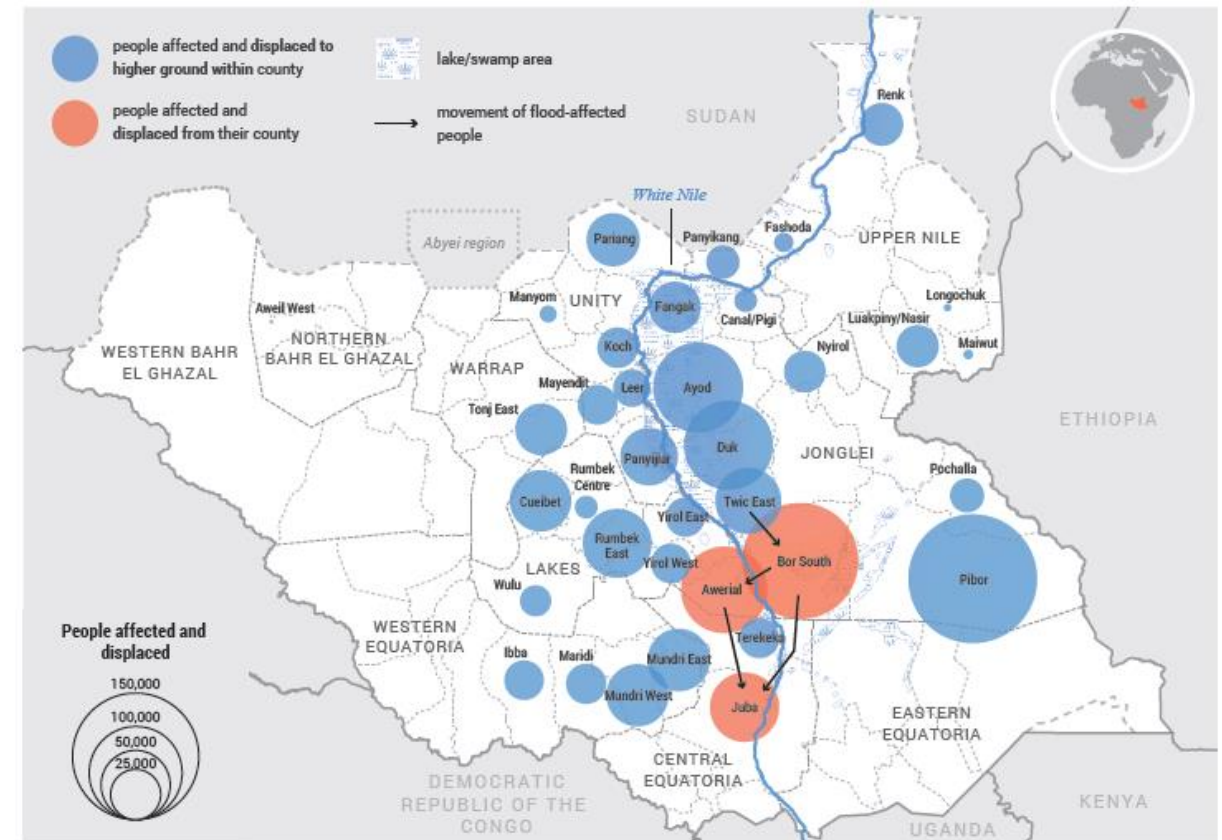
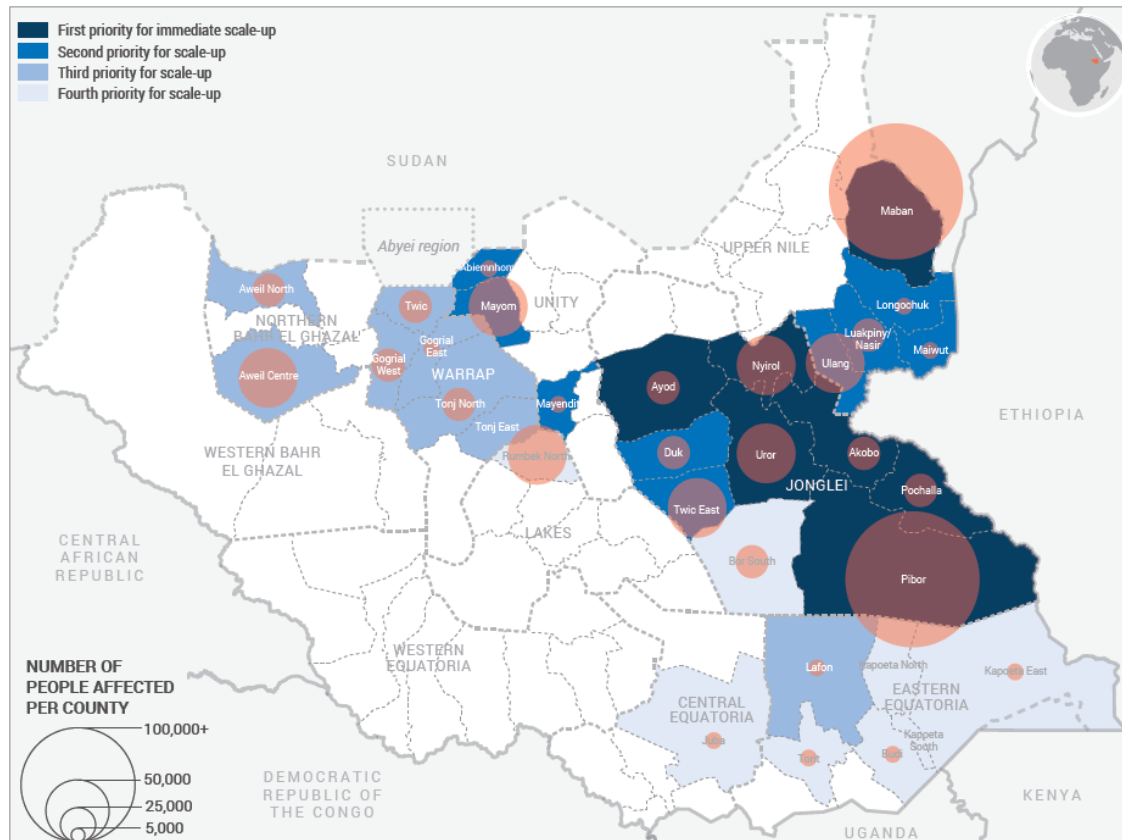
Pibor County, South Sudan

- **Pastoralists** Murlé people
- Violence due to conflict and cattle raidings (1st half of 2020)
- **Displacement**
- Pibor County in Acute **Malnutrition** Phase 4 (critical) since before 2019
- Seasonal floods
- MSF supports PHCC + Maternity



2019 and 2020 South Sudan Floods

OCHA Flood updates 2019 (left, week 45) and 2020 (right, week 41)
+100k (2019) and +150k (2020) affected in Pibor County



Objectives

Document and analyse the flood preparedness and response process of MSF during the **2019 and 2020 flood interventions** in Pibor, South Sudan

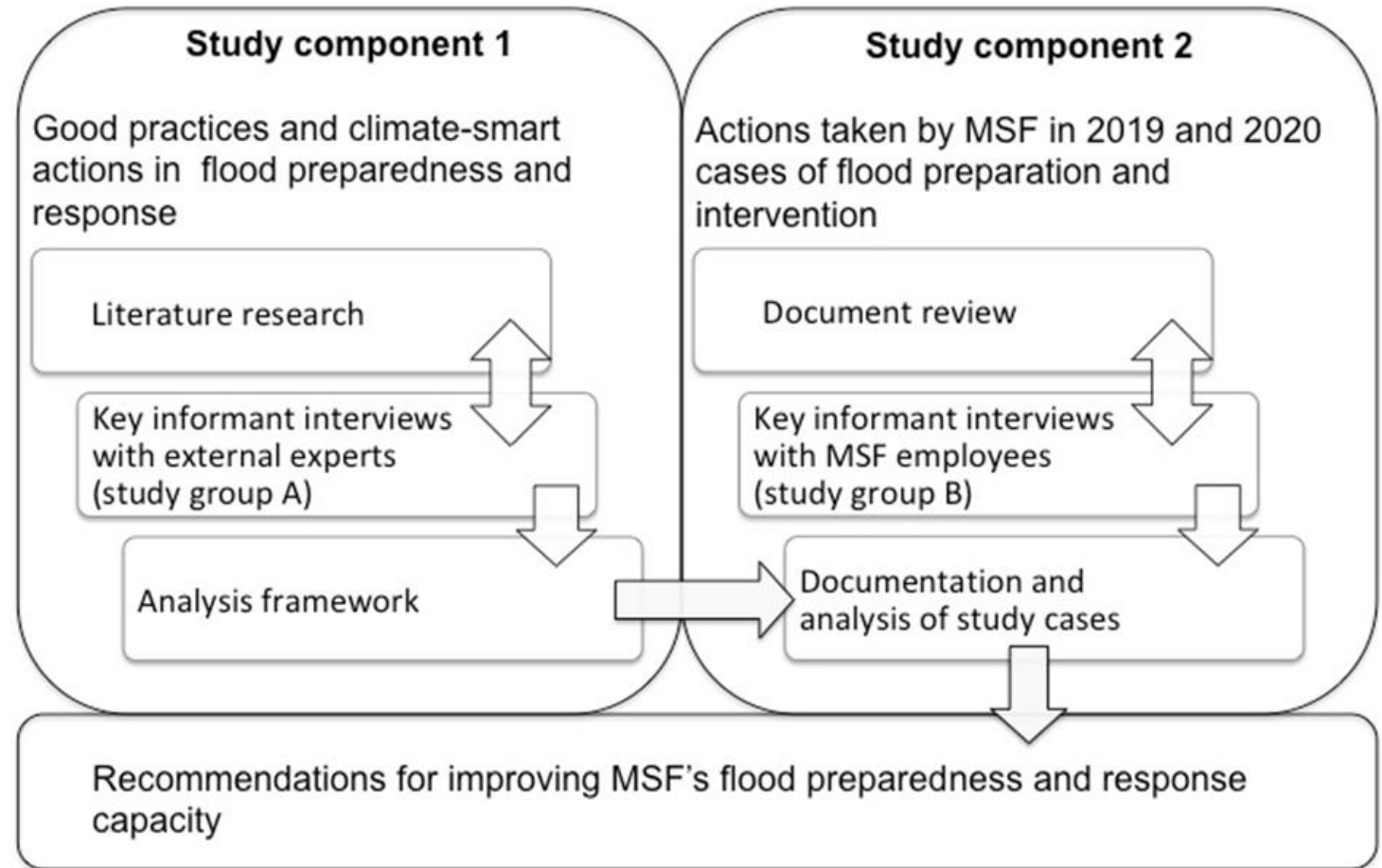
Specific Objectives are:

- To develop a framework of **good practices and climate-smart actions** in flood preparedness, anticipatory action, relief response and early recovery for reducing the humanitarian and health impacts of floods.
- Through the above-described framework, analyse MSF's **flood preparedness and response actions process** during 2 cases of flood interventions
- To analyse whether and which **experiences and lessons learned** from 2019 were in 2020

Part of MSF's Operational Research Agenda on **Climate, Environment & Health**

Methods

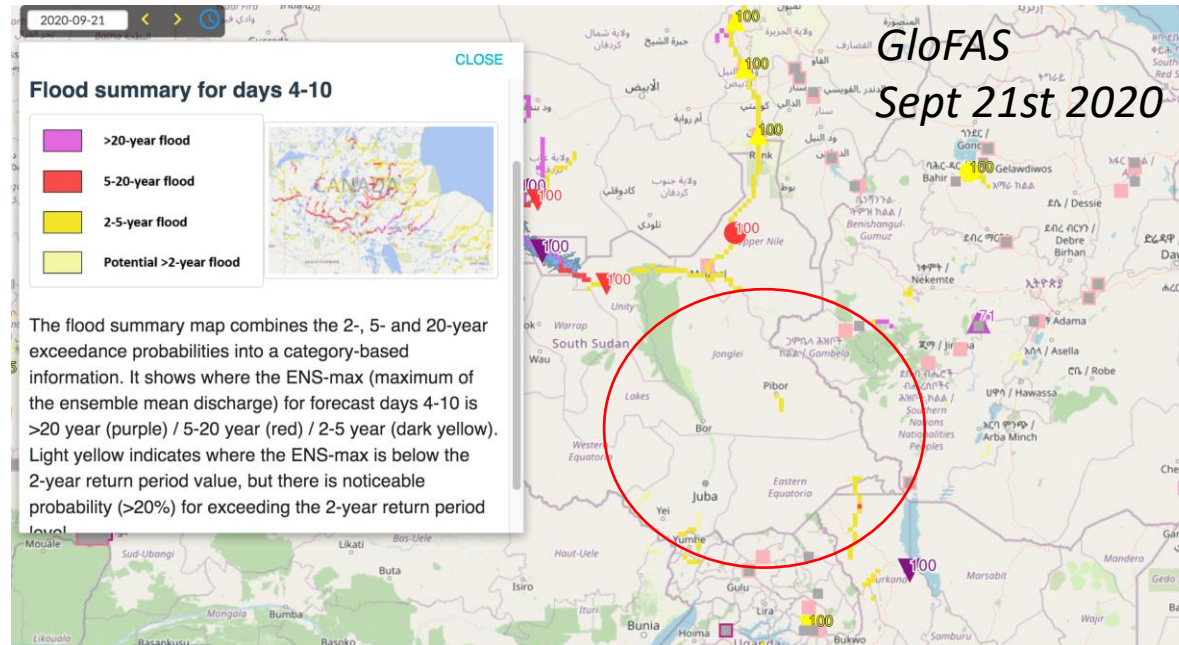
Qualitative study



Limitations:

- Retrospective
- No community members or local staff interviewed

The Wide Spectrum of a Climate Lens



Flood risk understanding and effective Early Warning requires **integration** of

- Meteorological and Flood-risk models
- Local data
- Community knowledge/experience

2019



2020



Trends



Trigger



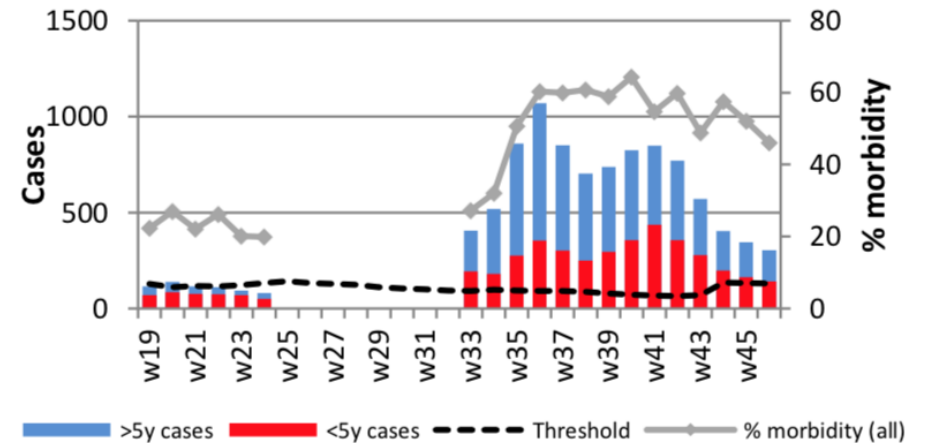
A Progressing Preparedness Package

Flood **Preparedness improved greatly** in 2020:

- Flood risk understanding and local trigger
- Practical experience (gained the hard way in 2019)
- Pre-positioning of kits based on local epidemiological risks:
 - **WASH, Malaria, Malnutrition**
 - Measles, Snakebites, Cholera
- HR continuity and expertise
- **Mental** preparedness (living and working conditions)

Pibor Project

Pibor PHCC OPD, malaria cases and % morbidity



Damage Control vs. Controlled Chaos

Timely actions following Trigger and Preparedness plan in 2020

Activities implemented	Start (2019)	Start (2020)
Flood onset / peak	Week 42 / 44	Week 37 / 42
Relocation of stock	Week 43 (partly lost)	Week 37: Pharmacy Week 39: Key assets
Full team available	Week 50	Throughout
Continuation of Health facility	Week 43	Throughout
Mobile clinics (MCs)	Week 6 (2020): 3 MCs	Week 36: 4 MCs Week 40: 5 MCs
Emergency Water provision	Week 46: 30m ³ /day	Week 37: 30m ³ /day Week 41: 60m ³ /day

Mobility means Access

In 2020, **Mobile Clinics** formed a key component from the start:

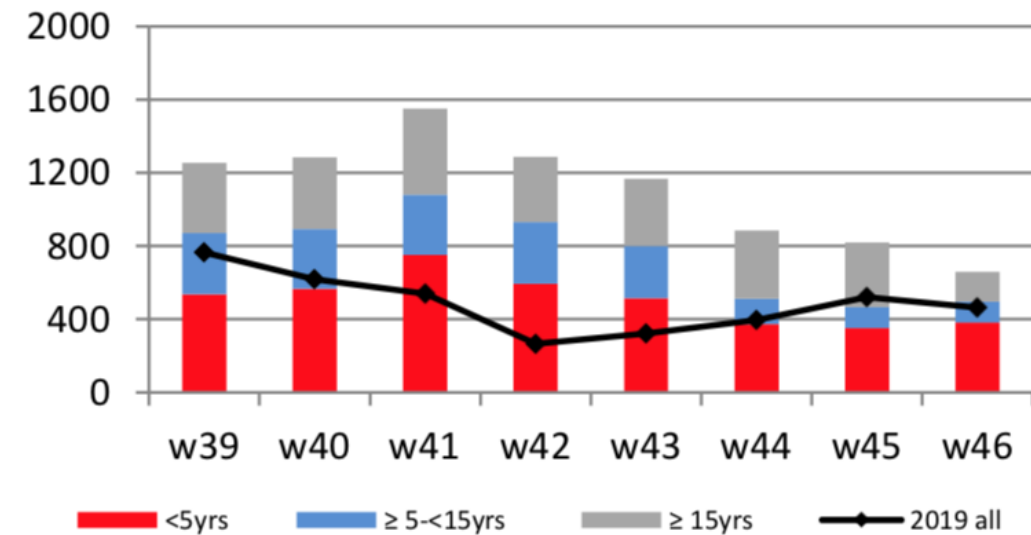
GIS

- Relief and assessment/monitoring
- 5 MCs being moved according to accessibility
- MC package: OPD (40% of total), Malaria, MUAC + Therapeutic feeding (week 46)
- Entry points for preventative measures (LLIN, jerrycans)

BUT potential for better community links: Primary concern is often **cattle**, collaboration with VSF could have increased proximity

Pibor Project

Number of OPD Consultations, Pibor PHCC



Conclusions and Ways Forward

Flood risk understanding, preparedness and anticipation improve flood relief

But the way is long:

- Participants questions MSF's dedication to « true preparedness » to EWE
- Project on Meteorological And Climate Anticipation stopped
- Community links undervalued / underused

Next steps:

- ITM thesis submission (June 2021)
- Flood preparedness for Pibor and beyond + MSF Flood guide
- Influence MSF's operational adaptation to Climate crisis

Thanks to

- Pibor and South Sudan teams
- MSF Climate, Environment & Health circle
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