Situation Update

• Humanitarian activities are due to recommence in Renk, following a halt in activities five months prior, as a consequence of increased tensions and a number of violent incidents. After months of engagement with the community and youth led by the government, OCHA and the NGO Forum, an agreement has been made that welcomes back humanitarian actors, provides safety and security assurances and ensures accountability of the perpetrators of the arson and looting that took place in October 2020.

• WFP is grateful to Japan, for the confirmation of USD 6.5 million, to assist populations in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Lake States and Jonglei State. This confirmation will support crisis response activities and enable vulnerable populations to meet their basic food needs and maintain and/or rebuild their livelihoods.

• WFP is grateful to France, for the confirmation of USD 795,594, towards the provision of livelihood support and to build resilience in rural households.

• Continued tensions and violence exacerbated by the political situation across South Sudan continues to impact WFP’s activities and distributions. A flurry of political activities across the country in February and March, including the controversial appointment of the Governor of Upper Nile and the composition of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, continues to spur outbreaks of conflict in numerous States, impeding on WFP’s efforts to preposition commodities, and serve the most food insecure populations across South Sudan.

• In the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), ongoing power struggles and clashes between age sets have impacted WFP’s ability to provide humanitarian food assistance. In Gumuruk, for example, staff of WFP’s Cooperating Partner had to be evacuated mid-way through food distributions. Consequently, the combination of these violent outbreaks and the impacts of continued flooding ensue disruptions to WFP’s ability to serve populations living in IPC 3 and 5 risk counties.

WFP Response

Food and Nutrition Assistance

Response in priority areas:

In March 2021, WFP aims to assist 3.77 million people, a 1.33 million increase from February, through life-saving food assistance to crisis-affected people and refugees, nutrition support and resilience-building activities in communities affected by concurrent shocks. This increase reflects WFP’s lean-season response to meet the needs of vulnerable populations across South Sudan who will be impacted by the detrimental impacts of the rainy season on agriculture.
• **In Akobo**, Jonglei State, food is being delivered by road to Akobo West. Once all the stock is received, March distributions under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) will commence. In Akobo East, distributions commenced on 9 March.

• **In the Greater Pibor Administrative Area**, double distributions were completed in Lekuangole. Distributions are currently on hold in Gumuruk due to continued tensions in the region. Distributions will recommence when the situation has calmed.

• **In Aweil South**, the SCOPE registration of an additional 22,400 beneficiaries for the lean season scale-up is ongoing.

• **In Tonj East**, following final assurances obtained from communities, WFP will start March and April double distributions on 25 March.

• **In Tonj North and Tonj South**, following the completion of targeting the additional caseload under WFP’s lean season response (LSR), March and April double distributions began on 16 March.

**Safety Nets & Resilience**

Through WFP’s Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) activities, approximately 260 mt of locally produced cereals have been aggregated from smallholder famers in Magwi (Eastern Equatoria) and across Western Equatoria for sale to WFP. Commodities procured through SAMS will be used to meet WFP’s overall food requirements, especially for school feeding once schools reopen.

For the occasion of International Women’s Day, WFP and its partner Women Advancement Organisations (WAO), distributed reusable menstrual pads to 100 secondary school girls in Juba. The distribution was part of a larger project through which WFP and WAO aim to support 4,300 girls with menstrual hygiene kits to ensure they are able to attend lessons and final exams, while providing an income generating opportunity for 100 female tailors who are producing the kits.

**Innovations & Cash-Based Transfers**

WFP SCOPE teams have been deployed to IPC 5 risk counties Maiwut, Pibor and Tonj South, to initiate Biometric Registrations. Additionally, a SCOPE team is deployed to Akobo East to train Cooperating Partners on SCOPE processes and provide support during distributions.

To maximize the impact of SCOPE, WFP has extended support to different UN agencies and organisations. WFP’s vision is to facilitate a multi-sectorial, holistic approach, which will include nutrition, health, shelter, WASH and protection.

In March 2021, 28,259 new SCOPE registrations have been conducted, bringing the total SCOPE registrations to 3,474,117.

**Supply Chain**

As of 12 March 2021, Logistics has dispatched 64,753mt of assorted food commodities over Land, River and Air across South Sudan.

The Kuron Bridge in Eastern Equatoria has opened after eight months of closure. The bridge was originally constructed of timber and only accessible by limited light vehicles. The use of the bridge is vital to WFP as it connects Eastern Equatoria to Jonglei State and will now allow for WFP to serve 14,677 beneficiaries in Boma, Maruwa and Labrâb.

A WFP convoy carrying 1,030mt successfully reached Pibor Town on 15 March. WFP is now focusing on increasing storage capacity in Pibor, to preposition commodities in Gumuruk, Verteth and Lekuangole before the rainy season, to reduce reliance on air deliveries.

Fives barges with 6,200 are currently in transit to South Sudan, after securing export documents in Sudan. Of this, 2,000 mt is loaded in two barges travelling to Renk/Melut, whilst 4,200 mt is loaded in three barges, proceeding to Bor.

An aerial assessment took place in 3 March in Jonglei State. The objective of the mission was to assess the damage of the whole dyke stretch along the Adwar-Jalle-Maar-Mabior route. Additionally, the mission landed at Mabior, Duk, Padiet and Pajut to interact with the communities to better understand the situation on the ground. The mission found that there are more than 200 breakage points along the dyke, and approximately the whole of Twic East, half of Duk county and one-third of Bor South is flooded. WFP has started rehabilitating the road between Bor and Baidit, and is mobilising communities and contractors to fix the broken dyke and road. Restoring this major artery is vital for WFP to serve communities in Bor South and Twic East, and is the gateway utilised to serve the rest of Jonglei State.

**Logistics Cluster**

The Logistics Cluster transported 22mt of Non-Food Items (NFIs) cargo to 33 locations on behalf of 28 organisations, of which 44 percent were transported by road and river.

The Logistics Cluster facilitated the departure of two humanitarian convoys to Pibor and towards the Western Corridor, enabling the movement of over 1,200mt of NFIs across the country. The Logistics Cluster continues to advocate to partners on the importance of pre-positioning ahead of the rainy season.

With an increasing amount of roads becoming accessible, including some enabling access to key locations in Jonglei, the Logistics Cluster updated and disseminated to all partners the Humanitarian Road Convoy Schedule for March – April 2021.

The Logistics Cluster has started the review of common storage availability in Akobo and Pibor, key locations within the six highly food insecure response scale-up counties. This will ensure the humanitarian community is able to pre-position adequate cargo.

The latest physical access constraints map, shared with humanitarian partners on a weekly basis, is available [here](https://www.wfp.org/countries/south-sudan).

**UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

UNHAS transported 2,643 passengers and 106 mt of light humanitarian cargo to 54 destinations across South Sudan. UNHAS performed eight medical evacuations on behalf of seven organisations from Torit, Rumbek, Nyal, Maban, Pibor, Ganjiel and Ajuong Tok to Juba.

UNHAS performed three COVID-19 medical evacuations on behalf of two organisations from Maban and Rumbek to Juba.

UNHAS transported 157 COVID-19 suspected samples from Yida, Tori, Rubkon, Mundri, Kuajok, Kapoeta and Agok to Juba.

UNHAS supported two Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) assessment missions with 16 passengers in three locations.
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**Non Activity Specific funding**

**Donors (2021 listed alphabetically)***

*Donors listed alphabetically*