

Project Number: 200379 | Project Category: **Single Country Special Operation**

Project Approval Date: March 15, 2011 | Planned Start Date: March 01, 2011

Actual Start Date: March 15, 2011 | Project End Date: December 31, 2017

Financial Closure Date: N/A

Contact Info

Tomson Phiri, Communications Officer

tomson.phiri@wfp.org

Country Director

Adnan Bashir Khan

Further Information

<http://www.wfp.org/countries>

SPR Reading Guidance



Feeder Road Construction in Support of WFP Operations in South Sudan

Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in South Sudan, Republic of (SS)



World Food Programme

wfp.org

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

Achievements at Country Level

Country Context and Response of the Government

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Supply Chain

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

WFP's Successful Response to Famine in Unity State

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Results

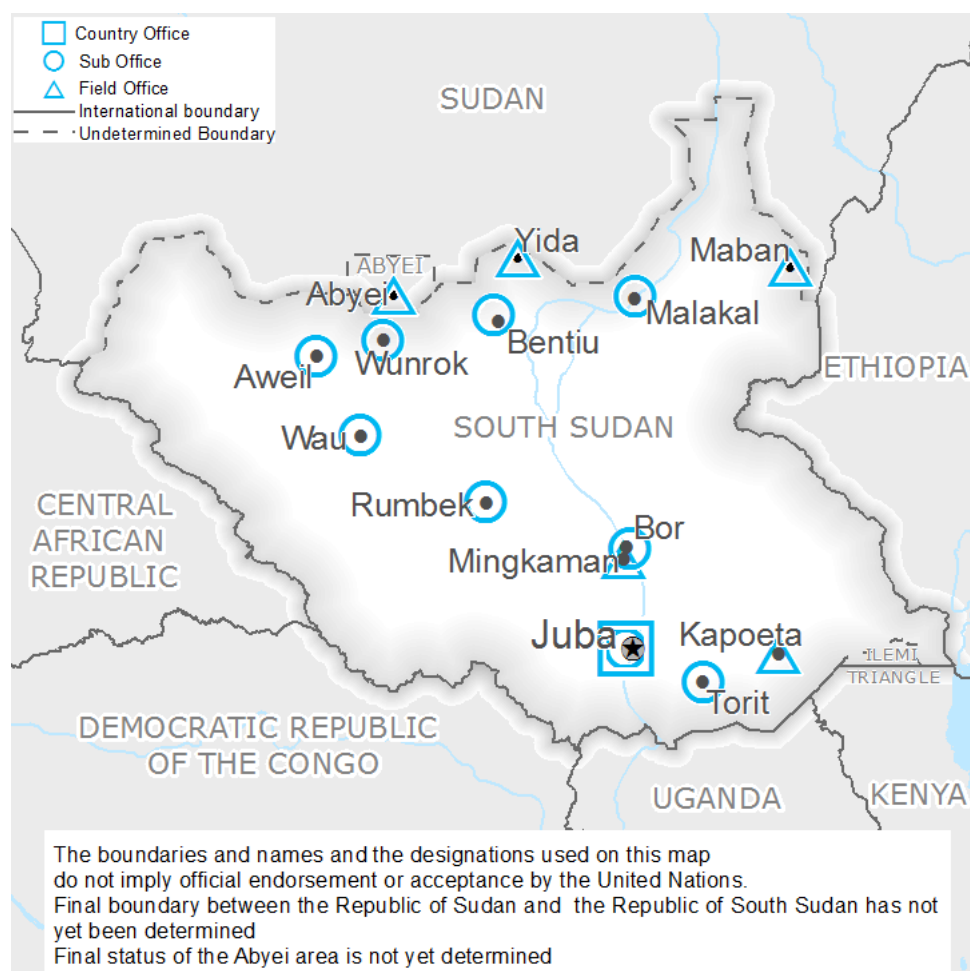
Performance Monitoring

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Project Indicators

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

The year 2017 saw a dramatic worsening of the food security and nutrition situation in South Sudan which, along with the expansion of conflict and the continuous degradation of the economy, brought substantial challenges to WFP's operations in the country.

Despite the hostile working environment, WFP managed to adapt its intervention to the emerging needs and overcome access constraints in order to provide life-saving assistance to the affected populations, reaching 800,000 more beneficiaries than in 2016. WFP exceeded the planned coverage for 2017 by 700,000 beneficiaries, which added up to over 4.8 million total people assisted during the year, the highest number of people served by WFP since the country's independence. In 2017, WFP transferred approximately 270,000 mt of food commodities. Cash-based transfers were valued at USD 32 million, which represent an increase of 19 million from 2016.

To address the projected famine in three counties of the Unity state [1], WFP managed to scale up its operations timely and substantially. WFP deployed 36 Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) missions, adapted distribution cycles to provide more frequent relief and nutrition assistance and was successful in maintaining strong coordination and communication with stakeholders. WFP assisted over 400,000 beneficiaries in Unity state through the IRRM during the five-month response, which was about 23 percent of IRRM's total assisted beneficiaries in 2017.

WFP progressed in its efforts to increase programme efficiency by better targeting its beneficiaries through biometrics registrations, registering over 200,000 people in 2017. WFP assessments were particularly useful in supporting programme targeting and resource prioritization, including the integration of protection and gender

analyses to minimize the risk of exposure of beneficiaries to gender-based violence. The country office led and supported a range of food and nutrition studies to support strategy development and decision making, including the inter-agency Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey (FSNMS), Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) reports, the Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Causal Analysis (IFANSCA), market assessments, urban food security assessments and other ad hoc studies.

WFP successfully worked across both emergency and development spheres and made efforts to transition from emergency response to resilience building activities in relatively stable areas, in order to promote the development of beneficiaries' skills for long-term sustainability of livelihoods. To this regard, WFP explored the potential advantages of safety nets using the conditional food distribution modality, whereby participants receive food or cash in exchange of their involvement in livelihood-related activities. Specially households with malnourished children and/or pregnant and lactating women, as well as those headed by children or vulnerable people both in urban and rural areas, have benefited from the initiative thus far.

In 2017 WFP increased focus on community structures and mechanisms of information and accountability, with a special focus to identify and address female and vulnerable beneficiaries' needs. WFP strengthened the presence of Project Management Committees (PMCs) and successfully implemented a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM). PMCs proved to be a key channel in many locations to consult affected populations and provide them with information and feedback, while the expansion of the CFM complemented already existing helpdesks and strengthened two-way communication with affected populations. The data collected through the CFM provided key information on the impact of food assistance on women, men, boys and girls, on context-specific protection risks and on gender dynamics related to food assistance in South Sudan.

WFP also provided leadership on the implementation of humanitarian principles in South Sudan, engaging in access negotiations with all parties of the conflict and opening up humanitarian space. In 2017 WFP negotiated humanitarian access in previously inaccessible areas and successfully opened two road corridors in the north and a river corridor from Renk to Malakal, thus contributing to the safe and unhindered movement of WFP and partners' staff and assets across the country.

[1] The designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any county or state of South Sudan nor concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Country Context and Response of the Government

The Republic of South Sudan achieved independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011, becoming the world's youngest country. Since that time supporters of President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar have been involved in a power struggle which in 2013 led the country into outright civil war.

Until now, conflict has continued unabated, despite a major peace initiative in 2015 known as the "Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic South Sudan (ARCSS)" and several peace initiatives and forums. Since ARCISS unraveled in July 2016 the civil war has spread to previously unaffected areas like Greater Equatoria and the Greater Bahr El Ghazal regions.

The last attempt to end hostilities via the High-Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF), led by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), has led to a greater level of restraint among the parties, but there have been numerous violations of the cessation of hostilities (CoH) agreement.

Deep rooted ethnic tensions and a lack of formal institutions have contributed to the creation of violent and sustained conflict, reinforcing institutional weakness while also causing a dramatic deterioration in physical security, food security, and economic conditions in the country, with South Sudan standing the 181 out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index rank [2]. Despite its vast arable land and exploitable natural resources, the lack of infrastructure and economic setup have sunk the country in an economic crisis which impedes sustainable progress towards humanitarian and development objectives. The South Sudanese pound (SSP) has depreciated with historical low values in 2017, causing an adverse impact on household purchasing power and consequent food insecurity, while food prices have continued to rise exorbitantly [3]. The South Sudanese population relies mostly on smallholder production and pastoralist work, with little formal employment available.

Societal and cultural norms, along with decades of violence, drive gender inequalities and discrimination in South Sudan. Men control most productive assets and decision-making powers, domestic violence is common and adolescent girls are often married into polygamous unions with adult men. The population is very young and on average 48.6 percent of the heads of household are women with an average household size of 7.1 members [4]. Maternal mortality is the highest in sub-Saharan Africa, and 80 percent of women are illiterate. Conflict,

displacement and food insecurity affect women, girls, men and boys differently, and gender-based violence and forced recruitment of boys into military forces are common incidents countrywide.

The geographic expansion of conflict and insecurity in 2016 has caused deterioration in access to education, with the Greater Upper Nile being the most affected region of the country. Numerous education facilities have been occupied and few teachers are available to support the temporary learning spaces. By the end of 2017, 1.3 million children were at risk of dropping out of school, with similar drop-out rates for girls and boys [5].

The conflict situation has driven 2 million people to flee the country, 85 percent of whom are women and children; 1.9 million people have resettled within the country [6], including over 200,000 of people who live in United Nations protection of civilian (POC) sites. South Sudan is also home for over 274,000 refugees, mostly from Sudan [7].

The food insecurity and malnutrition status in the country reached unprecedented levels in February 2017. Famine was declared in Leer and Mayendit counties and projected in Koch, in Central Unity state, where 100,000 people were facing Humanitarian Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) [8]. In August, the number of severely food insecure people reached 6 million South Sudanese [9]— half of the country's population —at the peak of the lean season. Despite no national survey has been conducted in the country since independence, county-level surveys conducted in 2017 reported how Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates had exceeded the emergency threshold in nine of out the ten states, where more than 15 percent of children aged 6-59 months (1.1 million children) were acutely malnourished [10].

By September 2017, all the three Greater regions of South Sudan included populations in Humanitarian Catastrophe [9] and by December 4.8 million people were estimated to be facing severe food insecurity, the highest level of food insecurity during the harvest season since the IPC analysis started in 2008. The anticipated start of the lean season is expected to push 5.1 million people to severe food insecurity in the period January-March 2018.

The progressive deterioration of the nutrition situation in South Sudan can be attributed to various synergistic factors, including the rising food insecurity, poor infant and young child feeding practices, the limited access to safe water and sanitation, and the increasing food prices, all associated with the ongoing and spreading conflict. Along with food insecurity and malnutrition, susceptibility to disease and poor access to health services has kept high numbers of cases of HIV, TB, malaria, diarrhoea, cholera, kala-azar and measles.

The strategy of the Government is built on the "Vision 2040" framework, a wide strategic approach encompassing medium and long-term plans. The Vision, initially pursued through the South Sudan Development Plan (2011-2016), will be continued with a new three-year National Development Strategy (NDS), currently being drafted by the Government in collaboration with WFP and other UN agencies.

South Sudan started in 2017 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) nationalisation process, which feeds into the NDS and aspires to align the country's humanitarian and development objectives with the SDGs. The two main areas of action prioritised by the Government fall within SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 2 on zero hunger.

For the humanitarian agenda, both the Government and opposition have established separate bodies for addressing humanitarian priorities, each of which have developed their own strategy, primarily focused on developing a national framework for returns, resettlement, and reintegration.

The Government, at the national and state-level, has coordinated with several UN agencies and other partners for the development of public policies and for capacity strengthening of its institutions. Initiatives like the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) and the active chairing of the National Forum on Early Warning Systems, as well as the commitment to develop School Feeding and Girls Schooling Strategies, reflect the Government's commitment to collaborate for the improvement of its people's living conditions.

However, further enhancement of the Government's capacities and strategic coordination with the humanitarian community will be required to keep up with the increasing needs of a population in the midst of a civil war.

[2] Estimated population in 2017 13 million (CIA 2017); 64 ethno-linguistic groups (the largest being Dinka, 36 percent, and Nuer, 16 percent) (UNDP 2017 and CIA 2017); Population age structure 65 percent under 25 years (CIA 2017); Per capita income USD 1085 (UNDP 2017); Population below national poverty line 50.6 percent (UNDP 2015); Life expectancy at birth 56 years (UNESCO 2017); Infant Mortality Rate in 62.8 deaths/1,000 live births (CIA 2017); 1 in 7 women die in childbirth (UNDP 2017); Mean years of schooling 5.4 years (UNDP 2015); 80 percent of women are illiterate (UNESCO 2017); Military expenditure 10.93 percent of 2015 GDP; Health expenditure 2.7 percent of 2014 GDP (CIA 2017); Education expenditure 1.81 of 2016 GDP (UNESCO 2017).

[3] South Sudan Market Price Monitoring Bulletin November 2017 (WFP 2017).

[4] FSNMS December 2017.

[5] UNICEF, 2017.

- [6] South Sudan Situation Regional Update (UNHCR 2017).
- [7] OCHA 2017.
- [8] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - January 2017 (WFP 2017).
- [9] Integrated Food Security Phase Classification - September 2017 (WFP 2017).
- [10] South Sudan Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Bulletin - Round 20 (WFP 2017).

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

WFP's interventions during 2017 have been performed under an emergency operation (EMOP) and a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), following previous years' structure. Three special operations (SOs), on logistics, air service and feeder roads support, completed WFP's operational plan. The five operations have been implemented across the whole country, unlike in 2016 where the EMOP focused on the Greater Upper Nile region while the PRRO covered the rest of the country.

During 2017, the EMOP (200859) aimed to provide conditional and unconditional emergency food assistance to people affected by conflict and food insecurity, as well as prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and institutional feeding for people living with HIV, tuberculosis or kala-azar.

WFP performed relief and recovery interventions under the PRRO (200572) for the restoration of livelihoods and household resilience and the promotion of access to education, particularly for girls, as they suffer greater limitations in access to continued education. Activities included unconditional food and cash-based assistance; school meals; food assistance for assets; support to small-holder farmers; prevention and treatment of MAM for refugees; and capacity strengthening activities to reinforce government's capacities to address food insecurity.

Through special operation 200778, WFP continued to lead the logistics cluster, providing a coordinated response to the increasing logistic needs of the humanitarian community. The special operation 200379 focused on the construction and maintenance of feeder roads to advance the country's limited transport infrastructure, while the special operation 201029 allowed WFP to support the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for the provision of air access to humanitarian actors.

Starting 2018, WFP South Sudan will translate its projects into a three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), which will allow WFP to better integrate its contributions to the country and establish a direct link between resources and results, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

With its presence in South Sudan, WFP has maintained its strategic positioning with the government, working in close collaboration where possible, and has joined the humanitarian community's efforts for a more coherent, efficient and effective response. Analysis of protection and gender issues have progressively been integrated into WFP's strategic decision-making, through regular communication and information sharing with the protection cluster and gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster, and through the collaboration with other agencies to mainstream GVB and child protection related initiatives, amongst others.

WFP's intervention in South Sudan unfolds within the coordination of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the UN Country Team (UNCT). In 2017, WFP has been an active member in the discussions for the one-year extension of the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) [11] and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that will replace it, co-leading and participating in its five working groups; and has succeeded in mainstreaming global objectives for zero hunger in next year's Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) [12].

Inter-agency collaboration between WFP and other UN agencies has resulted in more coherent and consolidated assistance in the country. Nutrition programmes, support to refugees, resilience building coordination, early awareness systems and access to education have especially benefited from joint actions. In 2017 WFP, FAO, UNICEF and UNDP also launched the Stabilization and Recovery Programme, an initiative that aims to set the bases for recovery towards resilience in South Sudan, by building on multisector humanitarian interventions.

WFP continues to lead the logistics cluster and co-leads the food security and livelihoods cluster with FAO and the nutrition cluster with UNICEF, while participating in the education, protection and health clusters. In 2017, the activities performed under the emergency telecommunications cluster were incorporated under the EMOP, providing services on radio and internet provision and vehicle repair.

[11] The Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) provides a basis for the UN to work with the government and other development partners to address key challenges and issues, as South Sudan works towards achieving sustainable peace and development.

[12] The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) plan is prepared for a protracted or sudden onset emergency that requires international humanitarian assistance. The plan articulates the shared vision of how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of affected populations.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP's operations in South Sudan achieved an overall funding level of 77 percent of the portfolio in 2017, including carry-over resources. Difference in funding between the EMOP and the PRRO was of 10 percent, with EMOP activities attracting the highest level of support. Special operations for the logistics cluster and the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) exceeded planned funding values, while the special operation for feeder roads achieved 60 percent of its funding requirements. Overall, funding levels improved since 2016, with 17 percent more contributions received in 2017.

Eighty-four percent of resources were received through directed multilateral contributions, which allowed donors higher flexibility while ensuring, in consultation with the country office, that priority activities were supported. WFP South Sudan mostly received monetary contributions as opposed to in-kind, which were primarily directed to the emergency response, cash-based transfer modality distributions and nutrition programmes. WFP also maintained multi-year agreements with some of its main donors, and it secured funding for long-term engagement and resilience activities. The country office also used the corporate advance financing facility to minimise funding and food supply gaps.

The sudden escalation of the famine response operations from February to June required an extensive ad-hoc exercise to raise further funds to cover the increased operational deployment. Early fundraising by WFP ensured a successful response from donors, with both large and small as well as emerging donors contributing to WFP's increased requirements.

In 2017 WFP received a record amount of funds for its prepositioning exercise, which allowed the country office to exceed its prepositioning plan for 2017 and maximise the use of stocked commodities. The opening of two humanitarian corridors from Sudan granted WFP opportunities to lower cost of transport from the country, materialising WFP's commitment to improving efficiency in its transport contracting process. Cost saved thanks to the opening of the new corridors amounted to approximately USD 3 million.

The roll-out of biometric registration systems offered large potential for cost efficiency gains through more accurate beneficiary registers. Through the corporate system SCOPE and in coordination with UNHCR and IOM's beneficiary management systems, WFP refined its targeting and improved identification of eligible populations in 2017. Coordination with UNICEF in health centres through common partners and securing the continuation of moderate acute malnutrition also contributed to improved programme effectiveness.

The availability of human resources in 2017 remained similar to that of 2016. Conflict outbreak in 2016 resulted in numerous evacuations of WFP and partner staff out of the country, but the staffing returned to previous levels towards the end of the year. In 2017 the working environment stabilised and WFP benefited from a strong staff base. Several staff wellness initiatives in 2017, including the "right to health" and vaccination campaigns, whereby staff were provided access to medical check-ups and free vaccinations, and the upgrade of recreation facilities contributed to creating a beneficial atmosphere for staff's wellbeing.

Additionally, in 2017 the country office established a new field coordination team to facilitate coordination between country office management and its field locations for improved operational efficiency and effectiveness. The team contributes to programme quality and cohesion through targeted field deployments, enhanced staffing coordination, and the facilitation of communication between field offices and units in the country office. By facilitating communication between the country office and the field, the team also strengthens the cohesion of all WFP staff in South Sudan as part of one team working towards shared priorities, contributing to motivation and staff wellness.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	483,182	483,182	966,364
Children (5-18 years)	1,111,318	1,304,590	2,415,908

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Adults (18 years plus)	665,241	784,304	1,449,545
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	2,259,741	2,572,076	4,831,817



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	165,043	9,289	15,310	22,205	846	212,693
Single Country PRRO	47,917	3,338	5,498	3,041	500	60,294
Total Food Distributed in 2017	212,960	12,627	20,808	25,246	1,346	272,987



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country EMOP	26,443,976	-	-
Single Country PRRO	6,035,802	-	-
Total Distributed in 2017	32,479,778	-	-

Supply Chain

Being a landlocked country with poor road infrastructure where local food procurement is limited, South Sudan poses a great challenge for both commercial and humanitarian organisations in managing the supply chain. Besides the insufficient infrastructure and lack of food availability, the conflict and insecurity together with the deterioration of road conditions during the rainy season aggravate the complexity of the situation.

Considering the contextual challenges, WFP South Sudan met its supply needs in 2017 through road, river and air deliveries using three main logistics corridors through seven neighbouring countries.

Through the Northern Corridor WFP transported 15 percent of its total tonnage by road from Port Sudan through Kosti to Upper Nile State, and through El Obeid to Bentiu and Aweil. In 2017 WFP opened two new entry points through the Northern Corridor from Sudan, which allowed to count on additional reliable routes to safely deliver commodities into the country. The Eastern Corridor connected the port of Djibouti to Gambella and Jimma in Ethiopia, from where 90 percent of cargo was airdropped into the Greater Upper Nile, while the remainder was transported by road and river, adding up to a 17 percent of the total tonnage delivered in 2017. The Southern Corridor was used to transport the balance of 68 percent of total tonnage mainly from the ports of Mombasa in Kenya, Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania and Tororo hub in Uganda either to Juba hub for onward deliveries upcountry or other points in southern Jonglei, Lakes, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap states.

The total tonnage transported by WFP's logistics operation in South Sudan amounted to over 276,500 mt, 68 percent of which was transported by road and 29 percent by air, while the remainder was supplied by river.

WFP South Sudan procured food commodities through the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), a corporate system for food supply chain management, and through in-kind donor contributions. Purchasing through the GCMF system allowed WFP to support regional economies and benefit from reduced lead-times and cost-efficient purchases. Commodities acquired included maize, sorghum, pulses, fortified vegetable oil, Super Cereal, Super Cereal Plus, and the Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF). The country office also supported the local agricultural sector through its Purchase for Progress (P4P) activities, where WFP procured over 400 mt of maize and sorghum cultivated by local small-holder farmers. The logistics team collaborated in the identification of reliable wholesalers and retailers as well as the assessment of markets to support the effectiveness of cash-based transfer (CBT) distributions.

In 2017 WFP South Sudan tested the so-called Skypack system to airdrop High Energy Biscuits (HEB), RUSF and water, as well as blankets and medical kits. The new system will allow WFP to reach beneficiaries on the move without having static presence on the ground. To reduce the losses of vegetable oil during parachute airdrops WFP has used a specialised 2-Ring Release Deployment System, which reduced commodity losses to less than 5 percent in 2017.

Because of the unstable and restricted access in the rainy season, WFP undertakes every year a massive prepositioning exercise during the dry season while roads are open to ensure that commodities are available in inaccessible areas during the rainy months. Despite the economic situation that led to increased risks during transport, WFP successfully prepositioned 116,600 mt of food commodities in 2017. This amount slightly exceeded the prepositioning plan representing the largest amount of food prepositioned by WFP since 2011.

To ensure the security and reliability of the corridors and warehouses in key prepositioning locations, WFP achieved the commitment from Government authorities and other power groups to take on responsibility for guaranteeing the safety of WFP assets, food and staff. Efforts to accomplish commitment from the different parties complemented WFP's 2017 risk mitigation strategy which aimed at implementing measures to reduce risk of theft, robbery, looting and unauthorized distribution. Through the warehouse risk assessment tool the logistics team worked in close collaboration with the access, security and programme teams in the country office to closely monitoring the risks associated with warehouses based on the likelihood and potential impact of detrimental events, prompting the adoption of mitigation measures timely.

In 2017 WFP also successfully developed and implemented a transport strategy on convoy systems, whereby all primary transportation (from Juba onwards) was done through convoys as opposed to individual trucks which are more vulnerable to attacks. Convoys were accompanied by WFP fleet truck and outsourced convoy leaders. The new strategy proved to be effective with no major incidents reported from primary transport convoys in 2017. In 2018 WFP plans to extend this approach also to secondary transport (other locations than Juba onwards).



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Iodised Salt	-	1,074	1,074
Maize	206	627	833
Maize Meal	21	-	21

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Sorghum/Millet	200	-	200
Total	427	1,701	2,128
Percentage	20.1%	79.9%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Beans	13,585
Corn Soya Blend	26,694
Maize	25,355
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	1,422
Sorghum/Millet	116,817
Split Peas	1,233
Vegetable Oil	3,576
Total	188,682

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

In 2016 WFP's Office of Evaluation commissioned a Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) of WFP's activities in South Sudan. The CPE covered WFP South Sudan 2014–2017 country strategy and the portfolio of operations during 2011–2016. It assessed WFP's strategic alignment and positioning, the factors and quality of WFP's strategic decision-making and the performance and results of the portfolio. The CPE was timed to provide evidence to inform the country office's strategic orientation and feed into the design of its 2018–2020 Interim Country Strategic Plan.

The CPE found WFP's work to be of high relevance and coherent with national needs and policies and recognized WFP's leadership on the humanitarian response in South Sudan, as well as its effective operationalization of the humanitarian principles. The evaluation noted that the common services provided by WFP are considered key to the success of overall humanitarian operations in the country.

The CPE concluded a set of recommendations that aimed to guide the country office towards a strategy better aligned with the evolving country context and that would be able to respond to the multi-year acute crisis while having the flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing needs. In 2017 WFP laid out a management response plan to respond to the evaluation's findings with a view to integrating all recommendations by the end of 2018. To this regard, in 2017 WFP implemented several adjustments in diverse operational areas, with the special aim of further increasing cost-efficiency within a multi-year approach to emergency response.

Aiming to maximize humanitarian-development synergies, WFP addressed the underlying constraints of an expansion of cash-based transfers (CBT) to other areas of the country. WFP headquarters conducted an in-depth market analysis of the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states in early 2017, and carried out a CBT supply chain assessment mission jointly with South Sudan country office. These informed the formulation of a retail engagement strategy that aimed to enable price stabilization, to optimize supply chain systems and to drive movement towards naturally functioning competitive markets to increase supply and reduce prices.

With the purpose of enhancing programme effectiveness and beneficiaries' identification, WFP further rolled-out the SCOPE registration system and leveraged UNHCR and IOM's biometric registration systems to support more accurate targeting. A data sharing agreement with UNHCR was signed and a similar agreement with IOM is being prepared after interoperability test with IOM were proved successful in 2017. Compatibility test between UNHCR system and SCOPE is planned to take place on May-June 2018.

With regards to maximisation of resource management, WFP strengthened its Supply Chain Working Group through regular meetings to implement and follow-up prioritization and operational plans; and reinforced the budget and programming unit's staff to allow for better engagement in the redesign of pipeline analyses and guidance on sourcing decisions.

The country office undertook in collaboration with the regional bureau a review of its human resources function in June 2017. Findings informed the inclusion of staffing in the human resources team and the addition of surge capacity to support in the recruitment of staff in order to avoid delays in critical times. To improve efficiency of resource capacity in the field, the country office with support from WFP headquarters negotiated field level agreements and budgets with key partners with the aim of entering into multi-year, multi-project, or multi-location agreements to enable sustained and coordinated assistance.

A Gender Audit conducted in 2016 highlighted the need to mainstream gender analysis into programme planning, and to strengthen the understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment both amongst cooperating partners and members of Project Management Committees (PMCs). To this regard, WFP strengthened the integration of gender analysis in its interventions and requested cooperating partners to include these assessments within their proposal submissions. Additionally, WFP increased efforts to train partner staff, government counterparts and PMCs on gender mainstreaming in humanitarian settings. WFP also reviewed and adjusted its Letter of Understanding with UNWOMEN for the integration of gender within the context of safety nets and resilience activities.

Overall, the improvements implemented by the country office in 2017 as a response to the CPE and Gender Audit recommendations, have highlighted the comparative advantage of WFP in outstanding areas of influence in the humanitarian arena of South Sudan. Distinct logistics capacity, strong relationships with national and local authorities, leadership in vulnerability analysis and mapping, good cost awareness, robust processes to negotiate safe access and a strong deep-field presence position WFP in the lead to the success of humanitarian interventions in the country.

WFP's Successful Response to Famine in Unity State

After a continued deterioration of the food insecurity and malnutrition values since the conflict intensified in July 2016, the beginning of 2017 saw the situation become increasingly severe in Central Unity state. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) declared Koch, Leer and Mayendit counties in high risk of Famine, while Panyijar was facing Emergency phase. A Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 30 percent, well above the emergency threshold (15 percent) was observed in Leer, while Mayendit and Panyijar had GAM rates of 27.3 percent. (Recent data was not available for Koch at the time).

The IPC projected that with consistent, adequate, and timely humanitarian interventions, the famine forecast could be reversed with many lives saved. However, delivering humanitarian assistance posed a challenge for WFP: central and southern Unity are cut off from road access, and prepositioning storing of food stocks is not possible because of insecurity, conflict and lack of partner presence. Airdrops of food and nutrition supplies can be carried out only in places where relief workers are on the ground, and negotiations for access and permissions can be protracted or unsuccessful.

The quick action of the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) was key in responding to the emergency. The IRRM is a partnership between WFP and UNICEF that uses mobile teams and partners to first register populations – which also allows for mass screening to trigger services in nutrition and other sectors – and then deliver food to the entire community. From February to June 2017, the IRRM deployed 36 missions in the four affected counties and increased the frequency of distribution cycles to match affected populations' needs, delivering a total of 17,000 mt to 400,000 beneficiaries affected by the crisis. Additionally, the IRRM scale-up achieved an increase in admissions in moderate acute malnutrition treatment sites which allowed for an effective nutrition response.

As a result of early detection of the famine, combined with the IRRM's quick and massive response, the famine declaration was lifted. By May, Leer and Mayendit counties were no longer classified as having famine conditions, and further deterioration of food security had been prevented in Koch and Panyijar counties. The food security information available from informants in the field and the structure of the IRRM allowed for an extremely fast and effective response that could otherwise have taken months to achieve. Communities were able to build up stocks that have prevented them from being in a situation of extreme vulnerability as the lean season approaches.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Special operation 200379 was launched in 2011 with the objective of enhancing the livelihoods of rural populations in areas with agricultural potential, by creating opportunities to access markets and basic social, education and health services. The special operation also supports WFP's food assistance operations in South Sudan, facilitating its movement across the country.

The overall focus of the special operation lies on the construction of 1,000 km and the rehabilitation of 488 km of feeder roads in seven states in South Sudan. The operation's portfolio includes the rehabilitation of structures along the roads, the construction of a new bridge and the implementation of maintenance and capacity development activities for local communities and authorities.

The feeder roads are selected and constructed based on assessments, criteria and standards agreed on by the Feeder Roads Steering Committee, which consists of representatives of the Government and the donor community, with technical input from WFP and other partners.

For the implementation of the project, WFP employs contractors to carry out the road works. WFP also works closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MA&FS) and the Ministry of Roads and Bridges (MRB) of South Sudan, which supports activities with technical staff. WFP has also traditionally worked with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on information sharing and sensitization.

WFP engaged with donors regularly to provide information on operational achievements and challenges, and informed them in the event that insecurity prevented the continuation of project works.

During the reporting year, road works were undertaken in Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Central Equatoria regions. Since the outbreak of conflict in 2016, works from Lakes to Unity and in Eastern and Western Equatoria have been suspended and eventually cancelled.

Western Bahr el Ghazal – Warrap: WFP's goal was the completion of two road sections and one bridge for 2017. The works aimed to connect Kangi in Western Bahr el Ghazal, to Kuajok in Warrap, with a 41.4 km road section, and Kuajok to Lunyaker, in Warrap, with a 46.8 km section. The bridge was planned to connect Kangi-Kuajok and Kuajok-Lunyaker road sections, concluding the road with a total length of 95 km.

The Kangi-Kuajok road has been constructed by "Rhino Stars Supplies and Construction". and the maintenance programme is being implemented by the same contractor. After completion of the road construction phase in March 2017, a nine-month road maintenance programme commenced on July 2017, after a three-month defects liability period.

The contractor has supplied equipment and tools required for the road maintenance activities, and has run the programme as directed by WFP, engaging the local government and community representatives. The contractor conducted capacity strengthening to build local capacity on planning and implementation of periodic road maintenance, whereby local authorities and community representatives joined the engineering team during the road maintenance programme for six months to gain first-hand practical skills on road maintenance works and coordination.

The construction of the 46.8 km Kuajok-Lunyaker road section was completed by "Jecnaz Engineering and Construction" in 2016 and the three-month defects liability period ended in March 2017.

Significant progress has been made with regard to the implementation of the Kuajok bridge construction project, considered as a high priority by the Government of South Sudan. WFP signed the contract for the manufacturing and supply of the bridge steel modular superstructure elements and the design review of substructure elements. The donor has approved a no cost time extension of the Contribution Agreement to February 2019. It is expected that the bridge supply and construction works will proceed according to the Work Programme and even anticipate the completion of the bridge before the end of 2018.

Western Bahr el Ghazal: WFP had planned the construction of an 89 km road from Fargacika to Bagari. Even though the contract package was prepared in July 2016, the volatile security situation in Western Bahr el Ghazal has prevented the initiation of works. As of January 2017, WFP concluded that the security situation remained volatile, making it impossible to proceed with the constructions.

After conducting two field assessment missions in February 2017, WFP proposed the donor to consider funding the construction of two alternative roads located north of Wau in areas with no major security risks. However, in April 2017 the donor informed WFP about their decision not to fund any road projects for the time being and reallocate

their grant from the Feeder Roads SO to the emergency operation (EMOP) 200859.

Central Equatoria: in Central Equatoria, WFP has managed two projects on construction and rehabilitation of cross drainage structures along Juba-Kajo-Keji road and Terekeka-Muni-Tombek road.

The works on the construction of structures along Terekeka-Muni-Tombek road were expected to be completed by beginning of April 2017. However, insecurity and poor performance of the contractor posed great challenges during the construction of cross drainage structures and spot repairs. In February and March, WFP conducted frequent site visits to supervise the road structures construction activities and helped the contractor obtain support letters from the local authorities to facilitate transportation of supplies.

The contractor was given a contract extension and the construction was completed in July 2017, when WFP inspected and accepted the structures and spot repairs of the road. The works are currently under a twelve-month defects liability. In coordination with the MA&FS, the project assets including the construction of camp facilities and furniture were handed over by the contractor to the local government of Jubek State.

Results

Although the actual impact of the roads rehabilitation will be more easily measurable once they have been handed over and used, certain positive trends, such as a reduction in travel times and the establishment of small-scale businesses along these roads have been appreciated through general observations and meetings between WFP and community representatives.

The construction of the 41.4 km road section and corresponding road structures from Kangi to Kuajok was completed on time and within budget, to very good quality standards. In support to the humanitarian community, the road became a transited route for WFP and other humanitarian stakeholders, becoming a convenient alternative that facilitated transport of commodities between Western Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap. The road maintenance programme commenced in July is proceeding as planned.

As a result of sensitization efforts done by UNOPS in 2016, in 2017 the contractor balanced the gender composition of its maintenance works, raising to a 35 percent the number of women employees against a 5 percent the previous year.

In the absence of a bridge over Jur river at Kuajok, the traffic volumes along the Kuajok-Lunyaker road section were very low. For this reason, WFP recommended the road maintenance program should be postponed pending the completion of the bridge and its 7 km approach road.

The construction of cross-drainage structures along Juba-Kajo-Keji road has been completed within time and budget, and to specified quality standards. In addition, despite insecurity, significant delays and challenges posed by logistical and contractor performance, the construction of cross-drainage structures and spot repairs of Terekeka-Muni-Tombek road has also been completed to acceptable quality standards.

Based on observations and dialogue between WFP engineering team and community members, improved road conditions in these areas of Central Equatoria have contributed to the increase of traffic, reduced travel times and facilitated movement of food supplies and other commodities along the route.

WFP engaged local communities and government staff in capacity strengthening activities. In 2017 three government staff from the state ministries of physical infrastructure and three community development officers were trained in the Kangi-Kuajok, Kajo-Keji and Terekeka-Muni-Tombek road works. Communities residing along Kangi-Kuajok road were also included in capacity-strengthening activities, whereby community members were involved in the road maintenance programmes by cutting the grass from the side drains and desilting of culverts, amongst other activities.

Performance Monitoring

During the reporting period, the feeder roads project was mainly monitored at output level through monitoring of the construction activities carried out by contractors. Monitoring of the wider economic and social effects of road construction at outcome levels was limited to general observations and information gained through site meetings of WFP engineers with the local government and community representatives.

The contractors provided monthly progress reports and WFP engineering staff visited all sites to verify the achievement of results in the appropriate timelines. In addition, WFP staff monitored the sustainability of the constructed road works within the nine-month maintenance programme of Kangi-Kuajok road.

After the 2016 conflict, the monitoring and reporting team of the project left the country, which together with shortage of funding hindered the possibility of interviewing representative numbers of communities and households along the roads to measure further outcomes, as well as process monitoring of the project implementation. Furthermore, access was often limited by insecurity, and poor road conditions made it difficult to reach populations dispersed along the roads to conduct follow up surveys and measure the data versus baseline surveys done before the project start. WFP is considering with donors the feasibility of conducting monitoring surveys in 2018 and to use satellite imagery to track the effects of road construction on further infrastructure development, community locations and land-use patterns, acknowledging capacity, funding and security constraints.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Ronex Obiero.

A grader working on the construction of a road in Kuajok, the capital of Warrap State, in South Sudan.

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Capacity developed to address national food insecurity needs				
Hand-over strategy developed and implemented [1=not achieved; 2=partially achieved; 3=achieved]				
FEEDER ROADS, Project End Target: 2018.12, Base value: 2011.03, WFP survey, Previous Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP survey, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP survey	=3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO2: Special Operation (Feeder Roads)				
Kilometres of roads built	Km	48	41	85.5%
Number of assessments/surveys conducted	assessment	2	2	100.0%
Number of cross drainage structures (special constructions not included in road)	structure	17	25	147.1%
Number of government counterparts trained	individual	3	6	200.0%
Number of meetings conducted	instance	12	12	100.0%

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
SOUTH SUDAN, Special Operation (Feeder Roads), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12	=0.00	0.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
SOUTH SUDAN, Special Operation (Feeder Roads), Project End Target: 2017.12, Latest Follow-up: 2017.12	=0.00	0.00