



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief July 2018



Operational Context

In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, ending one of the longest civil wars on record, and remains the world's youngest nation. In December 2013, a power struggle between the president and vice president, Salva Kiir, and Riek Machar, broke into armed conflict. An internationally mediated peace agreement was signed in August 2015, and in April 2016 Machar returned to Juba to form a Transitional Government with Salva Kiir. Renewed fighting erupted in mid-July, resulting in increased violence and insecurity throughout the country. As a result, Riek Machar fled the country and Taban Deng Gai was appointed first vice president which has led to increased factions within the Opposition. Most recently on 5 August 2018, a new cease fire and power sharing agreement was signed between Salva Kiir and Riek Machar. Under the deal, the opposition leader is set to return to a unity government as the first of five vice presidents. The agreement offers some hope to the South Sudanese people that peace may return and lives, and livelihoods can be rebuilt in the coming months. However, the situation remains dire on the ground.

South Sudan has some of the world's worst socio-economic indicators. Despite the nation's vast arable land, oil reserves, untapped water resources and large stocks of cattle and fisheries, the general lack of road infrastructure, market integration, or investment in agriculture, coupled with five straight years of conflict, has led to widespread food and nutrition insecurity. The latest Food Security Update released in August 2018 by FAO, UNICEF and WFP indicates that more than six million people – nearly 60 percent of the population – are facing "crisis" or "emergency" levels of acute food insecurity in South Sudan. State level surveys reported continued deterioration of the nutrition situation with eight out of the nine states having Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels above the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent. The persistent high malnutrition levels are attributed to high levels of food insecurity, displacements, conflict and poor infrastructure, limited access to basic health and nutrition services, poor infant young child feeding (IYCF) practices and high morbidity.



Population: **13 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **181 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

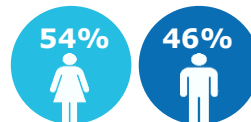
In Numbers

29,000 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

USD 2.91 m cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 449.39 m six months (September 2018-February 2019) net funding requirements

3.15 m people assisted*
*in July 2018



Operational Updates

- Food Security Update:** More than six million people – nearly 60 percent of the population, are facing "crisis" or "emergency" levels of acute food insecurity in South Sudan, according to the latest Food Security Situation Update released in August 2018 by FAO, UNICEF and WFP. Compared to the same period last year (June – July), this represents a 20 percent increase. Areas affected by armed conflict during the planting seasons (April-June) are of particular concern. In Leer and Mayendit counties in former Unity State and Greater Upper Nile region, people are particularly vulnerable due to recent displacement and attacks.
- WFP response:** WFP and cooperating partners provided more than 29,000 mt of food and nutrition assistance and US\$ 2.91 million in cash-based transfers to 3.15 million food-insecure people in South Sudan during the month of July, a record in number of beneficiaries reached and metric tons distributed in a month in 2018. In difficult-to-access areas of Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states, WFP reached more than 322,000 severely food-insecure people through the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism.
- Nutrition:** As of July 2018, WFP reached 515,000 moderately malnourished women and children with life-saving treatment. As part of its new Food and Nutrition Strategy for HIV/TB Programming for South Sudan, WFP is conducting cascade trainings at state-level to build capacity of cooperating partners, state-level Ministry of Health, the South Sudan HIV/AIDS Commission, as well as networks of people living with HIV. Trainings on nutrition assessment counselling and support, and on WFP Food and Nutrition Strategy for HIV & TB have been conducted in the Equatorias, Lakes, Warrap, Upper Nile and Unity. Additional trainings are planned in Northern Bahr El Gazal, Western Bahr el Gazal and Jonglei.
- WFP signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare of South Sudan. The MoU seeks to address chronic food insecurity through gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as to strengthen social protection systems. Under the MoU, WFP and the Government will also promote community participation in the design and implementation of gender-transformative food security and nutrition activities, as well as cooperate to develop biometric registration processes with other strategic partners to ensure efficient service delivery to the vulnerable population.

WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua

Nyagai Deng's family gather for a meal outside their family hut in Jiech, Ayod County. The family fled fighting in Wau town, Western Bahr el Ghazal and walked for days in search of refuge.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
3.2 b	556.9 m	449.39 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure people in crisis-affected areas have access to safe and nutritious food all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People at risk of malnutrition in crisis-affected areas, especially young children and pregnant and lactating women, are able to meet their basic nutrition requirements all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition assistance to populations at risk of malnutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and Income

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in non-conflict zones have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to seasonal climate shocks throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support and build the resilience of rural households

Strategic Result 8: Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian community in South Sudan has access to reliable common services until satisfactory alternatives are available.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Operate Air Services for the Humanitarian Community
- Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in Support of the Humanitarian Community

- To encourage food insecure households to grow their own food, WFP is supporting over 610,000 beneficiaries (100,000 households) across South Sudan through its **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** programme. WFP and partners, including FAO, are providing inputs such as seeds, tools and training on agricultural best practices to enhance the level of food production. Around 38,000 hectares of land are under cultivation with staple crops such as sorghum, and vegetables. In addition to food production, the same households are being supported through provision of technical guidance and expertise in creation of community based assets, including over 485 km of access roads, 65 water ponds, 25 km of water canals, and 200 km of dykes, to improve their resilience to shocks and food security. While households create these assets, WFP provides monthly food assistance to help meet short term hunger needs during the lean season and in advance of the harvest period.

- Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): WFP is supporting the initial preparation for an **integrated Ebola preparedness response** through the Logistics Cluster. Discussions and mapping of current capacities and constraints are ongoing, as well as the identification of the potential and ability to scale-up. According to World Health Organization, the Ebola virus outbreak was reported in the North Eastern provinces of DRC, which border Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and South Sudan. The affected provinces - North Kivu and Ituri - are among the most populated provinces in the country and have been experiencing intense insecurity and worsening humanitarian crisis, with over one million displaced people and influx of refugees to neighbouring countries. South Sudan shares a border with Ituri and has been classified as one of the priority one countries in the preparedness measures.

- **Biometric registrations:** Currently, 458,000 people (88,000 households) have been registered in SCOPE- a WFP beneficiary management platform across South Sudan. In July 2018, 30,860 people (13,600 households) were registered as part of the Juba Urban Programme. In July, a data protection management training was conducted for SCOPE team members involved in the registration of beneficiaries. The training focused on awareness raising and sensitization around data collection and management practices, to enable WFP staff to handle the data of vulnerable populations in respect of privacy concerns.

Monitoring

- On a monthly basis, monitoring teams conduct visits to final distribution points (FDPs) countrywide to monitor the implementation of WFP activities and to interview beneficiaries on cross-cutting matters like gender, protection and accountability. In 2018, WFP has monitored 194 general food distributions and 844 activity sites, which represent 21 percent of all WFP's final distribution points. As of July 2018, WFP has managed to cover 15 percent more of the FDPs reached in 2017, reflecting WFP's efforts in improving monitoring coverage despite limitations in accessing sites, especially due to insecurity.

Challenges

- **Lack of infrastructure:** The rainy season (April-October), which cuts access to 60 percent of the roads in the country, coupled with limited infrastructure may result in inadequate, irregular or delayed assistance due to limited access to people in need.
- **Insecurity and access:** Active conflict in parts of the country and along most trade and supply routes threaten to jeopardise ongoing activities with devastating effects on the most vulnerable.

Donors (2018, listed alphabetically) *

Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Japan, Slovakia, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

*Excluding multilateral and private donors