



WFP South Sudan Country Brief August 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

2017 Human Development Index: **186 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower**

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

In Numbers

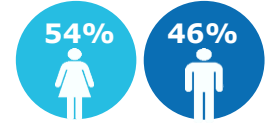
29,000 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

USD 2.91 m cash-based transfers done*

USD 462 m six months (September 2018-February 2019) net funding requirements

3.15 m people assisted*

*in July 2018



Operational Updates

- South Sudan remains the **most dangerous place** for aid workers for the third consecutive year, according to research conducted by Humanitarian Outcomes. The report, released in August, states that violence continued to escalate in 2017 in comparison to previous years, with record numbers of aid workers killed by gunfire in addition to a rise in aid worker kidnappings. Working within the framework of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), WFP continues to advocate for and work to address the protection, wellness and security of its staff by implementing strong security and risk mitigation strategies.
- From January to August 2018, WFP has managed to significantly reduce food and nutrition assistance delivery costs as a result of a series of **cost-efficiency initiatives**, such as the increase in river transport in hard-to-reach areas previously served by air, as well as the deployment of engineering capacity and reconnaissance and recovery teams to keep roads passable during the rainy season. In addition, WFP has strategically placed a record 132,000 mt across over 50 warehouses in South Sudan, the highest tonnage ever prepositioned in the country and 15,000 mt more than the amount prepositioned in 2017.
- WFP is seeking **donor support** to continue addressing the critical food and nutrition needs of approximately 4.8 million people in South Sudan. WFP needs US\$ 662 million to timely conduct its 2019 prepositioning exercise as well as just-in-time deliveries for the first half of next year.
- WFP and UN Women signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** towards transformational gender equality and women's empowerment programmes in South Sudan, which will support the work led by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. The two agencies agreed to work together to share technical knowledge and enhance efficiency, recognizing their comparative advantage. The MoU presents opportunities to scale up interventions that are not only lifesaving for vulnerable women and girls, but can also strengthen their skills for recovery, transformation and empowerment, including speaking out against gender-based violence (GBV).
- As part of preparations for an integrated Ebola preparedness plan, the WFP-led **Logistics Cluster** is working with partners to map logistics capacities such as storage, roads and staffing in areas designated as priority one, particularly at entry and check points. In those locations, WFP is also working with the World Health Organization (WHO) on mapping all formal and informal border points, screening areas, check points, airstrips and landing zones. This is part of the risk mapping process that will support the national task force in the preparedness stage of the contingency plan.

WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua

A mother and her baby wait to be attended to in Outpatient Area at Gurei Nutrition Center, Juba, run by WFP partner World Vision.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
3.2 b	500.2 m	462 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

- After months without access to **Baggari**, Wau state, a WFP team was able to reach the area and successfully negotiate access for the wider humanitarian community. The event was followed by an inter-sectorial mission comprised of a 14-truck convoy with 40 aid workers from 11 organizations, to determine the number of people in need, their vulnerability status and to provide the necessary assistance. According to data collected from UNICEF and other nutrition partners on the ground, the nutrition status of the population is alarming and has significantly deteriorated since May 2018, when humanitarian assistance was last provided. In response, in addition to a 15-day ration distributed for 13,300 individuals, WFP distributed a 30-day ration of specialized nutritious food for 2,800 children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women.

- WFP and the Danish Church Aid (DCA), the two co-leads of the Inter-Agency Cash Working Group (IA CWG) in South Sudan, facilitated the first two Capacity Strengthening sessions for partners working across cash-based activities in the country. The sessions covered basic concepts and definitions in **cash transfer programming** and market assessments and will continue throughout 2018. Through technical group discussions and capacity strengthening sessions, WFP is helping to increase cost efficiency across humanitarian programmes, enhancing coordination, building capacity and identifying synergies between cash assistance programmes of different agencies.

Monitoring

- In line with WFP's commitment to improve the accountability, quality, compliance and adaptability of WFP's processes and operations, WFP has transitioned from a traditional monitoring and evaluation structure to a more comprehensive **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning approach (MEAL)**. Main actions will aim to improve the quality of data, relevance and timeliness of analysis, stronger consultation exercises with beneficiaries, standardization and unified systems with cooperating partners, and the introduction of innovative tools to improve the organizational capacity with a comprehensive social protection and gender transformative lens.
- WFP conducts **process distribution monitoring** in its activity and distribution sites, including the locations under the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) whereby WFP deploys dedicated missions to monitor food distributions and give voice to beneficiaries in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas of the country. So far in 2018, WFP has monitored 228 general food distributions, 18 IRRM food distributions and 1069 activity sites - 31 percent of all WFP's final distribution points (FDPs) - covering 25 percent more of the FDPs reached in 2017. Process distribution monitoring is the primary tool used to confirm that assistance is being distributed and activities are being implemented on time and in accordance with humanitarian principles and standards.
- **Post-distribution monitoring** (PDM) is normally conducted two weeks after the distribution of food or cash. PDM exercises collect information on the food security status of beneficiary households, the continuity and utilization of assistance, receipt of entitlements, protection issues and misuse or diversion of food. WFP is currently preparing for its third PDM of 2018, whereby interviews will be conducted with 840 direct recipients of nutrition-sensitive food assistance under general food distributions in ten different states.

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) *

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

*Excluding multilateral and private donors