



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

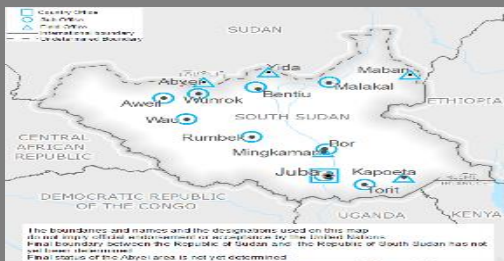
WFP South Sudan Country Brief September 2018



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 Integrated Food Security Classification Phase (IPC) released on September 2018 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 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

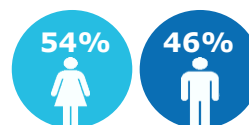
27,700 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

US\$ 2.03 m cash-based transfers done*

US\$ 566.6m six months (November 2018- April 2019) net funding requirements

2.98 m people assisted*

*in August 2018



Operational Updates

- South Sudan continues to experience **extreme levels of food insecurity**, with 6.1 million people or 59 percent of the population being food insecure at the peak of the lean season. These are the main findings of the [latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#), released on 28 September. Whilst at the national level there has been marginal improvement in the food security situation, in seven counties the severity and spread of food insecurity levels remains alarming. Extreme levels of acute food insecurity are expected to persist in many areas even in the presence of planned, funded, and likely humanitarian assistance. This calls for immediate and unhindered provision of humanitarian assistance and close monitoring.
- WFP and cooperating partners **assisted 2.98 million people in South Sudan** during the month of August, with 27,700 mt of food and nutrition commodities, as well as US\$ 2.03 million in cash distributions. From January to August 2018, WFP has reached approximately 4.72 million people with food and nutrition assistance to cover the most vulnerable populations.
- WFP and UNICEF signed a **Letter of Understanding** for collaboration on the treating and preventing of malnutrition and strengthening of nutrition sensitive activities in South Sudan. The two agencies agreed to collaborate on the consolidation and use of WFP's beneficiary management system, SCOPE, as a common platform to help improve joint interagency targeting of beneficiaries and increase operational efficiency and accountability to programme beneficiaries. In this framework, WFP and UNICEF intend to collaborate on the digitalization of nutrition programmes through the application known as SCOPE CODA.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.99 b	544 m*	566.6 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
- Supply Chain provision
- Inter-Agency IT Communication Service

- WFP is piloting SCOPE CODA (Conditional on-Demand Assistance) aiming to digitise the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM). Improving the information system for CMAM has the potential to provide better quality care, real-time programme data, and programme results, such as increased case management and reduced length of stay, as well as increased programme coverage, and building of evidence to better address acute malnutrition.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to develop a national **Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) Strategy**. This will articulate the national framework for school meals in the country, provide guidance on implementation mechanisms and set ground for transitioning to a nationally-owned programme.
- **Ebola Preparedness:** WFP continues to support the National taskforce for Ebola preparedness and is working jointly with other UN Agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, Donors and Clusters to ensure surveillance and community sensitization activities are in place. Internally, WFP is working to consolidate advanced preparedness actions at both country and sub-office levels.
- Additionally, the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Operations (UNHAS) was recently briefed on packaging and transporting procedures of suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) samples. In support of preparedness activities, UNHAS may be called upon to transport those samples. South Sudan is one of the four high-risk countries (Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda) prioritized by the World Health Organization (WHO) to enhance preparedness and operational readiness for the EBV outbreak in DRC.
- WFP has established an **aggregation network of smallholder farmers** across Western Equatoria, specifically in Yambio, Nzara and Maridi. The network will support smallholder farmers delivering their maize production to Rural Aggregation Centres (RAC), linking them to markets and contributing to their incomes and food security. This is a pilot exercise under WFP's Smallholder Agriculture Market & Value Chain Support (SAMS). The model was designed based on reports of farmers producing some surplus across the Equatorias despite conflict and other setbacks, but struggling to access markets, get timely payments and fair prices.

*Includes contributions received in 2017 and 2018, but specifically earmarked for the ICSP, which began on 1 January 2018. Excludes multi-year contribution for 2019 onwards.

Monitoring

- In line with WFP's commitment to improve 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 aim at improving 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). 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 269 general food distributions, 19 IRRM food distributions and 1293 activity sites - 37 percent of all WFP's final distribution points (FDPs) - covering 31 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. In September, WFP prepared the roll-out of the data collection exercise for its third PDM of 2018 and expects to interview more than 800 direct recipients of nutrition-sensitive food assistance across the country.

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



For the 1st time in 5 years WFP sent boats carrying humanitarian food assistance up the Sobat river - delivering enough to feed 40,000 people for a month, improving efficiency and saving money. Credit: WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua



Two brothers cycle home with their dinner bought at the local market in Rumbek. WFP has repaired & maintained the Juba-Rumbek road. For the first time, the road has remained open during the rainy season allowing traffic between the two locations to move Credit: WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua



"Now I have skills, and no one can take that from me!" Akon Majok (43) WFP Food Assistance for Assets participant from Warrap declares whilst showing the groundnuts harvested from her field. Credit: WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua