



WFP South Sudan Country Brief

November 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 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: 11 million

2017 Human Development Index: 186 out of 188

Income Level: Lower

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

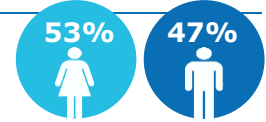
In Numbers

19,875 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

US\$ 3.79 m cash-based transfers done*

US\$ 336.6m six months (December 2018-May 2019) net funding requirements

2.32 m people assisted*
*in October 2018



Operational Updates

- Whilst overall access has improved in the context of the peace agreement, insecurity in areas of former Western Bahr el Ghazal and Central Equatoria continue to prevent WFP and other humanitarian organizations from reaching people in need. Though with caution, WFP is optimistic that increased dialogue between warring parties will help enhance access and thus enable the humanitarian community to reach the most vulnerable population of South Sudan. Concerns remain with regards to continuous crime and banditry across the country.
- On 15 November, WFP successfully negotiated for access into Baggari, Wau, paving way for humanitarian organizations to gain access albeit for the next two weeks. Access into the greater Baggari area had been closed since September.
- WFP and cooperating partners assisted 2.32 million food and nutrition insecure people in South Sudan during the month of October, with 19,875 mt of food and nutrition commodities, as well as cash distributions of US\$ 3.79 million. From January to October 2018, WFP reached 5.02 million people with food and nutrition assistance, of which 52 percent are female and 22 percent children aged 6-59 months.
- WFP continues to support the National taskforce for Ebola preparedness in South Sudan. So far, 39 border crossing points have been identified, 14 points of entry have been screened, and surveillance is active in prioritized areas. Since the establishment of preparedness activities, 526,000 people were screened with 16 alerts for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), all tested negative. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of EVD in the country.
- With the support of DANIDA, WFP launched Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in multiple locations across the country. The WGSS will provide outreach to communities to prevent and mitigate Gender based violence (GBV), provide clinical and psychosocial care to survivors of GBV, and support women and girls to know and access their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Direct linkage to WFP beneficiaries will support women, men, girls and boys with addressing gender and protection related challenges to food and nutrition security outcomes.

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.99 b	665.1 m	336.6 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

*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.

- WFP is strengthening biometric authentication to better understand who we are assisting, to enhance efficiencies and accountability over resources, and ensure that the right people receive the most appropriate services. Specifically, WFP is making an investment in scaling up the biometric registration of affected populations to cover 1.5 million beneficiaries by the end of 2018. So far, 637,000 beneficiaries are registered in SCOPE. WFP has been working closely with IOM who has authenticated 156,000 WFP beneficiaries on a monthly basis as they receive food assistance. WFP has also been collaborating with UNICEF on the implementation of SCOPE CODA, which includes case management and monitoring support of nutrition caseloads through the SCOPE CODA platform.

- WFP received a US\$ 43.57 million contribution from the African Development Bank (AfDB), to help meet the country's growing food and nutrition needs, while building community resilience. The grant, which has been one year in the making, will be used for both the emergency response activities and the longer-term efforts to improve people's resilience and food security, including IDPs across eight regions of Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Jonglei, Unity, Western Equatoria, Warrap and Upper Nile.

Monitoring

- 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 277 general food distributions, 23 IRRM food distributions and 1507 activity sites - 42 percent of all WFP's final distribution points (FDPs) - covering 36 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 ten days 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 November, WFP started the data collection exercise for its fourth PDM of 2018, whereby interviews are being conducted with 405 direct participants and 405 non-participants of food and cash-assistance for assets in four different states. The exercise will inform how WFP assistance is supporting vulnerable communities around South Sudan and on the food and livelihoods dynamics between participants and non-participants in targeted communities.

Challenges

- Lack of infrastructure: 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. Concerns remain with regards to continuous crime and banditry across the country.