



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP South Sudan Country Brief March 2019



## 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 12 September 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 February 22 indicates that 6.45 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**

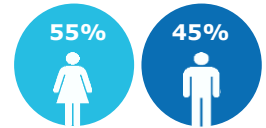
## In Numbers

**14,511 mt** of food and nutrition assistance distributed\*

**US\$ 2.65 m** cash-based transfers done\*

**US\$ 246.4 m** six months (April- September 2019) net funding requirements

**1.71 m people assisted\***  
\*in December 2018



## Operational Updates

- South Sudan continues to experience extreme levels of food insecurity, with 6.45 million or 57 percent of the population projected to be food insecure during February-April 2019. The latest Integrated [Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) report \(IPC\)](#) released on 22 February also warns that nearly 7 million people – 60 percent of the population – could face acute food insecurity at the height of this lean season (May to July). The report highlights a worsening food security situation across the country as the number of people needing food assistance in the post-harvest period has increased by 13 percent in January 2019 since January last year. The deterioration is attributed to conflict-driven displacement, low crop production, economic crisis, climatic shocks and humanitarian access challenges. There is an urgent need for more funds to scale up humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods, as well as assistance to rebuild assets and promote livelihoods.
- Following the latest Integrated Food Security Classification Phase (IPC) findings, WFP has re-prioritized and re-allocated its response. Considering the results, adjustments have been made for responses in Wau (Greater Baggari and Bazia), Aweil East, Aweril, Cueibet, Canal/Pigi, Leer, Mayendit, Yirol West, Yirol East, Jur River, Pochalla, Abiemnhom, Aweil Centre, Juba and Aweil South.
- WFP and cooperating partners distributed 14,511mt of food and nutrition assistance and USD 2.65 million in cash-based transfers to 1.71 million food and nutrition insecure people in South Sudan during February. So far in 2019, 1.71 million unique beneficiaries were reached by WFP, 56 percent female and 10 percent children under five years of age.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) to celebrate **International Women's Day** on 8 March. The MGCSW called for a meaningful action to reach the Government's target of at least 35 percent representation of women in decision-making roles across the country. WFP continues to work closely with the Ministry to coordinate national level Social Protection initiatives with transformative potential, through various activities implemented across the country.

Contact info: [wfp.southsudan@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.southsudan@wfp.org)

Country Director: Adnan Khan

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/southsudan](http://www.wfp.org/countries/southsudan)

Main Photo: WFP/ Gabriela Vivacqua

Caption: Beneficiaries wait for distribution in Thonyor, Unity

# WFP Country Strategy

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>2.99 b</b>	<b>923 m</b>	<b>246.4 m</b>

### 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
- SCOPE Service to humanitarian partners
- Provision of IT services to the humanitarian community

- WFP has so far procured 400 mt of maize from smallholder farmers through its **Rural Aggregation Network (RAN)**, established in September 2018. The RAN has proven to be an effective mechanism in reaching out to farmers, offering a market opportunity at community-level and guaranteeing prompt payment to all farmers. Once procured, the maize is then re-distributed to WFP's supported programmes such as school feeding. In preparation for the upcoming harvest, the 21 current Rural Aggregation Centers established will now serve as knowledge hubs and training points for post-harvest management and other trainings. Taking into account the lessons learned in the roll-out phase of the RAN, WFP will also support smallholder farmers in other areas across South Sudan (Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria) through its Smallholder Agricultural Market Support programme, with an aim of reducing post-

harvest losses, stimulating production and offering a market outlet to farmers.

- As part of its strategy to promote operational efficiency gains, WFP further reduced its air fleet capacity for South Sudan operations from 4 to 3 ilyushin 76 (IL 76) and from 6 to 4 helicopters. The reduction was made possible due to the expansion of river and road operations to Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and Nutrition locations, previously served by air. In 2019, WFP has so far delivered more food by river than by air.
- The UN Partner Portal for South Sudan was launched in South Sudan on 13 March through an event organized by the NGO Forum. The UN Partner Portal is an online platform designed to streamline, simplify and strengthen partnerships between UN agencies and civil society organizations. The Portal is an inter-agency initiative currently sponsored by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP, with more UN partners anticipated to join in the near future. The online platform will enable civil society organizations and NGOs to register directly with the UN, submit concept notes on innovative projects and to receive feedback on these. WFP looks forward to work closely with partners to make this initiative a success, and a turning point in strengthening multi sectorial and integrated programming for the resilience of the people of South Sudan.

## Monitoring

- WFP is preparing to roll-out the data collection process of its first **Post-distribution monitoring (PDM)** of 2019, whereby interviews will be conducted with 1815 direct recipients of nutrition-sensitive food assistance and 660 non-beneficiaries in eight different states. The exercise will inform how WFP assistance supports vulnerable communities and improve programming across South Sudan. Normally conducted within two months of a 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.

## Challenges

- **Insecurity and access:** Whist overall access has improved, insecurity in specific areas continue to prevent WFP and other humanitarian organizations from reaching the most vulnerable. Concerns also remain with regards to continuous crime, banditry and inter-clan conflicts across the country.

### Donors (listed alphabetically) \*

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