



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP South Sudan Country Brief April 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 President Salva Kiir, and Vice President, 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. In September 2018, a new cease fire and power sharing agreement was signed. The agreement offers some hope to the South Sudanese people that peace may return, and livelihoods can be rebuilt. 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, wide spread food and nutrition insecurity is led by untapped water resources and large stocks of cattle and fisheries, general lack of road infrastructure, market integration, or investment in agriculture, compounded by the protracted conflict.



Population: **12 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

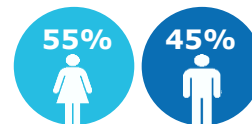
## In Numbers

**19,248 mt** of food and nutrition assistance distributed\*

**US\$ 3.27 m** in cash-based transfers made\*

**US\$ 231.6 m** six months (May- October 2019) net funding requirements

**2.12 m people assisted\***  
\*in March 2019



## Operational Updates

- Nearly seven million people – 60 percent of the population – are facing acute food insecurity** at the height of this lean season (May to July), according to the latest Integrated [Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) report](#) released in February. 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. The further deterioration is attributed to conflict-driven displacement, low crop production, economic crisis, climatic shocks and endemic humanitarian access challenges. There is an urgent need for more funds to scale up humanitarian assistance to save lives, protect livelihoods, to rebuild assets and to promote livelihoods.
- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in April warned on the high risk of worsening food insecurity in parts of Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda, due to forecasted rainfall deficits.** According to the press release from April 4, droughts in parts of Ethiopia, Northern Uganda and Kenya may impact the Greater Kapoeta and Pibor regions of South Sudan, likely affecting pastures and water, and therefore livestock, a very important livelihood in these agro-pastoralist regions. Furthermore, this could lead to influx of cattle from Turkana, resulting in sharing of the merger food stocks in Kapoeta and leading to worsening food security. Additionally, as Uganda represents one of the major sources of cereals for South Sudan, drought-related low agricultural production can negatively impact supply of food in Juba and other markets along the Western Corridor, such as Wau and Aweil. WFP is closely monitoring the markets situation and the potential impact in its programmes and regional procurement efforts.
- WFP has launched its seasonal scale up of food assistance** to food insecure households targeting those under IPC 5 (Catastrophe), IPC 4 (Emergency) and IPC 3(Crisis) phases. About 1.5 million people, who do not receive monthly food assistance but will face food shortages during the lean season, will be supported for six months (i.e. until the next harvest) with 15-day rations. The assistance will be conditional on beneficiaries' participation in building community assets and training activities.

## 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>2.99b</b>	<b>970.3 m</b>	<b>231.6 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, through its partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), commenced the e-voucher distribution in Wau under its Urban Safety Nets project.** Approximately 5,000 households, who attended trainings and public works, have started receiving their entitlements through e-vouchers, and so far, 2,409 households received their rations. WFP provided training on the use of Mobile Point of Sale (mPOS) machines to the contracted retailers.
- **WFP has delivered 214,000 mt of mixed food commodities across South Sudan to partners warehouses and /or distribution points both for prepositioning and immediate use, which accounts for 86 percent out of the targeted 250,000 mt for the first half of 2019.**

- **WFP has expanded the storage capacity in hard-to-reach areas ahead of the rainy season**, when some roads become inaccessible. The team has deployed 54 Mobile Storage Unit (MSU)- 20 in Unity state and 34 in Jonglei state, increasing storage capacity by 25,000 mt.
- **The air fleet capacity for WFP South Sudan reduced further from 3 to 2 Ilyushin 76 (IL 76).** The reduction has been made possible due to the expansion of river and road operations, resulting in substantial cost efficiency.
- **As part of WFP's Bilateral Service to other organizations, WFP is providing International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) logistics services** that includes procurement, transportation and airdrop of food commodities. WFP's fixed wing planes have started dropping food to Maiwut and Beneshowa locations in Upper Nile from Gambella, Ethiopia and Juba, South Sudan. As per the agreement, WFP will deliver 431 mt of sorghum and 179 mt of split peas by air. This is expected to be completed by mid-May.
- **Overall, WFP in close partnership with the government both at national and local level, has been working to reduce the number of illegal roadblocks and transit charges.** In 2018 on the main route from Juba to Bentiu alone, there were approximately 60-80 official and unofficial checkpoints, charging illegal taxes ranging between US\$1,000- US\$1,500 per truck each way. Since the workshops began, check point fees for WFP convoys reduced by 70 percent in February and a 100percent in April. At present, there are currently no checkpoint fees on the main route in the western corridor.
- **The fourth in a series of workshops to improve humanitarian access was held in Wau on 11 April.** The workshop brought together stakeholders from Aweil, Aweil East, Gogrial, Tonj, Twich, and Wau States, including government officials, WFP convoy leaders and representatives from UNOCHA and UNHCR. The workshop discussed issues pertaining to Humanitarian Access and Principles, the Presidential Order No. 29/2017, the impact of Illegal checkpoints and the role of stakeholders in reducing them. Several concrete recommendations emerged from the workshop including the formation of State committees to eliminate illegal checkpoints, the full implementation of the Presidential Order on illegal checkpoints and the improvement of communication among local authorities and with WFP.

## Challenges

- **Access across the country has generally improved** since the signing of the peace agreement, except for areas where non-signatories are operating. Concerns also remain with regards to continuous crime, banditry and inter-clan conflicts across the country.

#### Donors (listed alphabetically) \*

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia South Korea, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

\*Excluding multilateral and private donors