



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Sudan Country Brief July 2019

## In Numbers



1.96 m people assisted in June 2019

18,406 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4,646,720 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 62.0 m six months (August 2019 - January 2020) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

The prolonged economic crisis started in November 2017 is continuing to impact living standards and food security. Negative trends including high inflation, mostly in food prices, shortages of essential goods such as fuel and bread, a sharp depreciation of the Sudanese Pound and the consequent cash liquidity crisis have been the precursor to political instability, triggering waves of peaceful civil unrest and prolonged protests. This led to the ousting of the three-decades-long President Omar Al Bashir (April 2019). In this context, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance reached 5.7 million in 2019 from 4.8 million people in 2018.

In January 2019, WFP started the implementation of its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP), focused on four interlinked strategic objectives guided by the SDGs: 1) Responding to new and protracted emergencies, ensuring that humanitarian programmes are strategically linked to development and peacebuilding; 2) Reducing malnutrition and its root causes; 3) Strengthening the resilience of food-insecure households and food systems; 4) Strengthening in-country systems and structures for the provision of humanitarian and development common.

WFP aim is to reach 4.4 million people in 2019 through a mix of food, cash and vouchers assistance.



Population: 42 million

2018 Human Development Index: 167 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 2 million children between 6-59 months

### Operational Updates

- WFP has successfully trialed the school feeding voucher programme – which replaces the food take home rations (THR), to encourage attendance of vulnerable school girls while benefitting the nutritional status of the entire household. The voucher-based assistance will allow households to directly purchase fresh products from local retailers, aiming to improve the dietary diversity of the household while supporting local markets. The voucher programme is recommended for scale up across a number of schools in Red Sea and Kassala states. This shift towards a more nutrition-sensitive school feeding program is in line with the commitments under the five-year CSP.
- On 23 July, the Sudan Federal Ministry of Health and development partners launched the results of the second Special Spatial Survey Method (S3MII). The S3MII is a nationwide survey that shows areas of highest needs & ‘hot-spots’ in nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene indicators at a regional, local and sub-local level. WFP Sudan provided financial support (US\$125,000) for fieldwork and training and was part of the technical working group that contributed to the questionnaire, including the full design of the food security and coping strategies section.
- In the aftermath of floods in Al Kuma, in North Darfur, WFP participated in an inter-agency rapid needs assessment. Based on the results, WFP supported 5,112 affected people with food assistance, including 1,060 children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through the emergency blanket supplementary feeding programme (e-BSFP).
- WFP piloted THR in three schools in Tokar locality (Red Sea state), where 930 school girls received dry cereals to take back home after the school day. The objective is to address gender disparity and promote girls’ attendance by providing an incentive for parents to send their children to school.

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Photo Caption: Women participating in FFA project in West Darfur. ©WFP/Muhammad Salah

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>2.27 billion</b>	<b>372.5 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2019 – January 2020)
<b>400.9 m</b>	<b>62.0 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome #1:** People affected by shocks in targeted areas have access to food, nutrition and livelihoods during/after crises.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response in emergency situations and on increasing self-reliance.

**Activities:**

- Act.1 Provide food and CBT to people affected by shocks
- Act.2 Provide nutrition sensitive programming in schools.
- Act.3 Provide preventative and curative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLW/G

### Strategic Result 2: Ending Malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome #2:** Food insecure residents in targeted areas have sustainably improved nutrition by 2024.

**Focus area:** Root Causes of Malnutrition

**Activities:**

- Act.4 Provide curative and preventative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLW/G and capacity strengthening to national and state health institutions.
- Act. 5 Provide nutrition-sensitive programming in schools and capacity strengthening support to national and state education institutions.

### Strategic Result 3: Food Systems are Sustainable

**Strategic Outcome #3:** Food insecure people in targeted areas and food systems have increased resilience to shocks by 2024.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building of households, communities and national systems including food systems.

**Activities:**

- Act.6 Offer asset creation activities and technical assistance through safety nets to help food insecure households to reduce risk and adapt to climate change.
- Act.7 Provide capacity strengthening support to farmers and local, state and national agricultural institutions.

### Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome #4:** Humanitarian and development actors and national systems have access to expertise, services and infrastructure in the areas of logistics (including air transport), ICT, administration and infrastructure engineering.

**Focus area:** Enable humanitarian interventions in response to crisis.

**Activities:**

- Act.8 Provide technical and support services (Logistics, ICT, administrative and project) to the humanitarian and development community and national entities/systems.
- Act.9 Provide air transport services for personnel and light cargo alongside aviation sector technical assistance.

## Monitoring

- A systematic random sampling of 214 house-holds was selected from the 930 households of the girls receiving THR to measure changes from the baseline values.

- USAID mission arrived in Kassala to monitor WFP and UNICEF ongoing activities.

## Challenges

- The Sudan Ministry of Education announced the closure of all schools until further notice, following the events in El Obeid, where students were shot during a demonstration. This has affected WFP's nutrition-sensitive activities in schools and capacity strengthening support to national and state education institutions.
- WFP logistical operations in the field are being affected by the ongoing economic and political instability in Sudan. Contracted transporters are delayed due to the lack of fuel or access to fuel when it's available. Gaining clearances from Sudanese authorities at ports or at the airport are delaying the release of spare parts that are required to maintain WFP fleet trucks that transport food to distribution sites or warehouses.
- Currently, the transition of government authorities across Sudan has affected WFP's interactions with its Area Offices counterparts. For example, staff changeover can impact securing permits for travel to the field in some locations. WFP will also need time to rebuild contacts with the local Humanitarian Affairs Commission, integral to its operation.
- Coupled with inflationary pressures, the onset of the agricultural lean season is likely to increase food prices. Should the current economic crisis and political unrest continue, it is anticipated that an increase in humanitarian assistance will be needed as more people will be pushed into poverty. In this case, WFP can scale up its support to the most vulnerable crisis-affected groups and expand the support to resident communities, if additional funding is made available. WFP will require US\$30 million until December 2019 to provide emergency response, nutrition assistance and support resilience to shocks.
- All evacuated staff have now been returned to Sudan, with Khartoum and Kosti declared as non-family duty stations. This has contributed to several staff departures from the WFP Sudan Office. The impact of the political situation also delayed the recruitment of more than 200 national staff under the Staffing & Structure Review (SSR) – with internet blackouts impacting the recruitment process.

## Building Resilience

- A community-based participatory planning (CBPP) in Cash Based Transfer (CBT) Multi-Sectorial Assessment was undertaken in White Nile State to kick start preparations for the Protective Safety Nets (PSN) in two localities targeting 2,600 households for three months (October - December 2019). Community priorities and needs in 41 locations were identified, and supply chain, IT infrastructures and financial institutions assessed.

**Donors** Canada, European Union (DEVCO and ECHO), France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (DFID), the United States (USAID) and UN-CERF