In Numbers

- **2.23 million people assisted** in December 2019
- **17,019 mt** of food assistance distributed in December 2019
- **US$3.18 million** cash-based transfers made in December 2019
- **US$17.3 million** six-month net funding requirements (February – July 2020)

Operational Context

The economic challenges persist with soaring inflation rate (58 percent), high food prices, increased costs of agricultural inputs and transportation. The ongoing economic crisis continues to affect the living conditions of millions and is pushing more and more people into poverty. About 9.3 million people – nearly one quarter of the population – are in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.2 million food insecure people.

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 services in the country.

Operational Updates

- A significant breakthrough in humanitarian access was achieved in December 2019. The first UN humanitarian assistance since conflict began in 2011 was distributed by a WFP-led, UN interagency team in Yabus (Blue Nile State). Over 10,000 people received food and nutrition assistance. WFP Executive Director accompanied by teams from WFP’s Sudan and South Sudan operations and leaders of the UN country team in Sudan were present in Yabus to witness the delivery of assistance.
- WFP spearheaded an inter-agency assessment mission to Kauda in South Kordofan. This was the first UN interagency mission in the area since 2011. WFP joined by UNICEF, WHO, FAO, OCHA, and UNHCR met with the communities on the ground and visited two schools to explore potential for the launch of school feeding activities.
- In coordination with UN agencies and NGO partners, and based on the results of a rapid needs assessment which took place early December, WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 5,000 IDPs who started arriving in November in Kadugli from SPLM-N areas of South Kordofan. According to community leaders, the arrivals were prompted by improved security situation and the conducive environment created by on-going peace negotiations.
- WFP led the development of a UN position paper on an integrated social protection approach. The integrated framework was developed in consultation with partner UN agencies and proposes a three-track approach to respond to identified needs and mitigate the impact of upcoming economic reforms in the immediate and medium-terms.
- WFP in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health conducted on 29 December one day workshop on Universal Salt Iodization (USI) targeting salt stakeholders including producers and traders. The workshop aimed to present the progress of USI in Sudan and to understand the salt industry structure, production, exports and imports of raw and iodized salt.

Population: 42 million  
2019 Human Development Index: 168 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle  
Chronic malnutrition: 2 million children between 6-59 months

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Photo Caption: Woman carrying food commodities received from WFP food assistance in Yabus, Blue Nile. ©WFP/Gabriel Valdes
**Monitoring**

- WFP November Market Monitoring indicates that food prices are likely to continue at high level. As of November 2019, the national average retail price of sorghum is higher by 88 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Also, it was 285 percent higher than the five-year average of the same month. The record-high prices of sorghum during the current harvesting period may negatively affect the access of the poor population to cereals during 2020, with a negative impact to their food security situation.

The results of the Food Security Monitoring System (a biannual assessment carried out to track food security trends among IDPs and refugees in Sudan), with data collected in July 2019 during the lean season, indicated that food insecurity for IDPs and refugees remained high with 53 percent of the households being food insecure. A comparison of food security situation across male and female headed households showed that female headed households are relatively more food insecure. Economic vulnerability remains a main driver of food insecurity. The data collection for the next FSMS report is on-going and the report will be out on the first quarter of 2020.

**Challenges**

During the last week of December, intercommunal clashes and tensions flared up in and around Geneina (West Darfur), resulting in widespread displacements of people.

**Donor Relations**

- DFID confirmed fully flexible funds of GBP 35.5 million (USD 45.6 million) towards WFP Sudan’s Country Strategic Plan.

- ECHO confirmed EUR 11.5 million (USD 12.6 million) for Activity 1 (cash transfers) and EUR 3.5 million (USD 3.8 million) towards UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operations.

- Sida confirmed a two-year contribution of SEK 133 million (USD 13.8 million) to WFP CSP Strategic Outcome 3 (resilience building) and UNHAS operations.

**Building Resilience**

- The Productive Safety Net (PSN) team conducted a joint-mission with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to South and East Darfur. The mission visited both Nyala and Ed Daein productive safety net project sites and conducted Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) refreshers training to WFP staff and partners. The outcomes of the mission will be used to identify 2020 project interventions and ensure environmental considerations are integrated in the project development so that the interventions have a positive impact on the environment.

**Donors**

Canada, European Union (DEVCO and ECHO), Finland, France, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Italy, Japan, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom (DFID), the United States (USAID) and UN-CERF