In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, ending one of the longest civil wars on record, and it 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, and a Transitional Government of National Unity was formed on 22 February 2020. The formation of the government offers 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, untapped water resources and large stocks of cattle and fisheries, wide spread food and nutrition insecurity is driven by general lack of road infrastructure, market integration, or investment in agriculture, compounded by the protracted conflict.

In Numbers

- 13,440 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*
- US$ 3.79 m in cash-based transfers made*
- US$ 282.3 m six months (March – August ‘20) net funding requirements
- 1.3 m people assisted*  
  *in January 2020

Operational Updates

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report released on 20 February confirms that severe hunger persists in South Sudan. The IPC update estimates that 6.01 million people are facing severe food insecurity and as many as 40,000 people -- particularly in the flood impacted areas of Ayod, Duk and Akobo counties in Jonglei State-- face IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe food shortages between now and April. Areas in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states saw further deterioration in food security, driven by floods, macroeconomic factors, and reduced access to markets.
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed, on Saturday 22 February, the establishment of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) in South Sudan. The Secretary-General commended the parties for the “significant achievement in the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan”. The Secretary-General applauded regional and international efforts that contributed to this outcome.
- COVID-19 preparedness: WHO in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Center of Communicable Diseases has set up a National Task Force and documented a preparedness plan along with functional areas requiring support. WFP will lead the Logistics and Operations pillar through the Logistics Cluster preparedness unit.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP and cooperating partners reached 1.64 million people with a total of approximately 16,850 mt of mixed food commodities and US$ 3.64 million in cash in December.
- Under the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM), WFP and cooperating partners have provided food and nutrition support to some 231,000 people, including 55,800 children under 5, with around 4,355 mt of assorted food items distributed in eight counties of Ayod, Koch, Leer, Luakpiny/Nassir, Nyirol, Panyijiar, Ulang and Uror.

Operational Context

In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, ending one of the longest civil wars on record, and it 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, and a Transitional Government of National Unity was formed on 22 February 2020. The formation of the government offers hope to the South Sudanese people that peace may return, and livelihoods can be rebuilt. However, the situation remains dire on the ground.

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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result 1: Access to food</th>
<th>Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition</th>
<th>Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and Income</th>
<th>Strategic Result 8: Global Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Requirement (in USD)</td>
<td>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</td>
<td>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Total Requirement (in USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.97 b</td>
<td>1.45 b</td>
<td>282 m</td>
<td>2.97 b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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 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 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

Challenges

- Access across the country remains improved since the signing of the peace agreement. However, the concessions required for the formation of the TGNU has resulted in increased frequency and intensity of major local level violence which continues to disrupt access in some areas. The potential for a continued upsurge in major local violence remains a concern.

- The damage done by flooding in 2019 to road and air infrastructure, presents serious challenges as access is available only by helicopter in the worst affected areas. Additional air assets were sourced to facilitate the delivery of food, non-food items and the deployment of assessment and response personnel.

- Swarms of locusts ravaging crops and grazing land across East Africa have reached South Sudan. In February 2020, the locusts crossed into Southern Magwi County, and Laboni County, both on the border with Uganda. WFP is monitoring the situation closely, the potential impact of locusts on a country that is still grappling with complex conflict, displacement, and severe food insecurity could be devastating.

- Currently, there are no cases of Ebola in South Sudan. WFP continues as part of the humanitarian community to improve national preparedness and to monitor the situation closely.

As prepositioning continues, a total of 137 trucks loaded with more than 4,000 mt of maize were received at the WFP transshipment yard in Juba. This food is currently being cross loaded on to other trucks for delivery to different field offices all over South Sudan.

At the end of February, WFP South Sudan had a total availability of 200,340 mt of food nutrition stocks out of a needed 325,000 mt.

At the end of February, 89,505 mt of food items, equivalent to 45 percent of the planned tonnage, have been prepositioned in the areas that will not be reachable throughout the rainy season.

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