



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP South Sudan

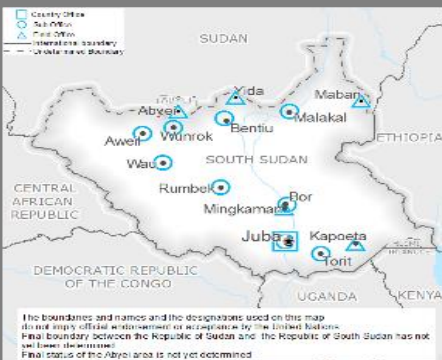
Country Brief, April 2020



Operational Context

South Sudan continues to face a political crisis which manifests in part in violent conflict and insecurity associated with an economic crisis and a serious and protracted humanitarian crisis. The signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018 gave rise to hopes for an end to the violence. Although the civil conflict has largely abated in most parts of the country, the relative stability experienced in 2019 remains fragile and is often not reflected at local levels where conflict persists ignited by access to natural and social resources. The multifaceted nature of the crisis continues to disrupt local economy, increase displacements and reduce access to basic services and education. This continues to increase the vulnerability of the population with 7.5 million people – more than two thirds of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020. Nearly 4 million people remain displaced: 1.5 million internally and 2.2 million as refugees in neighbouring countries. The country remains in a critical period of unprecedented severe food insecurity with 6.48 million people considered food insecure at the height of the 2020 lean season.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents serious risks to an already fragile situation. COVID-19 is certain to exacerbate acute food insecurity, particularly for market-reliant populations.



The boundaries and names on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Population: 12 million

2019 Human Development Index: 188 out of 189

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition: 33 percent of children between 6-59 months

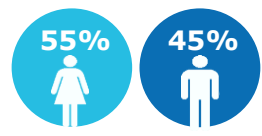
In Numbers

23,370 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

US\$ 2.4 m in cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 195 m six months (May – October '20) net funding requirements

2.24 m people assisted*
*in March 2020



Operational Updates

- In March, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2.24 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), School Feeding, Nutrition and Livelihoods and Resilience activities in South Sudan. Of this, 37 percent was delivered through the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism. Through the Rapid Response teams, WFP dispatched enough GFA for 834,000 people in hard to reach areas across 14 counties in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.
- WFP has prepositioned 138,750 mt of food commodities, equivalent to 73 percent of the planned 190,530 mt and enough to serve over 2 million people, in areas that will become inaccessible in the rainy season.

COVID-19 Updates

- South Sudan had recorded 35 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 30 April 2020. WFP continues to support national-led COVID-19 prevention and preparedness efforts.
- In response to the pandemic, and to protect its staff and beneficiaries, WFP put in place several contingency measures, including physical measures at distributions and revised distribution procedures.
- In April, WFP reached 2.6 million people, with two to three months' worth of food assistance. In response to COVID-19 pandemic, WFP is distributing two to three months' worth of food assistance to preposition food commodities at the household level to avoid large gatherings, minimize risks and promote social distancing.
- Since COVID-19 related travel restrictions came into effect, WFP has maintained 97 percent of staffing component in the field offices and 93 percent in the country office. Offices and facilities are operating on a criticality basis to ensure physical distancing.

Contact info: Muna Mohamed (muna.mohamed@wfp.org)

Country Director: Matthew Hollingworth

Further information: <https://www1.wfp.org/countries/south-sudan>

Photo Caption: COVID-19 mitigation measures at a WFP General Food Assistance distribution/Juba/April 2020. Credit: @ WFP/ Photolibrary

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.97 b	1.64 b	195 m

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

Common Services

- WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, provided a 10 x 32 m tent to the Ministry of Health and WHO, which has been installed as an expansion of the John Garang Infectious Diseases Unit for COVID-19 patient treatment. WFP has also contracted additional storage space for the expected delivery of Personal Protective Equipment from WHO/UNICEF, also open to all partners for COVID-19 specific items
- UNHAS has transported 48 suspected COVID-19 samples from across South Sudan to Juba for testing at the Public Health Laboratory. UNHAS has performed 14 non-COVID-19 related medical evacuations on behalf of seven organizations since the start of the pandemic.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 210 million to sustain operations through October 2020. Further, WFP foresees additional needs of USD 142 million to cater for new needs and additional operational costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 related movement restrictions have slowed the flow of humanitarian cargo into and within South Sudan. WFP is working closely with all partners to ensure the safe and continuous delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable. Currently, a 14-day self-quarantine has been established as an alternative prerequisite to a COVID-19 free certificate prior to interstate flights from Juba and Torit. The High-Level Taskforce has also established escort of trucks from Nimule border point which should ease the passage of goods coming in from Uganda. WFP is expediting delivery of food from the Northern, Southern and Eastern corridors to South Sudan. The border status is being closely monitored.
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Sudan markets are under significant stress, as evidenced by price increases. Purchasing power is decreasing, as both formal and informal employment have significantly reduced. WFP plans to expand its urban programming. COVID-19 is certain to exacerbate acute food insecurity, most particularly in urban areas, bringing a new wave of populations requiring assistance, not covered under WFP or any other large-scale safety-net package.
- As all schools were closed by authorities on 21 March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WFP's school feeding-activities nationwide were suspended, affecting the provision of assistance to more than 460,000 children.

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