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.

In Numbers

- **36,650 mt** of food and nutrition assistance distributed
- **US$ 11.2 m** in cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 227 m** six months (June – November ‘20) net funding requirements
- **2.56 m people assisted**
  *in April 2020

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2.56 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), Nutrition and Livelihoods and Resilience activities in South Sudan. Through Rapid Response teams, WFP dispatched enough GFA for 140,000 people, including 37,200 children under five, in hard to reach areas across six counties in Jonglei and Unity states.
- WFP has prepositioned 143,000 mt of food commodities, equivalent to 75 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

- As of 28 May 2020, South Sudan had recorded 806 confirmed cases of COVID-19. 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 has established several contingency measures, including physical measures at distributions and revised distribution procedures.
- At the end of May, WFP had reached 3.2 million people, with one to three months’ worth of food assistance. In response to COVID-19 pandemic, where possible, WFP is distributing more than one month’s worth of food assistance to preposition food commodities at the household level to avoid large gatherings, minimize risks and promote social distancing.
- In May, COVID-19 continued to negatively impact market prices and household purchasing power. Prices of white sorghum increased in about 64 percent of monitored markets within the range 9 - 46 percent from the second to the third week of May 2020. Purchasing power decreased, as both formal and informal employment have significantly reduced. In the absence of large-scale national safety nets, efforts are required to prevent already extremely vulnerable households from falling into absolute poverty.
### WFP Country Strategy

#### Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.97 b</td>
<td>1.64 b</td>
<td>227 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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, as a member of the South Sudan National COVID-19 Steering Committee, co-leading the Logistics and Operations pillar, launched a common request system for personal protective equipment (PPE). Following a decision on PPE allocation by the inter-agency COVID-19 technical team, 124,000 WFP-procured masks were dispatched to International Medical Corps, MSF Belgium, MSF France, MSF Holland, MSF Spain, and WHO, throughout the country. Additionally, WFP is donating 300,000 masks to frontline health workers. The Logistics Cluster is providing a free-to-user air transport service, when needed.

- UNHAS has transported 198 suspected COVID-19 samples from across South Sudan to Juba for testing at the Public Health Laboratory. UNHAS has performed 29 non-COVID-19 related medical evacuations since 25 March when national COVID-19 related travel restrictions came into effect.

- Amid reduced commercial flight availability, WFP has rolled out a global hub-and-spokes system of air links to dispatch vital medical and humanitarian cargo and transport health workers to the front lines of the pandemic. On 21 and 28 May, the first of WFP’s Global Passenger Air Services flights arrived in Juba and departed for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The service will ensure humanitarian organizations can provide the people and cargo needed to sustain operations in South Sudan.

#### Challenges

- WFP requires USD 227 million to sustain operations through November 2020. Further, WFP foresees additional needs of USD 132.7 million to cater for new food assistance needs and additional operational costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The general security situation remains fragile, with security concerns across the country due to intercommunal violence, politically motivated fighting, and cattle raiding. Between January and May 2020, rates of displacement, casualties and fatalities have already outpaced the rates for all of 2019. Roughly 81,000 individuals were displaced between January and April in 2020 compared to 85,000 individuals displaced between January and November 2019. The ongoing violence is creating critical challenges to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in affected areas.

- COVID-19 related movement restrictions have slowed the flow of humanitarian cargo into and within South Sudan. The completion of the prepositioning exercise is contingent on timely delivery of food into and within the country.

- 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.

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**Donors (listed alphabetically) *  
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*Excluding multilateral and private donors**