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Photo Caption: Passengers disembark WFP Global Passenger Air Services flight at Juba International Airport. Credit: @ WFP/ Tomson Phiri

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.

Population: 12 million
2019 Human Development Index: 188 out of 189

Income Level: Low
Chronic malnutrition: 33 percent of children between 6-59 months
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 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.