



WFP South Sudan Country Brief

October 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

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 subnational conflict persists. 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.



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

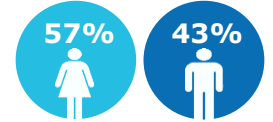
19,200 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

USD 3.8 m in cash-based transfers made*

USD 548.9 m six months (November '20 – April '21) net funding requirements

1.7 m people assisted*

*in September 2020



Operational Updates

- In September, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 1.8 million people across its General Food Assistance (GFA), Nutrition and Resilience activities in South Sudan.
- An estimated 900,000 individuals have been affected by flooding since June across South Sudan. WFP is targeting flood-affected people in need of food assistance through GFA. More than 572,000 people were reached with assistance in September.
- Reduced rations are a persistent characteristic of the South Sudan food and nutrition programme because of resource constraints with over 80 percent of beneficiaries receiving 50 percent or less rations. Under normal circumstances, households supplement reduced rations with food they cultivate. However, this year's widespread destruction, just before the annual harvest period, had washed away fields and killed livestock, worsening an already fragile situation.
- Economic shocks and high food prices make a fragile situation worse. The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continued to lose its value against the US dollar, dropping by 20 percent between 13 and 14 October 2020. Various reports confirm that the price of locally made, white wheat bread (the staple food for most urban South Sudanese) skyrocketed overnight from SSP 30 per piece to SSP 50 per piece, an increase of 66 percent, and remained there even after inflation reduced. The pump prices increased significantly from 300 SSP per litre to 370 SSP per litre – an increase of 23 percent. Consequently, transport cost is expected to increase substantially.
- The upsurge in food prices had a two-fold impact: increased requirements for cash-based transfers (CBT) programmes; and, increased humanitarian needs across the board. WFP adjusts the monthly transfer values of CBT programmes to respond to market fluctuations. For instance, the monthly transfer values increased in Mingkaman by 46 percent in October. To optimize existing resources, cash for milling and cash for salt programmes were suspended. Furthermore, spikes in prices of basic food commodities have increased the economic vulnerability of market dependent households, especially in urban centres, increasing the need for humanitarian food assistance.

Contact info: wfp.southsudan@wfp.org

Country Director: Matthew Hollingworth

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

Flood-affected Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) arriving in Mingkaman, Lakes State (Photo: WFP/Theresa Piorr)

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
3.88 b	1.69 b	548.9 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
- Provision of infrastructure development services

Common Services

- UNHAS transported 3,052 passengers and 100.5 mt of light cargo to 45 destinations across South Sudan during the month of September. UNHAS continued to support the national COVID-19 response transporting samples from across the country to the National Laboratory in Juba. UNHAS also continued to provide dedicated support to flood response, transporting Inter-Cluster Working Group missions to flood-affected areas.
- UNHAS Steering Committee meeting took place on 25 September. Concerns were raised on the financial sustainability of UNHAS, as it is only funded until the end of December. This is a result of lower than average cost recovery because of COVID-related reduction in travellers since March 2020.
- WFP and WHO, are co-leads of the Operational Support and Logistics Pillar of the National Response Plan. Following the arrival of South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) funded COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items, WFP and WHO re-launched the PPE Common Request System, aiming at consolidating requests of in-country COVID-19 PPE items.

Challenges

- WFP requires USD 548.9 million to sustain operations through the next six months (November 2019-April 2020).
- The general security situation remains fragile, with security concerns across the country due to subnational conflicts. In October, cycles of localized violence continued in Lakes State, with numerous security incidents reported, particularly in Rumbek Centre County in a continuation of protracted conflict over access to resources and land. On 19 October, clashes broke out in Kangi payam of Jur River, in Western Bahr el Ghazal State. In Unity, fighting erupted in Mayom County.
- Humanitarian operational space has also been significantly challenged and restricted due to the recent conflicts. Looting and destruction of humanitarian supplies, loss of humanitarian lives (clarify what they mean) and the inability to guarantee safe operational space has resulted in necessary suspension and delays of humanitarian assistance which is, for many, already affected by serious food and nutrition insecurity a critical source of coping.
- In 2020, nine humanitarian workers have been killed in South Sudan – this is three times the total number of humanitarians who lost their lives in the country in 2019.

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