Operational Context

The conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia that escalated early November has forced people to flee across the border into eastern Sudan to seek safety. According to UNHCR, over 56,000 people have arrived in Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile states (as of 5 January 2021).

The updated projections of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) for the period October-December 2020 shows higher levels of food insecurity than initially forecasted. 7.1 million people are projected to experience high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) during the last quarter of 2020. The update indicates that flooding, rampant inflation, political instability and tribal clashes have triggered the higher levels of acute food insecurity compared to the previous forecast for the period October - December 2020.

WFP is currently conducting the nationwide Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) data collection, with results expected for first quarter of 2021, which will inform future updates on the number of food insecure people.

WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019-2023 focuses on four interlinked strategic objectives guided by the SDGs:

1) Responding to new and protracted emergencies, ensuring that humanitarian programmes are strategically linked to development and peacebuilding; 2) Reducing malnutrition and its root causes; 3) Strengthening the resilience of food-insecure households and food systems; 4) Strengthening in-country systems and structures for the provision of humanitarian and development common services.

Operational Updates

- Since early November, Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers have been arriving in eastern Sudan, fleeing conflict in the Tigray region of northwestern Ethiopia. WFP is working with partners and authorities in Sudan to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the arriving refugees from Ethiopia. Food for hot meals or fortified high-energy biscuits are provided at reception centres. Once refugees reach the camps after passing through reception centres, they receive rations including lentils, sorghum, oil and salt.

At the onset of the emergency response, WFP rapidly dispatched enough food supplies to feed 60,000 people, as well as specialized nutritious food for emergency nutrition.

WFP is providing logistics support to the humanitarian community responding to the crisis – establishing mobile warehouses for the storage of food and other vital humanitarian assistance, moving essential supplies for the set-up of the response, as well as fuel and emergency telecommunication expertise. WFP is also playing a critical role in transporting humanitarian responders to the affected areas on the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

The UN and partners launched the Inter-Agency Refugee Emergency Response Plan – Sudan Refugee Influx from Ethiopia, seeking USD 147 million to assist up to 100,000 refugees between November and June 2021. This includes WFP’s requirements of USD 14.8 million for food and nutrition assistance, as well as logistical support for the humanitarian community.

- WFP also continued to provide life-saving food assistance (in-kind food, cash-based transfers) and nutrition support for its regular operations, as well as providing take-home rations in lieu of on-site school meals during schools’ closure due to the COVID-19 outbreak, across 15 states for the month of November.
Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

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| #1               | Everyone has access to food | Crisis Response in emergency situations and on increasing self-reliance | Act.1 Provide food and CBT to people affected by shocks  
Act.2 Provide nutrition sensitive programming in schools.  
Act.3 Provide preventative and curative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLWG |
| #2               | Food insecure residents have substantially improved nutrition by 2024 | Root Causes of Malnutrition | Act.4 Provide curative and preventative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLWG and capacity strengthening to national and state health institutions.  
Act.5 Provide nutrition-sensitive programming in schools and capacity strengthening support to national and state education institutions. |
| #3               | Food Systems are Sustainable | Resilience Building of households, communities and national systems | Act.6 Offer asset creation activities and technical assistance through safety nets to help food insecure households to reduce risk and adapt to climate change.  
Act.7 Provide capacity strengthening support to farmers and local, state and national agricultural institutions. |
| #4               | Capacity Strengthening | Enable humanitarian interventions in response to crisis. | Act.8 Provide technical and support services (Logistics, ICT, administrative and project) to the humanitarian and development community and national entities/systems.  
Act.9 Provide air transport services for personnel and light cargo alongside aviation sector technical assistance.  
Act.10 Provide food procurement to the Government of Sudan and other stakeholders. |

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Activities:
- Act.1 Provide food and CBT to people affected by shocks
- Act.2 Provide nutrition sensitive programming in schools.
- Act.3 Provide preventative and curative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLWG

Strategic Result 2: Ending Malnutrition

Activities:
- Act.4 Provide curative and preventative nutrition activities to children aged 6-59 months and PLWG and capacity strengthening to national and state health institutions.
- Act.5 Provide nutrition-sensitive programming in schools and capacity strengthening support to national and state education institutions.

Strategic Result 3: Food Systems are Sustainable

Activities:
- Act.6 Offer asset creation activities and technical assistance through safety nets to help food insecure households to reduce risk and adapt to climate change.
- Act.7 Provide capacity strengthening support to farmers and local, state and national agricultural institutions.

Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

Activities:
- Act.8 Provide technical and support services (Logistics, ICT, administrative and project) to the humanitarian and development community and national entities/systems.
- Act.9 Provide air transport services for personnel and light cargo alongside aviation sector technical assistance.
- Act.10 Provide food procurement to the Government of Sudan and other stakeholders.

Assessments
- WFP November Market Monitor shows that the average cost of local food basket reached SDG 119 in November, coupled with the record inflation rate during the previous two months, 229.9 and 212.3 percent in October and September, respectively. The high food prices continues to erode the purchasing power of the population.

Services provision
- WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is essential to facilitate humanitarian access, thereby enabling UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and the humanitarian community to safely and securely reach the most vulnerable populations to provide assistance. Effective 17 November, UNHAS activated daily flights to Kassala, to support movement of response teams. A dedicated helicopter has been stationed in Kassala to improve access to remote camp locations in support of the response to the influx of refugees from Ethiopia.
- In November 2020, UNHAS transported 3,781 passengers from 80 partner organizations reaching over 30 destinations and delivered 4.9 metric tons of light humanitarian cargo.
- The Sudan Logistics Cluster developed an updated General Logistics Map, showing locations of the refugee camps, condition of roads to the camps, and warehouse capacities within the camps. Click here to access the latest version of the maps.

Building Resilience
- WFP welcomed a EUR 500,000 contribution from France, which will boost the resilience of chronically food-insecure families in South Kordofan through training smallholder farmers on post-harvest practices and supporting productive safety nets activities. Read more here.

Challenges
- Episodes of insecurity in Port Sudan during the previous months created delays in port operations (containers terminal), slowing down the movement of some food commodities to field locations.

Donors (in alphabetical order)
Andorra, Canada, Denmark, European Union (DEVCO and ECHO), France, Germany (BMZ and GFFO), Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UN-CERF, UN Other Funds and Agencies and UN Country based pooled funds, the United Kingdom, the United States (USAID BHA and PRM).

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