

# WFP South Sudan Country Brief, May 2021



## Operational Context

In 2021, approximately 8.3 million people in South Sudan need some form of humanitarian assistance, nearly 70 percent of the population and an increase of 800,000 people from those in need in 2020. This steep increase in needs across the country is a result of multiple compounding factors, including continued subnational conflict, climatic shocks, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. However, subnational conflict persists, and conflict dynamics remain fragile. In 2021, insecurity has disrupted WFP operations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Jonglei, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria. Roadside robberies, ambush and assault have been frequent on the Bor-Gadiang-Pajut road to Northern Jonglei and on the Bor-Gadiang-Manyabol road to Pibor, and as a result, commercial transporters have been reluctant to deliver along these roads.

In 2020, a second consecutive year of unprecedented flooding across the country affected more than one million people. Over 450,000 individuals were displaced as a result, with women and children most affected. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present serious risks to an already fragile situation, threatening to further exacerbate acute food insecurity, particularly for market-reliant populations.

To respond to increased needs and align with the next United Nations Cooperation Framework in South Sudan, the 2018-2021 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) will be extended to 2022.



Population: 12 million

2019 Human Development Index: 188 out of 189

Income Level: Low

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

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Photo: School is back in session (WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua)

## In Numbers

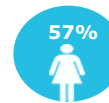
29,200 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed\*

USD 3 m in cash-based transfers made\*

USD 140.3 m six months (June to November 2021) net funding requirements

2.6 m people assisted\*

\*in April 2021



## Operational Updates

- WFP is deeply concerned by the rising violence and security incidents targeted at humanitarian workers as well as continued sub-national conflict in South Sudan. In May, two humanitarian workers lost their lives and several violent attacks were reported across South Sudan. In Torit, the State Eastern Equatoria, humanitarian operations have been suspended while recent tensions between local youth and humanitarian workers are addressed. On 31 May, a local youth group attacked humanitarian compounds, including the WFP warehouse, which is part of the recent escalation in violence connected to demands for employment from local youth. Renewed sub-national violence in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in May, resulted in the displacement of 20,000 people, destruction of property and loss of livestock. Humanitarian supplies—food, health and nutrition—were looted or destroyed, including the loss of some 550 mt of WFP food and nutrition items in Gumuruk, enough to feed 33,000 people for one month.
- Schools in South Sudan re-opened on 03 May 2021 following 14 months of closure. School feeding has resumed in some schools, while enrolment is still ongoing in others.
- WFP has rehabilitated 49 dyke breach points opening 18.4 km of road in Bor as part of the Dyke and Road Rehabilitation project. In addition, WFP has repaired 17.1 km of road, reconnecting Baidit Town to Bor, which enabled the delivery of 141 mt of food, reducing the need for costly airdrops.

## Food and Nutrition

- In April 2021, WFP and partners reached 2.6 million people with a total of 29,200 mt of food and USD 3 million in cash-based transfers. In the six IPC Phase 5 counties of Akobo, Aweil South, Pibor, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South, WFP and partners reached 340,000 people with food assistance, representing an overall achievement rate of 92 percent.
- Distributions were completed for refugees and internally displaced people, with 494,000 people assisted. Nutrition assistance was provided to 193,400 children under five years and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

## Safety Nets and Resilience

- Through the Food Assistance for Assets programme (FFA), WFP and partners completed Community Based Participatory Planning Processes and supported 148,000 people engaged in asset creation activities with food and cash assistance in Greater Tong, Aweil South, Akobo, and Pibor. Given the rising insecurity and delivery challenges in Pibor, WFP is working with its partner to adapt FFA plans to support a mix of agricultural season and dry season activities to better support the agro-pastoral livelihoods.

# WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
3.88 b	1.96 b	140.3 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
  - Provision of infrastructure development services for humanitarian access and community

## 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

**Donors (listed alphabetically)\***  
Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN COUNTRY BASED POOLED FUNDS, UN Other Funds and Agencies, United Kingdom, USA

\*Excluding multilateral and private donors

## Innovations and Cash-Based Transfers

- To date, 3.7 million people are currently registered in SCOPE, of which, 2.1 million people are enrolled in WFP interventions through SCOPE. Registrations are ongoing in Tonj North, Yambio, Ganyiel and Bentiu.

## Supply Chain

- The primary mode of delivery in May was road (81 percent) followed by river (13 percent) and air (6 percent), however, insecurity in northern Jonglei is hampering food deliveries. WFP is coordinating with UNMISS force patrol to secure access routes and facilitate humanitarian deliveries.
- In total, WFP plans to transport 370,000 mt of food, including 190,000 mt for the prepositioning exercise before the heavy rains start beginning of July. By the end of May, 219,000 mt of food has been prepositioned to date, representing 59 percent of the yearly requirements.

## Common Services

- In May, UNHAS transported 5,067 passengers and 145 mt of light humanitarian cargo to 55 destinations across South Sudan.
- UNHAS also supported the COVID-19 national vaccination programme, facilitating the delivery of vaccines and the transportation of health workers.
- In May, the Logistics Cluster transported 570 mt of non-food items (NFIs) to 52 locations on behalf of 31 organizations, of which 31 percent was transported by road and river. In addition, Logs Cluster facilitated the departure of two humanitarian convoys transporting approximately 2,700 mt of NFIs from Juba to destinations along the Western Corridor and one convoy of 480 mt of humanitarian cargo from Juba to Mundri and Yambio.
- The Logistics Cluster set up two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in Akobo as common storage space for the humanitarian community which now totals 480 m2. Akobo was determined to be one of the new destinations served by Logistics Cluster river transport to reduce reliance on air cargo transport.

## COVID-19 Updates

- WFP continues to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as physical distancing and handwashing, at distribution sites. Through the Logistics Cluster, WFP continues to support the national vaccination scheme and UNHAS is supplying the delivery of COVAX vaccines to 33 destinations in support of WHO, UNICEF and the MoH.

## Challenges

- Continued insecurity and subnational violence, especially in areas already facing famine-like food insecurity, presents significant challenges to humanitarian operational space.
- Increased insecurity in Jonglei State continues to affect WFP's ability to deliver and preposition food before the rainy season starts. WFP is engaging with authorities to take adequate measures to ensure the safe movement of humanitarian convoys with UNMISS to increase patrols and provide escort services to ensure the delivery of urgent convoys.
- WFP's priority to preposition food in remote locations before the roads become impassable continues, however, a number of key locations including some IPC5 areas in Greater Tonj can no longer be accessed by commercial transporters. As a result, WFP has allocated more of its fleet trucks for prepositioning.