WFP South Sudan
Country Brief
October 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, of which 108,000 people are in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe. 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.

Subnational conflict persists, and conflict dynamics remain volatile. In 2021, insecurity has disrupted WFP operations in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Jonglei, Warrap, Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, and Western Equatoria. Frequent roadside robberies, ambushes and attacks continue to affect supply chain routes.

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. As of 25 November, South Sudan had a total of 12,710 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 133 deaths.

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) is being extended to 2022.

In June 2021 a split happened within the Sudan People’s Liberation Army-in Opposition (SPLA-IO) which continues to cause tensions in Upper Nile State. This continued political uncertainty may delay and affect WFP’s operations in Upper Nile and northern Jonglei in the short term, including flood response and food security data collection exercises.

In Sudan, the port of Port Sudan was closed due to the recent political turmoil, which will affect humanitarian supply lines to South Sudan. WFP is monitoring the situation to ensure contingency planning.

In the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, the impasse with the youth and suspension of humanitarian operations continues. Despite issuing a series of letters, the youth groups have failed to drop the demand that 80 percent of employment opportunities be awarded to the local community. In Renk, the suspension remains one year after affected NGOs were forced to evacuate after threats.

More than 800,000 people have been affected by flooding in 27 counties across eight states since May 2021, which has led to the displacement of people from their homes and an increase in humanitarian needs across the Country. WFP is coordinating with humanitarian partners on the response to adopt. By the end of October, WFP has supported 284,848 flood-affected people with food and nutrition assistance.

The security situation in Tambura, Western Equatoria State (WES), remains highly volatile, with persistent targeted violence against civilians, a resurgence of clashes in Tambura town and forced recruitments. Following the withdrawal of humanitarian on October 15 due to clashes, WFP’s distribution in Tambura town remains suspended and displaced communities in areas such as Nagero and Namutina have not yet been reached. Western Equatorial State is the only state out of ten that had a surplus production during the October harvest, however, the recent eruption of violence will negatively impact food security, as people were displaced prior to the harvest period.

Population: 12 million
Income Level: Low
2019 Human Development Index: 185 out of 189
Chronic malnutrition: 33 percent of children

Food and Nutrition

In October, WFP and partners reached 1.97 million people (out of 2.15 million planned, 91.6 percent) with a total of 19,529 mt of food and USD 1.66 million in cash-based transfers (CBT). In the six IPC Phase 5 risk counties of Akobo, Aweil South, Pibor, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South, WFP and partners reached 221,523 people (out of 217,545 planned) with food assistance and nutrition assistance for October distributions. This includes supporting 15,819 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and children under five (out of 20,360 planned) with nutrition support. Cumulatively from January to October 2021, WFP has supported over 5 million people.

In Numbers

19,529 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*
USD 1.66 m in cash-based transfers made*
USD 684.8 m six months (November 2021 to April 2022) net funding requirements
1.97 m people assisted*  
*in October 2021

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Photo: Flooded areas around New Fangak, October 2021 (WFP/Marwa Awad)
### Safety Nets and Resilience
- Through the safety nets and resilience programme, WFP supported **232,028 people** in October 2021. This includes support in various asset creation activities, including community infrastructure to improve access to basic services and enhancing food production to improve household food ability. In the six IPC Phase 5 risk counties, WFP supported **46,950 people** through the food for assets (FFA) programme in October 2021.

- Through the school feeding programme in 2021, WFP and partners have established **280 school gardens** as a complementary platform for school children and the community to gain basic agricultural skills, improve nutrition knowledge, and supplement school feeding rations.

- Through the smallholder agriculture market support, WFP has finalized plans to procure 1,400 mt of maize directly from smallholder farmers in Magwi and Yambio, Eastern and Western Equatoria States, which is part of WFP’s strategy to increase local procurement in areas with surplus production.

### Supply Chain
- WFP plans to transport 370,000 mt of food in 2021. By the end of October, **282,064 mt** of food has been sourced in or brought into South Sudan, representing **92 percent of the yearly requirements**. The primary mode of delivery in October was by road (65 percent) followed by river (25 percent) and air (10 percent). Flooding in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states throughout the month continued to affect access.

### Common Services
- In October, UNHAS transported **6,066 passengers** and **282 mt** of light humanitarian cargo, supporting 170 organizations.

- In October, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of **360 mt** of humanitarian cargo to **51 destinations** (25 percent was transported by river and road), supporting a total of 49 organisations. The Logistics Cluster continued to support the ongoing flood response and between May and October, 2,355 mt of humanitarian cargo has been transported to 76 locations in flood-affected counties.

### COVID-19 Updates
- Through UNHAS and the Logistics Cluster, WFP continues to support the national vaccination scheme and UNHAS is facilitating the delivery of COVAX vaccines to 33 destinations in support of WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health.

### Challenges
- The humanitarian needs are growing exponentially due to a third year of unprecedented flooding and recurring conflict and violence, leading to new and multiple population displacements. Resources are stretched thin, and WFP is having to re-prioritize its response to support newly displaced people, particularly due to flooding. Due to limited resources, WFP has been providing reduced rations in order to assist as many people in need, including 70 percent rations of the food basket to people in IPC Phase 4 areas, and 50 percent rations of the food basket to IDPs and refugees.