



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief

January 2023

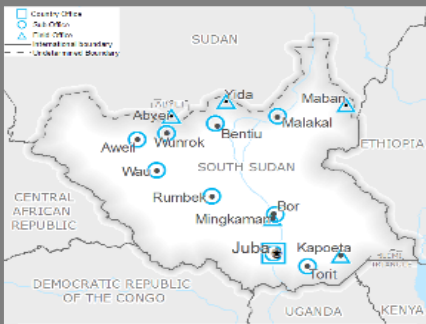


Operational Context

In 2023, 9.4 million people in South Sudan require some form of humanitarian assistance, representing 76 per cent of South Sudan's population, and an increase of 500,000 people from 2022. The October-November 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projects that 7.7 million will face severe acute food insecurity – at the Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) or higher during the April-July 2023 lean season. Of the 7.7 million, 2.9 million people will face Emergency (IPC 4) acute food insecurity, and 43,000 will be in Catastrophe (IPC 5) acute food insecurity in Jonglei and Unity States. The rest, 4.8 million people, will face Crisis (IPC 3) conditions. Further, 1.4 million children will be moderately or severely malnourished in 2023.

Subnational violence persists across different states and continues to disrupt humanitarian operations, impeding humanitarian access to the vulnerable people requiring food assistance.

On 1 January 2023, WFP started implementing a new three-year Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025), building on its life-saving support to create pathways for resilience, development, and peace. WFP seeks to reduce entrenched inequity and isolation by fostering unified, interconnected, and peaceful communities. WFP will support zero hunger objectives while contributing to peace and climate resilience over the next three years and beyond. See the CSP funding statistics on page 2 below.



Population: **12.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 2.9 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent of children**

Contact info: wfp.southsudan@wfp.org

Country Director: Mary-Ellen McGoarty

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

Photo: A farmer preparing cowpea seeds for planting (WFP/Marwa Awad)

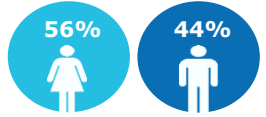
In Numbers

5,432 mt of food distributed

USD 3.6 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 575 million six months net funding requirements (February – July 2023)

1.1 million people assisted in January 2023



Operational Updates

Security situation

- Subnational violence continued in several states, including Jonglei, Upper Nile, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), and the Abyei Administrative Area (AAA), leading to the escalation of insecurity incidents characterized by a surge in attacks on humanitarian workers, assets, and operations. It disrupted the movement of humanitarian supplies to the affected people, impeding access to those in need.

Humanitarian situation

- The humanitarian situation remains dire, exacerbated by violence, climate change, and the impacts of the global food crisis. Over 1.1 million people remained displaced by floods across various states, with some areas remaining flooded for 4 years, subjecting communities to long-term vulnerability. WFP faces a funding gap of USD 575 million between February and July 2023 and had reduced the number of people targeted in 2023 to 5.4 million from 7.7 million. WFP continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in all the counties with people facing catastrophe and 50 percent in counties with people facing Emergency food insecurity levels.

Economic updates

- South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continues to weaken, trading at an average of SSP 688 per US dollar in commercial banks in Juba, compared to SSP 662 in December, representing a 4 percent depreciation in just a month. Since the start of the global crisis, SSP had depreciated by 37 percent. Seasonal harvests, food from own production, improved road access and movement of goods minimized the impacts of the depreciation on food prices. However, prices remained higher compared to the start of the global crisis, exacerbating the vulnerability of poor households.

Support to crisis-affected people

- WFP assisted 1.1 million people, representing 42 percent of the targeted people in January, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), through general food assistance, nutrition assistance, school feeding, food assistance for assets (FFA), and smallholder agriculture market access. WFP responded to new displacements, providing emergency food assistance to 50,848 IDPs affected by a surge in violence in Warrap, Jonglei, and Upper Nile states, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), and flood-affected people in different states. WFP assisted to flood-displaced people across different states. By 31 January, WFP had assisted 461,657 flood-displaced people in six States. WFP provided 50 percent of emergency ration entitlements due to funding constraints. Insecurity and inaccessibility challenges limited WFP's capacity to reach the affected people.

Nutrition

- WFP continued to treat moderately acute malnourished children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls and supported a malnutrition prevention programme for children.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirement 2023 (in USD)	Allocated Contributions in 2023 (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) February – July 2023
1.17 b	379.1 m	575.4 m

WFP Strategic Outcome 1: Access to food and nutrition

CSP Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people meet their food and nutrition needs in anticipation of, during and in the aftermath of crises. **Focus area:** *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations

WFP Strategic Outcome 2: Better nutrition, health, and education

CSP Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations have enhanced nutrition, health and education and access to safety nets. **Focus area:** *resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups
- Provide nutritious school meals to schoolchildren and engage vulnerable urban/rural youth in skills training

WFP Strategic Outcome 3: improved and sustainable livelihoods

CSP Outcome 3: Food-insecure/ shock-affected populations in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and more resilient and sustainable food systems. **Focus area:** *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Engage targeted communities in resilience activities
- Engage food-insecure people in livelihood development and market support activities
- Develop, rehabilitate, and maintain essential infrastructure

WFP Strategic Outcome 4: Strengthened national programmes

CSP Outcome 4: National institutions and partners have strengthened capacity. **Focus area:** *resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide policy/technical assistance to Government and partners

WFP Strategic Outcome 5: Effective Humanitarian and development actors

CSP Outcome 5: Humanitarian/development partners in have access to reliable common services. **Focus area:** *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide air transport services and technical assistance to the humanitarian community/other partners
- Provide information management, logistics and coordination services to the humanitarian community and partners
- Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners

However, severe funding gaps forced WFP to maintain a reduced targeting for malnutrition prevention from children aged 6 – 59 months to those aged 6–23 months and a reduced duration of assistance for pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to 4 months.

Safety nets and resilience

- Through the EU trust fund project, WFP provided six farmer organizations with groundnut processing machines to offer value-addition services to the community and boost their incomes. The organizations received the equipment on a cost-recovery arrangement where they paid 30 percent of the cost of the equipment. WFP trained 548 lead farmers (255 women) on post-harvest handling and management while providing hermetic storage bags to store grains. While WFP planned to continue expanding its resilience activities from non-conflict zones to conflict-affected zones and hunger hotspots, it had to reduce those targeted through the FFA to 618,000, representing a 20 percent reduction from 2022 due to funding constraints.

Logistics operations

- WFP plans to deliver 231,311 mt of food to various states in 2023, including 205,945 mt before the rainy season begins in May. In January, WFP dispatched 89,461 mt (39 percent of the annual plan) by road and river, using air transport only in areas inaccessible by road or river.
- WFP prioritized strategic infrastructure projects to reopen access along critical supply routes. In January, WFP resumed the third year of the Jonglei dyke rehabilitation project to rehabilitate the Nile primary dyke from Bor South to Twic East to facilitate deliveries to Twic East. WFP rehabilitated the 28 km Abyeimnhom-Mayom road and repaired 51 chokepoints along this road, allowing the passage of 40 mt trucks and ensuring food reached Wunrok in Upper Nile State. WFP rehabilitated the northern access route from Rubkona to Kilo-30 to facilitate humanitarian access into Bentiu and Rubkona in Unity State. The rehabilitated infrastructure helps to strengthen communities' resilience to shocks, improve access to markets, stimulate commercial activities and reduce reliance on air transport, reducing the cost of delivering assistance.

Common services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 416 mt of non-food items to 31 destinations on behalf of 38 organizations, including supporting the emergency response in Pibor in the GPAA and Jonglei State by facilitating airlifting of 100 mt of water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, shelter, nutrition and health supplies from Juba and Bor.
- UNHAS transported 4,862 passengers and 57 mt of humanitarian supplies and conducted four medical evacuations and two security evacuations from Pibor and Ulang. In January, UNHAS supported 166 partners.

Challenges

- The humanitarian needs continued to increase due to multiple shocks in the context of dwindling resources. WFP requires USD 575 million between February and July 2023 to cover the most severe needs.