



World Food Programme

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# WFP South Sudan Country Brief

May 2023

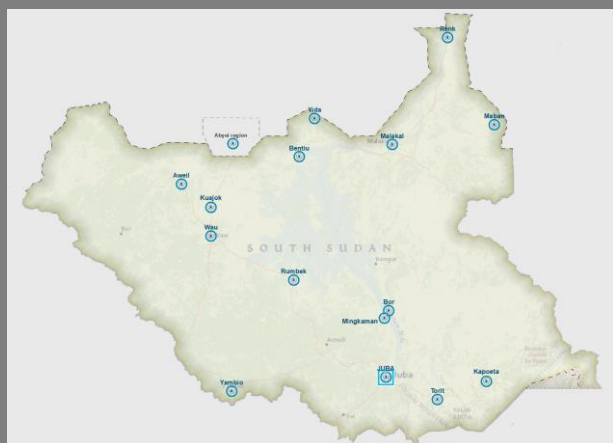


## Operational Context

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.



Population: **12.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 2.9 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent of children**

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

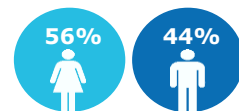
## In Numbers

**22,270 mt** of food distributed

**USD 5.8 million** in cash-based transfers distributed

**USD 405 million** six months net funding requirements  
(June – November 2023)

**2.7 million** people assisted in May 2023



## Operational Updates

### Humanitarian situation

- The humanitarian situation in South Sudan continued to worsen, driven by compounding effects of years of conflict, sub-national violence, food insecurity, climate crisis, and public health challenges. Insecurity, fuelled by inter-communal violence and the ongoing Sudan conflict, continue to drive up humanitarian needs in South Sudan. The latest influx continued to compound a dire situation, forcing humanitarian partners to make difficult choices about addressing growing humanitarian needs with limited resources.
- The Sudan conflict had forced thousands to flee to South Sudan, exacerbating the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. As of 31 May, 89,000 people had crossed into South Sudan. Of these, 93 percent were South Sudanese returning to communities already grappling with the effects of insecurity, climate change, food insecurity, limited services, and infrastructure.

### Economic updates

- The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) to the US dollar exchange rate reached its lowest value, at SSP 955 and SSP 1,100 in the reference and parallel markets, respectively. In just a month, the reference exchange rate depreciated by 7 percent and 11 percent in the reference and informal markets, respectively. Over the past year, the SSP lost its purchasing power by 60 percent, affecting the purchasing power of market-dependent households, especially during the lean season, where the overall dependency on markets is highest.

### Support to crisis-affected people

- Between January and May 2023, WFP had assisted 4 million people. Throughout May, WFP distributed 22,770 mt of food and USD 5.8 million as cash-based transfers to 2.7 million people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), rapid response mechanism and lean-season response through general food assistance (GFA), nutrition assistance, school feeding, food assistance for assets (FFA), and smallholder agriculture market access. This number represented 71 percent of the targeted people. Insecurity and poor road network hampered WFP's efforts to reach all the targeted people in May. Overall, 51,322 new arrivals received hot meals, and dry rations, including specialized nutritious foods in May. WFP faces a USD 36 million funding shortfall between June and November 2023 for the Sudan crisis response.

### Nutrition assistance

- To promote programme integration, WFP integrated 86 people living with HIV and tuberculosis (PLHIV/TB) in Juba County to benefit from the Urban Safety Nets programme. Further, WFP and AMREF Health Africa supported the Ministry of Health in integrating community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) into health facilities. The programme continued in 17 primary health care units, four primary health care centres and one hospital in 11 Payams of Tonj East and Tonj South Counties and one health centre in Tonj North in Warrap State.

## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirements: June - November (USD)	Allocated Contributions: June - November (USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements: June - November (USD)
<b>783 m</b>	<b>378 m</b>	<b>405 m</b>

### 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

## Safety Nets and Resilience

- One of the aspirations of WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2023-2025) is shifting from an emergency-focused approach in South Sudan towards more resilience investments, acknowledging the interconnected nature of conflict, climate, and vulnerability and the importance of strengthening institutional partnerships and partnerships with communities. WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry on 4 May 2023. The agreement lays the foundation for collaboration in areas like environmental protection, capacity strengthening, advocacy and resource mobilization.
- WFP continued to invest in strategic infrastructure in South Sudan to enhance trade, market integration and reduce the cost of delivering humanitarian assistance. After rehabilitating the Batil bridge, WFP handed it over to the Government. The bridge is on the road linking Renk County and Maban County, and its rehabilitation facilitated the movement of people and commercial and humanitarian supplies between the two counties.
- Rehabilitating the dike in Bor South and Twic East Counties of Jonglei State continued, reinforcing it using machinery to ensure sustainability. The dike helped dry 1,640 square km of the flooded area. Once complete, the 93-kilometre-dike will help protect settlements and farmlands for over 187,000 people living around it in the two Counties. It will also help control floods, enhance the safety of lives and livelihoods for the flood-affected communities and provide access roads to these communities living around the project area and the surrounding villages.

## Logistics operations

- WFP requires 446,000 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan. WFP had resourced 219,953 mt of this food by 31 May, representing 49 percent of the plan.

## Common services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 112 mt of non-food items (NFIs) to seven destinations, including airlifting essential cargo to Bentiu, Malakal, and Renk Counties to support the Sudan crisis response on behalf of six organizations. In May, UNHAS South Sudan received the highest number of requests to transport passengers and light cargo to support the ongoing Sudan crisis response. The service transported 7,145 passengers and 361 mt of cargo, representing the highest number of passengers and quantity of cargo transported in one month in 2023.

## Challenges

- The humanitarian needs continued to increase due to multiple shocks in the context of dwindling resources. WFP requires **USD 405 million** between June and November 2023 to cover the most severe needs.

#### Donors (listed in alphabetic order)

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN COUNTRY BASED POOLED FUNDS, UN Other Funds and Agencies, United Kingdom, USA

\*Excluding multilateral and private donors