



World Food Programme

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# WFP South Sudan Country Brief

January 2024



## Operational Context

In 2024, 9 million people require humanitarian assistance and protection services, including 2.2 million women 4.9 million children, and 500,000 refugees, among others. The number of people requiring humanitarian support represented 73 percent of the country's population. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released in November 2023 showed that South Sudan remained one of the countries with the highest proportion of food-insecure people globally. The results predicted a dire humanitarian situation for 2024, indicating that 7.1 million would face high levels of acute food insecurity classified as IPC Phase 3 or above at the height of the lean season in 2024, with 1.6 million children moderately or severely malnourished.

WFP is implementing a three-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2023-2025), building on its life-saving support to create pathways for resilience, development, and peace. Under the CSP, WFP seeks to reduce entrenched inequity and isolation by fostering unified, interconnected, and peaceful communities. WFP continues to support zero hunger objectives while contributing to peace and climate resilience. See the CSP funding statistics on page 2.



Population: **12.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 2.9 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

Children aged 5-59 months acutely malnourished: **1.65 million**

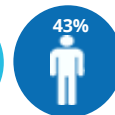
Contact info: [wfp.southsudan@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.southsudan@wfp.org)

Country Director: Mary-Ellen McGroarty

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

Photo: New arrivals lining up for verification during food distribution in Renk, Upper Nile State. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

## In Numbers



**818,000** people assisted in January 2024

**USD 3.1 million** in cash-based transfers distributed

**USD 525 million** six months net funding requirements (March - August 2024), and another **USD 74 million** for the Sudan crisis

**5,579 mt** of food distributed

## Operational Updates

### Humanitarian situation

- South Sudan continues to face a dire humanitarian crisis. Persistent insecurity and violence, regional and national economic instability compounded by global downturns, and the devastating effects of climate change continue to inflict severe hardships on millions of South Sudanese families, particularly in terms of their food and nutritional security.
- The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to compound an already dire situation, forcing people to cross into South Sudan. As of 31 January, 540,000 people had crossed into South Sudan. Of these, 80 percent were South Sudanese, 19 percent Sudan refugees, and one percent third country nationals. South Sudan already hosts over 381,000 refugees and has 2 million people internally displaced, with limited livelihood opportunities. Access to primary services for new arrivals and people living in South Sudan remains strained, further complicating the provision of humanitarian assistance.

### Support to crisis-affected people

- In January, WFP distributed 5,579 mt of food and USD 3.1 million as cash-based transfers to 818,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), rapid response mechanism and lean-season response through general food distributions, nutrition assistance, school feeding, Asset Creation and Livelihoods, and smallholder agriculture market access. The total number reached represented 72 percent of the targeted people, as insecurity and poor road conditions, particularly in Jonglei State, the Abyei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Areas, affected food delivery to final destinations.
- WFP continued to assist new arrivals by providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance upon arrival, during transit, and at final destinations. As of 31 January, WFP had assisted 419,000 people with fortified biscuits, in-kind food, or cash assistance since the start of the Sudan crisis. Of these, 102,000 people had received one-off cash and dry rations under Phase II of the Sudan response (supporting them in their final destinations).

### Nutrition assistance

- A nutrition screening at the Renk transit centre showed a worsening malnutrition trend among new arrivals stranded in Renk for months. The proxy Global Acute Malnutrition rate reached 24.5 percent for children aged 6-59 months and 15 percent for PBW/G, highlighting a deterioration in nutritional status upon stay in Renk. This situation was due limited onward movement to final destinations, impeding access to long-term support systems. In addition, essential services beyond the initial seven-day period remained insufficiently available and accessible, exacerbating vulnerabilities. Despite these challenges, coverage of nutrition services remained high at 98 percent, indicating that humanitarian partners identified those in need and enrolled them in relevant programmes.

# WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)		
CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements: March – August 2024 (Millions in USD)
845.5	320.7	524.8

## 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

- In collaboration with FAO, WFP assessed the South Sudan Bureau of Standards laboratory in Juba, aiming to improve its functionalities and equip it with essential equipment and staff training. A fully operational laboratory will empower the Government to conduct food quality testing and mitigate the risks associated with counterfeit products. This, in turn, will streamline WFP's local procurement process and ensure the timely testing of locally sourced food. In collaboration with private sector partners, WFP procures sorghum and maize from Renk, Magwi, and Yambio in Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal States, respectively. By 31 January, smallholder farmers in Magwi and Yambio continued to mobilize 650 mt of food for sale to WFP through private companies, demonstrating a commitment to bolster local market participation and food security efforts.

## Logistics operations

- WFP requires 387,000 mt of food in 2024 under its needs-based plan and had resourced 137,595 mt by 31 January, representing 35 percent of its annual requirements. With only [2 percent of the roads](#) paved across the country, heavy rains in various parts of the country disrupt road transport in many areas during the rainy season, requiring WFP to preposition food before the rainy season. Early prepositioning reduces reliance on air transport, creating operational efficiencies and enabling WFP to assist those most in need. In January, Logistics operations encountered significant challenges. Unforeseen delays affected food deliveries, particularly along routes traversing the Western Corridor and Unity State. These hold-ups resulted in increased overall operational costs.

## Common services

- In January, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 41 mt of cargo comprising education, general operations, nutrition, and water sanitation and hygiene supplies to five hard-to-reach locations in Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity states on behalf of four partners. In addition, the cluster transported 6 mt of logistics and protection supplies by road from Bentiu to Rotriak and Nying on behalf of two partners utilizing the international Organization for Migration's common transport service trucks. UNHAS transported 4,952 passengers and 67 mt of light humanitarian cargo to various destinations in South Sudan, supporting 169 organizations. The service carried out seven medical evacuations from Aweil, Rumbek, Torit, Yida, Bor, and Renk and 12 security relocations from Akobo and Ayod.

## Challenges

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to multiple intersecting shocks amid severe funding gaps. WFP requires USD 525 million to continue assisting the crisis-affected people between March and August 2024, and another USD 74 million for the Sudan crisis response for the same period.

### 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