



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief

February 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 represent 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 7.4 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

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

Contact info: 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

8,314 mt of food distributed



USD 3.6 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 498 million six months net funding requirements (April - September 2024), including **USD 74 million** for the Sudan crisis

1 million people assisted in February 2024

Operational Updates

Humanitarian situation

- South Sudan continues to grapple with an escalating humanitarian crisis marked by subnational violence, climate change, displacement, and soaring living costs, pushing millions of families into food insecurity.
- The ongoing Sudan conflict compounded the situation, with 43,000 new arrivals entering the country in February, raising the total number of new arrivals to 584,000. Of these, 79 percent were South Sudanese returnees, 20 percent were Sudan refugees, and the rest were third-country nationals. In February, South Sudan hosted 381,000 refugees and 2 million internally displaced people, with limited livelihood opportunities. Access to primary services for new arrivals and people living in South Sudan remains strained, further complicating the humanitarian landscape. About 56 percent of South Sudan's population lacks access to healthcare services.

Support to crisis-affected people

- In February, WFP distributed 8,314 mt of food and USD 3.6 million as cash-based transfers to 1 million people. These included new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) assisted under the rapid response mechanism and lean-season response through general food distributions, nutrition assistance, school feeding, asset creation and livelihoods, and smallholder agriculture market support. The total number of people reached represents 59 percent of the targeted people, as insecurity and poor road conditions, particularly in Jonglei and Unity States, Abyei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, affected food delivery to final destinations.
- WFP continued to assist new arrivals from Sudan by providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance upon arrival, during transit, and at final destinations. As of 29 February, 470,000 people had received food assistance since the start of the Sudan crisis. WFP screened children aged 6 – 59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls among the new arrivals. In February, WFP admitted over 1,000 children and 955 mothers into the treatment programme and supported 6,000 children and 3,000 women and girls through the prevention programme.

Nutrition assistance

- In a significant development for South Sudan's fight against malnutrition, the country was selected as a frontrunner for implementing the WHO's new guidelines on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children aged 6 – 59 months. WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health analysed nutrition data to ensure a targeted approach, focusing on counties facing the most severe challenges. These included high levels of food insecurity, disease burden, and inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025) Six Months Funding Outlook (April – September 2024)		
CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
797.5	299.4	498.1

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.

Consequently, WFP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Health planned to launch a pilot programme in Lakes and Northern

Bahr el Ghazal States, starting in July 2024 and extending through June 2025. Kick-off meetings began at the state level to expedite planning and implementation. This initiative represents a crucial step forward in tackling malnutrition and improving the well-being of people in vulnerable situations in South Sudan.

Safety Nets and Resilience

- WFP continued to lead the Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) area-based programme partners to address the root causes of conflict in Jonglei and Warrap State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA). This collaborative effort brings together WFP, Peace Canal, UNMISS, UNHCR, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Save the Children, IOM, VSF-Germany, and UNDP. The programme targets primary conflict hotspots, prioritizing cross-border social cohesion. Over 190 participants in Anyidi, Jonglei State initiated the clearance of community access roads, with 1.9 km out of the planned 4.6 km already cleared by 29 February. Notably, participants in Kadiang began similar efforts to clear community access roads.

Logistics operations

- WFP requires 387,000 mt of food in 2024 under its need-based plan. By 29 February, WFP had resourced 135,000 mt, representing 35 percent of its annual requirements. Of the resourced tonnage, WFP had prepositioned 20,000 mt by 29 February, representing 19 percent of the prepositioning target (105,000 mt). Delays were caused by late arrival of food into the country, and increased checkpoints and insecurity along several supply routes WFP continued to engage the local and national authorities to address the bottlenecks.

Common services

- In February, the logistics cluster facilitated the air transport of 47 mt of cargo comprising health, logistics, and shelter supplies to eight hard-to-reach locations in Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity states on behalf of ten humanitarian partners.
- UNHAS transported 5,800 passengers and 96 mt of light humanitarian cargo to various destinations in South Sudan on behalf of 187 organizations. The service carried out 15 medical evacuations from 11 locations and 12 charter flights to six locations on behalf of eight UN agencies and the diplomatic community.

Challenges

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to multiple intersecting shocks amid severe funding gaps. WFP requires USD 498 million to continue assisting the crisis-affected people between April and September 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