



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief

January 2025



Operational Context

Over 9 million people require humanitarian assistance and protection, with 1.8 million people remaining internally displaced due to years of violence and the impact of climate change, including floods and dry spells. About 6.1 million people currently facing severe acute food insecurity levels, at Crisis or higher, between December 2024 and March 2025, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) results. The situation could worsen, with projections showing 7.7 million people will face acute food insecurity during the 2025 lean season. Of the 7.7 million, 2.5 million people will face emergency food insecurity levels and 63,000 will face catastrophe food insecurity levels. Further, 2.1 million children aged 6- 59 months, and 1.1 million pregnant and breastfeeding women will suffer acute malnutrition.

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: **13.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 6.1 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

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

In Numbers



500,000 people assisted

USD 241,000 in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 412 million net funding requirements under the 2025 operational plan

4,724 mt of food distributed

Operational Updates

Humanitarian situation

- South Sudan is facing a confluence of crises that continue to push the country towards new levels of vulnerability. South Sudan is grappling with a long-standing humanitarian crisis marked by chronic food and nutrition insecurity, worsened by the severe economic downturn and climatic shocks. The ongoing Sudan conflict has compounded the situation by driving over 1 million people into South Sudan.
- South Sudan has been grappling with a cholera outbreak since last October 2024. The Ministry of Health has reported 22,000 cases and over 400 fatalities in 33 counties, including Renk County, the primary entry point for new arrivals for Sudan.
- In 2025, WFP plans to reach about 4.4 million people across South Sudan (including IDPs and refugees) with 180,000 mt of food and USD 83 million in cash-based transfers across its programme portfolio that comprises activities aimed at saving lives, building resilience, and creating incentives for peace. The plan is set amid a challenging funding environment and may require further reviews and adjustments throughout the year.

Support to crisis-affected people

- WFP distributed 4,700 mt of food and USD 241,000 as cash-based transfers to 500,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host populations. The total number of people reached represents 45 percent of the monthly targeted population while the rest will receive food during the February distributions. January distributions in Priority 1 counties¹ delayed due to insecurity, while delays in Maban and Yida refugee camps resulted from the ongoing community engagements on the new vulnerability-based targeting.
- The targeting exercise continued for Priority 2 and 3 counties (counties with populations facing IPC 4), with assistance projected to commence in March and April for a period of five to six months during the lean season.

Nutrition assistance

- WFP provided a comprehensive package of nutrition and health support to targeted groups, including preventing and supplementing moderate acute malnutrition and community-led Social Behaviour Change Communication to improve health, nutrition knowledge and practices, and address gender barriers. In January, WFP provided specialised nutritious food to 107,000 children 6-59 months and 49,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) to supplement MAM. The prevention programme reached 23,000 children aged 6—23 months and 7,000 PBWG, including new arrivals.
- WFP strengthened nutrition service delivery in Northern Bahr el Ghazal through digitalization. About 122 frontline staff from four partners received training on the Conditional on-Demand Assistance (CODA) across 61 sites, with 82 facilities continuing to

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Photo: A child being screened for malnutrition at the nutrition centre at Wedweil refugee settlement. Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

2025 Funding Outlook under the Operational Plan

CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
772.2	360.6	411.6

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, women 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.

use CODA to improve services. WFP aims to expand the CODA to all 225 nutrition sites across Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes States by April 2025. These states will serve as pilot for the new WHO guidelines on Community Management of Wasting, positioning WFP and partners at the forefront of this initiative.

Food systems and resilience

- The Kong Koc Programme Coordination Team facilitated an independent final evaluation in Greater Tonj. Key preliminary findings demonstrate significant improvements in participant livelihoods through targeted agricultural trainings and economic empowerment initiatives, resulting in enhanced food security and poverty reduction. Participating communities experienced better food security outcomes, while violence decreased due to strengthened security measures and effective local dispute resolution mechanisms. These findings, due to be validate in February 2025, will inform the strategic direction and implementation of the programme's second phase.

Logistics operations

- WFP has dispatched 74,000 mt of food to field locations, representing 41 percent of the 2024 target (180,000 mt). WFP continued to rehabilitate roads in Jonglei to reduce reliance on the air transport.
- A logistics hub in Aweil remained operational, storing 2,700 mt of food for South Sudan—Sudan cross-border operations. Since the start of the Sudan conflict, WFP South Sudan had dispatched 6,700 mt of food to Yabus and Kosti counties in Sudan, including 2,600 mt dispatched in January. Challenges included the inaccessibility of the Bor-Ayod corridor and security constraints.

Common services

- The logistics cluster facilitated the transport of 259 mt of life-saving cargo to 18 hard-to-reach locations for 20 organizations, with 252 mt airlifted to 17 sites and 7 mt transported by road for cholera and flood response. The cluster coordinated a road convoy from Juba to Yida for MSF-B supporting the Sudan response.
- UNHAS transported 4,558 passengers and 52 mt of light cargo for 153 organizations across 42 destinations. The service conducted five medical evacuations from Bor, Renk, Yambio, and Yei to Juba, ensuring timely support to patients.

Challenges

- WFP faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 412 million to support the urgent humanitarian needs of millions of crisis-affected people in 2025 against its operational plan. Critical needs include requirements to meet the food and nutrition needs of crisis-affected people, food prepositioning before the rainy season starts in May, and other common logistical support services.

¹ In 2024, 38 counties were categorized into three priorities: Priority 1, 2 and 3 depending on the severity of food insecurity and the proportion of population facing Emergency and above food insecurity levels with Priority 1 counties being the most severely food insecure.

Donors (listed in alphabetic order)

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UNCBPF, UNISFA, UAE, United Kingdom, and USA.