



World Food Programme

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WFP South Sudan Country Brief

February 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.**

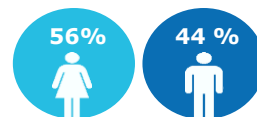
In Numbers

705,000 people assisted

USD 1.3 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 396 million net funding requirements under the 2025 operational plan

7,885 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. The crises include chronic food and nutrition insecurity, worsened by subnational violence, severe economic downturn and climatic shocks. The ongoing Sudan conflict has compounded the situation by driving over 1 million people into South Sudan.
- The security situation remains fragile, marked by armed clashes in multiple locations, including areas hosting new arrivals. The ongoing fighting between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and armed youth in Nasir town In Upper Nile State displaced thousands of people.
- South Sudan has been grappling with a cholera outbreak since last October. The Ministry of Health has reported 26,000 cases and 455 fatalities by 28 February, including Renk County, the primary entry point for new arrivals.
- WFP plans to reach about 4.3 million people across South Sudan (including IDPs and refugees) with 180,000 mt of food and USD 79 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 7,885 mt of food and USD 1.3 million as cash-based transfers to 705,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host populations. The total number of people reached represents 61 percent of the monthly targeted population.
- 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.
- Due to resource constraints, four Priority 1 counties² (counties with pockets of populations facing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC, 5)) will continue to receive 70 percent of the general food basket for eight months while the rest of targeted populations, including refugees and IDPs will continue to receive 50 percent of the food basket.

Nutrition assistance

- In February, WFP provided specialised nutritious food to 89,366 children 6-59 months and 47,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) to supplement MAM. The prevention programme reached 64,000 children aged 6—23 months and 15,000 PBWG, including new arrivals. The targeted people also received community-led Social Behaviour Change Communication to improve health, nutrition knowledge and practices and address gender barriers.

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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		
Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
772.2	376.7	395.5

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.

Food systems and resilience

- To optimize the impact of the new Green and Resilient Agriculture and Climate Economy (GRACE) project, WFP met with the EU Delegation, FAO, and the International Trade Centre to establish a coordination framework, aligning efforts with SNV, GIZ, and the GRACE project implementation. A key outcome was the agreement to form a multi-stakeholder coordination structure, directly involving GRACE project partners and the EU Delegation under the leadership of the National Resources Sector Working Group member ministries. WFP and partners will operationalize subnational coordination fora for the inception phase in June 2025 to ensure effective localized implementation. This alignment will maximize the impact of the GRACE project.

Logistics operations

- WFP plans to distribute 180,000 mt of food under its 2025 operational plan, with 108,210 mt for prepositioning and 71,790 mt for just-in-time deliveries. As of 28 February, WFP had dispatched 109,818 mt of food to various locations for prepositioning and just-in-time deliveries, representing 61 percent of the 2025 target. To ensure timely access to hard-to-reach areas before the rainy season, 54,295 mt must arrive in South Sudan by April for prepositioning.
- Convoys from Bor to Pibor commenced in February, delivering 2,168 mt (35 percent) by 28 February. Prepositioning dispatches from Bor will increase once the Bor-Ayod route opens. Road inaccessibility, insecurity and fluctuations in fuel prices continued to impact food deliveries.

Common services

- The logistics cluster airlifted 99 mt of health items for the cholera response in the Greater Upper Nile and Unity states. The cluster transported 60 mt by road using IOM's Common transport services trucks and 173 mt by river under a 50 percent cost-sharing arrangement.
- UNHAS conducted seven medical evacuations from Ajuongthok, Aweil, Maban, Renk, Walgak and Yei to Juba, ensuring timely support for patients. The service also conducted security relocations for 20 passengers from Mandeng and Ulang on behalf of eight partner organizations.

Challenges

- Clashes in Upper Nile delayed food prepositioning activities and humanitarian access to those in need in the affected locations, including over 300,000 people targeted along the Sobat corridor by WFP who are facing Emergency food insecurity.
- In Maban, refugees continued to resist the vulnerability-based targeting despite various engagements with their representatives, impacting January and February distributions. WFP planned to continue further engagements with the Maban refugees in March to agree on the way forward.
- WFP faces a USD 396 million funding shortfall 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.

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.