



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP South Sudan Country Brief

April 2025



## Operational Context

About 9.3 million people require humanitarian assistance in 2025, with 1.8 million people remaining internally displaced due to years of violence and the impact of climate change, including floods and dry spells.

Over 7.7 million people face acute food insecurity levels, at Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 or higher, between April and July 2025. Of the 7.7 million, 2.5 million people face IPC Phase 4 food insecurity, and 63,000 face IPC Phase 5 food insecurity levels. Malnutrition rates remain high, with IPC projections indicating that 3.2 million children and women are at risk of malnutrition, representing a 28 percent increase from 2024.

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. 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.

WFP country and field offices in South Sudan



Population: **13.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 6.5 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

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

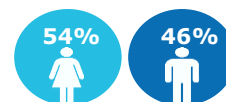
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Photo: A child being screened for malnutrition at the nutrition centre at Wedweil refugee settlement. Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

## In Numbers



**2.3 million** people assisted

**USD 9.2 million** in cash-based transfers distributed

**21,629 mt** of food distributed

**USD 273.5 million** net funding requirements under the 2025 operational plan

## Operational Updates

### Humanitarian situation

- South Sudan continues to face multiple, intersecting crises, pushing the country towards new vulnerabilities. The crises include escalating violent clashes and food and nutrition insecurity, worsened by the severe economic downturn and climatic shocks.
- The security situation remains fragile, marked by armed clashes in multiple locations, including areas hosting new arrivals. The fighting between the South Sudan Defence Forces and armed youth in Nasir town in Upper Nile State had displaced over 100,000 people by 30 April. The clashes hindered humanitarian assistance in Ulang, Nasir and Longochuk Counties. Critical needs in the include food water, health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene.
- The clashes also deepened the ongoing Cholera outbreak, with 48,000 cases and 919 fatalities reported across the country since last October. In Nasir County, the cholera fatality rate stood at 4.4 percent by 30 April, surpassing the WHO threshold (1 percent).

### Support to crisis-affected people

- WFP distributed 21,629 mt of food and USD 9.2 million as cash-based transfers to 2.3 million people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host populations. The total number of people reached represents 67 percent of the monthly targeted population. The conflict in Upper Nile State and other parts of the country hampered the delivery of assistance to many vulnerable populations. WFP continued to prioritize delivery to the most vulnerable families in Priority 1 and 2 counties.
- Due to resource constraints, four Priority 1 counties<sup>2</sup> (counties with pockets of populations facing IPC Phase 5) will continue to receive 70 percent of the general food basket while the rest of targeted populations, including refugees and IDPs will continue to receive only 50 percent of the food basket.

### Human capital development

- WFP and UNICEF nutrition teams met to deliberate their joint work on key priorities, especially in promoting a simpler way to deliver nutrition assistance programmes nationwide. The two partners discussed plans to test a new joint effort to fight child malnutrition in Lakes and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. The teams also reviewed ways to prevent aid diversion. With limited funding, they looked for smarter ways to keep programmes running effectively, including streamlining their work to achieve better results.

# WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025) 2025 Funding Outlook (Operational Plan)		
Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	Net Funding Requirements: (Millions in USD)
674.4	400.9	273.5

## 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 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.

<sup>2</sup>Thirty-eight counties are categorized into 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-food-insecure.

- WFP assisted 177,000 children with nutritious meals, improving attendance, concentration, and learning outcomes. Home-grown school feeding, implemented in Lakes, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria States, leverages CBT to empower schools to procure local food, stimulating agricultural markets. Fostering direct partnerships between schools, retailers, and farmers helps strengthen supply chains, boosts local economies, and ensures fresh, sustainable food sources.

## Food systems and resilience

- WFP met with South Sudan's Ministry of Environment and Forestry to develop a USD 50 million Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposal titled '*Enhancing Climate Resilience in Flood-Prone Areas in northwestern South Sudan*'. This initiative aims to strengthen national and local capacity for climate-informed adaptation and disaster risk reduction, enhance vulnerable communities' resilience through ecosystem protection and conflict mitigation, and ensure equitable access to climate adaptation resources via robust public-private delivery systems. Empowering institutions and communities alike will help address immediate vulnerabilities and long-term climate challenges in one of South Sudan's most flood-affected regions. The proposal, due for submission to the GCF in May 2025, represents an important investment in sustainable climate resilience.

## Logistics operations

- WFP plans to distribute 164,485 mt of food in 2025. This tonnage includes 94,485 mt for prepositioning and 70,000 mt for just-in-time deliveries. By 30 April, WFP had dispatched 129,015 mt to various locations by road, river, and air. Insecurity in Upper Nile, particularly in Ulang, Nassir, Longochuk, and Maiwut counties, disrupted river transport to Malakal, Renk, and Maban, delaying deliveries, which may necessitate shifting to air transport.

## Common services

- UNHAS transported 2,500 passengers, ensuring humanitarian organizations reached hard-to-reach response locations. Additionally, the service transported 53 mt of light cargo, including essential supplies necessary for humanitarian partners.
- The logistics cluster coordinated the airlift of 79 mt of food security, health and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cargo to Akobo, Boma, Mandeng, Malakal, Pibor, Renk and Rubkona on behalf of 12 organizations for the Cholera response and the ongoing Upper Nile crisis.

## Challenges

- WFP faces a USD 273.5 million funding shortfall for the rest of 2025 against its operational plan. Needs include the food and nutrition requirements of crisis-affected people, prepositioning as rains intensify in May, and other logistical support services.
- Due to resource constraints, four Priority 1 counties<sup>2</sup> (counties with pockets of populations facing IPC 5) will continue to receive 70 per cent of the general food basket starting January for eight months while the rest of targeted populations, including refugees and IDPs will continue to receive 50 percent of the food basket.

## 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.