

Crisis response revision of South Sudan country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2023– 31 December 2025	One year extension	1 January 2023– 31 December 2026
Beneficiaries	7 684 979	241 413	7 926 392
Total cost (USD)	3 132 918 873	675 685 654	3 808 604 527

Rationale

1. South Sudan continues to grapple with multiple, intersecting crises with devastating effects on vulnerable populations. Conflict, subnational violence and heightened weather-related shocks, compounded by a deteriorating macro-economic situation, are escalating the humanitarian crises. The political and security situation remains volatile. In September 2024, South Sudan's leadership extended the transitional period by two years, postponing the first democratic elections to December 2026. The extension holds further conflict risks amid declining humanitarian funding.
2. Over 9.3 million people (69 percent of South Sudan's population) require humanitarian assistance in 2025. About 7.7 million people are in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 and above,¹ with 2.4 million and 83,000 people facing phase 4 and 5, respectively. Among those facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC phase 5) are 39,000 returnees from the Sudan. The latest IPC analysis indicates worsening trends in areas affected by the ongoing clashes, with 32,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity levels in Upper Nile State, more than three times the previous projection. Under worst-case scenario assumptions, the IPC analysis projects Nasir and Ulang counties in Upper Nile State to be at plausible risk of famine. The number of children at risk of acute malnutrition has risen to 2.3 million from 2.1 million earlier in this year.
3. South Sudan is embroiled in subnational violence across different states. Armed conflict and fighting, mainly concentrated in Upper Nile and Jonglei States, displaced nearly 350,000 people between March and August 2025,² with thousands fleeing to neighbouring countries.
4. The conflict in the Sudan has aggravated a dire humanitarian crisis by driving over 1.2 million people (32 percent refugees and 68 percent returnees) into South Sudan since April 2023.³ The conflict has disrupted oil exports, which constitute 90 percent of South Sudan's revenue,⁴ triggering high inflation.

¹ IPC. 2025. *South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation Projection Update for April – July 2025*.

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2025. *CORE - South Sudan Situation: Displacement Overview*.

³ UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration Sudan Crisis Tracking Dashboard (accessed 31 August 2025).

⁴ World Bank. 2025. *Macro Poverty Outlook*.

5. A challenging funding landscape has compounded the humanitarian crisis. The 2024 South Sudan humanitarian needs and response plan received USD 1.2 billion (71 percent of the requirements). As of 28 October 2025, just 30.4 percent (USD 517 million) of the USD 1.7 billion needed for the 2025 South Sudan humanitarian needs and response plan has been secured, signalling significant funding constraints.
6. This revision extends the country strategic plan (CSP) (2023–2025) for 12 months until 31 December 2026, to maintain alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for South Sudan, which has been similarly extended, ensuring coherence with national development priorities and key political processes.

Changes

Strategic orientation

7. There is no change in the strategic orientation of the CSP.

Country strategic plan outcome 1

8. Under activity 1, WFP will use vulnerability-based targeting for protracted refugees to identify most vulnerable households in need of food assistance, while exploring its potential application for internally displaced persons. In 2026, WFP will assist 2.8 million people, a 9 percent increase from 2025 due to anticipated new arrivals (refugees and returnees). Beneficiaries will receive 50 percent of the ration entitlements except for populations projected to be at high risk of famine (locations with pockets of population in catastrophe/IPC phase 5 that will receive 70 percent ration).
9. WFP is preparing a drought anticipatory action plan for two counties in Eastern Equatoria. The plan will consolidate key information required to deliver timely action ahead of predicted drought events. This budget revision will integrate the provision of assistance to affected communities in case of an activation of the drought anticipatory action plan.
10. Under activity 1, WFP will align transfer modalities and duration of assistance for blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) with general food assistance across priority 1 and 2 counties⁵ and target pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG), and children aged 6–23 months previously covered under the lean season response under activity 2 in priority 1 and 2 counties.⁶ This adjustment increases the number of people targeted under BSF from 35,000 people in 2025 to 204,000 people in 2026. The targeted supplementary feeding programme will provide specialized nutritious food to 40,000 children and PBWG to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Under the institutional feeding programme, WFP will support 850 nutritionally vulnerable individuals receiving treatment in health facilities. These changes will bring the number of beneficiaries targeted under output 2 to 244,505 in 2026.
11. In certain locations, there will be a shift from in-kind to cash-based transfers (CBTs) for the BSF as a top-up to the general food assistance for households with children aged 6–23 months and PBWG. The analysis supporting this modality change primarily focused on determining a transfer value that supports a nutrient-dense diet aimed at preventing wasting. In 2026, WFP

⁵ Thirty-eight counties are currently categorized into priority 1, 2 or 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. Four counties are categorized as priority 1, 11 counties as priority 2, and 23 counties as priority 3.

⁶ In 2025, BSF programme beneficiaries in priority 2 and 3 counties were targeted under activity 2. In 2026, these beneficiaries will be targeted under activity 1.

will carry out additional assessments to inform further adjustments to the transfer value based on seasonal availability and market price variations.

Country strategic plan outcome 2

12. For activity 2, this revision reduces the number of people targeted for blanket supplementary feeding from 332,000 in 2025 to 253,000 in 2026 mainly due to the reallocation of beneficiaries from activity 2 to activity 1. For MAM supplementation, WFP will rationalize nutrition sites in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund to optimize operational presence and reduce the targeted population by 24 percent from approximately 1.3 million in 2025 to 1 million in 2026 to align with available funding. MAM supplementation coverage will also reduce from 60 counties in 2025 to 46 counties in 2026. Under the institutional feeding programme, WFP will support 1,000 nutritionally vulnerable individuals receiving treatment in health facilities under activity 2. These changes will bring the number of beneficiaries targeted under output 5 to 1,273,767 in 2026.
13. Under activity 3, the school feeding programme will prioritize counties with high levels of food insecurity and illiteracy. WFP will pursue community ownership and partnerships with local NGOs in programme delivery to enhance cost-efficiency, while also exploring working with the Government in some pilot schools as a direct implementer. This revision reduces target beneficiaries of the school meals programme by 16 percent for 2026, aligned with a reduced resourcing outlook.

Country strategic plan outcome 3

14. Under activity 4, WFP will prioritize geographical consolidation over coverage to maximize the impact of integrated resilience investments, thereby reducing the targeted population by 17 percent, from 663,000 to 565,000 people in 2026. This approach will build a solid foundation for socio-economic empowerment and reduce reliance on humanitarian support in shock-affected communities.
15. WFP will transition beneficiaries under activity 5 from asset creation and livelihood interventions to smallholder agricultural market support to improve their market engagement and income generation, ultimately preparing them to exit WFP's assistance. This approach will increase the targeted smallholder farmers participants from 50,000 to 65,000 people in 2026.
16. No changes are envisaged for activity 6; however, budget-related costs will be adjusted for the extension period.

Country strategic plan outcome 4

17. No changes are envisaged for activity 7; however, budget-related costs will be adjusted for the extension period.

Country strategic plan outcome 5

18. Under activity 8, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service will adopt strategic, efficiency-driven measures to optimize impact, including adjusting flight frequencies and fleet size in line with actual demand and partner priorities.
19. Logistics cluster services under activity 9 will prioritize road and river transport and limit air operations to only critical and time-sensitive cargo to align with available funding.
20. The on-demand services, activity 10, budget will be augmented by USD 1.8 million for the management of guesthouse services in line with the business and accounting guidance for applying the on-demand model to accommodation service.

Transfer modalities

21. This budget revision reduces the 2026 CBT and food requirements from USD 94 million in 2025 to USD 90 million in 2026 and from 245,000 mt in 2025 to 165,000 mt in 2026. WFP will maintain the flexibility to switch between transfer modalities as required.
22. Under activity 1, targeted populations in priority 1 and 2 counties will receive either in-kind or CBTs as most appropriate. WFP will also aim to transition from in-kind transfers to commodity vouchers focusing on areas served by costly air operations. Internally displaced persons in Bentiu and Malakal will receive CBTs.
23. A proportion of the BSF beneficiaries reallocated from activity 2 to activity 1 will receive CBTs to align the BSF and general food assistance transfer modalities. This shift is informed by a pilot project conducted in March 2024 in five refugee settlements that demonstrated the feasibility of a cash top-up for malnutrition prevention. Lessons learned will be applied together with the newly estimated transfer value to transition to cash top-ups as a replacement for in-kind transfers in select locations.
24. Under activities 1 and 3, WFP will shift towards a home-grown school feeding approach, prioritizing the purchase of locally sourced foods using CBTs to schools.
25. Under activity 4, WFP will optimize resource allocation for capacity support to households and communities. CBTs will be the main transfer modality, with in-kind assistance used only as a last resort, when either the donation is in-kind or when conditions are unable to facilitate provision of CBTs. In the Greater Upper Nile region, the monthly transfer value will remain at USD 51 per household for three months, down from six months.⁷ In other regions, WFP will maintain a three-month assistance period with a reduced transfer value of USD 27 per household per month. Forty percent of households participating in asset creation and livelihood interventions will receive USD 3 per person for half a day's work.

Country office capacity

26. The country office is undertaking a staffing review to align its workforce with the 2026 operational adjustments, which have been incorporated in the revised budget.

Supply chain

27. WFP will prioritize food deliveries in hard-to-reach areas and support CBT roll-out in areas with functioning markets. WFP will continue to support the Sudan operation through various corridors in South Sudan.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

28. Food security and nutrition assessments will continue to be conducted to inform targeting for relief assistance.
29. WFP plans to explore the use of remote surveys to monitor the food security situation of the most vulnerable populations at higher frequency as well as to strengthen vulnerability analysis of displaced populations, improving the evidence base for operational agility.

⁷ USD 51 per household is based on a national average cost of the asset creation and livelihood support activities food basket. This will be determined by market monitoring.

Protection and accountability to affected people

30. WFP will continue to mainstream protection and accountability to affected people across the portfolio, aligned with corporate standards. Building on existing measures, protection context analysis, quarterly protection risk mapping, and mitigation measures (including reviewing the location of final distribution points to guarantee safety and security to beneficiaries and sensitization of beneficiaries on referral channels/how to report in case of abuse) will be continued throughout the year. Furthermore, WFP will prioritize evidence generation and leverage on protection specialized partnerships to achieve protection complementarity and ensure safe and dignified access to WFP's assistance.
31. WFP will uphold its assurance measures throughout the programme cycle, from needs assessment to post-distribution monitoring. This will include consultations and actively listening to affected people, ensuring assistance reaches those it is intended (i.e. verifiable registration mechanism, control measures like personalization of cards for redemption, timely reconciliation and monitoring) and verifying the recipients during assistance collection.

Risk management

32. WFP is enhancing operational safeguards to ensure secure, unimpeded aid delivery amid evolving challenges, guaranteeing assistance reaches intended beneficiaries while enhancing accountability to protect beneficiaries from exploitation.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND OUTPUT								
CSP outcome	Activity	Output	Period	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
1	1	1	Current	4 180 000	2 331 683	2 323 239	0	4 585 998
			Increase/(decrease)	0	0	0	2 405 488	2 405 488
			Revised	4 180 000	2 331 683	2 323 239	2 405 488	4 585 998
		2	Current	73 540	59 028	58 566	0	80 533
			Increase/(decrease)	0	0	0	244 505	244 505
			Revised	73 540	59 028	58 566	244 505	251 117
		4	Current	199 318	235 556	214 319	0	370 257
			Increase/(decrease)	0	0	0	184 500	184 500
			Revised	199 318	235 556	214 319	184 500	429 957
2	2	5	Current	1 473 053	1 736 543	1 678 690	0	1 981 284
			Increase/(decrease)	0	0	0	1 273 767	1 273 767
			Revised	1 473 053	1 736 543	1 678 690	1 273 767	1 999 505

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND OUTPUT								
CSP outcome	Activity	Output	Period	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
	3	8	Current	399 882	240 577	232 564	0	507 916
			Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	195 500	195 500
			Revised	399 882	240 577	232 564	195 500	574 624
		10	Current	137 550	26 638	25 750	0	137 550
			Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	20 000	20 000
			Revised	137 550	26 638	25 750	20 000	137 550
3	4	Current	1 173 625	685 960	663 090	0	1 179 486	
		Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	565 000	565 000	
		Revised	1 173 625	685 960	663 090	565 000	1 311 093	
	5	Current	40 000	50 000	50 000	0	50 000	
		Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	65 000	65 000	
		Revised	40 000	50 000	50 000	65 000	65 000	
Total (without overlap)			Current	6 672 718	4 496 218	4 407 278	0	7 684 979
			Increase/ (decrease)	0	0	0	241 413	241 413
			Revised	6 672 718	4 496 218	4 407 278	4 106 004	7 926 392

Notes:

Output 3 beneficiaries are not reflected in the table because they are the same beneficiaries receiving assistance under output 1.
Output 6 beneficiaries are not included in the table as these are mainly capacity strengthening beneficiaries – receiving social and behaviour change communication.
Output 7 are tier 3 beneficiaries that are not included in the table.

Cost breakdown

TABLE 2: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	WFP strategic outcome 1	WFP strategic outcome 2	WFP strategic outcome 3	WFP strategic outcome 4	WFP strategic outcome 5	Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	345 477 356	85 211 913	45 249 967	734 884	61 596 559	538 270 678
Implementation	41 951 839	11 833 100	7 972 654	76 608	311 890	62 146 091
Adjusted direct support costs						34 535 221
Subtotal						634 951 990
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						40 733 664
Total						675 685 654

TABLE 3: OVERALL COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN COST BREAKDOWN FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)

	WFP strategic outcome 1	WFP strategic outcome 2	WFP strategic outcome 3	WFP strategic outcome 4	WFP strategic outcome 5	Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	1 822 632 089	581 931 035	341 399 899	3 556 142	295 465 805	3 044 984 969
Implementation	211 556 348	78 523 968	70 805 642	1 424 065	1 454 362	363 764 386
Adjusted direct support costs	102 184 531	32 257 482	20 161 909	254 163	15 167 719	170 025 804
Subtotal	2 136 372 968	692 712 485	432 367 450	5 234 370	312 087 887	3 578 775 159
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	138 864 243	45 026 312	28 103 884	340 234	17 494 695	229 829 368
Total	2 275 237 211	737 738 796	460 471 334	5 574 604	329 582 582	3 808 604 527

Acronyms

BSF	blanket supplementary feeding
CBT	cash-based transfer
CSP	country strategic plan
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
MAM	moderate acute malnutrition
PBWG	pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls