



SOUTH SUDAN

COUNTRY BRIEF January 2026

[South Sudan | World Food Programme](#)

- In January, WFP assisted more than 571,000 people, delivering 3,173 mt of food and USD 4.2 million in cash transfers.
- By 31 January, WFP assisted 292,117 people 77 percent of target through the Famine Prevention Response in seven counties (Nasir, Ulang, Fangak, Canal Pigi, Longechuk, Panyikang, and Panyijar).
- WFP faces a USD 341 million funding shortfall in 2026. Critical needs include additional air capacity for food delivery, nutrition requirements of crisis-affected people and other logistical support services.

IN NUMBERS



571,705 people assisted in January 2026



40%
Male



60%
Female



3,173 mt food distributed



USD 4.4 M cash transferred



USD 335 M (Jan–Dec 2026 net funding requirements)

Photo Caption & Credit: General food distribution in Bentiu. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- South Sudan is experiencing a deepening humanitarian crisis, driven by escalating conflict, armed conflict, recurring climate shocks, economic volatility, and the impacts of the war in Sudan. These pressures are eroding livelihoods, weakening essential services, and straining social cohesion across the country.
- About **10 million** people, or two-thirds of the population, require humanitarian assistance in 2026. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis released in November 2025 shows 5.86 million people are facing high acute food insecurity levels, at IPC Phase 3 (crisis) and above between December 2025 and March 2026, with 1.4 million experiencing IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 28,000 facing IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe). The situation may worsen, with 7.55 million people projected to be in IPC Phase 3 and above during the April–July 2026 lean season. About 3.2 million women and children remain acutely malnourished.
- The displacement crisis remains severe, driven by conflict and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee internally. Clashes between government and opposition forces in Jonglei State since late December 2025 have **displaced** 280,000 people across Uror, Nyirol, Akobo, Duk, Ayod, Canal/Pigi, Twic East and Bor South counties, with some moving into Aweril (Lakes) and Ulang (Upper Nile). Overall, South Sudan **hosted** 2 million IDPs as of 31 January

- The Sudan conflict has pushed [1.3 million](#) people into South Sudan, worsening an already dire humanitarian situation. As of 31 January, South Sudan hosted over [600,000](#) refugees, 95 percent of them Sudanese, while continued [arrivals](#) strain markets and essential services in border counties including Renk and Maban.
- Food basket costs remained broadly stable in January, averaging SSP 110,589 per person/month in the first week of February versus SSP 112,025 in the first week of January. However, some markets saw sharp shifts; Malakal recorded a more than 50 percent increase due to insecurity and cereal scarcity linked to supply disruptions.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

WFP Response

General Food Assistance

- WFP implemented five active responses in January. These included the 2025 Famine Prevention Response, the 2026 Integrated Emergency Response Plan (IERP) to Avert Extreme Food and Nutrition Crisis, the Sudan Crisis Response and assistance to refugees and the assistance to IDPs programme.
- In January, WFP distributed 2,431 mt of food and USD 4.4 million in CBT to 406,882 people reaching 60 percent of the monthly target. Access constraints limited coverage: insecurity and conflict across parts of Jonglei forced the suspension of distributions in multiple locations, while the looting of WFP-contracted riverboats in Baliet disrupted movements and deliveries to Nasir and Ulang in Upper Nile.
- As of 31 January, WFP had distributed food to 77 percent of the people targeted under the 2025 famine prevention response and 24 percent of the people targeted under the IERP. Insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile state hampered distributions to the affected people across various locations.

Sudan conflict response

- Humanitarian partners registered [14,000](#) new arrivals from Sudan in January, a 33 percent decrease from December, bringing the total number of new arrivals from April 2023 to 1.3 million. As of 31 January, WFP had assisted 1.19

million new arrivals with 27,443 mt of food and USD 40.3 million in cash-based transfers under the Sudan crisis since April 2023.

Jonglei crisis response

- Inter-Agency Rapid Needs Assessments conducted in January in Jonglei State revealed that critical needs in conflict-hit areas include food, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, non-food items, and protection services.
- As of 1 February, WFP had developed a conflict response Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to assist 500,895 people for three months from February through general food and nutrition support, targeting IDPs and IPC Phase 4 residents in conflict affected areas of Uror, Nyirol, Akobo, Ayod and Duk, plus IDPs in secondary movement areas including Twic East, Ulang and Canal/Pigi.

Human capital development

- WFP and nutrition partners admitted 44,616 new cases under the supplementary feeding programme. This included 30,604 children aged 6 – 59 months and 14,012 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) under the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) supplementation. The programme remains critical in addressing acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups.
- WFP plans to expand cash-based transfers to 187 schools in 2026. Foundational work undertaken in January included partner onboarding, community sensitization, market functionality assessments and system preparedness reviews to ensure a smooth and timely rollout. WFP conducted a Training of Trainers for 46 School Feeding focal points to equip them with the technical skills required for effective CBT implementation. The training covered critical areas such as CBT operational workflows, beneficiary management, monitoring and reporting requirements, safeguards, and accountability mechanisms. These trainers will support consistent, high-quality implementation as the modality scales across targeted schools.

Food Systems and Resilience

- WFP is renovating the SSNBS premises to establish a fully functional national commodities testing centre, funded through a BMZ/KfW grant

under the Joint Resilience Project. FAO will further equip the facility with modern laboratory instruments. This investment will enhance South Sudan's capacity to test, certify and regulate food commodities, reducing dependence on external laboratories and improving the safety of both locally produced and imported foods. The upgraded centre will also facilitate smoother cross-border trade and contribute to a safer, more resilient food system for all consumers in South Sudan.

Infrastructure Development

- WFP continued to construct and rehabilitate roads and dykes across various regions to enhance accessibility, resilience, and service delivery to support humanitarian operations. WFP rehabilitated 250 km of the Bor–Pibor road, 150 km of the Bor–Ayod road, 12 km feeder road from Marol Bol–Akoc in Western Gogrial, reaching 65 percent completion. WFP completed the rehabilitation of 20 km of the Poktap–Motot road.
- The rehabilitation of the 20 km Jonglei dike construction reached 60 percent completion in January, enhancing the protection of lives and livelihoods of communities living near the dike. WFP also continued to upgrade Malakal Port, which stood at 30 percent completion at the end of January. Once complete, the port will be able to handle large barges.

Logistics

- WFP plans to deliver 63,200 mt of food across South Sudan in 2026. As of 31 January, WFP had dispatched 5,328 mt to various locations for distribution.
- Insecurities in Jonglei and taxation on river transport to and from Upper Nile affected food dispatches to Bor and Malakal, respectively.
- The 2026 prepositioning and just-in-time deliveries are ongoing with 48,354 mt dispatched to various logistics hubs

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster airlifted 126 mt of nutrition, protection, shelter, and water sanitation and hygiene supplies to nine hard-to-reach locations across Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei and Western Equatoria states. The supplies supported

multisectoral responses, including the Greater Upper Nile response, the Western Equatoria (Tambura) response, the cholera crisis response, the Sudan crisis response, and flood-related response, on behalf of 11 partner organizations.

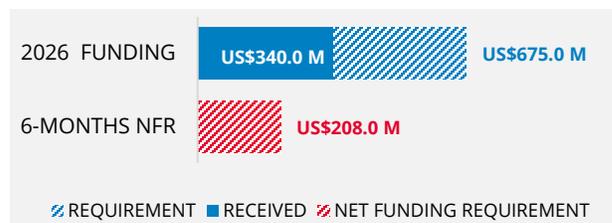
The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS transported 2,606 passengers to various project locations on behalf of 137 organisations. Although passenger numbers were lower than the same period last year, the numbers started rising in the third week of January. UNHAS delivered 36 mt of light cargo, including the cholera response supplies to Duk County to support the ongoing Jonglei crisis response. UNHAS conducted a security evacuation for 26 humanitarian personnel from Jonglei on behalf of 12 humanitarian organizations.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2026)

[South Sudan Country Strategic Plan \(2023-2025\) | WFPgo](#)



Donors:

Canada, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE, UK, USA.