



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP South Sudan

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



1.16 million people assisted



6,200 mt food distributed



USD 9.5 million cash transferred in April



USD 192.6 million required in the next six months (May – October 2026)



2 million IDPs in South Sudan



619,000 refugees in South Sudan

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, WFP reached 1.16 million people across all programme activities, 82 percent of its monthly target, with 6,200 mt of food and USD 9.5 million in cash. This brings the total number of people assisted since January to 2 million.
- By April 30, WFP's Jonglei crisis response reached 348,000 people, representing 74 percent of the target population, delivering 6,000 mt of food since operations began.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Armed conflict, climatic shocks and economic instability continue to drive a severe humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.
- The displacement crisis remains severe. Violence in Jonglei State has displaced over [304,000](#) people. Of these, 242,000 remained within Jonglei, while 29,000 fled to Lakes State, 27,000 to Upper Nile State and 6,000 to Central Equatoria State. In addition, [100,000](#) people crossed into Ethiopia.
- According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, 7.8 million people are expected to face IPC phase 3 or worse acute food insecurity between April and July 2026. Of these, 2.5 million face IPC Phase 4 acute food insecurity. About 73,000 are in IPC Phase 5. The IPC analysis identified a risk of famine in Nasir, Ulang, Nyirol and Akobo counties, under plausible worst-case conditions. About 3.4 million children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women require nutrition treatment.
- Fuel price spikes since early March have triggered an 8 percent increase in the average cost of a local food basket. Driven by higher border taxes, currency depreciation and the Middle East crisis, the basket price rose from SSP 104,623 to SSP 113,393 by April. This surge severely weakens household purchasing power and threatens food security as the country enters the peak of the lean season.

Reporting Period: April 2026

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

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

- WFP reached over 763,000 crisis-affected people through its active emergency response programmes, achieving 73 percent of its target. This deployment includes the Integrated Emergency Response Plan, the Sudan and Jonglei crisis responses, and camp-based operations for IDPs and refugees.
- Under the Jonglei crisis response, WFP reached 348,000 people with 6,000 mt of food, achieving 74 percent of the target population.
- WFP launched its 2026 lean season response across 26 counties, assisting 20 counties through regular resources and six via US Government OCHA-managed funds.
- By 30 April, WFP had completed advanced lean season response distributions in Aweil East, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, and additional advanced distributions continued in Panyijar, Unity State, and the Abyei Administrative Area.
- By April 30, WFP completed advanced lean season distributions in Aweil East (Northern Bahr El Ghazal State). Meanwhile, advanced distributions remained ongoing in Panyijar (Unity State) and the Abyei Administrative Area.

Nutrition

- WFP conducted a Conditional On-demand Assistance (CODA)¹ mission in Aweil between 28 and 30 April to advance nutrition data digitalization and prepare for scale up. The mission prioritized government ownership, alignment with District Health Information Software 2,² resolution of data-management challenges and partner coordination on resource mobilisation. To reduce health-worker workload, the Ministry of Health proposed that WFP transition to paperless operations across 10 sites per state in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes. This initiative will assess readiness for exclusive CODA reporting before decommissioning paper registers. Ahead of the rollout, JASW refresher training and CODA Training of Trainers will

conclude by 30 June.

- Procurement of 951 mt of Super Cereal Plus and Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement – Large Quantity is underway using US Government OCHA-managed funds. In targeted locations, nutrition screening and admissions continue, utilizing specialized nutritious foods from alternate awards.
- WFP purchased food worth USD 1.5 million from local retailers and business-to-business suppliers for the school meals programme, supporting local agricultural value chains while providing nutritious meals to 280,000 children in 551 schools. This brings total local school feeding procurement from January to USD 2.7 million.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- On 28 April, WFP supported the launch of a five-year Green Climate Fund project (2025–2030) to strengthen climate resilience among flood-affected communities in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap States. Focusing on high-risk populations, the initiative will improve food security, enhance water access, and promote ecosystem restoration.
- On 22 April, WFP and the European Union handed over the 26-km Marial-Chelkou and Anyuopjong feeder roads and a rural aggregation centre in Aweil West, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. Supported by the EU Trust Fund, the handover ceremony was led by a high-level EU Delegation and senior state authorities who commended the project as a critical investment in food security and community resilience. These feeder roads will improve connectivity, facilitate market integration and enhance the movement of goods and services across the state. This milestone brings the total EU-supported WFP feeder road construction in Northern Bahr El Ghazal to 68 km.

Logistics

- By 30 April, WFP South Sudan received 62,048 mt of food commodities - 84 percent of the 73,000 mt planned for 2026. Despite insecurity in Jonglei and Upper Nile states disrupting deliveries to Bor and Malakal, WFP successfully handed over 83

¹ CODA is a digital solution designed to support the delivery of nutrition and health programmes by digitizing contextualized protocols.

² This is a digital health information management platform used by governments and partners to collect, manage, analyse and report health data across the health system.

percent of its January-April requirements to cooperating partners.

- WFP continued food deliveries across Northern Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states to complete all road dispatches before the rainy season intensifies, minimizing reliance on costly air transport.
- The Middle East crisis triggered a spike in fuel prices, increasing WFP transport costs by 28 percent and adding significant financial strain to humanitarian operations.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS transported 3,600 passengers and 47 mt of light cargo across various locations for 153 organizations. Additionally, the service conducted medical evacuations for four passengers from Aweil, Ajuongthok, and Ganyiel.
- Driven by rising operational needs, steady passenger demand and frequent charter requests, UNHAS reinstated one DHC-8 aircraft to its fleet. This addition will enhance support for the Jonglei crisis response and facilitate passenger transport from Juba to main hubs.
- While UNHAS holds sufficient fuel stocks to sustain operations through June, rising fuel prices may increase second-quarter fuel costs by 53 percent, from USD 1.2 million to USD 1.9 million based on projected consumption. Estimates will be continuously reassessed to reflect prevailing market conditions.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the delivery of 463 mt of humanitarian supplies via air, river and road transport to 15 locations across Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile states. This included airlifting 91 mt to Nyirol County for the Jonglei response.
- The Cluster coordinated four road convoys of 22 trucks, delivering 766 mt of multisectoral relief items to the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Bentiu, Jamjang, Kuajok, and Leer, significantly bolstering prepositioning efforts.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- To support the scale-up of mobile money in Cueibet, Aweiland Kapoeta North, WFP conducted

a targeted protection analysis and consulted 374 people to identify context-specific risks and mitigation measures. To inform community members, WFP and cooperating partners disseminated information on mobile money, gender, protection, and Accountability to Affected Populations via local radio. This effort strengthens the evidence base for the expansion while translating protection findings into practical programming safeguards.

From Conflict to Crisis: Displaced Families in Jonglei Depend on Aid to Survive

Nyakuma Nyal fled her village in Nyirol County—an area at heightened risk of famine—when conflict erupted. Heavily pregnant, she gave birth while running toward safety in Chuil.

The twins were born prematurely, likely due to the stress of the journey. Medical staff warn that without adequate maternal nutrition, the infants face a recurring cycle of infections, chronic illness, and worsening health.

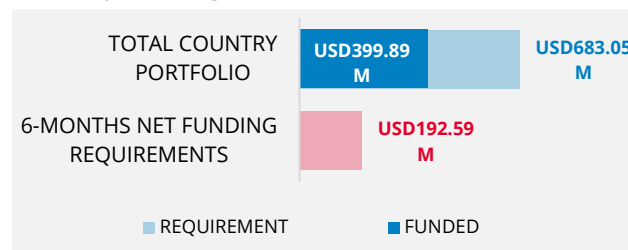
“I gave birth on the way. I delivered the babies and had to keep moving. There was nothing to cover them. Our clothes were burned; we only have the clothes we were wearing that day.”

Conflict-affected communities are increasingly reliant on humanitarian aid. Many remain isolated from markets, while skyrocketing prices push even food-accessible areas to the brink of severe food insecurity.

Thanks to donor support, WFP’s Jonglei crisis response has assisted 348,000 people. This total includes 32,000 children and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers who received specialized nutritious foods to treat and prevent acute malnutrition.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023 -2026)



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

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