COUNTRY STRATEGY:

WFP aims to reduce hunger and malnutrition and enhance communities’ resilience to shocks across Sudan. To address protracted and emerging humanitarian needs and short-term hunger, WFP will reinforce its emergency response capacities while staying focused on the longer-term vision to incrementally reduce food aid dependency of the vulnerable communities. WFP strives to achieve its goals by aligning with the national priorities identified by the Republic of Sudan, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, key donor funded policy frameworks, and WFP corporate Strategic Plan (2014-2017).

From 2015-2017, WFP Sudan will be guided by the following strategic priorities: (1) save lives in emergencies and protracted crises, (2) support transition towards recovery through safety net activities, (3) build resilience of local communities to withstand shocks and seasonal vulnerability, and (4) address underlying causes of food insecurity and under nutrition. WFP has been present in Sudan since 1963.

OPERATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total received (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Funded (%)</th>
<th>6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*</th>
<th>Top 5 Donors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMOP 200597, Food Assistance to Vulnerable Populations Affected by Conflict and Natural Disasters</td>
<td>Jan 14-Dec 14</td>
<td>4,167,000</td>
<td>626,765,286</td>
<td>368,609,376</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>48,553,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Operation 200514, Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Sudan</td>
<td>Jan 14-Dec 14</td>
<td>64,700,936</td>
<td>55,052,859</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>USAID, Japan, ECHO, UN CHF, DFID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of WFP assistance: Sudan remains one of WFP’s most complex humanitarian emergencies, characterized by recurrent conflicts, new and protracted displacements, regional insecurity, crisis levels of malnutrition and food insecurity, chronic poverty and a deteriorating economic climate leaving millions of people requiring humanitarian assistance. From January to December 2014, WFP planned to assist 4.1 million people through Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200597. WFP provided life-saving humanitarian assistance to internally displaced and vulnerable households in Darfur through: general food distribution (GFD); supplementary rations during the hunger period for children 6-59 months to prevent seasonal increases in acute malnutrition; and school feeding to address short-term hunger and stabilize enrolment. In central and eastern Sudan, WFP provided emergency support in the most food-insecure regions, including areas regularly affected by drought or floods, as well as to refugees in established camps, through GFD, targeted supplementary feeding, school feeding and food assistance for assets and food-for-training activities. In South Kordofan and the Blue Nile states, WFP provided humanitarian support through GFD and targeted supplementary feeding. WFP assistance also address gender inequality and promotes women empowerment through food-for-training activities and continues its efforts to protect women against gender-based violence through its Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy (SAFE) project.

Over the course of 2015, WFP Sudan plans to expand cash and voucher transfers in both Darfur and central/eastern Sudan where markets are capable of supporting them and introduce the use of smart card-based electronic vouchers with the aim of replacing paper vouchers. The EMOP will be succeeded by a multi-year protracted relief and recovery operation, effective from July 2015.

The EMOP is in line with WFP Strategic Objectives 1 and 2, and is consistent with the Millennium Development Goals 1-5 and the Zero Hunger Challenge. WFP’s response strategy is framed within the Government’s Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, reflected in the Darfur Recovery and Reconstruction Strategy, and the Sudan Strategic Response Plan. The WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) provides air transport to more than 100 humanitarian organizations to 42 destinations in Sudan through a separate special operation. WFP operates in 10 of 18 states and has 17 offices: a country office in Khartoum, with area offices in Darfur (El Fasher, Geneina and Nyala), and sub-offices in Port Sudan, Kassala, Kosti, Ed Damazin, El Obeid, Kadugli, Al Daein, Gerida, Mukjar, Zalingei, Habila, Kabbabiya and Kutum.

www.wfp.org/countries/sudan
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- In October 2014, WFP distributed food rations for one month to over 15,000 food insecure people in need in Northern Abyei, an area inaccessible to the Country Office since 2011, following a food security assessment conducted in July 2014.
- From November – December, WFP Sudan successfully delivered 1,853 mt of mixed commodities to food insecure locations in South Sudan. On 30 December, the Republic of Sudan granted a six-month extension of the cross-border delivery memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on 08 July 2014 allowing WFP to deliver food commodities from Sudan into South Sudan.
- In December, WFP signed a strategic MoU with World Vision International to build on each agency’s comparative advantage where both partners will contribute human and financial resources to conduct joint programming.
- WFP received a certificate of recognition from the Government of Sudan in December for its role in improving the food security situation in Central Darfur.
- In December, WFP entered its first partnership with Rocinantes, a Japanese international NGO, to improve access to quality care and treatment of acute malnutrition of children and pregnant and lactating women in North Kordofan.

**ISSUES/CHALLENGES**

- On 12 November, two WFP trucks were hijacked by armed men in West Darfur; in cooperation with government authorities and African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, WFP was able to safely recover its assets and drivers.
- In November, WFP resumed GFD to internally displaced persons in Bindisi, Central Darfur following a six month delay due to flooding and security challenges.
- In December, clashes in Blue Nile and South Kordofan due to resumption of Sudan Armed Forces operations against the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement-North impacted WFP missions in Kadugli, and no field missions have been possible in most of South Kordofan. This situation is likely to continue for the rest of the dry season until April/May.
- An estimated 115,451 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan since the beginning of 2014 according to UNHCR reports. Thus far, WFP has provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to 71,976 individuals in need.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

In 2014, WFP Sudan worked in partnership with 88 international and local organizations as it continued to combat hunger and malnutrition across Sudan and progressively transition towards asset-creation activities and more targeted food assistance programmes. WFP programmes in Sudan are implemented by national actors including NGOs, community-based organizations and governmental organizations. The number of national partners has increased by 20 percent over the course of the year reflecting WFP’s efforts to build and sustain local capacity within the assisted communities.

During the year, WFP developed strategic partnerships with four international NGOs (Catholic Relief Services, German Agro Action, Plan Sudan and most recently World Vision International) and held regular consultations with partners to openly discuss programming strategy, policies and priorities. Through long-standing partnerships based on transparency and complementarities, WFP was able to achieve its desired outcomes and results. In particular, WFP was able to reach vulnerable food insecure populations in hard-to-reach remote areas by leveraging the expansive geographical presence of its partners. In addition, WFP worked toward promoting national ownership while enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency by building the capacity of national actors including government counterparts, national NGOs and community based organizations at the field level.

**COUNTRY BACKGROUND**

Classified as a least-developed and a low-income food-deficit country, Sudan ranks 166th out of 187 countries in the 2013 Human Development Index and has alarming levels of hunger according to the 2013 Global Hunger Index. Sudan scores low in global measures for gender disparity, ranking 129th (out of 187) on the Gender Inequality Index. Sudan has an overall poverty rate of 46.5 percent, where some 14.4 million people are considered poor. Also, Sudan continues to struggle with the macroeconomic after-effects of South Sudan’s secession in 2011, as the country lost 75 percent of oil output and almost 60 percent of its fiscal revenues. According to the International Monetary Fund, the growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2014 stands at 3.6 percent; the agriculture sector contributes to one third of the GDP and employs 80 percent of the work force.

Moreover, Sudan remains a complicated humanitarian operation as the environment continues to be extremely challenging. In 2014, the renewed conflict in Darfur and ongoing fighting in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States resulted in increased displacement and humanitarian needs. In June 2014, the size of the food insecure population peaked to an estimated 4.5 million people, with widespread stressed and crisis levels of food insecurity, concentrated in Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Red Sea, Kassala, North Kordofan and White Nile States. Additional challenges leading to a volatile and fragile environment included the increasingly stagnant economy and rising fuel and food prices; internal fractions within the government ahead of the 2015 Presidential elections; ongoing fighting in neighbouring Central African Republic and the crisis in South Sudan.

Sudan is one of 34 countries contributing to 90 percent of the global burden of under-nutrition. Chronic malnutrition remains a serious public health problem, with 35 percent of children 6-59 months—approximately two million children—stunted. The simple spatial sampling method survey released at the beginning of the year confirmed a high prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition rates reaching 30 percent or double the emergency threshold in Darfur.