



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief

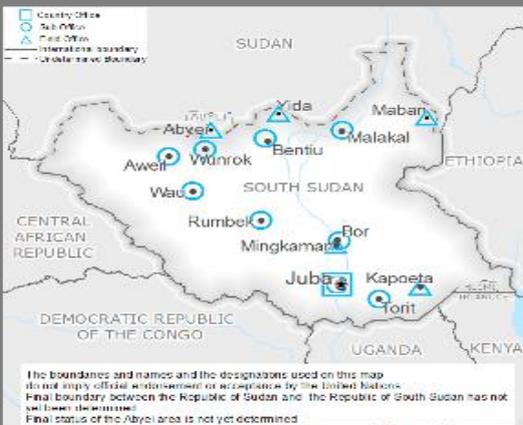
September 2019



Operational Context

In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, ending one of the longest civil wars on record, and it remains the world's youngest nation. In December 2013, a power struggle between President Salva Kiir, and Vice President, Riek Machar, broke into armed conflict. An internationally mediated peace agreement was signed in August 2015, and in April 2016 Machar returned to Juba to form a Transitional Government with Salva Kiir. Renewed fighting erupted in mid-July, resulting in increased violence and insecurity throughout the country. In September 2018, a new cease fire and power sharing agreement was signed, and a Transitional Government of National Unity is expected to be formed November 12, 2019. The agreement offers some hope to the South Sudanese people that peace may return, and livelihoods can be rebuilt. However, the situation remains dire on the ground.

South Sudan has some of the world's worst socio-economic indicators. Despite the nation's vast arable land, oil reserves, untapped water resources and large stocks of cattle and fisheries, wide spread food and nutrition insecurity is driven by general lack of road infrastructure, market integration, or investment in agriculture, compounded by the protracted conflict.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Population: **12 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **188 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

28,577 mt of food and nutrition assistance distributed*

US\$ 5.39 m in cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 421 m six months (October '19 – March '20) net funding requirements

3.28 m people assisted*

*in August 2019



Operational Updates

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report published in September indicates that more than 4.5 million people (39 percent of the population) are likely to be in need food assistance. Acute food insecurity is driven by impact of localized conflicts and climatic shocks, lack of economic opportunities, eroded livelihoods and low coping capacity. Compared to the same period in 2018, there is a slight reduction in the proportion of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity by an estimated 5 percent. Although the food security situation remains very severe, the recent improvement can largely be attributed to the Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS), signed in September 2018. The decrease in armed conflict has encouraged the voluntary return of farmers, increasing access to livelihoods and improving markets. A more stable political environment has also allowed for improved delivery of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable populations.
- The IPC report also points out that levels of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age have increased significantly from 13 percent in 2018 to 16 percent in 2019 – which is above the emergency threshold of 15 percent. It is estimated that 1.3 million children will be affected by acute malnutrition in 2020. The high rates of malnutrition are attributed to several factors including high levels of food insecurity, poor access to health, poor infant and young child feeding practices as well as high morbidity.
- WFP and cooperating partners reached approximately 3.28 million people (86 percent of planned) with a total of approximately 28,577 mt of assorted food commodities (90 percent of planned) and US\$ 5.39 million in cash during the month of August (101 percent of the planned).
- Under the Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM), WFP and cooperating partners assisted some 291,948 beneficiaries in hard-to-reach areas with 5,409 mt of food during the month of August.

Photo: WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

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Further information: <https://www1.wfp.org/countries/south-sudan>

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
2.99 b	1.09 b	421 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure people in crisis-affected areas have access to safe and nutritious food all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations.
- Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People at risk of malnutrition in crisis-affected areas, especially children and pregnant and lactating women, are able to meet their basic nutrition requirements all year round.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide nutrition assistance to populations at risk of malnutrition

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and Income

Strategic Outcome 3: Food-insecure smallholders and communities in non-conflict zones have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to seasonal climate shocks throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support and build the resilience of rural households

Strategic Result 8: Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 4: The humanitarian community in South Sudan has access to reliable common services until satisfactory alternatives are available.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Operate Air Services for the Humanitarian Community
- Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in Support of the Humanitarian Community
- Supply Chain provision
- Inter-Agency IT Communication Service
- SCOPE Service to humanitarian partners
- Provision of IT services to the humanitarian community

- Under the African Development Bank capacity strengthening project, WFP has supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to deliver trainings on “New Agriculture Technology and Farm Management” and “Peacebuilding for Farmers, Pastoralists, Community Based Organizations and Development Officers”. The trainings benefitted Agricultural Extension Officers and Rural Development Officers from Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Western Equatoria states.

- WFP has successfully registered over 1.5 million people in its beneficiary identity and benefit management system-SCOPE. SCOPE helps us enhance the impact of our operations by ensuring the right person receives the intended benefit, at the right time, in the best way.
- Following the scale up of Cash Based Transfer (CBT) market activities in Rumbek, WFP provided training to contracted retailers, staff of the South Sudan Chamber of Commerce, the Project Management Committee (PMC), Cooperating Partners (CPs) and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). The objectives of the training were to develop the capacity of retailers in customer services, pricing, assortment stocking and sourcing; enhance market monitoring to the CP/WFP Field Office; and raise awareness of WFP CBT market activities amongst the PMC, the Chamber of Commerce and RRC. The training is expected to yield greater efficiency and effectiveness and improve the assortment and quality of services to the people we serve.
- WFP is leveraging on its large humanitarian logistics and supply chain footprint in South Sudan to train women and support gender parity in this sector. The first cohort in the WFP Logistics Gender Parity Programme has successfully completed their three months training in Juba. The nine female graduates will now be deployed to different field locations all over South Sudan to further enhance their skills and to support the logistics operation.

Challenges

- Access across the country has generally improved since the signing of the peace agreement, except for small pockets where some resistance from local authorities is encountered. Concerns remain with regards to bureaucratic impediments largely affecting National and International NGOs, as well as continuous crime, banditry, and inter-clan conflicts across the country.
- The potential spread of Ebola remains a challenge in the region. Currently, there are no cases of Ebola in South Sudan. WFP continues as part of the humanitarian community to improve national preparedness and to monitor the situation closely. UNHAS flights dedicated to the task are operational and in use.
- The rainy season continued to be a challenge to WFP’s road operation across the country. WFP prepositioned food early to ensure that beneficiaries continue to be reached. Road access is expected to improve with the end of the season.

Donors (listed alphabetically) *

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

*Excluding multilateral and private donors