



Press Release on February 20th 2017

Expected Food Security situation deteriorating in the Republic of South Sudan

The National Bureau of Statistics in the government the Republic of South Sudan and IPC SS TWG / all Food Security Stakeholders, announces the results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for January 2017.

The IPC is an evidence-based approach, which uses international standards to classify the nature and magnitude of food insecurity in a country or region. The IPC Analysis in January 2017 indicates that the food security situation across the country has deteriorated compared to same time in previous years.

The convergence of evidence shows that the long term effects of the conflict coupled with high food prices, economic crisis, low agricultural production and depleted livelihood options are all contributing to the **deterioration of the food security situation resulting in 4.9 million people (about 42% of population) estimated to be severely food insecure (IPC Phases 3, 4, and 5) from February to April 2017. This is projected to increase to 5.5 million people, (47% of the national population) at the height of the 2017 lean season in July.** The magnitude of these food insecure populations is unprecedented across all periods.

In Greater Unity, some counties are classified in Famine or high likelihood/risk of Famine. The final classification has been arrived at with initial analysis of the South Sudan IPC Team and was confirmed by the Global IPC Emergency Review Committee. **In January 2017, Leer County was classified in Famine, Koch at elevated likelihood that Famine was happening and Mayendit had avoided Famine through delivery of humanitarian assistance. From February to July 2017, Leer and Mayendit are classified in Famine, while Koch is classified as Famine likely to happen.** Panyijiar was in Phase 4 (Emergency) in January and is likely to avoid a Famine if the humanitarian assistance is delivered as planned from February to July 2017. With consistent, adequate, and timely humanitarian interventions, the Famine classification could be reversed with many lives saved.

Acute malnutrition remains a major public health emergency in South Sudan. Out of 23 counties with recent data, 14 have Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) at or above 15%, whilst GAM above 30% is observed in Greater Unity in Leer, and Panyijiar while in Mayendit the GAM was at 27.3%. Similarly, a worsening nutrition situation atypical to the post-harvest season is observed in the Greater Equatoria region – particularly in Greater Central Equatoria – a deterioration associated with widespread insecurity, lack of access, disruption of the 2016 agricultural season and the economic crisis. Areas in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal show higher than usual levels of acute malnutrition expected for the post-harvest season, indicating a worsening situation. Insecurity, displacement and poor access to services, extremely poor diet (in terms of both quality and quantity), low coverage of sanitation facilities and deplorable hygiene practices are underlying the high levels of acute malnutrition.



Therefore, the National Bureau of Statistic (NBS) as the government host institution acknowledges the concerns of the IPC projection for 2017, and urges all actors to scale up their efforts in the coming months in order to prevent further deterioration of food insecurity and malnutrition in the Country.

Signed:
Isaiah Chol Aruai
Chairman of National Bureau of Statistics

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isaiah Chol Aruai', is written over the printed name.

