

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #314

30 June 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In June, WFP distributed **23,311 mt** of food and **USD 5.01 million** in cash-based transfers (CBT) to **2.6 million** people, representing **74 percent** of the people targeted in June*.
- WFP requires **446,000 mt** of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced **221,099 mt** of this food by 30 June, representing nearly 50 percent of needs-based requirements.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 356 million** between July and December 2023 and had to reduce the total number of people targeted in 2023 from 7.7 million to 5.4 million, and continued to deprioritize IPC 3 counties, in a move likely to exacerbate food insecurity in the deprioritized counties.

IN THE NUMBERS

56%  44% 



WFP plans to assist **5.4 million** people in 2023. In June, WFP assisted **2.6 million** people with food and cash-based transfers.



7.7 million facing severe food insecurity across 78 counties (IPC).

43,000 in IPC 5, **2.9 million** in IPC 4, **4.8 million** in IPC 3.



2 million women and children acutely malnourished



2.2 million internally displaced people



2.3 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries



USD 356 million WFP six month net funding requirement between July and December 2023.

SITUATION UPDATE

- The humanitarian situation in South Sudan remained dire, exacerbated by the crisis in Sudan. Insecurity, subnational violence, and the emerging regional and national macroeconomic challenges, compounded by the global economic downturn and the effects of climate change, have had an adverse impact on the food security of South Sudanese families.
- Humanitarian partners in South Sudan estimate that more than 9.4 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2023, representing 76 percent of South Sudan's population. [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) analysis projected that 7.7 million would face severe acute food insecurity – at the Crisis level (IPC 3) or higher during the April-July 2023 lean season. Of the 7.7 million, 2.9 million people were projected to face Emergency (IPC 4) acute food insecurity, and 43,000 projected to face Catastrophe (IPC 5) acute food insecurity in Jonglei and Unity States. The remaining 4.8 million people were projected to face Crisis (IPC 3) conditions. Further, 1.4 million children will be acutely malnourished, surpassing levels seen during the 2013 and 2016 conflict, and putting them at much higher risk of medical problems and death if left untreated.
- According to the 2023 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) for South Sudan, 148,000 returnees from abroad (prior to the Sudan crisis) remained displaced within South Sudan, unable to reach their homes and engage in livelihood activities. A total of **2.3 million** people were internally displaced in South Sudan, with limited livelihood opportunities. In addition, South Sudan hosted more than **300,000** refugees, mostly from Sudan with the rest from neighbouring countries, including Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, and Burundi.
- Due to the conflict in Sudan, more than **142,000 people** (91 percent South Sudanese returnees) had crossed into South Sudan as of 30 June. Rapid assessments indicated that returnees were increasingly vulnerable, with no access to cash or productive assets upon arrival. Thus far, most were from urban and peri-urban environments, with limited adapting capacity to income opportunities in South Sudan (especially in rural areas) and could not engage in the 2023 cultivation cycle due to when they arrived.
- The Sudan conflict continued to disrupt the flow of food commodities along the border, with the food basket cost remaining relatively high across monitored markets. Since the beginning of the crisis, food basket costs increased by 16 - 81 percent in areas bordering Sudan.
- Despite efforts applied by the Bank of South Sudan to control money supply and liquidity and narrow the band between the SSP and dollar exchange rate, SSP depreciated significantly reaching its lowest level (SSP 1,100 per USD). Economic instability, seasonal factors, high transport costs from Juba to markets that used to depend on supply from Sudan, and insecurity all negatively affected the availability of commodities and resulted in increased prices.

* Insecurity and poor road conditions affected deliveries.

WFP RESPONSE

Sudan conflict response

- The latest influx from Sudan had compounded a dire situation as the surging numbers of newly arrived returnees and refugees strain limited resources with imminent food assistance gaps if no new resources are received, as new refugees join old refugees in existing camps and returnees return to communities already grappling with the effects of insecurity, climate change, food insecurity, limited services, and infrastructure.
- Given that over 73 percent of new arrivals arrived in South Sudan through Renk, the Humanitarian Country Team deployed an inter-agency technical team to Renk to assess the evolving situation, revisit planning assumptions, and develop an action plan to address challenges of the ongoing response that would inform the revision of the response plan for returnees. The team recommended improving service provision, assistance to returnees in and around Renk, enhancing multi-sector service provision, providing life-saving services at Paloich, strengthening coordination with authorities, and developing a joint communication strategy.
- Humanitarian partners continued to provide new arrivals with water, communal shelters, health services, WASH services, core relief items, and protection services. Further, partners continued to assist new arrivals to move their places of origin or destination of choice. However, this was not easy as insecurity and a poor road network posed challenges and partners had to transport new arrivals by river and/or air in some cases.
- WFP provided high-energy biscuits to new arrivals at border points before they moved to the transit centres, and when travelling onward to their chosen destinations. At transit centres, new arrivals received hot meals comprising of cereals, vegetable oil, red beans, and salt. WFP also assisted new arrivals through dry rations comprising of cereals, red beans, and salt at 50 percent of the standard food basket, depending on location.
- From 26 June, WFP started adapting its food assistance for the new arrivals at the Renk transit centre based on hygiene concerns and beneficiary preferences by substituting hot meals for returnees for cash-based transfers. The shift from hot meals to cash-based transfers started with registering the new arrivals in SCOPE and then distributing cash-based transfers. For the most vulnerable population including pregnant and nursing mothers and children aged 6-59 months, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to prevent and treat malnutrition.
- In June, WFP provided **9,626** new arrivals with high-energy biscuits, **62,546** with hot meals, **39,109** with dry rations, and **8,261** with cash-based transfers. Overall, **72,708** people had received hot meals, and dry rations, including specialized nutritious foods in June. Since the start of the crisis, WFP had distributed 1,016 mt of food and USD 86,151 to **134,642** new arrivals by 30 June.
- In June, WFP screened **11,450** children aged 6 – 59 months and **5,020** pregnant and nursing mothers and admitted **2,851** children and **1,470** women in the treatment programme, a 70 percent increase in admissions from May. WFP provided specialized nutritious food to **20,870** children and **7,439** pregnant and nursing women to prevent malnutrition.
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- A joint rapid Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk assessment, conducted from 15-19 June in Renk, highlighted that risks of SEA and other misconduct by humanitarian staff in Renk and at the Joda border point are high. The assessment recommended increasing awareness raising efforts and targeted messaging for high-risk groups, a review of recruitment and distribution processes, consideration of gender parity among staff, training and orientation, and ensuring that SEA reporting lines are operational.

General food assistance

- In June, WFP distributed **23,311** mt of food and **USD 5.01 million** as cash-based transfers to **2.62 million** people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), lean-season response through general food assistance (GFA), nutrition assistance, school feeding, asset creation and livelihoods (ACL), and smallholder agriculture market access. This number represented 74 percent of the targeted people in the operation plan, with insecurity and poor road conditions, particularly in Jonglei and Unity States, affecting the delivery of food to final destination points.
- Due to severe funding gaps, WFP continued to only provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement in counties with people facing Catastrophe (IPC 5) while halved rations were provided in counties with people facing Emergency (IPC 4) food insecurity levels. The persistent ration cuts in IPC 4 counties compromise famine prevention objectives and could reverse the gains in deprioritized areas. Further, WFP continued to deprioritize IPC 3 counties in a move that will likely to exacerbate food insecurity, given that trend analyses show an increase in the number of IPC 4 counties with each IPC cycle.
- WFP faces a **USD 356 million** funding gap between July and December 2023, including USD 36 million requirements for the Sudan crisis response to meet critical food and nutritional needs and resilience building, as well as provide reliable common services to support humanitarian and development partners, including the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and Logistics Cluster. Critical shortfalls will start in August 2023 for life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations for commodities including sorghum and specialized nutritious foods. Shortfalls for cash-based transfers will commence in October 2023.
- Since January 2023, WFP had to reduce the total number of people targeted from 7.7 million to 5.4 million. The number of people targeted under the school feeding and urban safety nets, asset creation, nutrition, and crisis response were reduced by 65 percent, 53 percent, 33 percent, and 18 percent, respectively. WFP planned to scale up resilience building activities during the CSP period but had to reduce plans in a move that could increase humanitarian needs.

WFP RESPONSE

Nutrition

- WFP continued to participate in the South Sudan nutrition policy review process as one of the partners of the Ministry of Health (MoH). MoH, WFP, UNICEF and Save the Children International under the leadership of the MoH facilitated the stakeholder analysis report validation workshop through discussion with stakeholders, including relevant line ministries, donors, UN agencies, international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), national NGOs, civil society, and legislators. The audiences discussed the content of the policy and structure, considering the National Development Plan and Vision 2040. The first draft policy will be available during the third quarter of 2023.
- Following the release of the World Health Organisation updated Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Wasting and Nutritional Oedema (Acute Malnutrition) in Infants and Children Under 5 Years of Age, WFP and UNICEF are working together with the MoH and relevant technical working groups to finalise an implementation plan for these guidelines in South Sudan.
- WFP continued to rehabilitate the primary Nile dyke in Twic East County of Jonglei State by reinforcing weak points between Maar and Patiou then later to the initial end point in Paliau. Since the start of the rehabilitation works, 64 km of the dyke has been protected, enabling 1,643 square km of land to be reclaimed.
- Pending available funding, work will resume during the dry season to rehabilitate the remaining 29 km. The dyke is critical as it protects communities living in the Jonglei flood plain from seasonal flooding. 90 percent of the population living directly along the dyke was displaced in 2021 and as a result of the rehabilitation works, 22,637 people have now returned to their homes. Once complete, the rehabilitation of the 93-km dyke, will allow more families earlier displaced by floods to return home, restart livelihoods, and build resilience against the climate crisis.

Safety Nets and Resilience

- WFP initiated the pilot of dry and fresh food vouchers in schools in Yambio and Nzara Counties of Western Equatoria State in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and General Instruction (MoGEI). The pilot involves decentralizing the procurement of dry and fresh food to prepare school meals for 2,406 pupils (1,131 girls and 1, 275 boys) in Naduru and Mangbondo primary schools in Yambio County and Namaiku primary school in Nzara County. The pilot will last for 12 months and is supported by KfW, the German Government's development bank. The pilot aligns with the national home-grown school feeding strategy (2020-2024).
- Under the pilot, the fresh food (vegetables) portion is an addition to the standard food basket comprising of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and salt to increase the nutritional value in school feeding. Each hot meal will meet 44 percent of the daily kilocalorie requirements while providing essential micronutrients for each child. The targeted schools will redeem vouchers from four WFP contracted retailers who will source food from wholesalers and local producers and producer organizations. Through deliberate linkages between retailers and smallholder farmers supported by WFP and other agricultural actors, the pilot will benefit three traders/retailers and six farmers' cooperative groups (with more than a thousand farmers represented in these group) who will supply grain, pulses and vegetables to the contracted retailers.
- WFP trained 10 School Management Committee members on food handling and nutritious meal preparation, 45 retailers (6 contracted and 39 serving Makpandu refugee camp) on food handling, store presentation, and best business practices, and 10 smallholder farmers on food handling, reducing post-harvest losses, and best business practices.
- In July, WFP will complete works to rehabilitate the dyke around the Old Fangak airstrip to ensure access for humanitarians. The emergency protective dykes in Fangak protect the lives and livelihoods of more than 100,000 people.

Logistics

- WFP requires 446,000 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 221,099 mt of this food by 30 June, representing nearly 50 percent percent of the needs-based plan. Of the resourced 221,099 mt, WFP had prepositioned 90,906 mt by 30 June, representing 92 percent of the prepositioning target (99,328 mt). Heavy rains and poor road conditions continue to impact the delivery of food to Northern Jonglei and along the Bor-Pibor road, as well as in other supply routes to Bentiu and Yida.
- WFP continued to invest in strategic infrastructure in South Sudan to enhance trade, market integration and reduce the cost of delivering humanitarian assistance. As of 30 June, WFP had completed building a new ramp for an MSF hospital to ensure boat access to the hospital for emergencies.

Logistics Cluster

- The cluster facilitated the air transport of 158 mt of Health, Nutrition, WASH, Shelter, Protection, Logistics and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) supplies to 8 destinations on behalf of 24 organizations. Out of this, 140 mt of critical cargo was airlifted in support of the Sudan response to Malakal, Renk and Rubkona.
- During the reporting month, the cluster facilitated the transport of Health, Nutrition, Shelter, Protection, WASH and Education supplies with a total of 160 mt of relief cargo transported by river and 168 mt by road with the Beyond Responses service using IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks. This included the transport of 38.5 mt by river to Malakal, Renk, and Manyo and 81 mt by road to Rotriak and Wedweil in support of the ongoing Sudan response.
- In line with the cluster's cost efficiency strategy to decrease reliance on costly air transport, 7 road convoys were coordinated comprising of 43 trucks transporting an estimated 1,863 mt of NFI's to locations along the Western Corridor, Central and Eastern Equatoria routes.

WFP RESPONSE

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- In June, UNHAS transported 7,005 passengers and 315 mt of cargo, representing the highest number of passengers and quantity of cargo transported in one month in 2023. UNHAS has planned to transport 72,000 passengers in 2023 and had reached 36,165 passengers by 30 June.
- UNHAS continued to play a valuable role in the evacuation of humanitarian staff and their dependents escaping from the Sudan crisis by transporting 63 passengers from Malakal and Renk to Juba on behalf of six organizations.
- UNHAS also carried out 13 medical evacuations on behalf of six organizations from Ajuong Thok, Bor, Malakal, Old Fangak, Pibor, Renk, Rumbek and Yida to Juba. UNHAS facilitated a security relocation by evacuating nine humanitarian workers from Mathiang to Juba on behalf of five organizations

Beneficiary Data Management

- As of 30 June, WFP had registered 5,795,230 people in SCOPE, including new arrivals from Sudan, with 85 percent registered with full demographic information and 60 percent with fingerprints. WFP completed SCOPE registration in Kapoeta, Mayendit, Koch Juba and Melut. Registration is ongoing in Renk, Malakal and Abyei, and is planned for Wau.

Cross-cutting results

- From 10-12 June, WFP participated in a three-day joint inter-agency rapid assessment in Renk, identifying various gender-based violence (GBV) and protection concerns. Beneficiaries said that their diet was monotonous and that the shelters were inadequate. With the transition to cash assistance, UNHCR and UNICEF committed to identifying and mitigating risks. WFP partner, GOAL International, displayed WFP entitlement banners at the transit centre and held community information sessions.
- As co-chair of Gender Equality and Inclusion Programming, WFP initiated discussions with UNFPA, OCHA and the GBV sub-cluster on establishing minimum guidelines to support gender mainstreaming in an emergency. WFP suggested partners send staff to facilitate sessions during routine messaging in nutrition centres. WFP drafted communication guidelines that were shared with relevant units for their feedback to support systemic information dissemination.
- From 12-13 June, WFP conducted training in Rumbek with 12 participants (2 female and 10 male). The same training was conducted in Bentiu from 23-26 June with eight participants (2 female and 6 male). Key topics included accountability to affected populations with a particular focus on collection, consolidation, reporting and feedback provision, setting up helpdesks and the roles and responsibilities of WFP and partners when it comes to the complaints and feedback mechanism.

WFP Supports Drought-Affected Communities With Humanitarian Food Assistance

While vast swathes of land in South Sudan remain under water due to four years of unprecedented flooding, WFP is finalising its lean season response in drought-affected Kapoeta this month, providing families with humanitarian food assistance to cope with the extreme dry conditions that have decimated crops and livelihoods. Both extremes demonstrate the severity and complexity of climatic shocks in South Sudan and the region as a whole.

In Kapoeta, the lean season runs January-July when extreme dry conditions lead to significant food shortages for communities.

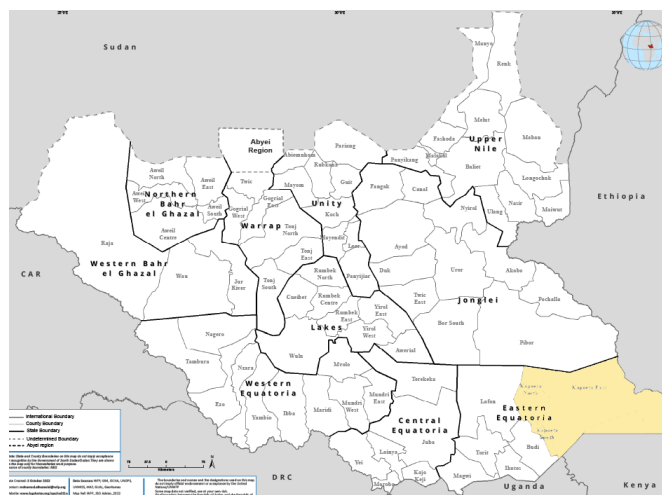
Kapoeta has been experiencing the effects of the Horn of Africa drought with two consecutive years of exceptionally dry conditions. The dire situation is further exacerbated by increasing prices of food and fuel, combined with the rapid depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound. As a result, the number of food insecure people in the region has risen by 20 percent since December 2022.

Nari Lotede and her children are among those in need of WFP assistance for the first time. Nari used to grow okra, maize, and sorghum, but after her crops died she was forced to rely on humanitarian food assistance to support her seven children.

“Before receiving this food I collected wild fruits to eat and charcoal to sell in the market, but sometimes I wouldn’t sell it and I would go to sleep hungry,” she says.

Nari is from Riwoto, a village from Kapoeta North County in the Greater Kapoeta region. A traditionally pastoralist area, the lack of water has also affected cattle as water bodies dry up and livestock perish.

Photo 1: Nari Lotede Loyapa receiving her food ration. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga
Photo 2: Map indicating the Greater Kapoeta region which has been experiencing the effects of the Horn of Africa drought.



WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)

	CSP Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements July - Dec 2023 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (June 2023)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)	3,770.7	676.79	356.10	2,621,147	1,388,572	1,232,575
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	418.31	186.68	1,983,582	1,060,511	923,071
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	115.86	60.47	260,328	135,554	124,774
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	14.20	24.68	140,003	64,401	75,602
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	45.88	22.96	237,234	128,106	109,128
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	7.71	-	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	5.88	34.94	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	0.80	-	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	41.30	21.40	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	18.47	3.08	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	7.88	1.88	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	52.26	-	-	-	-

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

