



World Food Programme

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #332

28 February 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- In **February** WFP distributed **7,885 mt** of food and **USD 1.3 million** in cash-based transfers to **705,000** people, representing **61 percent** of the people targeted during the month. Between January and February, WFP had assisted **881,000** people.
- Recent hostilities near the Sudan-South Sudan border have driven **168,000** new arrivals into South Sudan since December, exacerbating the humanitarian situation at the reception and transit centres in Renk. Critical needs include water, health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene.
- WFP faces a critical funding shortfall of **USD 396 million** to support the urgent humanitarian needs of millions of crisis-affected people in 2025 against its operational plan. Critical needs include requirements to meet the food and nutrition needs of crisis-affected people, food prepositioning before the rainy season starts in May, and other common logistical support services.

SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan is facing a confluence of crises that continue to push the country towards new levels of vulnerability. The crises include chronic food and nutrition insecurity, worsened by subnational violence, severe economic downturn and climatic shocks. The ongoing Sudan conflict has compounded the situation by driving over **1 million** people into South Sudan.
- The security situation remains fragile, marked by armed clashes in multiple locations, including areas hosting new arrivals. The ongoing fighting between South Sudan People's Defence Forces and armed youth in Nasir town, Upper Nile State displaced thousands of people.
- About **9.3 million** people require humanitarian assistance in 2025, an increase of 300,000 in 2024. Over **1.8 million** people remain internally displaced due to years of violence and the impact of climate change, including floods and dry spells.
- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (**IPC**) results show that 6.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity, at Crisis or higher. The situation could worsen, with projections showing that **7.7 million** people will face acute food insecurity during the April-July lean season. Of the 7.7 million, 2.5 million people will face emergency food insecurity, and 63,000 will face catastrophe food insecurity. Malnutrition rates continue to surge, with 3.2 million children and women at risk of malnutrition, representing a 28 percent increase compared to 2024.
- South Sudan has been grappling with a cholera outbreak since last October. The Ministry of Health has reported **26,000** cases and **455** fatalities, including Renk County, the primary entry point for new arrivals.
- According to the latest [World Bank's South Sudan Monitor](#), 92 percent of the South Sudanese faced extreme poverty in 2024, an 8-percentage point increase from 2023. This data underscores the profound challenges facing South Sudan, highlighting the need for sustained humanitarian and development interventions to improve livelihoods and build resilience across the country.
- The damages to the pipeline that carries 70 percent of South Sudan's oil production through Sudan reduced oil exports, resulting in lower foreign exchange inflows, exchange rate depreciation in the parallel markets and high inflation rates. Since April 2023, the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) has depreciated by 84 percent (from SSP 880 to SSP 5,650). The average monthly standard food basket cost has increased by 518 percent since April 2023, exacerbating poor households' vulnerability, including the new arrivals.

IN THE NUMBERS

56% 44%



4.3 million people targeted by WFP in 2025



6.1 million people currently facing severe food insecurity. **31,000** in IPC 5, **1.7 million** in IPC 4, and **4.3 million** in IPC 3 (December 2024 - March 2025)



3.2 million women and children expected to be acutely malnourished between July 2024 - June 2025



1.8 million internally displaced people



544,000 refugees in South Sudan



Over 1 million new arrivals have entered South Sudan since the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023.



USD 396 million funding shortfall under its 2025 operational plan.

WFP RESPONSE

Sudan conflict response

- Hostilities near the Sudan-South Sudan border have driven 168,000 new arrivals into South Sudan since December 2024, creating severe shortages of water, health, protection and other essential services and increasing the risk of disease outbreaks and conflict with host communities.
- WFP has been providing an initial support of fortified biscuits to new arrivals and specialized nutritious foods for children aged 6—59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW/G), followed by cash-based transfers (CBT) during relocation to final destinations.
- Returnees settled in their final destinations received WFP's assistance through the lean season response, with modality varying depending on the location of the final destination.
- WFP distributed 77 mt of food and USD 164,000 in cash to new arrivals in February. By 28 February, WFP had assisted WFP had assisted 906,000 new arrivals with 22,000 mt of food and USD 21.7 million in CBT since April 2023.

General food assistance

- WFP distributed 7,885 mt of food and USD 1.3 million as cash-based transfers to 705,000 people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and host populations. The total number of people reached represents 61 percent of the monthly targeted population. Between January and February, WFP had assisted 881,000 people.
- Due to resource constraints, four Priority 1 counties² (counties with pockets of populations facing Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC, 5)) will continue to receive 70 percent of the general food basket for eight months while the rest of targeted populations, including refugees and IDPs will continue to receive 50 percent of the food basket.
- The targeting exercise continued for Priority 2 and 3 counties (counties with populations facing IPC 4), with assistance projected to commence in March and April, respectively, for a period of five to six months during the lean season.
- In Maban, refugees continued to resist the vulnerability-based targeting despite various engagements with their representatives and other stakeholders, impacting January and February distributions to vulnerable households. WFP planned to continue further engagements with the Maban refugees in March to agree on the way forward.
- Clashes in Upper Nile delayed food prepositioning activities and humanitarian access to those in need, including over 300,000 people targeted along the Sobat corridor by WFP who are facing Emergency food insecurity.

Human capital development

- Through the Community-Based Last-Mile Distribution Project in Gogrial West, WFP, Action Against Hunger and the Ministry of Health continued integrating communities into the targeted supplementary feeding programme, improving coverage and long-term sustainability by decentralizing service delivery. This approach yielded a 123 percent increase in admissions and reduced travel time to nutrition sites from one day to less than two hours. Within 3–5 months, WFP and partners noted

improved screening for mothers, maternal infant young child nutrition practices. Further participants established kitchen gardens in 7 sites, boosting nutrition and household incomes. This model strengthens food security, builds local capacity, and alleviates burdens on vulnerable populations, warranting its continued implementation in 2025.

- In February, WFP provided specialised nutritious food to 89,000 children 6-59 months and 47,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) to supplement MAM. The prevention programme reached 64,000 children aged 6—23 months and 15,000 PBWG, including new arrivals.



Apuk and her one-year-old son Yak in Aweil. Photo: WFP/Samantha Reinders

When Yak was not feeling well and growing thinner, Apuk took him to the clinic for treatment, where he started getting nutrition support from WFP. Now he has started to gain weight and is on the road to recovery.

In 2024, WFP's nutrition programme achieved a 94 percent cure rate, 3 percent default rate, and 3 percent non-response rate, exceeding the SPHERE standards and demonstrating its effectiveness in supplementing moderate acute malnutrition.

The supplementation programme reached 621,000 children aged 6-59 months and 441,000 PBW/G across 59 prioritized counties in 2024 while the prevention programme reached 199,000 children aged 6-23 months and 115,000 PBW/G.

WFP conducts screenings to identify individuals requiring acute malnutrition supplementation. Throughout 2024, WFP delivered key messages to 1 million mothers on health, nutrition and hygiene practices.

Food systems and resilience

- To optimize the impact of the new Green and Resilient Agriculture and Climate Economy (GRACE) project, WFP met with the EU Delegation, FAO, and the International Trade Centre to establish a coordination framework, aligning efforts with German Agency for International Cooperation and the GRACE project implementation. A key outcome was the agreement to form a multi-stakeholder coordination structure, directly involving GRACE project partners and the EU Delegation under the leadership of the National Resources Sector Working Group member ministries. WFP and partners will operationalize subnational coordination fora for the inception phase in June 2025 to ensure effective localized implementation. This alignment will maximize the impact of the GRACE project.

²In 2025, 38 counties are categorized into three priorities: Priority 1, 2 and 3 depending on the severity of food insecurity and the proportion of population facing Emergency and above food insecurity levels with Priority 1 counties being the most severely food insecure.

WFP RESPONSE

Infrastructure Development

- WFP continued to rehabilitate critical infrastructure projects across Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile states to improve river and road transport networks and ensure roads remain accessible for much longer each year. WFP continued to execute nine high-value projects, including the Malakal port quay wall, the 250 km Bor-Pibor Road, 77 km Roriak-Kaikang Road, 46 km -Adok-Leer-Mirmir Road, 9 km Malakal Port access road and the 20 km Jonglei dyke, among others.
- The rehabilitated infrastructure will enhance logistical efficiency and strengthen food systems by connecting communities to markets and essential services. The rehabilitated dyke will mitigate flood risks, enabling displaced communities to return and rebuild their livelihoods.

Logistics

- WFP plans to distribute 180,000 mt of food under its 2025 operational plan, with 108,210 mt for prepositioning and 71,790 mt for just-in-time deliveries. As of 28 February, WFP had dispatched 109,818 mt of food to various locations for prepositioning and just-in-time deliveries, representing 61 percent of the 2025 target. To ensure timely access to hard-to-reach areas before the rainy season, 54,295 mt must arrive in South Sudan by April for prepositioning.
- Convoys from Bor to Pibor commenced in February, delivering 2,168 mt (35 percent) by 28 February. Prepositioning dispatches from Bor will increase once the Bor -Ayod route opens. Road inaccessibility, insecurity and fluctuations in fuel prices continued to impact food deliveries.

Logistics cluster

- The logistics cluster airlifted 99 mt of health items for the cholera response in the Greater Upper Nile and Unity states. The cluster transported 60 mt by road using IOM's Common transport services trucks and 173 mt by river under a 50 percent cost-sharing arrangement.
- Following the opening of the road network into the Greater Pibor Administrative Area and northern Jonglei, the cluster

continued to coordinate convoys for organizations. The opening of the road network informed the decision to stop using two helicopters from March.

UN humanitarian air service

- UNHAS transported 4,767 passengers and 62 mt of light cargo to 44 destinations for 165 organizations. For the Sudan crisis response, the service transported 482 passengers to and from Renk using regular flights.
- UNHAS conducted seven medical evacuations from Ajuongthok, Aweil, Maban, Renk, Walgak and Yei to Juba, ensuring timely support for patients. The service also conducted security relocations for 20 passengers from Mandeng and Ulang on behalf of eight partner organizations.

Gender and protection

- A recent KOICA-funded gender study in Kapoeta North, Eastern Equatoria State, titled 'Building Climate Resilience for Food Security' project, identified critical barriers affecting women and girls during climate extremes. Findings revealed a lack of financial support for livelihood diversification, exacerbated by drought, limiting community resilience and compounded by socio-cultural norms and GBV, which undermine gender equality and climate adaptation. Anticipatory Action Plans will prioritize strengthening women's economic participation, mitigating GBV risks, elevating their decision-making and asset ownership, addressing water scarcity and promoting energy-efficient technologies to maximize impact. This approach will build climate resilience and empower women as change agents.

Resourcing outlook

- WFP faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 396 million to support the urgent humanitarian needs of millions of crisis-affected people in 2025 against its operational plan. Critical needs include requirements to meet the food and nutrition needs of crisis-affected people, food prepositioning before the rainy season starts in May, and logistical support services.



A past photo of trucks carrying food for prepositioning in one of the States in South Sudan. Photo: WFP / Gabriela Vivacqua

As the rainy season approaches in South Sudan, WFP works to preposition food in remote areas that will soon be inaccessible due to flooding. The rains in South Sudan can cut off vital access to roads, making it impossible for food deliveries to reach families in need. That's why early preparation is crucial. By pre-positioning food in strategic locations, WFP ensures that once the rains come, families can still receive the life-saving food assistance they rely on, no matter where they are.

WFP Provides Lifeline to Sudanese Refugees Arriving in Abyei after Challenging Journeys

After months of being displaced multiple times within Sudan because of the war, Nada, her husband Ali and their 5-year-old-son crossed into Abyei, where they received fortified biscuits and cash from WFP.

It took them six months to reach Abyei, a journey where they encountered many challenges including robbery, poor road conditions and severe shortages of food and water.

"It's unbelievable that we made it this far to be alive again," says Nada.

Before the war, Nada worked for the Ministry of Finance and as a reporting officer for disabled people at a local radio. Her husband Ali was an electrician.

"Our life was good and were hoping to raise our son to together."

Now, while they wait to be relocated at a refugee camp in South Sudan, Nada and her family stay at the Transit Centre in Abyei.

Since the start of the war in Sudan in April 2023, more than 1.1 people have crossed the border into South Sudan. WFP provides fortified biscuits upon arrival as well as cash and nutrition assistance in several areas close to the border.

WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to new arrivals at the entry border points, during transit, and at final destinations. In February, WFP assisted xxx new arrivals, bringing the total number of new arrivals assisted since the start of the crisis started in April 2023 to 906,000 people.

WFP, together with other partners, provided the new arrivals with essential information on cash-based transfers, child nutrition, food-related hygiene and registration processes using different languages and communication channels. This helped the new arrivals understand their entitlements, enhancing accountability in food assistance.



Photo: Nada and her 5-year-old-son at WFP's cash distribution site in Abyei, South Sudan. Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga.

WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)

	2025 Funding Outlook (in USD) - April - December 2025 ³			People Assisted in February 2025		
	CSP Total Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements/shortfalls	People Assisted	Female	Male
TOTAL	772,175,760	376,649,889	395,525,871	705,576	398,952	306,624
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	455,384,314	243,006,136	212,378,178	548,439	296,157	252,282
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	130,561,157	43,191,497	87,369,660	104,893	76,572	28,321
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	18,537,638	9,742,580	8,795,058	24,865	11,438	13,427
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	51,365,668	17,732,967	33,632,701	27,379	14,785	12,594
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	11,165,508	2,321,157	8,844,350	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	20,243,434	24,469,697	(4,226,263)	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	952,548	548,789	403,759	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	55,247,401	22,602,716	32,644,685	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	18,822,653	9,732,487	9,090,167	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	9,895,438	3,301,863	6,593,576	-	-	-

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



¹Cover Photo 1: General food distribution in Bentiu. © WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

³These are 2025 operational plan figures.