



World Food Programme

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #323

31 May 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- In May, WFP distributed an estimated **18,312 mt** of food and **USD 5.5 million** in cash-based transfers to **2.8 million** people, representing **88 percent** of the people targeted during the month*.
- Since April 2023, WFP provided **534,000** new arrivals from Sudan with food assistance.
- WFP requires **248,000 mt** of food in 2024, out of which it resourced **170,000 mt** by 31 May, representing **68 percent** of the annual requirements.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 286 million** between June and November, including **USD 53 million** for the Sudan crisis response.

SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan continues to face multiple intersecting crises, marked by subnational violence, climate change, displacement, and economic decline, driving up levels of food and nutrition insecurity. Unpredictable weather patterns further exacerbate South Sudan’s vulnerabilities, creating a vicious cycle of food insecurity and displacement.
- **Nine million** people require humanitarian assistance in 2024. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (**IPC**) estimates that 7.1 million people face severe food insecurity during the April-July lean season. Of these, 2.3 million and 79,000 people face Emergency and Catastrophe food insecurity levels, including returnees from Sudan. The IPC also estimates that 1.6 million children and **870,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women will be moderately or severely malnourished.
- The Sudan conflict continues to exacerbate the dire situation. In May, nearly 36,000 people arrived in South Sudan, bringing the total since the start of the conflict to nearly **694,000**. In May, South Sudan also hosted **457,000** refugees and **2 million** internally displaced people with limited livelihood opportunities.
- **Major flooding** is expected in South Sudan during the second half of 2024, threatening to aggravate an already dire humanitarian situation. While the seasonal flood extent in May was similar to recent seasons, above average rainfall is expected from June onwards. The situation is worsened by record water levels in Lake Victoria which the Government of Uganda **announced** it was releasing at 2,400 cubic metres per second into the Nile that will reach South Sudan by September. Humanitarian partners are planning for the worst-case flood impact scenario with up to three million people projected to be affected. WFP and humanitarian partners are developing a multi-sectoral flood preparedness and response plan in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan. WFP’s internal concept of operations (CONOPS) will align with the national response plan and outline the additional resources required.
- The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) depreciated significantly, hitting a historic low of SSP 3,250 per US dollar before temporarily appreciating towards the end of May. The exchange rate averaged SSP 1,560 in the reference market and SSP 2,790 in the parallel market. The exchange rate in the parallel market depreciated by 65 percent year-on-year and 17 percent month-on-month. As a result of the depreciation of the SSP, food prices surged across markets, with the average cost of a food basket rising by 43 percent, from SSP 29,424 to SSP 42,105. The deteriorating economic situation is likely to lead to an increase in petty crimes.

IN THE NUMBERS

52% 48%



4.2 million people targeted in 2024.



7.1 million facing severe food insecurity. **79,000** in IPC 5, **2.3 million** in IPC 4, and **4.7 million** in IPC 3.



2.5 million women and children acutely malnourished



2 million internally displaced people



457,000 refugees in South Sudan



694,000 returnees and refugees since the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023.



USD 286 million six month net funding requirement between June and November 2024, including **USD 53 million** for the Sudan response.

* These figures are preliminary estimates subject to ongoing reconciliation. The figures are also referenced on pages 2 and 4 of this report.

WFP RESPONSE

Sudan conflict response

- May saw a 32 percent increase in new arrivals compared to the 27,121 new arrivals in April. By 31 May, there were more than [43,000](#) returnees within Renk, further compounding the humanitarian situation. Humanitarian partners ensured new arrivals received timely assistance, including onward transport to final destinations. However, the levels of humanitarian assistance remained inadequate to address the high food security and nutrition needs.
- The humanitarian country team endorsed a proposal to provide a protective ration through cash-based transfers to households with children aged 6 – 23 months in the Renk transit centres to complement the nutrition-specific support. WFP is developing robust measures to mitigate risks of duplication and disincentives for onwards movement and will monitor the impact of the cash in markets.
- WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to new arrivals upon arrival at the entry border points, during transit, and at final destinations. As of 31 May, nearly 534,000 people had received food assistance since the start of the crisis.
- WFP continued to screen children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G), admitting those moderately acutely malnourished into the relevant nutrition programmes. In May, WFP provided specialised nutritious food to 1,139 children and 610 mothers to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and to 13,507 children and 4,572 mothers to prevent MAM. Since the start of the crisis, 215,423 children and PBW/G received specialised nutritious food to treat and prevent MAM.
- WFP launched the second phase of its partnership with Internews Europe as part of the Sudan crisis response in Aweil, Renk and Malakal. The partnership is part of WFP's effort to ensure beneficiaries are provided with accurate and timely information regarding their entitlements and to ensure that concerns and feedback are addressed. The first Community Voices Bulletins under Phase II were published for [Malakal](#) and [Renk](#), including feedback, questions and concerns collected from a diverse range of voices in the community.

General food assistance

- In May, WFP distributed 18,312 mt of food and USD 5.5 million as cash-based transfers to 2,844,899 people*, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), through general food distributions, nutrition assistance, school feeding, asset creation and livelihood activities, and smallholder agriculture market support. The total number reached represents 88 percent of the targeted people for the month.
- WFP's response continued to be impacted by the newly introduced fuel taxes. The suspension of airdrops since April to conserve fuel stocks impacted the delivery of food to 144,000 people in hard-to-reach areas, a significant increase from the initial 60,000 affected by the suspension of airdrops in April. These same locations host relatively high proportions of South Sudanese returnees unable to meet their needs.
- Due to severe funding gaps, WFP provided 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in counties facing Catastrophe (IPC 5) and 50 percent of rations to people in counties facing Emergency (IPC 4) food insecurity levels. Continuation of reduced rations in IPC 4 and IPC 5 counties is highly likely to

compromise famine prevention objectives and reverse gains made in deprioritized areas.

- WFP faces a USD 282 million funding gap between July and December 2024 to meet critical food and nutritional needs, resilience building and logistics services. Given the severe funding gaps, WFP started scaling down its operations in January 2024, from 7.3 million people targeted under its country strategic plan (2023 – 2025) to 4.2 million.

Human capital development

- Planning is underway for the implementation of the new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the prevention and management of wasting among children under five in Lakes and Northern Bahr El Ghazal States. WFP and UNICEF are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the finalization of a steering committee/taskforce composed of three nutrition technical working groups (community management of acute malnutrition, prevention, and nutrition information) to operationalize the guidelines.
- WFP, jointly with World Vision in Tonj North County and SAADO in Gogrial East County, established 50 Health Nutrition WASH (HNW) school clubs (25 in Tonj North and 25 in Gogrial East) to promote healthy habits among school children and improve their overall well-being. The clubs have been given extensive training on a range of topics, including health, nutrition, and hygiene. In addition, WFP and partners have helped establish vegetable garden clubs at each school which will provide fresh produce for the students and help them learn about sustainable agriculture practices.
- WFP and Action Against Hunger (ACF) have partnered together to implement a last-mile pilot project in Gogrial West County (Warrap State). The project aims to provide assistance in hard-to-reach areas by equipping mother-to-mother support groups with knowledge and technical skills to identify and refer malnourished children in the community.
- Schools reopened after a two week pause for scheduled break between the first term and the second term on 20 May. WFP and partners continued to provide school meals to children across the country through onsite and homegrown grown school feeding programmes.

Food systems and resilience

- WFP continued the development of the South Sudan Resilience Strategy (2024-2030), which aims to deliberately bring together emergency assistance, human capital development, food systems and resilience as well as infrastructure development investments, in the same locations to build pathways to resilience and peace. In May, WFP held a series of consultative meetings on the strategy development process with key stakeholders, including resource partners, representatives from the Government, United Nations agencies, and cooperating partners.
- With support from the European Union, WFP constructed four rural aggregation centers (RACs) with 50 mt storage capacity in Northern Bahr el Ghazal Western Bahr el Ghazal States. The RACs will promote collective aggregation and marketing; and enable farmers to access markets at competitive prices.
- The RACs will be managed by committees or directly by farmer cooperatives. Management committees will be trained on warehouse management, financial management systems and postharvest handling and storage practices, among others.

WFP RESPONSE

Logistics

- WFP faces challenges in meeting its 2024 food assistance targets in South Sudan. As of 31 May, WFP had resourced 169,956 mt of food, representing 68 percent of the total food it requires in 2024 (248,190 mt¹). Prepositioning efforts have also been impacted, with 63,767 mt of food prepositioned, representing 61 percent of the target (105,000 mt).
- Access and security challenges, including increased pressure at checkpoints, have affected the efficient delivery of food during the crucial prepositioning window. WFP continues to engage with local and national authorities to address these bottlenecks and ensure unimpeded delivery of assistance.

Logistics cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transportation of 50 mt of cargo comprising camp coordination and camp management, general operations, general program, health, and logistics, and WASH supplies to Malakal, Tambura and Yambio on behalf of 7 partners. Out of the total, 28 mt was airlifted in support of the recent crisis in Tambura.
- The cluster coordinated the river shipment of 114 mt of logistics and protection cargo from Bor to Malakal on behalf of UNHCR in support of the Sudan response.
- The Logistics Cluster transported 155 mt of multisectoral humanitarian cargo to 8 hard-to-reach locations on behalf of 11 partners utilizing IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks. Out of the total, 14 mt was transported to Rotriak in

support of the Sudan response on behalf of IOM and Welthungerhilfe.

- The cluster also coordinated 8 road convoys comprising 69 trucks transporting an estimated 2,298 mt of multisectoral supplies to multiple locations including locations in Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria, Northern Jonglei, Abyei and locations along the western corridor on behalf of 7 partner organizations.

UN humanitarian air service

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) facilitated the transportation of 4,952 passengers and 59 mt of essential humanitarian cargo within South Sudan in May, supporting the operations of 167 organizations.
- The introduction of new petroleum taxes by the Government of South Sudan in February continued to affect WFP's operations. While humanitarian actors were meant to be exempt, implementation has proven challenging. As a result, airdrops were suspended from April and UNHAS reduced its regular schedule by 50 percent as of 8 May to conserve fuel.
- As of early June, there has been progress with a mechanism put in place with the Ministry of Petroleum enabling the resumption of tax-exempt fuel deliveries. UNHAS is expected resume full operations as of 18 June while airdrops will also progressively resume starting the same week.
- The rehabilitation of the Renk airstrip was completed, enabling fixed wing aircraft to land and take off, with potential annual savings of up to USD 1.7 million.



The first DHC-8 aircraft landed on the newly rehabilitated Renk runway on 10 May. The rehabilitated Renk airstrip will enable fixed-wing aircraft with full-passenger capacity to land and take off and could save up to USD 1.7 million annually. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

A partnership to reduce malnutrition

At the Wedweil refugee settlement, in Aweil, South Sudan, WFP is working with UNICEF and partners to provide hope and nutrition assistance to malnourished mothers and children coming from Sudan.

“We spent two days on the road to reach the border. We only had some biscuits for the children and some water, but the children were hungry.”

Zahara, her husband and their four children fled Darfur escaping the war in Sudan and are now living at the refugee settlement in Wedweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

When they arrived at the settlement, Zahara took her children to the nutrition centre, where her youngest daughter, Moona, was found to be malnourished.

“We were given nutrition supplies for Moona. I hope she gets better soon.”

After a long and difficult journey, many refugees are malnourished when they reach South Sudan.

WFP’s nutrition assistance includes a comprehensive package of nutrition and health support to targeted groups, including treating and preventing malnutrition among children aged 6 – 59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

The assistance also includes community-led Social Behaviour Change Communication to improve health, nutrition knowledge and practices, and address gender barriers, including by encouraging fathers to support the health and nutrition of their families.

Last year, WFP treatment programme operated across all the 80 counties, reaching 665,000 children and 548,000 mothers, including returnees from Sudan. The prevention programme reached 176,000 children and 51,000 mothers.



With her husband by her side, Zahara holds her malnourished daughter Moona. Thanks to WFP’s support, Moona is receiving specialized food to recover. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)						
	Six Months Funding Outlook (in USD) - June—November 2024			People Assisted in May 2024*		
	CSP Total Requirements	Allocated Contributions	Net Funding Requirements	People Assisted	Female	Male
TOTAL²	509,148,857	222,944,206	286,204,651	2,844,899	1,483,726	1,361,173
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	389,630,647	175,473,207	214,157,439	2,278,911	1,230,612	1,048,299
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	25,702,596	5,058,788	20,643,807	158,820	40,181	118,639
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	11,201,505	5,774,592	5,426,913	90,008	41,404	48,604
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	27,715,579	12,344,927	15,370,652	291,081	157,184	133,897
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	6,358,395	3,455,460	2,902,935	26,079	14,345	11,734
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	11,361,225	-	11,361,225	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	825,091	739,390	85,701	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	26,991,402	12,520,889	14,470,513	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	9,362,419	7,576,954	1,785,465	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	-	-	-	-	-

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



¹ This was reduced from the original needs-based plan of 387,000 mt as part of an ongoing budget revision process.

² The CSP total requirements and the net funding requirements above include USD 100 million and USD 53 million required for the Sudan crisis response, respectively.

Photo 1: A mother holding her son (6 months old) while he is being measured. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga