



## WFP SOUTH SUDAN

### Situation Report #315

31 July 2023

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In July, WFP distributed **22,519 mt** of food and **USD 3.8 million** in cash-based transfers to **2.7 million** people, representing **76 percent** of the people targeted in July.
- As part of the Sudan response, WFP had assisted **180,246** people with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, dry rations, and cash by 31 July.
- WFP requires **446,000 mt** of food in 2023 under its needs-based plan and had resourced **228,098 mt** of this food by 31 July, representing 51 percent of the requirements.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 521 million** between August 2023 and January 2024 and had to reduce the 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.

#### SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan continues to face multiple intersecting crises. Insecurity, subnational violence, regional and national macroeconomic challenges compounded by the global economic downturn, the effects of climate change and the ongoing Sudan conflict, all adversely impact the food security of South Sudanese families.
- Humanitarian partners estimate that **76 percent** of the South Sudan population needs humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023, representing an increase of 4 percent from 2022. Furthermore, **two-thirds** of the population is grappling with food insecurity, making South Sudan one of the world's worst food insecurity crises.
- The June 2023 – January 2024 [famine early warning system network](#) predicts that acute food insecurity will remain high, with many areas experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity, that is, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC 4) through the harvest period due to anticipated conflict and below-average rainfall forecasts in the east, where crop production is already limited, with households likely to harvest a few months of stocks. Crisis (IPC 3) outcomes will be widespread from October to January, with only marginal improvement after the first season harvest in Greater Equatoria in June and the main harvest beginning in October.
- The number of people arriving in South Sudan from the start of the Sudan conflict surpassed a dire milestone of 200,000 in July. As of 31 July, **202,431** people had crossed into South Sudan. Of these, 91 percent were South Sudanese returning to a country hosting over **300,000** refugees and **2.3 million** internally displaced, with limited livelihood opportunities. Access to primary services for people living in South Sudan and new arrivals remains strained, further complicating the provision of humanitarian assistance.
- Recent rapid assessments by WFP and other humanitarian actors indicated that returnees arriving in South Sudan were particularly vulnerable, having lost or sold much of their belongings, with some reporting they had experienced protection incidents, including gender-based violence. Their vulnerability was higher compared to that of returnees that initially arrived at the start of the crisis.
- The conflict in Sudan impacted trade between Sudan and South Sudan, with a **47 percent** decline in the amount of sorghum traded in the second quarter of 2023 compared to the first quarter. The decline was more significant considering the high demand for sorghum in South Sudan during the lean season. The reduced imports from Sudan contributed to a rise in the food basket cost. WFP market monitoring data showed that since the beginning of the Sudan crisis, the food basket cost had increased, ranging from 30 to 80 percent in areas bordering Sudan.

#### IN THE NUMBERS

56%  44% 



WFP plans to assist **5.4 million** people in 2023. In July, WFP assisted **2.7 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



**2.3 million** internally displaced people



**2.3 million** South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries



**USD 521 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between August 2023 and January 2024.



## Sudan conflict response

- Humanitarian partners in South Sudan continued to provide humanitarian assistance to new arrivals, including food, water, communal shelters, health and nutrition services, core relief items, and protection services. Further, partners continued to assist new arrivals to move to their places of origin or destination of choice. However, with less than [2 percent](#) of the primary road network paved, most locations are only accessible by air or river transport, which is slow and costly.
- WFP provided high-energy biscuits, hot meals or dry rations, cash transfers and specialized nutritious food to the most vulnerable. As of 31 July, WFP had assisted 180,246 people with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, dry rations, and cash assistance. Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals, WFP distributed over USD 730,000 to 58,533 new arrivals in Renk, Malakal and Abyei.
- WFP provided food assistance to newly arrived refugees in reception centres. As of 31 July, 20,404 refugees had received food assistance in all locations.
- WFP continued to screen children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers, admitting those moderately acutely malnourished into the relevant nutrition programmes. In June, WFP admitted 2,851 children and 1,470 mothers into the treatment programme and supported 20,870 children and 7,439 mothers through the prevention programme. In July, WFP admitted 3,776 children and 2,170 mothers into the treatment programme and supported 1,143 children and 1,794 mothers through the prevention programme. The admission figures represent a 38 percent increase in the number of people enrolled on the treatment programme between June and July, indicating a rise in malnutrition in those arriving from Sudan. As of 31 July, 39,873 children aged 6-59 months and 15,554 pregnant and nursing mothers had received specialized food to treat and prevent malnutrition.



## General food assistance

- In July, WFP distributed 22,519 mt of food and USD 3.8 million as cash-based transfers to 2.7 million people, including new arrivals from South Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), rapid response mechanism and 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 76 percent of the targeted people, as insecurity and poor road conditions, particularly in Jonglei and Unity States, affected food delivery to final destination points.
- Due to severe funding gaps, WFP continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in counties where there are pockets of IPC 5, whereas in counties facing Emergency (IPC 4) food insecurity levels, people received halved rations. WFP continued to deprioritize IPC 3 counties in a move that could exacerbate food insecurity in those areas.
- WFP faces a USD 521 million funding gap between August 2023 and January 2024, including the requirements for the Sudan crisis response to meet the food and nutritional needs, resilience building and support services for new arrivals and continued to provide half rations for general distributions (in

kind and cash-based transfers). Critical shortfalls will start in October 2023 for sorghum and specialized nutritious foods. Shortfalls for the cash-based transfers will also commence in October 2023.

- Since January 2023, WFP had to reduce the number of people targeted from 7.7 million to 5.4 million. People targeted under the school feeding and urban safety nets, asset creation, nutrition, and crisis response reduced by 65 percent, 53 percent, 33 percent, and 18 percent, respectively. WFP planned to scale up resilience during the CSP period but had to reduce scale-up plans in a move that could increase humanitarian needs.



## Nutrition

- WFP, UNICEF, and the nutrition cluster developed joint guidance, including actions to prevent and curb the sale of nutrition supplies. The joint guidance highlights seven roles of implementing partners, including leading in actively engaging respective State Ministries of Health and County commissioners to issue and enforce by-laws prohibiting the sale of critical nutrition products. The nutrition cluster released the guidance to all cooperating partners.
- As one of the members of the special task force to review the implications of the new World Health Organization guidelines on wasting management, WFP held several engagements with partners and agreed on what actions to take, including prioritizing Counties based on multiple deprivations at the cluster level, overlaying that prioritization with WFP's internal County prioritization, and reviewing the operational footprint based on longitudinal malnutrition trend analysis. Other actions include bilateral engagements with UNICEF to agree on the definition and estimation of high-risk moderate acute malnutrition and a strategy for implementing agreed context-appropriate strategies based on the new guidelines and available resources.



## Safety nets and resilience

- The South Sudan Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund-funded programme for Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) was in the engagement phase after a successful conclusion of the inception phase in May 2023. During the engagement phase, the WFP-led consortium re-engaged actors on all sides of the conflict to revitalize the Pieri Peace Process and re-constitute the previously established inter-communal governance structure (ICGS) under the [2021 Peace Agreement](#).
- After engaging communities in the four conflict corridors – Anyidi– Manyabol, Gadiang–Bishbish, Pulburra–Wuno, and Barmath throughout June, partners in July focused on a meeting aimed to revitalize the ICGS as the focus for higher-level community consultations under the reconciliation, stabilization, and resilience pillars. It also helped establish an agreement acknowledging the ICGS as the forum for regular, progressive, community-level dialogue and engagement, with WFP engaging the national and state governments to promote buy-in and maintain an authorizing environment.
- 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 31 July, WFP

## WFP RESPONSE

completed the dike around the Old Fangak airstrip to ensure access for humanitarian workers and supplies. The completed emergency protective dikes in Fangak will help protect the lives and livelihoods of 100,000 people.

- WFP assessed the 12km road between Mirmir and Koch in Unity, which it uses to deliver food to Koch County via Adok port, and the 18 km road between Kilo 30 and Bentiu in Unity State, which connects Bentiu and Yida from the Southern Corridor. The assessment found that the conditions of two roads continued to deteriorate, affecting WFP's capacity to deliver food in Koch, Bentiu and Yida, where it cumulatively targeted 590,000 people in July.
- WFP started to repair the Rotriak road connecting Mayom County to Bentiu and Rubkona Counties in Unity state. The road is essential for delivering food and other humanitarian supplies from the southern corridor through Kuajok in Warrap State to Bentiu through Abiemnhom and Yida in Unity State and the Ruweng Administrative Area, respectively. By 31 July, the Sudan crisis had disrupted the flow of supplies through the northern corridor to Bentiu and Yida. So, the Rotriak road remained highly strategic to allow the flow of humanitarian supplies for the Sudan response in the areas bordering Sudan using the southern corridor, which is the primary supply corridor for South Sudan.
- WFP provided the United Nations Mission in South Sudan with ten dump trucks to maintain the Abiemnhom-Mayom road section. Once repaired, the road will enable WFP to preposition humanitarian food in Mayom County, where WFP targeted 34,583 people in July.



### Logistics

- WFP requires 446,000 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 228,098 mt by 31 July, representing 51 percent of the needs-based requirement. Of the 228,098 mt, WFP had prepositioned 90,906 mt by 31 July, representing 92 percent of the prepositioning target (99,326 mt). The combined 2023 prepositioning and just-in-time requirement stood at 233,833 mt, of which WFP had delivered 205,421 mt, representing 88 percent of the target.
- Poor road conditions, boat accidents and low water levels on some river routes affected WFP's capacity to deliver food to some locations. WFP used sherps, aircraft and trained river transporters to address the challenges.



### Logistics cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 158 mt of camp coordination and camp management, food security and livelihoods, general operations, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, telecommunications and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to five destinations on behalf of 23 organizations. Out of the tonnage transported, it airlifted 136 mt to Malakal, Renk and Rubkona to support the Sudan response.
- Additionally, the Cluster coordinated river transportation of 119 mt of health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) supplies to locations along the White Nile on behalf of five organizations.



### UN humanitarian air service

- In July, UNHAS transported 5,888 passengers and 282 mt of light cargo. The service evacuated humanitarian staff and their dependents fleeing the Sudan crisis, transporting 42 passengers from Renk to Juba on behalf of eight organizations. It also carried out eight medical evacuations on behalf of seven organizations from Duk Padiet, Maban, Malakal, Old Fangak, Renk, Rubkona and Yei to Juba.
- The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei rehabilitated the Agok airstrip in the Abyei Administrative Area, enabling UNHAS to support the Abyei humanitarian operations by providing two flights weekly.



### Beneficiary data management

- As of 31 July, WFP had registered 5.8 million people in SCOPE, including new arrivals from Sudan, with 85 percent registered using all demographic information and 60 percent with only fingerprints.



### Protection and gender

- WFP and UNHCR organized community consultation on targeting and prioritization exercises to support the development of a community-driven joint targeting strategy that supports better programming and outcomes for the most vulnerable refugees in South Sudan. The three partners highlighted the need for disability inclusion, leveraging existing corporate partnerships that include Christian Blind Mission (CBM) disability advisors to review existing terms of reference and data collection tools for inclusivity. They completed consultations in the Makpandu refugee camp in Yambio County of Western Equatoria and the Jamjam refugee Camp in the Ruweng Administrative Area. The outcome would inform WFP and UNHCR decisions on targeting and prioritizing assistance based on the need and vulnerability of the refugees.



WFP and UNHCR focus group discussion with Makpandu host community women on prioritization of refugee assistance. Photo: WFP and UNHCR excellence hub/ Suneé Dongle

## South Sudan: WFP school meals inspiring a new generation of humanitarians

Across South Sudan WFP provide School Meals to 440,000 students. It's well known that these meals incentivize families, particularly in highly food insecure areas, to keep their children in the classroom. What's less known is that the meals also inspire the next generation of humanitarians to pursue their dreams.

Julia is one of those who received WFP school meals as a child. Although she was fortunate that she had a family supportive of her education, she says that wasn't the case for everyone.

"My father was a teacher and wanted me to study despite the pressure from the community. It was normal for girls to marry as young as 13."

Seeing WFP provide these meals each day and working to keep her classmates in school inspired her to pursue a career in the humanitarian field. After finishing school, Julia moved to Malakal to get her diploma in IT. Upon graduating, she began applying for jobs with WFP. It wasn't long before she received an offer with WFP in Maban.

"As a kid I always had a passion to support, to help people, because I grew up in a conflict and I saw people suffering around me," she says.

She adds: "If I could say something to young Julias out there, I would tell them to study and follow their dreams. A dream is not just a dream; I am living my dreams now and dreams can also become a reality."



Julia Poni is a field monitor for WFP in South Sudan. Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

## WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)

	CSP Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements Aug 2023 - Jan 2024 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (July 2023)	Female	Male
<b>CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)</b>	<b>3,770.70</b>	<b>679.21</b>	<b>521.72</b>	<b>2,680,276</b>	<b>1,492,520</b>	<b>1,187,756</b>
<b>Activity 1:</b> Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	420.76	356.77	2,115,298	1,142,261	973,037
<b>Activity 2:</b> Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	115.97	61.65	295,536	215,741	79,795
<b>Activity 3:</b> Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	14.21	22.57	137,257	63,138	74,119
<b>Activity 4:</b> Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	45.95	7.69	132,185	71,380	60,805
<b>Activity 5:</b> Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	7.72	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 6:</b> Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	5.90	32.60	-	-	-
<b>Activity 7:</b> provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	0.80	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 8:</b> Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	42.10	24.10	-	-	-
<b>Activity 9:</b> Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	17.76	16.34	-	-	-
<b>Activity 10:</b> Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	8.02	-	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	-	-	-	-	-

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Photo 1: New arrivals receiving hot meals at the Wedweil transit centre in Aweil West, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga Berlanga