



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP South Sudan Country Brief

August 2023

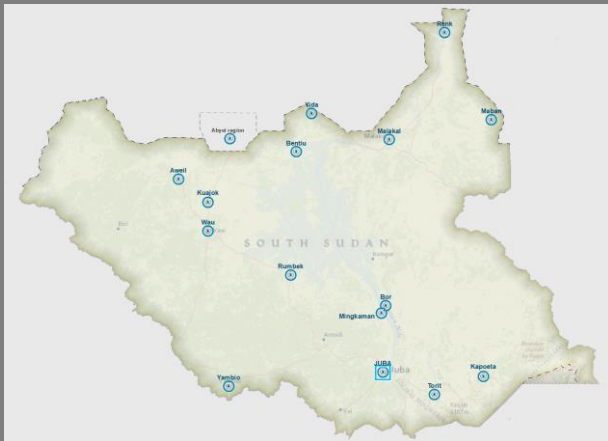


Operational Context

In 2023, 9.4 million people in South Sudan require some form of humanitarian assistance, representing 76 per cent of South Sudan's population, and an increase of 500,000 people from 2022. The October – November Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 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 would face Emergency (IPC 4) acute food insecurity, and 43,000 would be in Catastrophe (IPC 5) acute food insecurity in Jonglei and Unity States. The rest, 4.8 million people, would face Crisis (IPC 3) conditions. Further, 1.4 million children would be moderately or severely malnourished in 2023.

Insecurity and subnational violence persist across different states and continues to disrupt humanitarian operations, impeding humanitarian access to the vulnerable people requiring food assistance.

In January 2023, WFP started implementing a new three-year Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025), building on its life-saving support to create pathways for resilience, development, and peace. WFP seeks to reduce entrenched inequity and isolation by fostering unified, interconnected, and peaceful communities. WFP will support zero hunger objectives while contributing to peace and climate resilience over the next three years and beyond. See the CSP funding statistics on page 2.



Population: **12.4 million**

Country GDP: **USD 2.9 billion**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **33 percent of children**

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Photo: New arrivals lining up for verification during food distribution in Renk, Upper Nile State. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

In Numbers

18,759 mt of food distributed

USD 6.43 million in cash-based transfers distributed

USD 566 million six months net funding requirements (September 2023 – February 2024)

2.52 million people assisted in August 2023

56%



44%



Operational Updates

Humanitarian situation

- South Sudan continues to face multiple intersecting crises, which are having a profound and adverse impact on food security in the country. Some difficulties the nation is experiencing include insecurity, subnational violence, emerging regional and national socioeconomic challenges exacerbated by the global economic slump and the effects of climate change.
- The [famine early warning systems network](#) (FEWS NET) reported that an emergency would be declared in several counties during the harvest amid returnee influx. FEWS NET's assessment indicated that during the peak of the lean season in July and August, over 60 percent of the population experienced significant consumption shortfalls, indicative of a crisis (IPC Phase 3) or an emergency (IPC Phase 4). This challenging situation is further exacerbated by the increasing prices of essential food items, influenced by high regional prices, disruptions in cross-border trade, and a delayed initial harvest in the bimodal Equatoria region. These factors are compounding the already-existing challenge of obtaining an adequate food supply during the lean season.

Support to crisis-affected people

- In August, WFP distributed 18,759 mt of food and USD 6.43 million as cash-based transfers to 2.5 million people, including new arrivals from South Sudan, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), rapid response mechanism and lean-season response. This was done through general food assistance (GFA), nutrition assistance, school feeding, asset creation and livelihoods (ACL), and smallholder agriculture market access.
- This number represented 87 percent of the targeted people, as insecurity and poor road conditions affected food delivery to some destinations.
- As part of the Sudan response, WFP provided high-energy biscuits, hot meals or dry rations, cash transfers and specialized nutritious food to the most vulnerable. As of 31 August, WFP had assisted 235,000 people with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, dry rations, and cash. Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals, WFP distributed USD 1.3 million to 115,160 new arrivals in Renk, Malakal and Abyei.

Nutrition assistance

- In August, a total of 831,647 children and 548,291 women underwent malnutrition screening. Among them, 128,829 people, including 66,623 children under the age of 5 received treatment for malnutrition.
- WFP, in collaboration with its partner Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), organized an HIV awareness workshop aimed at educating 25 key community influencers including 12 women within the refugee camps in Yida. The workshop primarily focused on increasing awareness about the transmission and prevention of the virus, its community impact, and strategies for addressing stigma and discrimination, among other relevant topics.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction, has initiated a cash-based transfer project involving local traders, farmers, and selected schools in Western Equatoria. Three schools are part of this initiative and are receiving value vouchers to purchase various food items, including fresh vegetables and fruit from WFP-contracted retailers. A fourth school is being added in the same locality.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

CSP Total Requirements (Millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (Millions in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements: Sept 2023 – Feb 2024 (Millions in USD)
3,770.7	731.12	566

WFP Strategic Outcome 1: Access to food and nutrition

CSP Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people meet their food and nutrition needs in anticipation of, during and in the aftermath of crises. **Focus area:** *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations

WFP Strategic Outcome 2: Better nutrition, health, and education

CSP Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations have enhanced nutrition, health and education and access to safety nets. **Focus area:** *resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups
- Provide nutritious school meals to schoolchildren and engage vulnerable urban/rural youth in skills training

WFP Strategic Outcome 3: improved and sustainable livelihoods

CSP Outcome 3: Food-insecure/ shock-affected populations in targeted areas have improved livelihoods and more resilient and sustainable food systems. **Focus area:** *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Engage targeted communities in resilience activities
- Engage food-insecure people in livelihood development and market support activities
- Develop, rehabilitate, and maintain essential infrastructure

WFP Strategic Outcome 4: Strengthened national programmes

CSP Outcome 4: National institutions and partners have strengthened capacity. **Focus area:** *resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide policy/technical assistance to Government and partners

WFP Strategic Outcome 5: Effective Humanitarian and development actors

CSP Outcome 5: Humanitarian/development partners in have access to reliable common services. **Focus area:** *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provide air transport services and technical assistance to the humanitarian community/other partners
- Provide information management, logistics and coordination services to the humanitarian community and partners
- Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners

- In keeping with plans to expand to the Lakes and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States, WFP concluded retailer assessments in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Lakes States' counties which are being targeted for the scale up.

Safety Nets and Resilience

- WFP led the process of commenting and reviewing the draft terms of reference (ToR) for review of the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2014 (NSPPF). As part of institutional strengthening of the social protection system in South Sudan, WFP is committed to contributing to the process of reviewing and implementing the NSPPF.
- WFP participated in a regional meeting on social protection which was an opportunity to share ideas and experiences, strengthen linkages, and learn from other social protection initiatives implemented in other countries in the region. WFP met the acting focal person for social protection in the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, to debrief him on the results of the recent Social Protection Scoping Study. Key findings from the study include the need for new and improved social protection programs, collaboration with the Government to enhance the social protection system, strengthening partnerships and evidence generation, and adopting a phased approach to support government program implementation.

Logistics operations

- WFP requires 446,590 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and by 31 August, had resourced 216,759 mt representing 49 percent of the needs-based requirement. Of the 216,759 mt, WFP had prepositioned 90,906 mt by 31 August, representing 92 percent of the prepositioning target (99,328 mt). The combined 2023 prepositioning and just-in-time requirement stood at 233,833 mt, of which WFP had delivered 216,759 mt, representing 93 percent of the target.
- Poor road conditions, 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.

Common services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 158 mt of camp coordination and camp management, food security and livelihoods, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, telecommunications and water sanitation and hygiene 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.
- In August, UNHAS transported 7,243 passengers and 335 mt of light cargo. The service evacuated humanitarian staff and their dependents fleeing the Sudan crisis, transporting 24 passengers from Renk to Juba on behalf of five organizations. It also carried out 12 medical evacuations on behalf of seven organizations.

Challenges

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to multiple shocks. Floods and sub-national conflicts have made most areas inaccessible by road. WFP South Sudan requires an additional USD 566 million to ensure continued assistance for the next six months (September 2023 to January 2024). The net funding requirement includes the additional resourcing needs to support the Sudan crisis response until December 2023.

Donors (listed in alphabetic order)

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN COUNTRY BASED POOLED FUNDS, UN Other Funds and Agencies, United Kingdom, USA

*Excluding multilateral and private donors