

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #310

28 February 2023

WFP/Gemma Snowdon

HIGHLIGHTS


- About **7.7 million** people face severe acute food insecurity – at the Crisis level (IPC Phase 3) or higher during the April - July 2023 lean season according to the October-November 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projection.
- In February, WFP distributed **13,880 mt** of food and **USD 3.6 million** as cash-based transfers to **1.6 million** people, representing **67 percent** of the people targeted in February.
- In February, WFP had **92,084 mt** of food in South Sudan, and dispatched **46,281 mt** to various locations throughout the country.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 567 million** between March and August 2023 and had to reduce the total number of people targeted from **7.7 million** to **5.4 million**.


SITUATION UPDATE


- South Sudan is experiencing a multidimensional crisis combining social, economic, security, political and public health challenges. Climatic shocks, insecurity, inflation, and loss of livelihoods remained the main drivers of food insecurity.
- Communal violence escalated in several states, including Jonglei, Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria State, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), among others. Violent clashes between armed cattle keepers and host community members in Kajo-keji County of Central Equatoria State, displaced 20,000 people and left **27** others dead. The violence in Jonglei State increased insecurity incidents characterized by increased armed attacks on humanitarian workers, assets and operations, including looting of humanitarian food and other supplies from convoys.
- On 22 February, a measles outbreak hit Malakal County of Upper Nile State, infecting **179** people and causing one death in ten days. This latest outbreak brought the total number of people infected in the country between January 2022 and February 2023 to **4,635** people and **47** deaths. In coordination with the Government, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other humanitarian partners continued to offer frontline health services, conduct water quality testing, and distribute emergency health supplies to the affected people, including cholera investigation and treatment kits.
- About **9.4 million** people require humanitarian assistance in 2023, representing 76 percent of South Sudan's population, and an increase of 500,000 people from 2022. The [October-November 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) projects that 7.7 million will 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 will face Emergency (IPC 4) acute food insecurity, and 43,000 will be in Catastrophe (IPC 5) acute food insecurity in Jonglei and Unity States. The rest, 4.8 million people, will face Crisis (IPC 3) conditions. Further, 1.4 million children will be moderately or severely malnourished in 2023, surpassing the levels seen during the conflict in 2013 and 2016. See the IPC projection for April–July 2023 [here](#).
- The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continued to depreciate, hitting a new low and falling to its lowest level in history against the US dollar. The average reference and parallel rates stood at SSP 753 and SSP 775 per US dollar, respectively, in Juba. The national average cost of a standard food basket increased by 5 percent compared to January 2023. However, during the last week of February, the food basket cost increased by 10 to 25 percent in some WFP-monitored markets (Rumbek, Wau, Malakal, Kodok, and Old Fangak). Price hikes continued to worsen the vulnerability of poor households in a context where **3 in 4 people** live below the international poverty line.

IN THE NUMBERS


56%  44% 

 WFP plans to assist **5.4 million** people in 2023. In February, WFP assisted **1.6 million** people with food and cash-based transfers.

 **7.7 million** people facing severe food insecurity across 78 counties (IPC). Of this, **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

 **USD 567 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between March and August 2023



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In February, WFP distributed 13,880 mt of food and USD 3.6 million as cash-based transfers to 1.6 million people, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), rapid response mechanism and lean-season response through general food assistance (GFA), nutrition assistance, school feeding, food assistance for assets (FFA), and smallholder agriculture market access. This number represented 67 percent of the people targeted, with insecurity hampering WFP's efforts to reach all the targeted people.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to 69,325 newly displaced people in Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile States, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, bringing the number of new displacements supported by WFP to 94,124 people in 2023. They received 50 percent of emergency rations due to funding constraints.
- WFP provided specialized nutritious food to 50,770 children aged 6 – 59 months and 34,725 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) to treat moderate acute malnutrition. WFP conducted nutrition screenings to newly displaced persons in Kajo-Keji and Mundri East in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria, respectively, following the recent violence in the area. Due to funding gaps, WFP malnutrition prevention programme targeted children aged 6 -23 months instead of 6 – 59 months.
- WFP faces a funding gap of USD 567 million between March and August 2023 and had to reduce the total number of people targeted from 7.7 million to 5.4 million. Hence, the number of 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 also continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlements in all the counties with people facing Catastrophe and 50 percent in counties with sections of people facing Emergency food insecurity levels.
- To operationalize its Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2023-2025), WFP rolled out extensive state level sensitization roadshows with relevant stakeholders to sensitize them on WFP's programmatic and operational priorities for supporting national and local development strategies and plans for 2023 and beyond.



Safety Nets and Resilience

- The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded joint resilience Project enabled WFP, UNICEF, and partners to reach people through an integrated programmatic approach in education, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene, child protection, and livelihood interventions. The project aims to strengthen longer-term resilience building pathways for vulnerable communities and households in the urban and peri-urban communities of Juba, Yambio, Torit, and Aweil. Convergence of activities at the programmatic and geographic levels and strong integration of activities within existing structures is contributing to programme effectiveness. By providing a full package of services, the activities help to build the capacities of vulnerable communities to manage and adapt to shocks resulting in long-term resilience. WFP and UNICEF have expanded the programme coverage from 56 schools to 85 schools in 2023, with deliberations going on to extend this partnership to 2024.

- WFP and FAO continued to co-lead the Task Team on Agriculture and Food Security of the Partnership for Peace, Recovery and Resilience (PfPRR). Following a decision in January 2023 to pilot PfPRR in Bentiu (Unity State), Wau (Western Bahr el Ghazal State), Ulang and Nasir (Upper Nile State), WFP participated in a stakeholder consultation meeting in Bentiu and Wau and led a scoping mission to Ulang and Nasir to discuss PfPRR pilot with the local governments and partners. Given a positive response from the actors in Ulang and Nasir, WFP planned to invite partners to join a stakeholder consultative meeting in Ulang and Nasir and develop a joint concept note for the PfPRR Steering Committee at the end of March.



Logistics

- By 28 February, WFP had 92,084 mt of food in South Sudan and had dispatched 46,281 mt to various locations. WFP plans to deliver 229,000 mt of food in 2023, with 205,000 mt needed before the rainy season in May, of which 98,000 mt would be for prepositioning ahead of the rainy season, and 107,000 mt would be just-in-time. WFP had prepositioned 49 percent of the 98,000 mt and 61 percent of the just-in-time stocks by 28 February.
- WFP finished repairing the Bor-Twic East dyke and Rubkuai-Koch-MirMir Road in Jonglei & Unity states, respectively. The rehabilitated infrastructure helps to strengthen communities' resilience to shocks, improve access to markets, stimulate commercial activities and reduce reliance on air transport, reducing the overall cost of delivering humanitarian assistance.
- The deteriorating insecurity along the Bor-Pibor road and the Bor-Gadiang highway continued to limit the delivery of food assistance to the affected people in parts of Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. In coordination with other humanitarian partners, WFP continued to engage with the national, state and county-level authorities, including the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RCC) and local community leaders across the affected regions to address the rising security incidents to ensure the safety of the humanitarian staff and assets and access to the affected people.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 725 mt of non-food items to 35 destinations on behalf of 30 organizations. About 77 percent of the cargo was transported by river and road. The cluster trained 13 humanitarian logisticians on medical logistics in Yambio, equipping them with proper medical supply handling and storage skills.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster airlifted cholera drugs and kits on behalf of WHO and organized flights for the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster to transport response materials to address the most immediate needs in Malakal.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS transported 5,486 passengers, representing an increase of 12 percent compared to January 2023. UNHAS also transported 180 mt of humanitarian supplies and conducted 2 medical evacuations. By 28 February, UNHAS had supported 181 partners.

South Sudan: Baking a better future

Awan Thiep's life has changed drastically since WFP's Urban Safety Nets Programme supported her with training and cash transfers to start her own business. She has started a bakery and her baked goods are popular around Aweil, Northern Bar el Ghazal, where she lives.

With the earnings she has been able to build two houses, buy 11 goats, and provide for her family.

"My situation now and that of the past are not the same, now my children are well nourished and they eat good food because of the work I do."

Participants in this program receive ovens and a starter kit with wheat flour, yeast and baking items to start their baking business. Most of the participants are returnees from Sudan and were receiving food assistance before switching to resilience activities.

"After joining WFP's project, I was also able to send my four oldest children to school and I hope I can expand my business in the future."

The primary goal of this program is to address immediate food security and resilience building by transferring knowledge and skills that improve the livelihoods of vulnerable urban residents.

The training modules cover different topics that can help participants strengthen their livelihoods, including vocational training, income generating activities and hygiene promotion.



Photo: Awan Thiep preparing the dough to bake cookies made of wheat flour, sugar, oil and vanilla. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)

	Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements Mar - Aug 2022 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (February 2023)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)	3,731.4	478.29	567.15	1,664,411	932,070	732,341
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	291.75	326.60	1,465,046	820,426	644,620
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	74.62	101.00	162,141	90,799	71,342
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	3.89	39.05	26,688	14,945	11,743
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	11.80	70.48	10,536	5,900	4,636
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	-	-	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	1.43	29.30	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	-	0.72	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	8.53	-	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	13.08	-	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	0.0	73.2	0.0			

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Photo on page 1: Boath Gai fishing in a flooded area around Mankuai Village, Rubkona county, Unit State. . WFP/Gemma Snowdon