

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #316

31 Aug 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In August, WFP distributed **18,759 mt** of food and **USD 6.43 million** in cash-based transfers to **2.52 million** people, representing **87 percent** of the people targeted in August.
- As part of the Sudan response, WFP had assisted **235,000** people with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, dry rations and cash by 31 August.
- WFP requires **446,590 mt** of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced **216,759 mt** of this food by 31 August, representing 49 percent of the requirements.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 566 million** between September 2023 and February 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.

IN THE NUMBERS

56%  44% 

 WFP plans to assist **5.4 million** people in 2023. In August, WFP assisted **2.52 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 566 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between September 2023 and February 2024.

SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan continues to face multiple intersecting crises which is having a profound and adverse impact on food security in the country. Some of the difficulties the nation is experiencing include insecurity, subnational violence, developing regional and national socioeconomic challenges exacerbated by the global economic slump, and the effects of climate change.
- At the beginning of the year, Humanitarian partners estimated that **76 percent** of the South Sudan population would need humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023, representing an increase of 4 percent from 2022. Data collection for the annual Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) took place in August and results are expected in mid September. The results of the FSNMS will provide a better understanding of food security and vulnerability status.
- The [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWS NET\)](#) reported that emergency levels of food insecurity would persist in several counties during the lean season 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 food consumption shortfalls, which are 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 elevated regional prices, disruptions in cross-border trade, and a delayed initial harvest in some regions. These factors are compounding the already-existing challenges in obtaining an adequate food supply during the lean season.
- The ongoing conflict in Sudan continues to compound an already dire situation, forcing thousands of people to cross into South Sudan. As of 31 August, **252,242** people had crossed into South Sudan, and is anticipated to rise to at least 600,000 through end of the year. 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.
- The conflict in Sudan has had a notable impact on trade between Sudan and South Sudan. The decrease in imports from Sudan has contributed to an increase in the cost of the food basket. According to WFP market monitoring data, the cost of the food basket has been on the rise since the onset of the Sudan crisis, with increases ranging from 25 to 138 percent in areas bordering Sudan. Since the conflict in Sudan, markets in South Sudan (Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal) are serving as a supply source and/or transit market for food items to the markets in Sudan (border markets), mainly to the near-by markets in Darfur and Kordofan states. This situation and the continued influx of returnees from Sudan will likely aggravate the increasing trends in cost of basket.
- During August, various localized incidents of armed clashes, minor criminal activities, abductions, banditry, and cattle raids were reported across different regions in South Sudan which caused disruptions to delivery of assistance and local livelihoods.

Sudan conflict response

- Humanitarian partners in South Sudan continued to provide humanitarian assistance to new arrivals, including water, communal shelters, health services, water sanitation and services, core relief items, and protection services. Further, partners continued to assist new arrivals to move their places of origin or destination of choice. However, funding constraints and poor road networks slowed the onward transportation process. The slow onward movement of returnees to their final destinations caused significant congestion at the transit centres and the proliferation of informal collective centres, with concerns over the water, health and sanitation conditions.
- 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 assistance. Since the introduction of cash distribution to new arrivals, WFP distributed nearly USD 1.3 million to 115,160 new arrivals in Renk, Malakal and Abyei.
- WFP continued to screen children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, admitting those moderately acutely malnourished into the relevant nutrition programmes. In July, WFP admitted 3,784 children and 2,185 mothers into the treatment programme. In August, WFP admitted 2,552 children and 1,770 mothers into the treatment programme, representing a 28 percent decrease in the number of people enrolled on the treatment programme between July and August. The resumption of prevention of acute malnutrition response in Renk in August after a suspension in July likely contributed to the decrease in malnutrition rates.
- Due to severe funding shortfalls for the Sudan response, WFP continued prioritising food and nutrition assistance to returnees at transit centres and during travel only. Resources remained insufficient to assist returnees at the destination. However, WFP planned to integrate nutrition services beyond transit centres into regular programming, and newly arrived refugees would receive assistance till the end of the year under the Sudan Response.

General food assistance

- In August, WFP distributed 18,759 mt of food and USD 6.43 million as cash-based transfers to 2.52 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, food assistance for assets (FFA), and smallholder agriculture market access. This figure accounted for 87 percent of the intended beneficiaries, as delays in delivery and distributions occurred due to unfavourable road conditions and low water levels in the canal in some areas, making it unsuitable for barge movement.
- Lean season response is being extended until the end of September in some locations to complete planned June, July and August distributions which have been delayed due to inaccessibility and/or insecurity, depending on location. Deliveries from Gambella to Akobo East resumed following a suspension due to insecurity. WFP is prioritizing air deliveries

for locations that are inaccessible by road and river in Priority 1 counties, including Pibor, Fangak and Akobo West.

- The dry spell has adversely affected general food distribution plus (GFD+) participant farmers' crops for almost a month. In Mangalla, 178 individuals (102 women and 76 men) participated in hygiene campaigns conducted in the market and schools. In the Geri Zone of Mangalla, 45 farmers (44 women and 1 man) were trained on non-chemical practices to control pests. Additionally, a group of 25 members (22 women and 3 men) received training on the concept of village savings and loan association (VSLA), loan taking, and reimbursement.

Nutrition

- WFP convened a meeting of UN agencies, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, featuring Director/Representative and Senior level participants. The primary focus of this meeting was to issue a call to action aimed at addressing concerns related to aid diversion and the sale of nutrition supplies in markets, not only in Juba but also in various locations across the country. The forum was also used as an opportunity to brainstorm with partners on ways to stop this practice. WFP also held an internal progress briefing regarding WFP and UNICEF's joint approach to waste management, along with the WFP Regional Bureau in Nairobi and the Nutrition Division at WFP's Headquarters.
- WFP in collaboration with its partner 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 the 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.
- In order to enhance coordination between the Government and development partners for the implementation of the Revised National Development Strategy, a decision was made to establish the Social and Humanitarian Sectors Working Group (SHSWG). The Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and

WFP RESPONSE

Disaster Risk Reduction will chair the group with WFP serving as the co-chair. A preliminary terms of reference (TOR) for the working group has been drafted and circulated among Government officials and development partners for their feedback and contributions. The working group is expected to function as a platform for high-level coordination within both sectors, and it will also oversee various thematic working groups, including the revived National Social Protection Working Group.

- 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

- WFP requires 446,590 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 216,759 mt by 31 August, 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, limited air asset capacity, insecurity along routes 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 178 mt of camp coordination and camp management, food security, general operation, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, telecommunication, and WASH supplies to Maban, Malakal, Pibor and Renk on behalf of 18 partner organizations, this included 5.5 mt of personal effects in support of returnees airlifted from Malakal to Wau on behalf of IOM.
- The cluster supported the transportation of 32 mt of assorted relief cargo comprising of Nutrition, Protection, Shelter, and Wash items by road from Bentiu and Wau to Rotriak, Kuach, Aweil and Kuajok through the Beyond Response service utilizing IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks on behalf of seven organizations.
- Additionally, in Unity state, the Logistics Cluster used IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks to deliver 124 mt of various relief items, including those for food security, livelihood, health, logistics, nutrition, Protection, and WASH, on behalf of seven partner organizations to different IDP sites as part of flood response efforts.

UN humanitarian air service

- 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 5 organizations. It also carried out 12 medical evacuations on behalf of 7 organizations.

Beneficiary data management

- As of 31 August, WFP had registered 5,959,274 people in SCOPE, including new arrivals from Sudan, with 83.5 percent registered using all demographic information and 59 percent with only fingerprints.

Protection and gender

- To address concerns related to cash distributions, WFP conducted a protection monitoring exercise at the Gorom Refugee camp in Central Equatoria. Key observations from this monitoring effort revealed issues with the layout and access of cash distribution sites. Following discussions with refugee representatives and key stakeholders at the sites, many of the complaints and concerns raised by the refugees were successfully addressed. To ensure that beneficiaries are able to access cash in a safe and dignified manner, ongoing monitoring will be implemented during cash distributions.

Resourcing outlook

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to multiple shocks. Floods and sub-national conflicts have made most areas inaccessible by road. WFP resources are stretched thin and impacting the level and duration of support that WFP can provide to crisis-affected families. 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.



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

South Sudan: WFP provides assistance to returnees fleeing Sudan

More than 264,000 people have crossed into South Sudan from Sudan since the start of the crisis in April 2023. Around 81 percent of them have arrived through the Joda border point in Renk County, Upper Nile State, and then travel to Renk town where they stay in the Transit Center until they can continue their journey.

WFP provides High Energy Biscuits (HEB) upon arrival at the border and before their boat journey to Malakal, where IOM provides onward transportation to their final destination.

At the Transit Center, WFP has been providing food or cash assistance to the returnees as well as nutrition support to malnourished mothers and children.

Aker Monychol Biar is a 32-years-old mother from Malakal that moved to Sudan in October 2022 to support her family. Her husband had passed away and she moved to the neighboring country with her four children to work at the simsim farms.

"I decided to come back after the war broke out. We didn't have anything but thankfully WFP gave us food" says Aker.

While many returnees like Aker have faced arduous journeys to get to this point they still have a long and difficult journey ahead to the communities they wish to settle in South Sudan.

Overall, WFP has provided nearly 250,000 people with in-kind food assistance and/or cash-transfers, as well as high-energy biscuits, and nutrition treatment and prevention support since the start of the response.



Photo: Aker cooking lunch at Malakal's Transit Center. 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 Sep 2023 - Feb 2024 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (August 2023)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)	3,770.70	731.12	566	2,519,716	1,403,485	1,116,231
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	447.43	388	1,936,087	1,045,487	890,600
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	121.23	78	287,814	210,104	777,010
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	17.13	24	148,084	68,119	78,965
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	49.51	13	147,731	79,775	67,956
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	8.24	-	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	5.84	30	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	0.80	-	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	53.19	17	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	19.19	14	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	8.57	2	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	-	-	-	-	-

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Photo 1: Aker Monychol Biar and her children eating food provided by WFP at the Transit Center in Malakal. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga