

# WFP SOUTH SUDAN

## Situation Report #317

30 Sep 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In September, WFP distributed **11,843 mt** of food and **USD 2.5 million** in cash-based transfers to **1.3 million** people, representing **74 percent** of the people targeted in September.
- Since the start of the Sudan response, WFP provided more than **278,000** people with either high-energy biscuits, in-kind food or cash assistance.
- WFP requires **446,590 mt** of food in 2023 under its needs-based plan of which **237,772 mt** was resourced by 30 September, representing 53 percent of the annual requirements.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 759 million** between October 2023 and March 2024 and had to reduce the number of people targeted in 2023 from 7.7 million to 5.4 million.

### IN THE NUMBERS

57%  43% 



WFP plans to assist **5.4 million** people in 2023. In September, WFP assisted **1.3 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



**328,000** refugees in South Sudan



**293,000** South Sudanese returnees since the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023.



**USD 759 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between October 2023 and March 2024.

### SITUATION UPDATE

- Conflict, subnational and localized violence, the ripple effects of the global food crisis, and the impact of climate change continue to drive up humanitarian needs and food insecurity while eroding household and community resilience.
- According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, **76 percent** of South Sudan's population require humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023, a four percent increase from 2022. Additionally, **two-thirds** of the population suffers from food insecurity, making South Sudan one of the most severe food insecurity crises globally.
- As a result of the ongoing conflict in Sudan, **292,818** people were recorded crossing the border into South Sudan as of 30 September 2023. Of these, 91 percent were South Sudanese returning to a country that is already hosting nearly **328,000** refugees and **2.3 million** internally displaced people.
- In Renk, heavy rain and flooding exacerbated an already dire situation, restricting access to informal settlements, the airport, and interrupting the provision of humanitarian assistance. With inflows from Sudan outpacing onward transportation assistance, the Renk transit centre grew more congested.
- In response to rising needs, humanitarian partners in South Sudan launched a revised [Emergency Response Plan](#) for the Sudan crisis. The updated Emergency Response Plan for the Sudan Crisis requires USD 356 million from May to December 2023 to address critical priorities, including onward transport assistance to preferred final destinations, life-saving humanitarian needs at the border, and during transit, targeting a total of 600,000 individuals. Out of the total USD 356 million, WFP requires USD 139.4 million to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance for new arrivals and support the humanitarian response through UNHAS and the Logistics Cluster
- From October to December alone, WFP requires USD 50.8 million to provide lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable arrivals and support the humanitarian response.
- The availability of staple cereals and green vegetables has improved in areas where early seasonal harvests began and depending on the local conditions, staple food prices varied from one area to another. As the seasonal harvest begins to reach the markets, cereal prices are following the usual seasonal trend and starting to decline.
- Compared to August 2023, the cost of the standard food basket decreased in specific areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State (with reductions of 27 percent in Wanjok, 20 percent in Aweil Centre, and 23 percent in Gokmachar) and Warrap State (with a 10 percent decrease in Kuajok and Wunrok). In contrast, the cost of the standard food basket remained steady in various markets across Greater Equatoria, Upper Nile, Lakes, and Western Bahr el Ghazal States. However, Bentiu, Rubkona, and Yida experienced higher food prices due to disruptions in trade with Sudan and localized flooding that damaged roads.

## WFP RESPONSE

### Sudan conflict response

- In September, 41,840 people arrived in South Sudan, the majority of whom were South Sudanese returnees (90 percent) while the rest were Sudanese refugees and third-country nationals. Since the start of the crisis, 292,000 people have crossed into South Sudan, fleeing the ongoing conflict, with 81 percent registered at the Joda border entry point in Renk County, Upper Nile State.
- As of 30 September, WFP had assisted 278,811 people with high-energy biscuits, in-kind food or cash assistance. WFP distributed USD 2 million to 166,607 new arrivals in Renk, Malakal and Abyei, and to newly settled refugees in camps.
- WFP continued to screen children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, admitting those moderately acutely malnourished into the nutrition treatment programme. In September, WFP admitted 1,848 children and 1,364 mothers into the treatment programme, representing a 26 percent decrease from the number of people enrolled in the treatment programme in August.
- WFP resumed the provision of Phase II assistance, providing three months of food assistance to 38,541 returnees at their final destinations. Nutrition treatment services continued for those acutely malnourished.

### General food assistance

- In September, WFP distributed 11,843 mt of food and USD 2.5 million in cash-based transfers to 1.3 million people, including new arrivals from Sudan, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and resident populations through general food assistance, nutrition support, school feeding, asset creation and livelihoods, and smallholder agriculture market support. This figure accounted for 74 percent of the planned 1.77 million people. Poor road conditions, low water levels on rivers, and weather-related challenges delayed food distribution in some areas. Due to severe funding gaps, WFP continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in counties with pockets of IPC 5, whereas in counties facing Emergency (IPC 4) food insecurity levels, people received halved rations.
- The lean season response was extended until the end of September and into October in some locations to complete planned distributions which were delayed due to inaccessibility and/or insecurity. WFP shifted some locations that are usually reached by river to air delivery due to low water levels. An increased demand for air delivery amidst limited available aircraft and weather-related flight cancellations caused further delays.
- Crisis affected people continued to benefit from unconditional value added activities (GFD+). In Mangala, Central Equatoria State, WFP and partners conducted a hygiene campaign in schools and child friendly spaces, reaching 363 participants. A host community group (25 women and 5 men) received trainings on improved agronomic practices and pest management. WFP facilitated an awareness raising session on the importance of education at a nursery and primary school in the IDP camp, reaching 20 women and 8 men and facilitated a training of a village savings and loans association group comprising 30 women and 7 men on the integration of pest management and farming as a business. In the Makpandu refugee camp in Western Equatoria State, GFD+ participants started road clearance work within zones A and C of the camp.

### Human capital development

#### **Nutrition**

- Development of the South Sudan Nutrition Policy was initiated at the beginning of 2023 in consultation with all stakeholders, with the first draft released in August 2023. WFP provided technical and financial support for the first draft policy consolidation workshop which took place from 5-6 September 2023. Senior management from different line ministries, experts from different sectors including nutrition, health, WASH, food security, and education were involved, with a total of 56 participants. The policy was reviewed to align and address the needs of South Sudan, considering global, regional, and national perspectives. The policy will be validated with dissemination planned for the end of 2023.
- WFP and UNICEF, under the leadership of the Nutrition Cluster, mobilized a community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) technical working group to discuss the next steps on the newly released global guidelines on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children under the age of five. The technical working group agreed to pilot the new guidelines on the Future of Wasting in anticipation of adoption at scale.
- As part of the sustainability and multisectoral approach, 450 members of mother-to-mother and men support groups in Gogrial West County, Warrap State have been taught and are practicing vegetable and fruit seed production with technical support from WFP's Asset Creation and Livelihoods partners.
- WFP conducted a mission to Rubkona, Unity State, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization from 18-20 September 2023. The team visited the Unity State Minister of Health, as well as other health and nutrition stakeholders, to discuss the nutrition program implementation and the transition of the nutrition stabilization services from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-H) to the existing implementing partners in Rubkona (WRI and IOM).
- The meeting and site visit resulted in key recommendations such as ensuring a smooth handover process of the treatment services, reinforcing the capacity of the stabilization centres at Bentiu State Hospital and in Rotriak, and establishing a new stabilization centre at Bentiu PoC-Sector two.

#### **School feeding programme**

- Since the resumption of learning on 12 September 2023 following the term break, WFP provided school meals across targeted schools in the 10 states reaching about 403,300 school children in 886 schools. The Home-Grown School Feeding initiative is being implemented to promote the procurement and utilisation of local available food commodities to boost agricultural production and local economies.
- To scale up Home-Grown School Feeding, a market and retailer assessment and selection exercise was conducted. Eight local traders from Kuajok and Rumbek will be involved in the initiative supplying food to 27 schools, linking them with local farmers. An additional 18,000 vulnerable school children will benefit from diversified nutritious meals that school committees source locally with the possibility of including fresh foods such as vegetables and fruits along with locally grown cereals and pulses.

## WFP RESPONSE



### Food systems and resilience

- In the context of the Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) Jonglei and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) area-based Programme (ABP) Phase 2, a Harmonised Community Based Participatory Planning (HCBPP) was carried out in conflict-prone areas of central-southern Jonglei and GPAA, where partners incorporated the dissemination of a peace agreement involving Dinka, Nuer, and Murle community leaders to address youth engagement in cattle raiding and child abduction due to food and livelihood shortages. Each local ICGS was provided six head of cattle to support further dissemination of the peace agreement to all the unreached locations. Youth cited lack of food and livelihoods as one of the main reasons why they engage in cattle raiding and child abduction.
- WFP held a lessons-learned meeting on the European Union Trust Fund Project in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal (GBeG) and Upper Nile regions. The project leverages WFP's Asset Creation and Livelihoods (ACL) and Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programmes. In GBeG, the project is focused on SAMS activities such as connectivity to production areas and markets, support to agricultural production, producer groups, agribusinesses, and collective marketing, and livelihood diversification. The project also focuses on asset creation and livelihoods to help households that receive general food assistance to build their resilience. Cash transfers have help to stimulate the local market.
- The lesson-learned discussions revealed that more support is needed for agribusiness development while the village savings and loan activities enable households and groups, including youth and producer groups, to invest in equipment such as tricycles for transport services and agro-processing machines, by sharing the costs. Additionally, support should be enhanced for climate adaptation in agriculture and other livelihoods to cushion the farmers against the changing weather patterns which often result in lower crop yields due to drought, heat waves and flooding.



### Logistics

- WFP requires 446,590 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 237,772 mt by 30 September, representing 53 percent of the needs-based requirement.



### Logistics cluster

- In support of the Sudan crisis response, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 147.3 mt of camp coordination and camp management, general operation/ programme, health, logistics, nutrition, protection, shelter, telecommunication, and WASH supplies to Malakal, Paloich, Renk and Rubkona on behalf of 19 partner organizations. This included 5.5 mt of personal effects in support of returnees airlifted from Malakal to Wau on behalf of IOM. Additionally, the cluster transported 15 mt of assorted relief cargo comprising of protection, shelter, and WASH items by road from Bentiu and Wau to Rotriak and Raja through the Beyond Response service utilizing IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks on behalf of three organizations.
- The cluster transported 24.3 mt of general operation, health, logistics, shelter and WASH items to six locations on behalf of

10 organizations. Furthermore, the cluster transported 15 mt of camp coordination and camp management and general program relief items from Wau to 20 destinations in Western Bahr el Ghazal on behalf of three organizations.

- In Unity state, the Logistics Cluster used IOM's Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks to deliver 56.1 mt of various relief items, including food security, livelihood, health, logistics, protection, and WASH, on behalf of eight partners as part of flood response efforts.



### UN humanitarian air service

- In September, UNHAS transported 597 passengers and 7,073 kg of light cargo. The service evacuated humanitarian staff and their dependents fleeing the Sudan crisis, transporting two passengers from Malakal to Juba on behalf of one organization.



### Beneficiary data management

- In September, WFP registered 36,570 people in SCOPE, including new arrivals from Sudan. By 31 September, 5,992,597 people were registered in SCOPE since January 2015, with 83.5 percent using all demographic information and 59 percent with only fingerprints.



### Protection and gender

- WFP co-chaired the Gender and Inclusion Task Force team and worked with partner agencies to produce gender in emergency guidelines for the Sudan response. Communication guidelines for engaging with the crisis-affected populations from Sudan were disseminated.
- WFP and partners conducted outreach sessions in Renk , sharing key gender-based violence messages, including the availability of support services for violence survivors, reaching 1,360 women and 512 girls. In the Wedweil refugee camp in Aweil West County, the partner reached 187 women and 44 girls and referred four GBV cases.
- With the support of UNFPA, WFP organized a workshop on GBV prevention and risk mitigation with 32 participants from WFP and partner staff. The training covered the concept of GBV, root causes, contributing factors, consequences, and referral pathways and risk mitigation in programming.



### Resourcing outlook

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate due to multiple shocks. WFP resources are stretched thin and impacting the level and duration of support that WFP can provide to food insecure families. WFP South Sudan requires an additional USD 759 million to ensure continued assistance for the next six months (October 2023 to March 2024). The net funding requirement includes the additional resourcing needs to support the Sudan crisis response until December 2023.

## Farming for the future

Awut digs into the dry and cracked earth near her home in Aweil South. Looking around it's difficult to believe produce could grow in this environment with not a drop of water to be seen for miles.

But after a short time Awut uncover the root of the plant she's digging around to reveal cassava. The edible root vegetable is a strong, climate resilient crop that is able to withstand drought and flooding.

"Cassava is our future," says Awut who has, in recent years, had crops wiped out by both flooding and drought. "We plant it on high grounds to avoid flooding and is very good for us."

WFP is working with communities to adapt as the impacts of the climate crisis are sharply felt across South Sudan as the country experiences a unique combination of simultaneous floods and drought. One form of adaptation is climate smart agriculture and pivoting crop production to suit the changing environment.

In Aweil this includes rice harvesting and cassava growing which WFP supports by providing farmers with training and cash transfers as they learn to cultivate cassava.

"I use part of the money I get to pay school fees for my children and the rest to support my family," says Awut.

The programme has had an enormous impact on Awut and her family who previously relied on wild food to fill their stomachs during the leanest of times. But with the successful cassava harvests and cash support, Awut and her children have enough to eat as well as leftover cassava to sell, building a new livelihood and life for the family.

The WFP project was funded by the United Kingdom and implemented in collaboration with FAO and the State Ministry of Agriculture.



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

	CSP Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements Oct 2023 - March 2024 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (September 2023)	Female	Male
<b>CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)</b>	<b>3,770.70</b>	<b>768.34</b>	<b>758.55</b>	<b>1,309,340</b>	<b>746,845</b>	<b>562,495</b>
<b>Activity 1:</b> Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	470.45	479.08	816,861	441,105	375,756
<b>Activity 2:</b> Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	122.32	149.07	262,418	191,565	70,853
<b>Activity 3:</b> Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	17.41	31.13	125,720	57,831	67,889
<b>Activity 4:</b> Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	50.99	34.33	104,341	56,344	47,997
<b>Activity 5:</b> Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	8.25	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 6:</b> Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	5.84	27.20	-	-	-
<b>Activity 7:</b> provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	0.81	-	-	-	-
<b>Activity 8:</b> Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	59.59	20.51	-	-	-
<b>Activity 9:</b> Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	23.43	12.32	-	-	-
<b>Activity 10:</b> Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	9.27	4.90	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	-	-	-	-	-

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Photo 1: Mothers and children at the nutrition centre at the Renk transit Centre. WFP/Eulalia Berlanga