

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #311

31 March 2023


WFP/Gemma Snowdon


HIGHLIGHTS


- In March, WFP distributed **14,901 mt** of food and **USD 4.5 million** as cash-based transfers to **1.9 million** people, representing **68 percent** of the people targeted in March.
- WFP requires **446,000 mt** of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 209,967 mt of this food by 31 March, representing 47 percent of needs-based requirements. WFP planned to preposition 98,658 mt of the resourced food before the onset of the rainy season in May, and had prepositioned 67 percent of this food by 31 March.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 466 million** between April and September 2023 and had to reduce the total number of people targeted 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 March, WFP assisted **1.9 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 466 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between April and September 2023

SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan continued to experience a multidimensional crisis combining social, economic, security, and political challenges. Subnational violence persisted in several states in March, including Jonglei, Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria State, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA). The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) [report](#) on violence against civilians in South Sudan released on 17 March indicted that violence against civilians had increased by 2 percent in 2022 compared to 2021, with levels of documented violent incidents rising by 27 percent, from 714 acts of violence in 2021, to 982 in 2022. The first three weeks of March saw increased [attacks](#) on humanitarian workers, assets and looting of humanitarian food and other supplies from convoys, limiting WFP and other humanitarian partners capacity to reach vulnerable people in some parts of the country.
- 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.
- In the [2022 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission](#) released on 6 March, FAO estimated net cereal production at 936,200 mt in 2022, an 11.5 percent increase compared to 2021. The increase was due to improved security in some areas, allowing displaced people to return to their places of origin and engage in agriculture. However, flooding, insecurity, and high food and fuel prices due to the depreciation of the South Sudanese pound (SSP) and reduced humanitarian resources, led to increased prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity, over and above the high levels seen in 2021. Declining levels of humanitarian resources and the increased cost of commercial imports will make it harder to fill the deficit between local production and consumption requirements.
- Between mid-March and 31 March, the value of the SSP relative to the US dollar (USD) remained volatile. The difference between the reference and parallel market rates remained at or below 5 percent, spiking to 8 percent in the fourth week of March. In the reference market, the SSP depreciated by 7 percent, from SSP 798 to SSP 860 per USD. In the parallel market, the exchange rate reached SSP 920 per USD on 24 March before falling back to SSP 900 per USD. By 31 March, the exchange rate had settled at SSP 850 per USD. Since the start of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022, SSP had depreciated by 50 percent, resulting in hikes in prices of food and nonfood items, eroding poor households' purchasing power.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In March, WFP distributed **14,901 mt** of food and **USD 4.5 million** as cash-based transfers to **1.9 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 68 percent of the targeted people, with insecurity hampering WFP's efforts to reach all the targeted people in March.
- WFP provided emergency food assistance to 23,265 newly displaced people in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile States, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. They received halved emergency rations due to funding constraints.
- WFP participated in an inter-agency rapid needs assessment in Jie Payam in Kapoeta East, Eastern Equatoria State after reports of hunger-related deaths emerged in the Payam. Of the 1,603 children screened for malnutrition, 54 and 303 suffered from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), respectively. Of 1,015 Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls (PBW/G) screened, 234 were malnourished. By 31 March, WFP and UNICEF had two partners providing nutrition services in the Payam and will continue to support case identification and nutrition services through mobile and static sites.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 466 million** between April and September 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 continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in all the counties with people facing Catastrophe and halved rations in counties with sections of people facing Emergency food insecurity levels. Further, WFP continued to deprioritize IPC 3 counties in a move likely to increase food insecurity in the deprioritized counties given that trend analyses show an increase in the number of IPC 4 counties with each IPC cycle. The ongoing ration cuts in IPC 4 and IPC 5 counties continue to compromise famine prevention objectives and could reverse the gains in deprioritized areas. WFP planned to scale up resilience during the country strategic plan (CSP) period (2023—2025), but had to reduce scale-up plans in a move that could increase humanitarian needs.



Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund Project

- Under the Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF), WFP and a consortium of partners continued to bring together communities embroiled in violence to identify sources of conflict and explore mechanisms to reduce it. In March, the Fund approved the programme extension for two more years, from April 2023 – April 2025. Phase 2 builds on lessons from Phase 1, which underline the desire for peace in communities and the reality that this will not eventuate without substantive, salient dividends that the communities perceive as a dividend of the peace process. As such, Phase 2 will ensure a much stronger geographic layering of reconciliation, stabilization, and resilience interventions,

focusing on bridging the divide between the core and periphery of the conflict system.

- Since August 2022, WFP has led a community violence reduction programme in Greater Tonj, Warrap State. As part of the programme engagement phase (December 2022 – May 2023), programme partners supported sequenced dialogues starting at the village and cattle camp level and gradually extending and expanding to include all six active conflict systems, all sub-ethnic groups, and all communities of greater Tonj. WFP and partners concluded three county-level dialogues in Tonj East, Tonj North, and Tonj South, which included discussions on outstanding internal tensions and a process to address them, validation of thematic intervention priorities, confirmation of food-assistance-for asset selection at the boma (village) level, identifying the county specific strengths, developing a responsibility matrix for the various intervention activities, county peace governance structures and selection of the county's representatives to the Greater Tonj conference.



Logistics

- WFP requires 446,000 mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan and had resourced 209,967 mt of this food by 31 March, representing 47 percent of the needs-based requirements, and planned to preposition 98,658 mt of the resourced food before the onset of the rainy season in May. By 31 March, WFP had prepositioned 67 percent of this requirement.
- WFP continued to develop, rehabilitate, and maintain essential infrastructure, including roads, bridges, riverways, ports and dikes for targeted communities. In March, WFP completed a 17 km dike along the Mayom – Kilo 30 Road in Unity State, making it passable from Tomour, Unity State. WFP constructed a six km stretch of dike along the Leer – Rubkuai road in Unity state rendering the Rubkuai-Mirmir-Koch passable. This infrastructure helps reduce reliance on costly air transport in favour of road and river transport, making humanitarian operations more efficient, strengthening trade, and transforming food systems by facilitating access to markets and services.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 127 mt of non-food items (NFIs) to 19 destinations, including the airlift of essential medicines to Malakal County for the cholera response on behalf of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. To support dry season prepositioning, the Cluster coordinated nine road convoys comprising 66 trucks, transporting 1,750 mt of NFIs to northern Jonglei, GPAA, Central Equatoria, and the Abyei Administrative Area.
- The Cluster also trained 26 participants on medical logistics, combining sessions on handling temperature-sensitive cargo and cold chain management to ensure participants understood the requirements for handling medical items and principles of Good Distribution Practice.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- In March, UNHAS transported 6,719 passengers, representing an increase of 21 percent from 5,565 passengers transported in February. UNHAS also transported 197 mt of humanitarian supplies and conducted six medical evacuations. By 31 March, UNHAS had supported 191 partners.

South Sudan: Receiving food assistance for the first time after two years of drought

Nari Lotede used to plant okra, maize, and sorghum in her garden, but two consecutive years of drought have left her without harvests and receiving assistance from WFP for the first time.

“Before receiving food from WFP, I collected wild fruits to eat and charcoal to sell in the market, but sometimes I wouldn’t sell it and I would go to sleep hungry.”

A single mother of 7, Nari is from Riwoto, a village from Kapoeta North County in the Greater Kapoeta region, an area affected by the drought that is also affecting neighbouring countries in the Horn of Africa.

The number of food insecure people in the area has risen by 20% since December 2022, mostly because of the consequences of the drought and the high food prices. A traditionally pastoralist area, the lack of water has heavily affected cattle who have perished as water sources dried up.

Thanks to donors to the World Food Programme’s (WFP) humanitarian response, people like Nari are able to receive food assistance until they can start producing their own crops and relying on their livestock once again.

“I hope I can start planting food again to support my children. I want them to go to school and have a better future.”



Photo: Food distribution in Riwoto, Kapoeta North. 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 Apr - Sept 2023 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (March 2023)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)	3,770.7	478.29	466.2	1,960,902	1,076,498	884,404
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	297.52	260.74	1,676,000	890,708	785,292
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	74.62	60.66	202,662	147,299	55,363
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	3.89	35.15	73,939	34,012	39,927
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	11.80	69.23	8,301	4,479	3,822
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	23.56	31.07	-	-	-
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	3.09	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	13.08	-	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	13.91	5.55	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	31.39	-	-	-	-

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