



WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #309

31 January 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- About **9.4 million** people will require humanitarian assistance in South Sudan in 2023.
- The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projects that an estimated **7.7 million** will face severe acute food insecurity – at the Crisis level (IPC 3) or higher during the April-July 2023 lean season.
- WFP assisted **1.1 million** people with food and nutrition assistance in January, representing **44 percent** of the people targeted in January.
- WFP plans to deliver **231,000 mt** of food to different locations in South Sudan in 2023, and plans to deliver **88 percent** of this food before the start of the rainy season in May 2023. In January, WFP delivered **89,000 mt** of food in different locations, representing **39 percent** of the 2023 target.

SITUATION UPDATE

- South Sudan continued to face unprecedented humanitarian needs driven by protracted violence, insecurity, climate change, and the impacts of the global food crisis. Subnational violence continued in several states, including Jonglei, Upper Nile, Eastern Equatoria, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), among others. The violence drove up displacements and humanitarian needs, contributing to the escalation of insecurity incidents characterized by a surge in attacks on humanitarian workers and assets. It disrupted the movement of humanitarian supplies to the affected people, and impeded access to those in need. The violence displaced **30,700 people** in Akobo and Nyirol Counties of Jonglei State.
- The humanitarian situation remained dire, with humanitarian partners estimating that **9.4 million people** will 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, leading to one of the [worst food insecurity emergencies](#) in the world.
- The weakening of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continued in January, trading at an average of SSP 688 per US dollar in commercial banks in Juba, down from SSP 662 in December, representing a 4 percent depreciation in just a month. From the start of the global crisis, SSP had depreciated by 37 percent. The seasonal harvests, food from own production, improved road access and movement of goods helped to minimize the impacts of the depreciation on food prices. However, prices remained higher compared to the start of the global crisis, exacerbating the vulnerability of poor households.

IN THE NUMBERS


56%  44% 

 **5.4 million** people WFP plans to assist in 2023

 **1.1 million** assisted in January

 **7.7 million** people facing severe food insecurity across 78 counties (IPC)

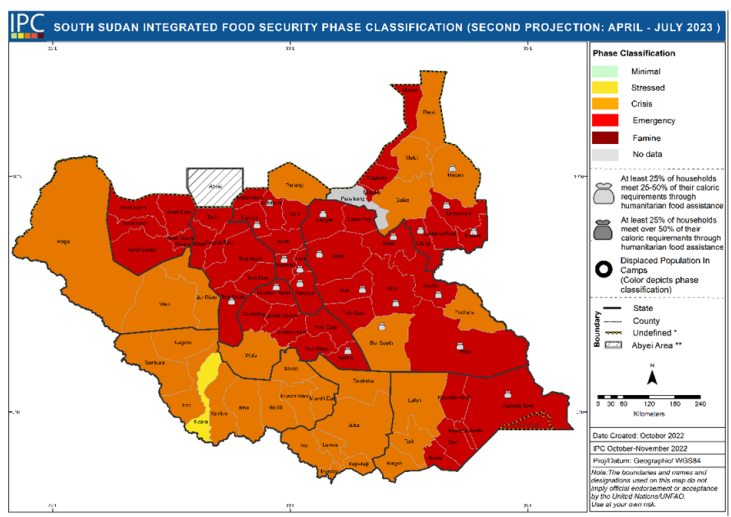
 Of this, **43,000** in IPC 5, 2.9 million in IPC 4, 4.8 million in IPC 3.

 **2 million** acutely malnourished women and children

 **2.2 million** internally displaced people

 **2.3 million** South Sudanese refugees

 **USD 575 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between February and July 2023



WFP RESPONSE



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP provided life-saving assistance while scaling up resilience to contribute to peace, address inequity and isolation, ensuring alignment with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In January, WFP provided food assistance to 1.1 million people, including refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), through general food assistance (GFA), nutrition assistance, school feeding, food assistance for assets (FFA), and smallholder agriculture market access. Overall, WFP distributed 5,432 mt of food and USD 3.6 million as cash-based transfers. The number of people reached represented 44 percent of those targeted in January 2023, with insecurity and inaccessibility challenges limiting WFP's capacity to reach all the affected people.
- WFP responded to new displacements, providing emergency food assistance to 50,848 IDPs affected by a surge in violence in Warrap, Jonglei, and Upper Nile States, and the GPAA. Further, WFP assisted flood-displaced people across different states, and had assisted 461,657 flood-displaced people in six States by 31 January. WFP provided 50 percent of emergency ration entitlements due to funding constraints.
- WFP continued to treat moderately acute malnourished children aged 6–59 months and Pregnant and Lactating Women and Girls (PLWG) and supported a malnutrition prevention programme for children. However, severe funding gaps forced WFP to maintain a reduced targeting for malnutrition prevention from children aged 6 – 59 months to those aged 6–23 months and a reduced duration of assistance for PLWG to 4 months.
- WFP faces a funding gap of USD 575 million between February and July 2023 and has reduced the number of people targeted in 2023 to 5.4 million. WFP continued to provide 70 percent of the ration entitlement to people in all the counties with people facing Catastrophe and 50 percent in counties with people facing Emergency food insecurity levels.
- From 1 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 with the goal of 'leaving no one behind'. Guided by the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, WFP will support zero hunger objectives while contributing to peace and climate resilience over the next three years and in the longer term.



Safety Nets and Resilience

- Through the EU trust fund project, WFP provided six farmer organizations with ground nut processing machines to offer value-addition services to the community and boost their incomes. The organizations received the equipment on a cost-recovery arrangement where they paid 30 percent of the cost of the equipment. Further, WFP trained 548 lead farmers (255 women) on post-harvest handling and management while providing hermetic storage bags to store grains.

- WFP conducted a rapid market assessment in Magwi and Yambio in Eastern Equatoria State and Western Equatoria State, respectively, to ascertain the availability of surplus maize for the 2023 pro-smallholder procurement. The two locations produce a combined surplus of 30,000 metric tonnes annually. Since 2018, WFP has been buying maize directly from smallholder farmers, first in Yambio and later scaling up in Magwi and assisting 6,438 smallholder farmers (3,798 women) in the two states, increasing their incomes. The maize procured goes to school feeding and food assistance-for-asset activities. While WFP planned to continue expanding its resilience activities from non-conflict zones to conflict-affected zones and hunger hotspots, it had to reduce those targeted through the FFA to 618,000 due to funding gaps, representing a 20 percent reduction from 2022.



Logistics

- WFP plans to deliver 231,000 mt of food to different locations in South Sudan in 2023, and plans to deliver 205,945 mt (or 88 percent) of this food before the start of the rainy season in May 2023. In January, WFP delivered 89,000 mt of food in different locations by road and river, with air transport being used only in areas inaccessible by road or river.
- WFP prioritized strategic infrastructure projects to reopen access along critical supply routes. In January, WFP resumed the third year of the Jonglei dyke rehabilitation project to rehabilitate the Nile primary dyke from Bor South to Twic East to facilitate delivery of food to Twic East. WFP rehabilitated the 28 km Abyeimnhom-Mayom road and repaired 51 chokepoints along this road, allowing the passage of 40 mt trucks and ensuring food reached Wunrok in Upper Nile State. WFP rehabilitated the northern access route from Rubkona to Kilo-30 to facilitate humanitarian access into Bentiu and Rubkona in Unity State. 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.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 416 mt of non-food items (NFIs) to 31 destinations on behalf of 38 organizations, including supporting the emergency response in Pibor in the GPAA and Jonglei State by facilitating airlifting of 100 mt of water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, shelter, nutrition and health supplies from Juba and Bor.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- UNHAS transported 4,862 passengers and 57 mt of humanitarian supplies and conducted four medical evacuations and two security-related evacuations from Pibor and Ulang. By 31 January, UNHAS had supported 166 partners.
- The first UNHAS flight flew into Abyei on 5 January for the first time since 2011 following approval by the relevant authorities, including in Khartoum. The development was likely to improve access to people in need by enabling WFP and other partners to reach people requiring assistance in the administrative area.

South Sudan: how school meals encourage girls to stay in school

The day starts early at the Grace community school in Torit in the Eastern Equatoria region of South Sudan.

Jennifer, who is in her late teens, is in her final year of primary school with grand ambitions to work in healthcare, preferably as a midwife so she can help mothers.

“My favourite subject is science. I really like the teacher and I think that’s why I want to continue in that field,” she says.

Waking up each morning and attending class, as Jennifer does, is something many in the world take for granted. But here in South Sudan, every day in attendance is a victory.

The country has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world with only one-third of people able to read and 2.8 million children out of school.

Girls are especially at risk of not finishing their education. Many are married off, aged as young as 14, and expected to have children soon after. Then they drop out of school.

In 2018, more than 156,000 girls were enrolled in the first year of school but just over 5,000 were enrolled in the final year. At the same time, 40 percent of girls are married before the age of 18 in South Sudan, according to a 2020 report.

A key ingredient to keeping students in school is the school lunch that’s provided through WFP as part of a joint World Food Programme-UNICEF project in urban areas of South Sudan to improve resilience, school attendance, and nutrition. Read the full story [here](#).



With the cost of a plate of food up 70 percent since the start of the global crisis, school meals are a lifeline for children in Torit. Photo: WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

	Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements Feb—Jul 2022 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (January 2023)	Female	Male
ICSP TOTAL (2018-2022)	3,770.7	379.1	575.4	1,136,760	602,684	534,076
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2059.6	235.1	340.7	813,142	439,097	374,045
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted	674.7	71.9	102.3	209,987	109,193	100,794
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.4	4.4	38.6	87,075	40,054	47,021
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.7	4.5	54.2	26,556	14,340	12,216
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.7	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.4	0.0	34.1	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to	4.6	0.0	0.7	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.4	8.5	0.0	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.9	7.5	0.0	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.3	1.4	4.7	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	0.0	40.3	0.0	-	-	-

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



Photo on page 1: Collecting water hyacinth to transform into bioenergy for sustainable cooking fuel in Bentiu, Unity State. WFP/Gabriela Vivacqua