

WFP SOUTH SUDAN

Situation Report #313


30 May 2023


HIGHLIGHTS

- In May, WFP distributed **22,270 mt** of food and **USD 5.8 million** in cash-based transfers (CBT) to **2.7 million** people, representing **71 percent** of the people targeted in May. Between January and May 2023, WFP assisted **4 million** people.
- WFP requires **446,000 mt** of food in 2023 under its need-based plan. By 31 May, WFP had resourced **219,953 mt** of that food, representing **49 percent** its needs-based plan.
- WFP faces a funding gap of **USD 405 million** between June and November 2023 and had reduced its targeted population 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 May, WFP assisted **2.7 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

 **2.3 million** internally displaced people

 **2.3 million** South Sudanese refugees

 **USD 405 million** WFP six month net funding requirement between June and November 2023

SITUATION UPDATE

- The humanitarian situation in South Sudan continued to worsen, driven by compounding effects of years of conflict, sub-national violence, food insecurity, climate crisis, and public health challenges. Insecurity, fuelled by inter-communal violence and the ongoing Sudan conflict, continue to drive up humanitarian needs in South Sudan. The latest influx continued to compound a dire situation, forcing humanitarian partners to make difficult choices about addressing growing humanitarian needs with limited resources.
- Humanitarian partners in South Sudan estimate that more than **9.4 million** people will require humanitarian assistance in 2023, representing 76 percent of South Sudan's population. The [October-November 2022 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) projected 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 face Emergency (IPC 4) acute food insecurity, and 43,000 are in Catastrophe (IPC 5) acute food insecurity in Jonglei and Unity States. The rest, 4.8 million people, face Crisis (IPC 3) conditions. Further, 1.4 million children will be acutely surpassing the levels seen in the conflict in 2013 and 2016 and putting these children at much higher risk of medical problems and death if left untreated.
- The Sudan conflict had forced thousands to flee to South Sudan, exacerbating the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. By 31 May, **89,000** people had crossed into South Sudan. Of these, 93 percent were South Sudanese returning to communities already grappling with the effects of insecurity, climate change, food insecurity, limited services, and infrastructure.
- The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) to the US dollar exchange rate reached its lowest value, at SSP 955 and SSP 1,100 in the reference and parallel markets, respectively. In just a month, the reference exchange rate depreciated by 7 percent and 11 percent in the reference and informal markets, respectively. Over the past year, the SSP lost its purchasing power by 60 percent, affecting the purchasing power of market-dependent households, especially during the lean season, where the overall dependency on markets is highest.
- The Sudan conflict disrupted the flow of food commodities along the main border crossings, including Renk County of Upper Nile State, the Abyei Administrative Area, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Juba and Wau markets in Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal States, respectively, had become a distribution hub for food items to markets in the northern parts of the country, contributing to the surge in food prices. Since the beginning of the Sudan crisis, the food prices in areas bordering Sudan had increased by 20 – 84 percent, further complicating the situation for thousands of vulnerable people living in these areas.

WFP RESPONSE



Sudan conflict response

- Humanitarian partners continued to provide the new arrivals fleeing the Sudan crisis with water, communal shelters, health services, WASH services, core relief items, and protection services. Further, partners assisted new arrivals to move to their places of origin or destination of choice. However, insecurity and poor road network posed challenges, forcing partners to transport new arrivals by river and or air in some cases.
- WFP provided life-saving food assistance through high-energy biscuits to new arrivals at the border points before they moved to the transit centres, and when travelling to their chosen destinations. At transit centres, new arrivals received hot meals at full ration comprising of cereals, vegetable oil, red beans, and salt. WFP also assisted new arrivals through dry rations comprising of cereals, red beans, vegetable oil and salt at 50 or 70 percent of the standard food basket depending on where they were. For the most vulnerable population like pregnant and nursing mothers and children aged 6-59 months, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to prevent and treat malnutrition.
- In May, WFP provided **666** new arrivals with high-energy biscuits, **44,847** with hot meals, **17,210** with dry rations, and provided specialized nutritious foods to **2,587** moderately malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers to treat malnutrition. Further, WFP provided specialized nutritious food to **31,343** children and pregnant and nursing mothers to prevent malnutrition. Overall, **51,322** people had received hot meals, and dry rations, including specialized nutritious foods in May. Since the start of the crisis, WFP had distributed **220** mt of food to **55,322¹** new arrivals by 31 May.
- Further, WFP screened **10,747** children aged 6 – 59 months and **3,234** pregnant and nursing mothers in May. Of those screened, **1,931** children and **656** women presented with moderate acute malnutrition respectively while **560** children presented with severe acute malnutrition. WFP and partners admitted them to the relevant nutrition programme. Since the start of the crisis, humanitarian partners had admitted **5,458** people to nutrition programmes for the treatment of moderate malnutrition.



General food assistance

- Throughout May, WFP distributed **22,770** mt of food and **USD 5.8 million** as cash-based transfers to **2.7 million** people, including new arrivals from 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 number represented 71 percent of the targeted people. Insecurity and poor road network hampered WFP's efforts to reach all the targeted people in May. Between January and May 2023, WFP had assisted **4 million²** people.
- 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. The persistent ration cuts in IPC 4 and IPC 5 counties

compromised famine prevention objectives and could reverse the gains in deprioritized areas. WFP continued to deprioritize IPC 3 counties in a move that was likely to increase food insecurity, given that trend analyses showed an increase in the number of IPC 4 counties with each IPC cycle.

- WFP faces a **USD 405 million** funding shortfall between June and November 2023, including **USD 36 million** requirements for the Sudan crisis response to meet the food and nutritional needs of the targeted people, resilience building and other operational needs. WFP continued to provide halved rations for both in kind and cash-based transfers. Critical shortfalls start in June 2023 for the life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations for all food commodities except for the specialised nutritious food. Cash-based transfers (CBT) shortfalls start in October 2023.
- Since January 2023, WFP had to reduce the number of people targeted from **7.7 million** under the needs-based plan to **5.4 million**, reducing 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 planned to scale up resilience during the CSP period but had to reduce scale-up plans in a move that could increase humanitarian needs.
- On 4 May, the United Nations Country Team [appealed](#) for USD 96 million in South Sudan to support people fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Sudan. The appeal would help provide rapid assistance to those arriving in South Sudan and support the Government of South Sudan's efforts to help people move from the borders, ensuring they move away from hard-to-reach and unsafe areas.



Nutrition

- To promote programme integration, WFP integrated 86 people living with HIV and tuberculosis (PLHIV/TB) in Juba County to benefit from the Urban Safety Nets programme. Further, WFP and AMREF Health Africa supported the Ministry of Health in integrating community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) into health facilities. The programme continued in 17 primary health care units, four primary health care centres and one hospital in 11 Payams of Tonj East and Tonj South Counties and one health centre in Tonj North in Warrap State.
- In addition, 94 community nutrition volunteers (13 women and 81 men) participated in a two-day training in Tonj East and Tonj South on MIYCN counselling. The training helped to improve their skills and knowledge on preventing malnutrition and further impart this knowledge and skills to their communities. WFP and partners conducted four cooking demonstration sessions in Tonj South and Tonj East for caregivers, pregnant and nursing mothers, and community members to improve their knowledge of balanced diets and best cooking practices.

¹This figure represents the number of people assisted, with overlaps between those benefiting from different programme activities removed.

² Same as footnote 1 above

WFP RESPONSE



Safety Nets and Resilience

- One of the aspirations of WFP's country strategic plan (CSP, 2023-2025) is shifting from an emergency-focused approach in South Sudan towards more resilience investments, acknowledging the interconnected nature of conflict, climate and vulnerability and the importance of strengthening institutional and non-institutional partnerships. WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry on 4 May 2023. The MOU lays the foundation for collaboration in areas like environmental protection, capacity strengthening, advocacy and resource mobilization.
- WFP signed a global MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 5 May 2023, focusing on sustainable food systems transformation, including areas of cooperation such as climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, and integrated water resource management. In South Sudan, WFP developed a climate resilience approach that aligns with the national climate change agenda. This approach aims to contribute towards realizing South Sudan's climate priorities and focusing on transforming reactive strategies to a longer-term, anticipatory, and knowledge-based adaptation. Following a comprehensive desk review and consultations held at various levels, including with partners and communities, the climate resilience approach proposes activities through different programme areas that will contribute to climate variability and change adaptation and leveraging partnerships with other institutional actors, academia, and UN organizations.
- WFP continued to invest in strategic infrastructure in South Sudan to enhance trade, market integration and reduce the cost of delivering humanitarian assistance. After rehabilitating the Batil bridge, WFP handed it over to the Government. The bridge is on the road linking Renk County and Maban County, and its rehabilitation facilitated the movement of people and commercial and humanitarian supplies between the two counties.
- Further, WFP rehabilitated the Kolmerrek-Canal-Ayod Road that links Bor Town and areas in northern Jonglei, including Twic East, Duk, Ayod, Lankien, Nyirol, and Motot Counties of Jonglei. The rehabilitation helped connect rural communities in these counties and thus reduce marginalization, strengthen linkages to markets, and enable the communities to engage in activities that improve their capacity to withstand shocks.
- Rehabilitating the dike in Bor South and Twic East Counties of Jonglei State continued, reinforcing it using machinery to ensure sustainability. The dike helped dry **1,640 square km** of the flooded area. Once complete, the 93-kilometre-dike will help protect settlements and farmlands for over **187,000 people** living around it in the two Counties. It will also help control floods, enhance the safety of lives and livelihoods for the flood-affected communities and provide access roads to these communities living around the project area and the surrounding villages.
- The rehabilitation of this infrastructure ensured food-insecure and shock-affected populations had enhanced access to markets, community assets, and services through roads, bridges, river ports and other climate-resilient

infrastructure that supports their livelihoods, reduces isolation, and promotes social cohesion.



Logistics

- WFP requires **446,000** mt of food in 2023 under its need-based plan. WFP had resourced **219,953** mt of this food by 31 May, representing 49 percent of the plan. Of the **219,953** mt, WFP had prepositioned **87,409** mt by 31 May, representing 88 percent of the prepositioning target (**99,328** mt). The combined January – June 2023 prepositioning and just-in-time requirement stood at **202,909** mt, of which WFP delivered **177,932** mt, representing 88 percent of the target.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the air transport of 112 mt of nonfood items (NFIs) to seven destinations, including airlifting essential cargo to Bentiu, Malakal, and Renk Counties to support the Sudan crisis response on behalf of six organizations.
- Additionally, the Cluster facilitated the transport of 130 mt by road from Wau and Bentiu Counties of Western Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States, respectively, using IOM's Common Transport Service trucks. It also facilitated river transport of 779 mt of WASH, protection, nutrition, health, food security, early recovery, logistics and general programme items by the river to six locations on behalf of 15 organizations.
- To support dry season prepositioning, the Cluster coordinated three road convoys comprising 22 trucks, transporting an estimated 800 mt of nonfood items to northern Jonglei and locations along the Western corridor.



UN Humanitarian Air Service

- In May, UNHAS South Sudan received the highest number of requests to transport passengers and light cargo to support the ongoing Sudan crisis response. The service transported 7,145 passengers and 361 mt of cargo, representing the highest number of passengers and quantity of cargo transported in one month in 2023.
- UNHAS evacuated humanitarian staff and their dependants fleeing Sudan. UNHAS evacuated 184 passengers from Renk and Malakal in Upper Nile State to Juba on behalf of 14 organizations. To respond to increased bookings, UNHAS supported the Renk operations with two flights per day, four days per week. UNHAS also performed eight medical evacuations on behalf of six organizations from Renk, Aweil, Malakal, Ulang, Maban and Yida Counties to Juba. Overall, UNHAS supported 184 organizations in May.
- In collaboration with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), UNHAS finished rehabilitating Bor airport in Jonglei State, including extending the runway and the parking area. The rehabilitation enabled UNHAS to relocate its two helicopters based in Juba to Bor, thus creating more flexibility for humanitarian workers implementing projects in hard-to-reach areas in Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area where fixed-wing aircraft could not land.

WFP supports road maintenance works in Western Equatoria state

The World Food Programme (WFP) has begun critical maintenance work on the Saura – Li-Rangu and Li-Rangu – Nzara road, including the rehabilitation of critical sections on the 30km Yambio- Gangura road, in Western Equatoria State as part of ongoing efforts to improve farm-to-market access and improve food security in rural areas.

Located on the southern part of the state capital, the road is the artery through which the local economy pulses, making trade possible between local communities as well as between South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, the road had developed potholes which impacted transport, leading to harvest losses as farmers could not deliver their produce to the market on time.

“Yambio-Gangura is a vital road to the community of Western Equatoria state,” says Mbiko Barakati the County commissioner of Yambio. “It greatly contributes to the social economic development of the state and combating the threat of food insecurity in Yambio.”

Infrastructure projects such as this are critical to improving food security. This road links farmers to local aggregation centres and agribusiness markets.

“In Yambio there has been a complete turnaround and instead of providing food assistance to farmers whose crops have failed, WFP is buying food from those same farmers who are now producing significant surpluses,” says Mary Ellen McGroarty, WFP Country Director in South Sudan. “A key part of this success has been connectivity; farmers are able to access markets and aggregation sites much faster which has reduced losses.

Read the full story [here](#)



Photo: Yunis Suratere of Saura village on her way to Yambio market on the WFP constructed and Rehabilitated Saura - Lirangu road. Photo credit: WFP/Gabriella Vivacqua

WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025)

	Total Requirements (millions in USD)	Allocated Contributions (millions in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements June - Nov 2023 (millions in USD)	People Assisted (May 2023)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (2023-2025)	3,770.70	632.36	405.59	2,696,926	1,499,833	1,197,093
Activity 1: Provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations	2,059.60	377.64	225.06	2,076,394	1,121,253	955,141
Activity 2: Provide nutrition and health support to targeted groups	674.70	111.14	64.81	266,868	194,814	72,054
Activity 3: Provide nutritious school meals to school children	221.40	15.81	31.81	90,161	41,474	48,687
Activity 4: Engage targeted communities in resilience building activities	385.70	49.78	34.28	263,503	142,292	121,211
Activity 5: Engage targeted food insecure populations in livelihood development and market support activities	27.70	10.39	-	-	-	-
Activity 6: Develop, rehabilitate and maintain essential infrastructure for targeted communities	132.40	5.18	34.80	-	-	-
Activity 7: provide policy support, and technical assistance to the government partners	4.60	0.75	-	-	-	-
Activity 8: Operate air services for the humanitarian community	168.40	28.66	11.76	-	-	-
Activity 9: Coordinate the Logistics Cluster in support of the humanitarian community	56.90	15.12	-	-	-	-
Activity 10: Provide on-demand services and expertise to humanitarian and development partners	39.30	5.13	3.06	-	-	-
Non-Activity Specific funding	-	12.76	-	-	-	-

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