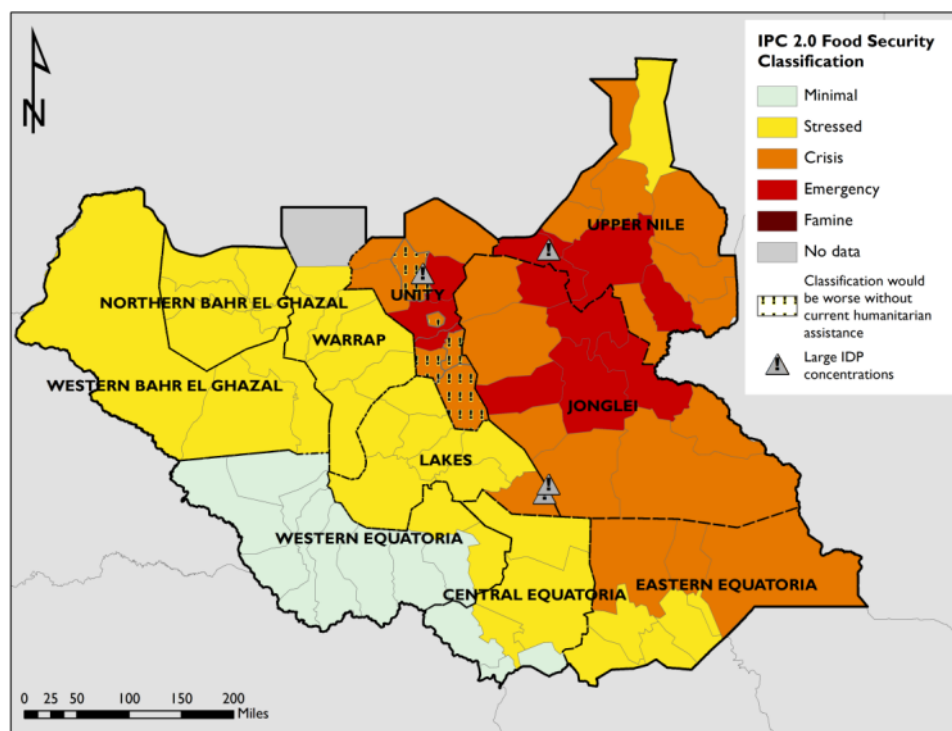


Republic of South Sudan

29 August 2014

HIGHLIGHTS



IPC Update in July

- Significant **food consumption deficits**, particularly in hard to reach areas.
- Rains, insecurity **hampering humanitarian access**.
- **Short-term** ↑ in access to food from mid-August.
- **BUT**, displacement, conflict, seed shortages, localized dry spells = ↓ planting.
- Levels of acute malnutrition critical in most conflict areas.
- **Outlook for 2015** is of great concern.
- IPC revision in mid-September.

- ❖ To-date, FAO has provided emergency livelihood assistance to over **1.5 million people**.
- ❖ **384 366 livelihood kits provided to 244 742 households**; more vegetable and fishing kits being distributed now.
- ❖ **USD 58 million** is **URGENTLY** needed **to ensure timely seed distributions for the 2014/15 season**.

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

FOOD ACCESS AND PRODUCTION

Short-term improvements in access to food are expected with the availability of green harvests from mid-August and the main harvest from October 2014. Where people have access to these harvests, improved food availability is likely to last until the end of 2014. Into 2015, however, the lean season is expected to start much sooner and last longer than usual.

Food consumption deficits remain in conflict-hit areas. Families are adopting distress coping strategies – asset sales, borrowing, eating wild foods – particularly those receiving little or no humanitarian assistance. Even with these strategies, vulnerable households across central Unity State, central and northeast Jonglei and some southeastern counties of Upper Nile do not have enough food to eat. Levels of acute malnutrition remain critical in most conflict-affected areas – in some counties, global acute malnutrition rates are above 30 percent.

Conflict-driven displacement is a major cause of the current high levels of food insecurity. Fields left unplanted, unusual livestock migrations, disrupted markets, restricted mobility have forced people to rely on humanitarian assistance and put sustained pressure on fragile natural resources. Many of the **1.3 million IDPs** have settled in already poor host communities that have shown immense solidarity. At the same time, however, the existing and incoming food stocks of these communities are being depleted.

Fears are growing of large-scale food insecurity in early 2015. Although there is **no evidence indicating a famine in 2014**, the food security situation remains grave. Many areas have been in a protracted food emergency for over eight months, with irreversible consequences. Displacement, conflict and seed shortages have disrupted planting, with a significant reduction in harvests expected across Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile.

RESPONSE

Insecurity and rains hampering humanitarian response. The bulk of humanitarian aid is now being delivered by air, significantly increasing complexity and cost of operations.

Humanitarian aid is visibly helping in the worst-affected counties, with some of the hardest-hit counties shifting from Phase 4 “emergency” to Phase 3 “crisis” food security situations since May. In areas not accessible to humanitarian operations, the population remains in Phase 4.

FAO'S RESPONSE



Funds requested: USD 108 M

Funds received: USD 49.7 M



Households targeted: 550 000

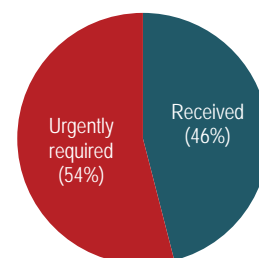
Households reached: 244 742

***Funds received from:** Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America; Africa Solidarity Trust Fund, United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund for South Sudan, and unearmarked funding from FAO.*

Funds received to-date have enabled FAO to provide over 1.5 million people with vital crop, vegetable, fishing and animal health kits. In the coming months, FAO plans to continue distributing fishing kits to ensure year-round access to fish, focusing on reducing post-harvest losses and implementing appropriate measures to avoid harm to the fish stock. Given high levels of malnutrition, FAO will also continue providing vegetable and fishing kits throughout the year to improve dietary diversification. Livestock interventions, including disease surveillance, vaccination and treatment, will continue into the dry season during cattle migrations to reduce vulnerability to disease outbreaks.

Funds are **urgently required** to continue support for 2014 and begin pre-positioning inputs for the 2015 agricultural season to avoid a further deterioration in food security.

Funding status 26 August 2014



244 742 families receiving livelihood support (crop, vegetable, fishing kits)

155 695



CROP KITS

20 kg of food crop seeds, 1 tool
(cereals, legumes, roots, tubers)
=
1 year of staple crops for 1 family

133 664



VEGETABLE KITS

180 g of vegetable seeds,
1 tool
=
6 months of vegetables for
1 family

95 007



FISHING KITS

2 spools of twine, 1 box of
hooks, monofilament, 1 sun-
drying net for 5 households
=
Crucial fishing capacity to
feed 5 families

3 600



ANIMAL HEALTH KITS

Regular replenishment of drugs
and veterinary equipment
=
4–6 months of animal health
services for 80 families

Helping affected populations to produce crops and vegetables to support food security and dietary diversification

- Capitalize on their access to land to support and diversify diets
- Rainfed crop production represents the biggest part of local diets and surpluses are stored or exchanged

Enabling them to catch more fish to ensure food security and nutrition

- Capitalize on people's access to rivers/swamps to maximize the availability of protein.
- Caught in rivers and swamps most of the year, fish can be consumed by communities with access to water.
- Together with milk, fish represents a key source of animal protein and micronutrients in the local diet.
- Dried or smoked fish can be preserved and carried, providing vital nutrition to displaced populations.

Helping to protect livestock from diseases to ensure food security and nutrition

- Protecting cattle from disease is vital as each death of a cow represents at least ½ a litre less milk per day.
- Once a reproductive/milking cow is lost, it takes 4–5 years for a young female calf to start producing milk.
- Livestock one of few assets that people can carry or exchange in times of high insecurity and displacement.

FOOD SECURITY MONITORING, ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS

Crop planting assessments carried out in Equatorias and Greater Bahr el-Ghazal in partnership with Ministry of Agriculture show increased planted areas and a positive crop outlook.

FAO, WFP, FEWS NET and partners conducted country-wide assessment for the **Food Security Monitoring System**. The report will be released in the coming weeks.

FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture will undertake a **Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission in November/December 2014**.

Latest IPC Update released for July/August 2014. Next **comprehensive national IPC analysis** is being undertaken now and results will be released in **mid-September**.

CONTACT

Sue Lautze | FAO Representative | Juba, South Sudan | Tel. +211 956 178 618 / 921 296 333 | Sue.Lautze@fao.org

Serge Tissot | Deputy FAO Representative | Juba, South Sudan | Tel. +211 922 001 728 | Serge.Tissot@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Director Emergency and Rehabilitation Division | Rome, Italy | Tel. +39 06 570 53803 | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org