



HIGHLIGHTS

- **723 900** people have been internally displaced since 15 December, and **145 000** have fled to neighbouring countries.
- FAO estimates up to **10 million head of livestock** have been displaced by the crisis.
- The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster estimates that up to **7 million people are at risk of food insecurity in 2014** – with an estimated 3.7 million facing “crisis” and “emergency” food insecurity (IPC).
- **Signs of serious food security distress are emerging** (sorghum market prices skyrocketing, lack of basic food stuffs in some markets, increasing reports of hunger in conflict-affected areas).
- Lack of commercial access and actors, constraints on aid access, limited partners, displacement, livelihood disruption and pre-crisis structural food insecurity are generating **a major food and nutrition security crisis**.
- **Saving livelihoods saves lives** – livelihood protection interventions are critical; FAO is focusing on **providing emergency livelihood kits**, providing immediate access to fish; protecting livestock herds against disease; promoting rapidly maturing vegetable seeds; and supporting staple crop production.

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in [South Sudan](#) has steadily deteriorated since the outbreak of fighting in Juba on 15 December. Displacement continues to rise – almost 730 000 people are now estimated to have fled their homes to more secure areas within the country, including UN bases. A further 145 000 have fled to neighbouring countries. Recent violence and looting of humanitarian supplies, offices, accommodations, warehouses and vehicles are constraining efforts to meet the needs of populations living in the most seriously affected areas.

Those affected are not just displaced populations, but especially **communities hosting IDPs, urban populations** struggling to access food as local markets collapse, and **rural populations** unable to move with herds to pasture and water or migrate to fishing and hunting grounds, access basic services (health, education, etc.) and bring produce to markets. All areas of South Sudan have been affected by the crisis – through strains on kinship networks, disruption of trade and transport routes, curtailed development programmes, and the limited capacity of the Government.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

- ❖ Up to **7 million people** estimated to be **at risk of food insecurity** (mid-January 2014 IPC revision by FSL Cluster).
- ❖ **3.7 million people at immediate risk** (“crisis” and “emergency” phases) of food insecurity – 2.5 million of whom are in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei States.
- ❖ **Food availability and access are expected to continue worsening for both IDP and non-IDP populations** – prices of sorghum are soaring, some commodities are running out (powdered milk, sugar); in areas isolated by fighting, people are relying on existing retail and household food stocks, with little to no possibility of replenishment.
- ❖ Livestock production – a key livelihood activity for most South Sudanese households – is at risk of **outbreaks of disease**. Looting and destruction of **cold chain equipment** means more than half the country’s capacity for vaccine storage and distribution has been lost; vaccines for 400 000 head of livestock were lost in the crisis.
- ❖ Insecurity is **constraining herders’ movement** with their animals in search of pasture and water, and the continued violence **heightens the risk of cattle raiding**.
- ❖ **Timing is crucial** – the dry season allows for the pre-positioning of crucial inputs, before roads are closed by rains during the rainy season, which are expected to commence in March and will be fully underway by May.
- ❖ Fighting has **disrupted major commodity supply routes, forced traders to flee and damaged local and several state capital markets**.
- ❖ **A major food and nutrition security crisis is brewing** given lack of commercial access, difficulties in getting aid to affected communities, extensive displacement, and abandonment and looting of crucial livelihood assets, as well as pre-crisis structural food insecurity.
- ❖ In the south of the country, the **next planting season begins as early as March 2014**, extending up to July in northern areas. If farmers cannot return to their fields to plant, food and nutrition security will further deteriorate.

REVISED CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN (January–June 2014)



TARGETING: 3.2 million people – 2.8 million people in “emergency” and “crisis” phases will receive “emergency livelihood kits”



TARGETING: 2.4 million people – 2 million to benefit from “emergency livelihood kits”

[FAO requirements](#)
(USD 77 m)

Livelihoods support under FSL Cluster
(USD 107 m)

The [Revised Crisis Response Plan](#) was issued on 3 February. Under the Plan, the FSL Cluster is seeking to enhance access to food to meet the immediate needs of people affected by the crisis and help communities rebound from the crisis by enhance access and protection for livelihood resources.

The FSL Cluster will, as much as possible, **promote joint programming to combine emergency livelihood kit distribution with food and multisector emergency assistance**; use an extremely flexible approach for the response, taking advantage of time-bound opportunities to access hotspot areas; and maximize the procurement of food and vegetable and crop production inputs through South Sudanese producers.



Priorities for immediate response



Fisheries
assistance



Livestock
production and
animal health

Vegetable and
crop production



Environmental
protection



Other
livelihoods
activities

Food security
analysis and
needs
assessments



- Fish capture, processing and marketing can provide an immediate source of nutritious food for displaced populations and their hosts living along river banks, even for those for whom fisheries was not previously a livelihood activity.
- FAO is providing **emergency livelihood fisheries kits** (containing twine and hooks).
- FAO is also providing **technical specifications, guidance and advice** to FSL Cluster partners to ensure that their interventions and inputs meet appropriate technical and government-approved standards.
- In the medium-term, FAO will focus on providing support (inputs and training) to ensure **environmentally sound fish capture**, processing and marketing activities.
- Livestock are a major source of food and income for many South Sudanese households; FAO is working to reduce animal and public health risks associated with livestock disease outbreaks by revitalizing the community-based animal health worker (**CAHW**) network.
- CAHWs will be re-equipped and retrained to resume animal health activities in their communities.
- Efforts will be made to restore the cold chain system by distributing **solar-panel refrigerators** to trained line ministry staff, as well as **replacing vaccines** that have been spoiled by the collapse in cold chain infrastructure.
- FAO is providing **emergency livelihood vegetable kits** (80-90 g of seeds, 1 hoe and 1 watering can or wheelbarrow) to set up small vegetable gardens with fast growing, nutrient-dense vegetable and pulse seeds to ensure a quick supply of nutritious food and minimize resource-based competition with local communities.
- FAO is providing **emergency livelihood crop kits** (20-25 kg of seeds and one hoe) to farmers in time for the coming planting season, along with training and technical support. Where possible, input trade fairs are being organized.
- FAO is working to strengthen the **FAO-WFP-UNHCR partnership** on SAFE – Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Supplies – Initiative to increase availability and access of fuel-efficient stoves to IDPs to minimize impact of displacement on the **fragile natural resources** surrounding encampments, and **protect safety of women and children** who collect firewood.
- FAO will link small-scale producers' groups with IDPs in need of nutrition support in the form of **vouchers for fish, vegetables and milk** – in collaboration with Nutrition Cluster members, such as UNICEF.
- Updated **food security data and analysis** is critical to inform programming and operations in response to the crisis. FAO is proactively mobilizing its team to address demands for information, emphasizing the use of existing information systems and coordination platforms in order to avoid the creation of *ad hoc* initiatives.
- With FAO's leadership and strong support from WFP, the FSL Cluster is finalizing the FSL Assessment Strategy, which will be used by OCHA as a **blue print for wider humanitarian assessment planning**.
- FAO and WFP rapid assessment teams are carrying out assessments and analysis across the country.

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