



HIGHLIGHTS

- **646 000** people have been internally displaced since 15 December, and **123 400** have fled to neighbouring countries.
- 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 “acute” and “emergency” food security (IPC).
- **First signs of serious food security distress are emerging** (sorghum market prices skyrocketing, complete lack of commodities like sugar and powdered milk).
- Communities isolated by conflict are **surviving on existing retailer and household stocks** – with no replenishment options except WFP air drops.
- Lack of commercial access, constraints on aid access, displacement, livelihood disruption and pre-crisis structural food insecurity are leading to **a potential major food crisis**.
- **Saving livelihoods saves lives** – livelihood protection interventions are critical; FAO is focusing on **providing emergency livelihood kits**, protecting livestock herds against disease and promoting rapidly maturing crop seeds.

OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has steadily deteriorated since the outbreak of fighting in Juba on 15 December. Displacement has continued to rise – over 700 000 people are now estimated to have fled their homes (to more secure areas within the country or to neighbouring countries). As needs grow more critical, violence and looting of humanitarian supplies have constrained efforts to meet these needs. With a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement signed on 23 January, hopes are high that the fighting will ease and IDPs will be able to start returning home.

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

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** (“acute” and “emergency” phases) of food insecurity – 2.5 million of these are in Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei States.
- ❖ **Food availability and access are expected to continue worsening for both IDP and non-IDP populations** – in Juba, prices of sorghum are soaring, crucial commodities are running out (powdered milk, sugar); in areas isolated by fighting, people are relying on existing retail and household food stocks, with no possibility of replenishment, except WFP food drops.
- ❖ **A major food security crisis is potentially brewing** given lack of commercial access, difficulties in getting aid to affected communities, massive 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.
- ❖ Livestock production – a key livelihood activity for most South Sudanese households – is constrained **by outbreaks of disease**. Looting and destruction of **cold chain equipment** during the fighting means more than half the country’s capacity for vaccine storage and distribution has been lost, and many vaccines are no longer viable.
- ❖ Insecurity has also **constrained herders’ movement** with their animals in search of pasture and water, and the continued violence **heightens the risk of cattle raiding** in neighbouring states.
- ❖ **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 will be fully underway by May.
- ❖ Fighting has **disrupted major commodity supply routes, forced traders to flee and damaged local markets**.

REVISED CRISIS RESPONSE PLAN (January–June 2014)



TARGETING: 3.4 million of the 3.7 million most vulnerable



TARGETING: 3.2 million people

FAO requirements
(USD 77 m)

Livelihoods support under FSL Cluster
(USD 107 m)

The **Revised Crisis Response Plan** is being issued in the coming days. Under the Plan, the 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.



Proposed immediate response

Crop production



- Vegetable kits to IDPs to set up small vegetable gardens – with fast growing, nutrient dense vegetable and pulse seeds (e.g. cowpeas, jute mallow, amaranth). This will ensure a quick supply of nutritious food and minimize resource-based competition with local communities.
- Provision of crop seeds, micro-irrigation equipment, etc. to farmers able to access their fields in time for the coming planting season, along with training and technical support. Where possible, input trade fairs will be organized.

Environmental protection



- Fuel-efficient stoves, etc. to IDPs to minimize impact of displacement on the fragile natural resources surrounding encampments, and protect safety of women and children who collect firewood.

Fisheries assistance



- Fishing equipment (nets, twine, storage boxes, etc.) to provide an immediate source of food for IDPs and their families.

Livestock production and animal health



- Distributing almost 5.5 million doses of livestock vaccines to Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei States in the coming weeks. Additional vaccines will be procured and distributed as needed to protect herds, particularly those at risk of inter-mingling with unvaccinated herds as a result of herders using non-traditional migration routes.
- Fridges currently in storage in Juba will be provided to restore the cold chain system.
- Community animal health workers will receive assistance to resume animal health activities in their communities, including vaccines, drugs and equipment.
- Some re-/de-stocking of herds as appropriate.

Other livelihoods activities



- Linking 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.

Food security analysis and needs assessments



- Through the FSL Cluster, FAO is participating in the review and updating of the IPC from December 2013, and is coordinating Cluster and UN assessment missions, focusing on food security and critical needs.
- 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 these demands for information, emphasizing the use of existing information systems and coordination platforms, particularly those developed under the Sudan Institutional Capacity Programme: Food Security Information for Action and the Agriculture and Food Security Information System programmes, in order to avoid the creation of ad hoc initiatives.

FAO is also working with the Government to rebuild its capacity and undertake crucial needs assessments, support planning for sustained food security in the new scenario, prepare for the coming planting season, and restore the cold chain system.

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