



IN NUMBERS



5.5 million

people severely food insecure
(IPC Jan – April 2020)



30% gap

in national cereal needs
for 2020



4 million

people displaced by conflict,
including more than
1.8 million internally



USD 75 million

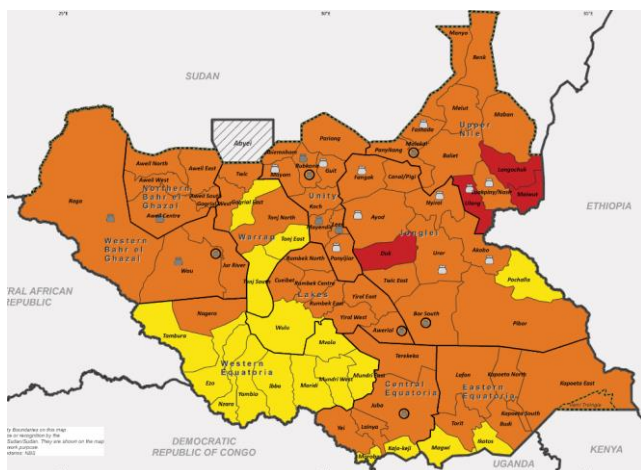
needed under the FAO 2020
Emergency Response Plan

KEY MESSAGES

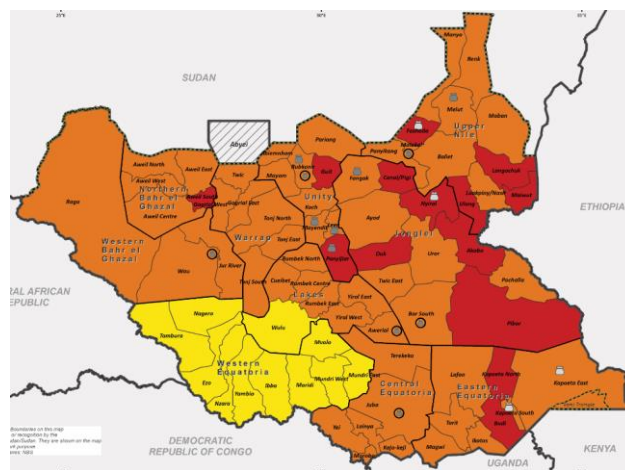
- An estimated **47 percent** of the population of South Sudan is suffering from acute food insecurity immediately after the harvest period, a situation driven by conflict-related livelihood disruptions, climatic shocks, displacement and the economic crisis. According to the results of the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, an estimated 5.5 million people are projected to face severe acute food insecurity between January and April 2020. Of these, **4.3 million are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3), the highest number ever after the harvest period.**
- The situation was projected to **deteriorate as the country heads into the lean season** and households start to deplete food stocks. The potential arrival of the **Desert Locust**, which is currently ravaging the Horn of Africa in the worst infestation in 25 years, could further threaten the food security of the country. South Sudan has not seen an invasion of the pest since 1961 and has no collective means to address one.
- Nonetheless, **compared to the February-April period of 2018, the number of severely food-insecure people (IPC Phase 3 or above) has reduced by almost 15 percent**, largely attributed to the improved security situation following the September 2018 signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan.
- **FAO has received less than half – USD 32.4 million of USD 75 million –** needed for its Emergency Livelihood Response Programme (ELRP). This means far fewer people in urgent need of assistance can be reached than planned, potentially threatening the situation particularly in areas likely to receive returnees, where access is difficult, or where harvests are predicted to be poor.
- **Saving lives by saving livelihoods:** FAO's seed campaign alone in 2019 enabled **594 194 households to produce enough** food to last for 6.5 months and represented one-third of total cereal production in the country. In 2020, FAO plans to reach 775 000 households through livelihood support (crop seeds, vegetable and fishing kits).
- **Significant flooding occurred across the country**, resulting in about 73 000 tonnes of cereal production loss as well as increased reports of sick and dying livestock. In response, FAO and partners launched an emergency recovery intervention and livestock vaccination campaign across the country, with FAO having so far received USD 2.2 million in funding for flood-affected areas.
- **FAO recently completed the construction of a Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory** under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in Juba. The laboratory will help facilitate evidence-based livestock epidemics-surveillance and timely response to diseases.

MAP

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION



September – December 2019 (Current)



January – April 2020 (Projection)

BACKGROUND

In the same way that conflict drove the food insecurity situation in the country, the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018 resulted in relative calm that has enabled households to engage in livelihood activities. This led to a slight reduction in the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity compared to the same period last year. However, the majority of these people moved to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, making 2019 the year with the highest number of people ever in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the harvest period on record. Compared with the same period in 2018 (September – December), there was a 7 percent increase in the number of people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), whereas there was a 9 percent reduction in the number of people facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Acute food insecurity during the harvest period is primarily driven by low production among households affected by isolated incidents of insecurity, climatic shocks that further hamper agricultural production, the ongoing macro-economic crisis and its erosion of household purchasing power, population displacements, as well as years of asset depletion and eroded livelihoods due to the prolonged crisis. All these factors contribute to households' reduced coping capacities as well as increased vulnerability to food security shocks.

Former Unity State has the highest proportion of households experiencing severe food insecurity, with 55 percent facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. In terms of absolute numbers of severely food insecure people, former Jonglei State is the most affected with 1 million of its people facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity – approximately 52 percent of the State's population.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food availability and access continue to be severely constrained by localized **conflicts**, unpredictable and poor **rainfall**, **population displacements**, the **macro-economic crisis**, and years of **asset depletion**.

These factors have contributed to limited crop production, with **just over half of 2019 national cereal needs met by the 2018 harvests**. The crisis has disrupted livelihoods and restricted adequate household access to food sources such as fish and livestock products. Furthermore, the ongoing economic crisis has significantly reduced purchasing power, in particular for vulnerable households who are highly reliant on markets that are overpriced and undersupplied. Other significant drivers include **seasonal flooding**, **crop pests and diseases** including a potential invasion of **Desert Locust**, **livestock diseases**, and **prolonged dry spells** at critical stages of crop growth.

FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2020 PRIORITIES



4.6 million people targeted for emergency livelihoods support



8 million animals to be vaccinated and treated (cattle, small ruminants, poultry and dogs)

RESPONSE TO DATE



594 194 households (3.56 million people) provided with emergency livelihood support to date



229 300 households received fishing inputs providing vital support to people to tackle imminent food shortages



575 813 households (3.45 million people) received crop and vegetable kits comprising seeds of various varieties and tools; 1 356 tonnes of cereal was distributed in total



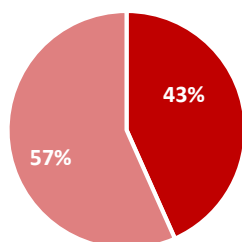
18 288 households reached through rapid response direct distribution providing lifesaving assistance to severely food-insecure families in remote areas



8 million animals treated or vaccinated against major diseases, enhancing the food and livelihood security of 800 000 households

FUNDING 2020

Under the 2020 ELRP, FAO is seeking USD 75 million. Of this, **USD 42.5 million is still required to assist 4.65 million people**.



FAO requires: USD 75 million

To assist: 4.65 million people

ASSESSMENTS

- IPC analysis will be conducted in January with a likely release period in first week of February 2020.
- The preliminary joint FAO/WFP **Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM)** for 2019 estimated a 10 percent increase of cereal production from last year. Without the floods, cereal production in 2019 could have reached close to the five-year average, which is about 855 000 tonnes of cereal. This is expected to improve the cereal gap reported by 6 to 10 percent. **Final results of the CFSAM are expected to be released at the end of January 2020.**

Resource partners: The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

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