



HIGHLIGHTS



4.6 million people were severely food insecure in July (IPC, May 2015). While this is likely to have fallen slightly as green harvests begin in some areas, isolated cases of starvation have been reported among conflict-affected IDPs.



+2.2 million people displaced by conflict – more than 1.6 million internally



The continued volatile security situation in Upper Nile and Unity States has displaced tens of thousands of people, disrupted farming during the main planting season, caused loss of livestock and affected already low levels of trade and market activities.



IPC data collection is ongoing. The next IPC Technical Working Group meeting is on 9 September and the report will follow shortly after.



FAO has started rapid response operations using one chartered helicopter, giving FAO the capacity to reach the most inaccessible areas and provide livelihood support. Moreover, the helicopter will also be used for livestock disease outbreak control missions.



FAO urgently requires **USD 600 000 to complete the ongoing livestock vaccination** and treatment campaign and reach the targeted 6 million livestock.



USD 13 million is needed by November to enable FAO to pre-position sufficient inputs for the 2016 agricultural campaign, targeting 2.8 million people. An additional **USD 25 million will be needed by January** to cover the distribution costs. A further **USD 3 million** is needed to continue monitoring food security and producing IPC data and analysis.

CHALLENGES FACING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

LATEST SITUATION

The Peace Agreement has been signed, but its impact on the conflict and economic situation is difficult to foresee.

Displaced populations in southern Unity State remain cut-off from humanitarian assistance, while other areas of South Sudan have seen heightened tensions in recent weeks. Deteriorating macro-economic conditions have driven a sharp spike in fuel and staple food prices, further limiting food access and constraining humanitarian operations. Localized dry spells are affecting crop development and the [climate outlook](#) suggests likely dry conditions in critical agricultural areas of Greater Bahr el-Ghazal. Shortages of basic commodities and increased operating costs related to the depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound further constrain humanitarian operations at a time when conflict and the rainy season are already limiting access to many of the worst-affected areas.

KEY CONCERNS

The April 2015 IPC analysis projections for August-September 2015 were for a reduction in severe food insecurity (Phases 3 & 4) from 4.6 million to 2.75 million people as green harvests start to become available in some areas. However, there remains considerable concern about the situation in southern Unity and parts of Upper Nile, where violence and displacement have left hundreds of thousands without harvests, livestock and access to assistance.

Populations that fled the latest fighting in southern Unity remain in hiding in swamps and forest lands. In April, over half the population in Unity was estimated to be in Phases 3 and 4. However, their conditions are likely to have deteriorated further. In southern Unity in particular, the latest information points to a severely declining food security situation with isolated cases of starvation reported among the IDPs.

The 16th Round of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System – a countrywide household survey – and **Crop and Nutrition Assessments** are collecting field data feeding into the next IPC exercise. Access to conflict-affected areas remains limited, with ‘blind spots’ or scanty information for some of the most food-insecure communities.

A protracted economic crisis marked by a devaluing currency and soaring food prices has particularly hit urban populations, a newly identified vulnerable group, as well as rural households. The devaluing local currency deters traders from importing cargo, paralyzing the supply chain network. This is compounded by high insecurity for traders and transporters moving goods along certain routes, which has significantly contributed to the food crisis.

CONTACT

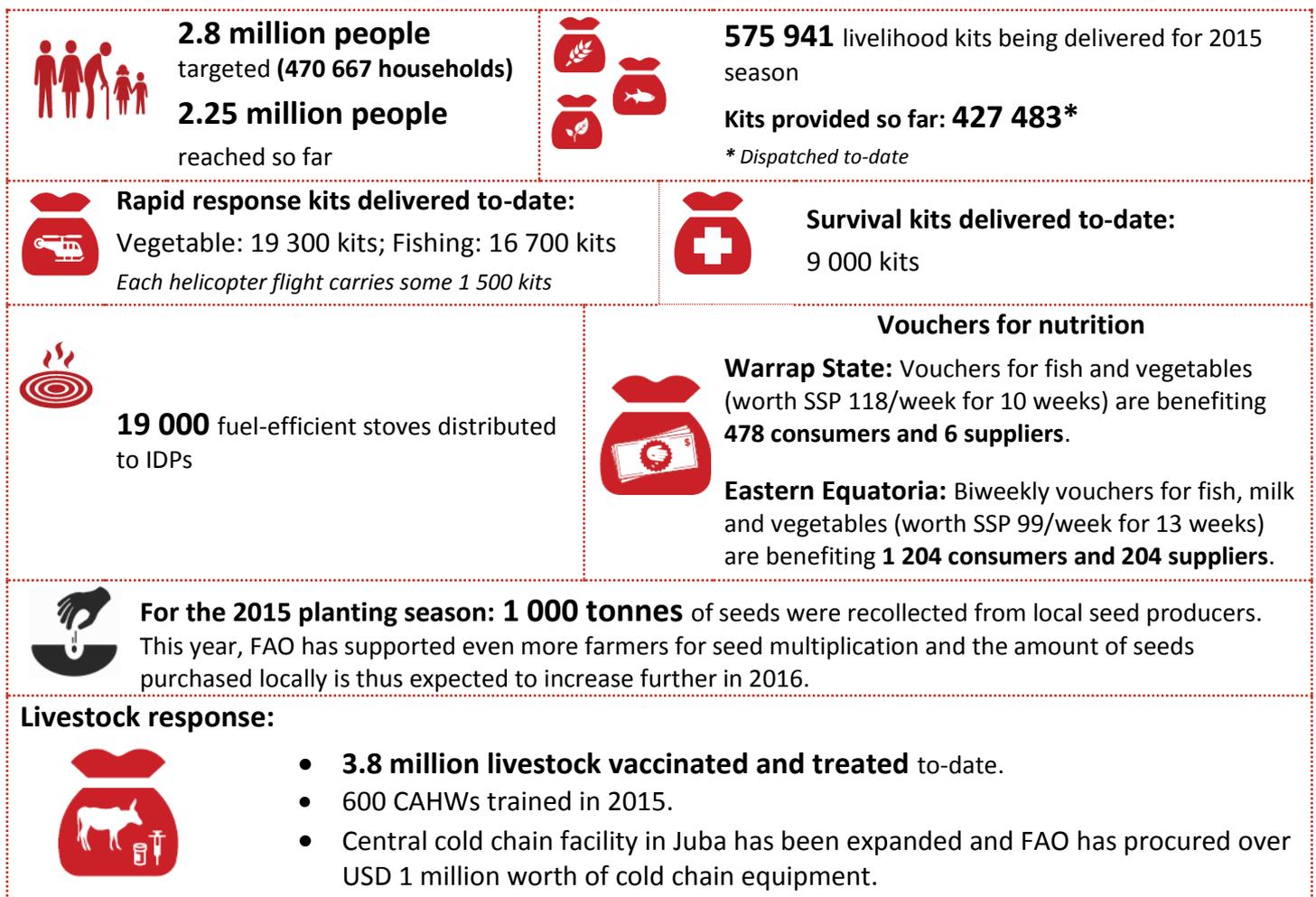
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The livestock crisis continues to deepen. Intensive and abnormal migrations due to insecurity have seriously depleted livestock health throughout the country. Some areas, particularly in Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el-Ghazal, have seen heightened tensions with disease outbreaks, cattle raids and tribal conflicts reaching alarming levels. The current economic crisis and disrupted livestock markets and trade routes have led to fluctuating prices for cattle. Before the crisis, cattle sales were usually reserved for dowries or paying off debts; however, the worsening food security situation across South Sudan has forced many pastoralists to sell and slaughter their animals as a coping mechanism.

FAO'S RESPONSE TO-DATE IN 2015

Efforts to build resilient livelihoods remain central to FAO's programme in South Sudan, which closely links short-term emergency response activities, such as the distribution of livelihood kits, with longer-term development actions that include training local veterinary and agricultural extension workers. Some key achievements under FAO's Emergency Livelihood Response Programme in 2015 include:



The early availability of donor funding for the 2015 campaign contributed significantly to its success, enabling FAO to procure and pre-position livelihood kits in time for their distribution. Complex security and logistical constraints mean it can take six months from procurement to delivery. In order to replicate the success of 2015, **it is critical that USD 13 million be received by November 2015 to ensure timely procurement and delivery in 2016.**

IPC update

FAO is working closely with the IPC Technical Working Group partners to collect information on the impact of the recent conflict on the food security and nutrition of displaced populations in Unity State. Given the current displacement, indications are that the severity of food insecurity in Southern Unity State and parts of Greater Upper Nile is extremely serious, especially in areas cut-off from assistance. Despite pressure and formal requests, unimpeded access to the displaced communities remains unlikely in the short term for systematically gathering information - as well as providing life-saving assistance. Data collection for the next IPC analysis is ongoing across the country, and the Technical Working Group is due to meet on 9 September 2015 to discuss the results and agree projections for the coming months.