



IN NUMBERS



≈3.7 million

People severely food insecure at harvest time (FAO internal projection)



>2.5 million

People displaced by conflict – 220 000 since the outbreak of violence in July



\$28 million

Needed by end 2016 to support the dry season campaign and pre-position for 2017 main season campaign

KEY MESSAGES

- **In 2017, the food security situation in South Sudan is expected to deteriorate to unprecedented levels** – the risk of famine is real for thousands of people in conflict-affected areas, against a background of widespread market failure.
- **The effects of renewed violence since July continued to be felt across the country** – heightened tensions and violent clashes are restricting humanitarian access and displacing thousands of families from their homes and farms.
- **Livelihood support is critical for the most vulnerable populations** to prevent asset depletion or reduce their adoption of negative coping mechanisms and reduce the number of people relying on food assistance for their survival in 2017.
- **The looting of FAO's central warehouse in Juba** resulted in the loss of USD 3 million in pre-positioned supplies. Livelihood inputs, in particular, must be urgently replaced if support is to be provided to vulnerable households during the dry season.
- **FAO is urgently seeking USD 28 million to expand the 2016 dry season campaign and initiate procurement for the 2017 main season campaign.**

BACKGROUND

Despite an average incoming crop harvest, famine is becoming an increasingly real possibility for some of South Sudan's most vulnerable communities in 2017, as signalled by the rising number of households in catastrophe food security. The outbreak of violence in Juba in July continues to reverberate across the country with heightened tensions and renewed clashes exacerbating an already considerable humanitarian caseload. The economic and monetary crises undermine the banking system and trade – commercial and aid imports of food will be critical therefore in tackling the widening food gap at country level. Food insecurity and malnutrition have reached deeply worrying levels, with the latest information indicating that about 4 million people remain severely food insecure. Fighting and banditry along key transport routes are disrupting essential food supplies to markets and restricting humanitarian access to some of those most in need. Urban populations are struggling to cope with massive price rises on basic food items. An estimated 400 000 severely food insecure people reside in the urban areas of Juba, Wau and Aweil.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Renewed fighting is exacerbating the deepening economic crisis, pointing to unprecedented levels of food insecurity in 2017. At the same time, the costs and challenges facing the humanitarian response are rising significantly. The most recent analysis confirms an unprecedented worsening of the food security situation compared with 2015 – at harvest time there will be more than one million more people classified as severely food insecure. This analysis does not include the most recent insecurity in the most productive areas of South Sudan such as Wau, Yei and Lanya, which account for more than 12 percent of the country's total cereal production. Alarming levels of food insecurity have also been recorded in areas not directly affected by the conflict due to market failure, such as Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. For example, approximately 30 000 people in catastrophe at the peak of the lean season. In 2017, a major humanitarian crisis is expected as the main underlying causes of the present situation remain, including continued disruption of markets due to insecurity, local currency depreciation, inflation at more than 700 percent on a year to year basis, 300–400 percent rises in food prices, ongoing large-scale population displacement, a widening food deficit, lack of job/income opportunities and collapse of the public services. At the same time, the humanitarian space is being squeezed by lack of physical access, insecurity and bureaucratic impediments, impacting the overall humanitarian delivery capacity.

As the scale of the food security crisis is likely to be overwhelming, FAO's livelihood support is critical for the most vulnerable populations to prevent or reduce their adoption of negative coping mechanisms and contain the number of people relying on food aid for their survival in 2017.

2016 TARGETS



Planning figures according to December 2015 IPC:
2.6 million people (435 600 households)

Actual targets:
2.85 million people (475 709 households)

2016 RESPONSE TO-DATE*		DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN TARGETS
(Prior to latest conflict)	(since conflict)	(September to March 2017)
 2.3 million people reached (380 722 households)	205 141 people reached (25 385 households)	1.38 million people
 425 536 livelihood kits dispatched to partners	34 190 livelihood kits dispatched to partners	460 000 fishing & vegetable kits
 5.6 million animals vaccinated; 1.5 million animals treated (Oct 2015–June 2016)	330 973 animals vaccinated; 188 957 animals treated	9.3 million animals (Oct 2016–Sept 2017)

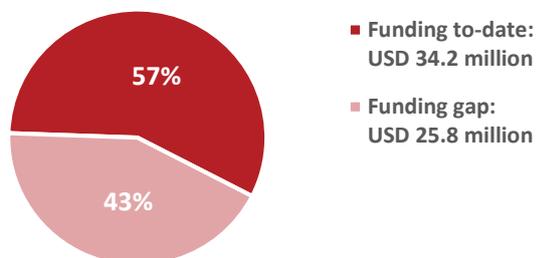
*Figures as of 19 October 2016 – partners are continuing to distribute livelihood kits to beneficiaries as and when possible given the continued insecurity in many parts of the country.

FUNDING

Funding requested under the 2016/17 ELRP:

Activity	2016	2017	Total
Livestock intervention	4m	9m	13m
Rapid response	9m	18m	27m
Main crop planting season 2017	15m	16m	31m
Seed production		6m	6m
AFIS – Information management		9m	9m
Total (USD)	28m	58m	86m

In 2016, FAO sought USD 60 million (up from an initial request of USD 45 million).



Donors to the ongoing FAO emergency response programme in South Sudan: Belgium, Common Humanitarian Fund, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

ASSESSMENTS

The latest IPC analysis has been completed and is awaiting the endorsement of the Government of South Sudan since 6 September.

FAO is leading the countrywide crop harvest assessments and continues to monitor food insecurity and nutrition in partnership with the World Food Programme, United Nations Children's Fund and Non-governmental Organizations.

FAO is currently assessing the status of its cold chain infrastructure, which is spread across 85 locations in all states, to identify damage or looting that occurred during the July conflict.

Seed security assessments, which evaluate the best mechanism for providing crop seeds to beneficiaries, and post-harvest assessments, which measure the impact of FAO activities on harvest yields, will take place in October and November 2016.

CONTACT

Serge Tissot | FAO Representative | Juba, South Sudan | Serge.Tissot@fao.org

Dominique Burgeon | Strategic Programme Leader, Resilience | Rome, Italy | Dominique.Burgeon@fao.org