



Context for operational challenges

Insecurity continues in many areas of the country, including large sections of the Greenbelt, key sections of the western Corridor, eastern Jonglei, central Unity and southeastern Upper Nile.

Roads across the country, especially in Greater Upper Nile, **remain unusable** at the height of the rainy season.

Hyperinflation and persistent salary backlogs continue to erode household purchasing power and weaken the South Sudanese pound against the United States dollar, which is further increasing the cost of imports.

Highlights

- **Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) Round 20** has been finalized in most areas; however, access challenges were noted in Ayod, Leer, Mayendit, Morobo, Raga and Yei.
- **Training of trainers for 50 farmer field schools (FFS) and junior farmer field and life schools (JFFLS)** are taking place across Eastern Equatoria.
- **Seed fairs and emergency livelihood kit distributions for the second planting season** are ongoing, targeting more than 48 000 households in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria.

Fall armyworm update

A fall armyworm (FAW) workshop was held in Ethiopia (24–29 July) on pest identification, monitoring and early warning, impact assessments and management options at the national level was attended by three FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) delegates.

The following short-term recommendations were formulated:

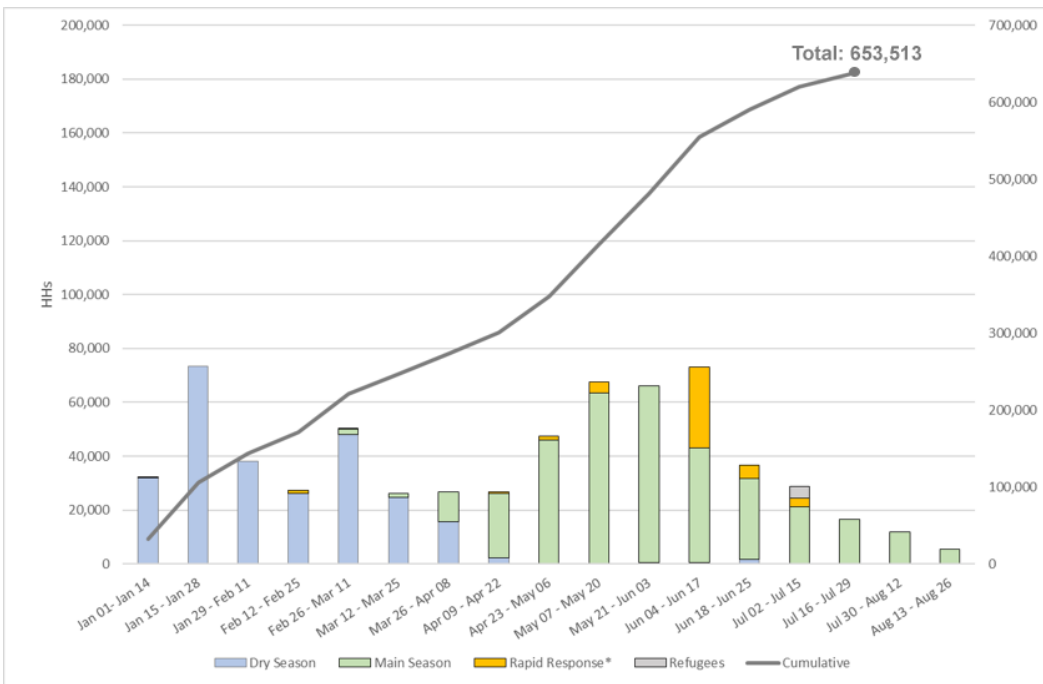
1. Raise awareness through mass media (radio, TV, newspapers, etc.) and the production and distribution of print materials.
2. Sensitize and train 50 plant protection staff from different states on pest identification, yield loss assessment, FAW management options and safe use of pesticides.
3. Increase plant protection staff capacity to conduct quick confirmatory assessment of FAW incidence and infestation pattern in the affected and accessible states.

FAO and MAFS are fundraising for FAW interventions to enable the fulfilment of these recommendations.



FAW damage in Magwi

Emergency livelihood kit distribution by household: January – August 2017

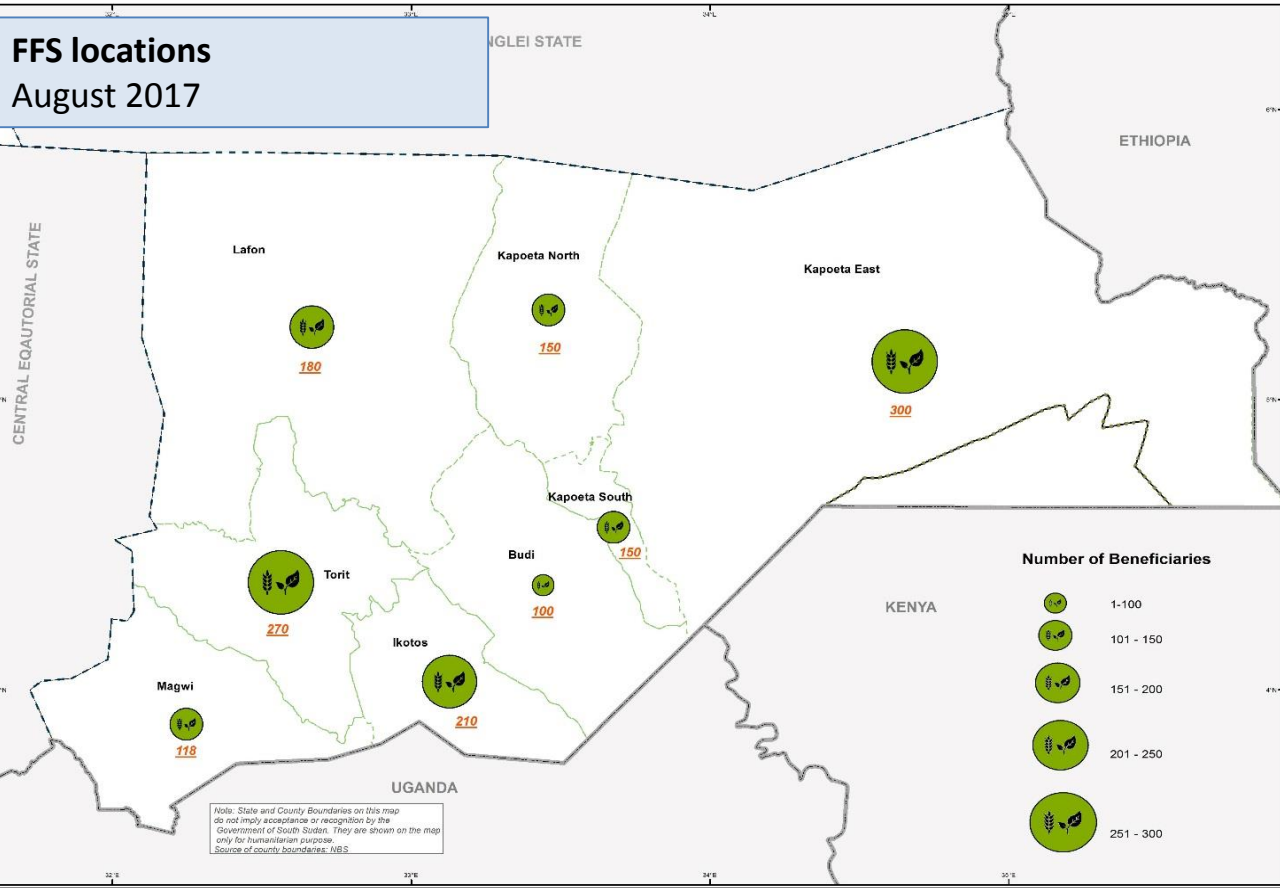


FAO-supported farmer field schools and junior farmer field and life schools

The FFS approach was developed by FAO and partners nearly 25 years ago as an alternative way to the prevailing top-down extension in more complex and counter-intuitive problems existed. In a typical FFS, a group of 25 to 30 farmers meet once a week in a field setting under the guidance of a trained facilitator. In groups of five, they observe and compare two plots over the course of an entire cropping season; one plot follows local conventional methods while the other is used to experiment best agricultural practices.

FAO has been supporting 50 FFS groups in Imotong and Kapoeta States of Eastern Equatoria since May 2017. A further 35 groups, including 15 agropastoral FFS groups and 25 JFFLS groups will be supported in the coming months. With each group comprising around 30 members, the FFS are expected to benefit some 2 550 farmers.

**FFS locations
August 2017**



Beneficiary stories

Margret Laku – FFS member

“At times we lose hope because of the situation – the food in the market is very expensive, we can’t find jobs and last year there was very little rain. We started this group of 30 women just a few months ago; we received seeds and training. From there we started, and now we are producing more. Before, the seeds would germinate and die, but we learned the importance of spacing, weeding and pest control to make it grow well. Whatever I learn here I replicate at home in my garden. If we think critically, we should not buy greens from the market but produce our own.”



21 August 2017, Torit, Eastern Equatoria
Photo by Lieke Visser

Taban Patrick – Trainer of a JFSS

“My pupils call their group, Kinetic! We took two groups and prepared the land for planting with them, and then provided them with soap to wash in the river. They liked the work, and asked to take seeds home to try there as well. They told me, the first war is hunger, not insecurity. We need to support these kids and I enjoy teaching them. There is land here around the school, so we can expand on our production. Now, we have vegetables, but will also grow maize in the future.”



21 August 2017, Torit, Eastern Equatoria
Photo by Lieke Visser

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