



### IN NUMBERS



**4.9 million**

People severely food insecure by July 2017  
(FSL Cluster projection)



**>3 million**

People displaced by conflict



**\$61 million**

Requested under the 2017 South Sudan  
Humanitarian Response Plan

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **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 communities and in structurally food deficit areas, against a background of widespread market failure.
- FAO is seeking USD 61 million under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for South Sudan. **Of this, FAO is urgently seeking USD 20 million by the end of February to procure/pre-position crop kits**, and a further USD 20 million by March to ensure timely distribution of the kits.
- **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.

### BACKGROUND

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 Stressed, Emergency and Catastrophe food security. Three years of conflict have severely undermined crop production and rural livelihoods, particularly in Greater Upper Nile. The upsurge in violence since July 2016 has further devastated food production in previously stable areas of Greater Equatoria region, which includes the country's main cereal producing areas, and Western Bahr el Ghazal. Northern areas of the country in particular are facing an increased risk of famine during the lean season. The country's economy is collapsing as soaring inflation – up to 800 percent year-on-year – and market failure has particularly hit areas that traditionally rely on markets to meet food needs. 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. Food insecurity and malnutrition have reached deeply worrying levels, with nutrition expected to deteriorate to 'critical' levels (World Health Organization classification) during the lean season (February to May 2017) as food stocks are depleted and prices are likely to peak, leaving households struggling to purchase enough food. 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.

### CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Continued violence is exacerbating the deepening economic crisis, pointing to unprecedented levels of food insecurity in 2017. Insecurity prevented farmers from reaching their fields during 2016's main cropping season, with about half of harvests lost and farmers unable to plant for a second consecutive season in some high productive areas. Displacement has had a considerable impact on food production, with arable land left fallow or crops untended. At the same time, the costs and challenges facing the humanitarian response are rising significantly. 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, soaring 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.

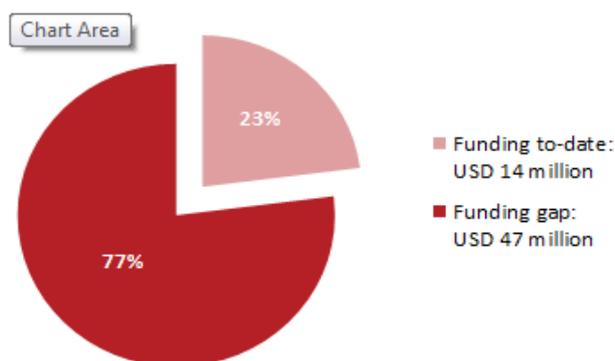
As the scale of the food security crisis is likely to be overwhelming, FAO's livelihood support is critical for the most vulnerable populations to prevent or reduce their adoption of negative coping mechanisms and contain the number of people relying on food aid for their survival in 2017 and beyond.

## FAO RESPONSE, TARGETS AND FUNDING

2016 RESPONSE	ONGOING DRY SEASON CAMPAIGN
 <p><b>2.735 million</b> people targeted with livelihood kits (455 512 households)</p> <p><b>2.3 million</b> people reached with livelihood kits (385 388 households)</p>	 Vegetable kit target: <b>209 907 kits</b> <b>81 329 vegetable kits</b> released to partners for distribution  Fishing kit target: <b>118 161 kits</b> <b>87 111 fishing kits</b> released to partners for distribution
 <p><b>431,831</b> livelihood kits distributed during the main planting season, including through seed fairs</p>	 Procurement for the main planting season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 038 tonnes of crop seed</li> <li>• 235 000 vegetable kits</li> <li>• 644 000 tools</li> <li>• 140 000 fishing kits</li> </ul>
 <p><b>6.2 million</b> animals vaccinated; <b>2 million</b> animals treated</p>	 <p><b>5.2 million</b> animals targeted to be vaccinated and treated in 2017, and 70 percent of the vaccines and treatment kits released to partners</p>

### FUNDING

Under the **2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for South Sudan**, FAO is seeking USD 61 million to assist 3 million people. Of this, USD 20 million is needed to support the critical main cropping season. Funding is urgently required by February 2017 to enable FAO to reach the total number of households in need.



**Donors:** Belgium, Common Humanitarian Fund, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

### ASSESSMENTS

FAO and WFP are currently completing the Crop and Food Security Assessment and the report is expected to be released in February 2017.

FAO and partners are also producing the IPC figures that will set the baseline for the anticipated escalation of food and nutrition insecurity in 2017.

Close monitoring will ensure identification of triggers for early warning and possible declaration of famine.

### CONTACT

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