SOUTH SUDAN: Integrated Food Security Classification Snapshot | January - July 2020

Key Figures

- **5.29M** About 5.29 million people in South Sudan were acutely food insecure or in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse in January 2020.

- **3.89m** South Sudan’s conflict and insecurity has forced over 3.89 million people to flee their homes in search of safety, nearly 1.67 million of them within the country and about 2.22 million outside the country.

Overview

About 5.29 people in South Sudan were acutely food insecure in January 2020, in a prolonged food crisis projected to worsen in the coming months. The food crisis is exacerbated by floods, insecurity, and low food production. In the analysis period of January 2020, 5.29 million people (45.2% of the population) were estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, of which 1.11 million people faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. About 40,000 people were classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in the counties of Akobo, Duk and Ayod in Jonglei State. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative uses phases to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity and malnutrition for better and more actionable information.

Compared with the same time last year, January 2020 levels of food insecurity reflect a 9% reduction in the proportion of the population facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse. In the projection period (February to April 2020), 6.01 million people (51.4% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 200,000 people in the counties of Akobo and Duk estimated to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). In the projection period of May to July 2020, 6.48 million people (55.4% of the population) will face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, which is 5% lower than was projected for the 2019 lean season. Immediate scale-up of humanitarian food assistance is needed to save lives and avert total collapse of livelihoods in the affected counties particularly those with populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Key Drivers

- **Flooding**
  - Considerable flooding in 2019 triggered population movement and displacement in three (3) counties. The floods destroyed households and road networks, and disrupted livelihoods.

- **Insecurity**
  - Isolated insecurity incidents displace populations, disrupt livelihoods and impede households’ access to other food sources, such as wild foods, fish and livestock products.

Acute Malnutrition

- **1.3M** Over 1.3 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished in 2020.

- **352k** About 352,000 pregnant or lactating women are acutely malnourished in South Sudan.

Overview of the Nutrition Situation

About 1.3 million children under five years are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2020, based on the findings of the food security and nutrition monitoring system, SMART nutrition surveys, and admission trends for 2019. The estimation of the caseload was based on the peak lean season data that provide higher caseload for better informed response planning. Furthermore, new incidence factor of 2.9 and total malnutrition weight-for-height Z-score were used as opposed to incidence factor of 2.6 and prevalence based on WFN only. In January 2020, 48 counties are classified as Serious (IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 and above). The major factors contributing to acute malnutrition include: very poor quality and diversity of food (Minimum Acceptable Diet: 5%, Minimum dietary diversity: 17%) and an unexpectedly high prevalence of diseases (above 50%). The high morbidity rate is attributed to flooding that has worsened the spread of malaria and unsafe drinking water.

Acute Malnutrition Projection

- **May - August 2020**
  - About 1.3 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished in 2020.

Severe and Moderate Acute Malnutrition by State

- **January 2020**
  - **Severe acute malnutrition (SAM):**
    - Central Equatoria
    - Upper Nile
    - Western Equatoria
    - Western Bahr el Ghazal
    - Upper Nile
  - **Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM):**
    - Northern Bahr el Ghazal
    - South Kordofan
    - Upper Nile
    - Western Bahr el Ghazal
    - Western Equatoria

IPC Analysis Partners:

The January IPC acute analysis was attended by a multi-agency and multi-sectoral group of about 110. A parallel IPC acute malnutrition analysis was also conducted during the same period as the IPC analysis. State analysis teams conducted separate state level analyses and were vetted by the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, technical consensus reached on each area outcomes, and results reported.