Overview of Acute Food Insecurity

About 6.6 million people, or over half of South Sudan’s population (54%), are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse between October and November. Of those, 2.2 million people are experiencing worse conditions in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity and an estimated 61,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Fangak, Canal/Pigi and Akobo of Jonglei State; Pibor County in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The most food insecure states between October and November 2022, where more than 50% of their populations are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, are Jonglei (68%), Unity (66%), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (62%), Upper Nile (58%), Warrap (57%), and Lakes (57%).

In the post-harvest projection period of December 2022 to March 2023, an estimated 6.31 million people (51.0% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 33,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Akobo and Fangak of Jonglei State, and Pibor County of Greater Pibor Administrative Area. During this period, an estimated 1.97 million people are likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. In the lean season projection period of April to July 2023, an estimated 7.8 million people (63% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 43,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Akobo, Canal/Pigi, and Fangak counties of Jonglei State; and Leer and Mayandit counties of Unity State. During this period, an estimated 2.90 million people are likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.

Given the high levels of severe acute food insecurity in South Sudan, there is a need for immediate scale-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to save lives and prevent the total collapse of livelihoods in the affected countries, particularly those with a high share of populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity. For populations in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity, there is a need for resilience-building support and enhanced disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change. Urgent action is also required for populations classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity to protect their livelihoods and reduce household-level food consumption gaps.

The highly food insecure populations are in locations with chronic vulnerabilities worsened by frequent climate-related shocks (severe flooding and dry spells), the macro-economic crisis, conflict and insecurity, and low agricultural production. Between October and November 2022, 33 counties across South Sudan are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, and 42 counties in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity. In the post-harvest projection period of December 2022 to March 2023, 29 counties will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, 43 counties will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, 4 counties will likely be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity, and one county will likely be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) acute food insecurity. In the lean-season projection period of April to July 2023, 47 counties will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, 29 counties will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, and one county will likely be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity

Economic Decline: South Sudan’s economy is experiencing a macroeconomic crisis caused by the deprecation of the local currency and the global impacts of the conflict in Ukraine.

Climate shocks: The country is highly prone to natural disasters, particularly floods and dry spells that affect agriculture, disrupt livelihoods, and hamper humanitarian access.

Conflict and Insecurity: Persistent conflict is disrupting livelihoods and the lack of food insecure people.

Low production: Disruption of livelihoods and severe rainfall deficits in South Sudan negatively impact agricultural, resulting in high humanitarian needs.
Overview of Acute Malnutrition

Between July 2022 and June 2023, an estimated 1.4 million children under five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition based on analysis and estimations from the results of the SMART nutrition surveys, Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) and program admission trends. Approximately 345,893 will need SAM treatment, while another 1,057,703 will need MAM treatment. Acute malnutrition burden will be highly concentrated in the four states of Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Warrap, in about 61% of the total burden. As for the severity of the situation, during July and October, 30 counties are classified in IPC AMN Phase 4 (Critical), 15 counties in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious), 19 counties in IPC AMN Phase 2 (Alert) and 13 in IPC AMN Phase 1 (Acceptable). Unlike the past, not much improvement is expected during the post-harvest season. Instead, the situation is expected to deteriorate in 50 counties. Deterioration in 20 counties is likely to cause a change in classification to the worst phase.

In comparison, in another 30 counties, the situation will likely deteriorate but remain within the same IPC AMN phase. Overall, in the post-harvest period, counties in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious) and IPC AMN Phase 4 (Critical) will likely increase from 45 to 56. The lean season will likely see a further deterioration in all counties, thus increasing the number of counties in IPC AMN Phase 3 (Serious) and IPC AMN Phase 4 (Critical) to 59 counties.

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**Recommended Actions**

**Humanitarian Food Assistance**

Humanitarian food assistance must be scaled up immediately to save lives and prevent a total collapse of livelihoods in locations where populations were classified in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.

**Livelihood Support**

Considering the diminished resilience of people, the high level of vulnerability to shocks, and the chronic nature of food insecurity and malnutrition, close collaboration between humanitarian and development programmes are needed to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and enhance resilience.

**Treatment**

While ensuring universal treatment for acute malnutrition is a priority, attention must also be given to addressing the identified major contributing factors to prevent acute malnutrition in the future. Continued scale-up of treatment of acute malnutrition targeting the current and future caseload is a high priority. Further expansion of services to previously insecure areas for severe and moderate acute malnutrition treatment is also essential to reach the previously less accessible areas.

**Collection and Analysis of Mortality Data**

Partners should collect food security, nutrition, and mortality data in the most affected locations to verify these areas’ food security and nutrition situation for timely and appropriate response.

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**Acute Malnutrition | July 2022 - June 2023**

**Projected Acute Malnutrition | March - June 2023**

**Projected Acute Food Insecurity | April - July 2023**

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SOUTH SUDAN: IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Malnutrition Snapshot
Acute Food Insecurity: October 2022 – July 2023; Acute Malnutrition July 2022 – December 2023

Over 4.4 million people (42% of the population analysed) in South Sudan were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October and December 2014.

Over 6.6 million people (55% of the population analysed) in South Sudan were projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October and November 2022.

Key for the Map
- Minimal
- Stressed
- Crisis
- Emergency
- None/Minimal
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

Process and Methodology

Food Security Analysis: The October 2022 IPC for Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) was conducted physically from 03 to 15 October 2022 and was attended by a multi-agency and multi-sectoral group of about 100 participants. Before the IPC analysis commenced, an IPC refresher training was held for all participants on 03 October 2022. Thereafter, the analysts conducted State level analyses and were vetted by the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group vetting committee which was comprised of representatives from Government, the UN, NGOs and academia, with some members of the IPC Steering Committee attending as observers.

Nutrition Analysis: A team of experts and analysts on nutrition, health, food security, WASH and statistics from South Sudan with the support from the Regional and Global IPC Support units carried out the analysis process using the standard IPC for Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) protocols and standards.

Publication date: November 3, 2022. *IPC population data is based on population estimates by South Sudan’s National Bureau of Statistics. Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any political entity.