

Republic of South Sudan

Office of the President

Republic of South Sudan Food Security Council (RSSFSC)



Office of the Secretary General

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Statement to Food Security Stakeholders in the Republic of South Sudan

RSSFSC is a national body established through Presidential Order No. 15/2012 on 14 May 2012. It is inter-sectoral in its composition and falls under the direct supervision of the Office of the President of the Republic of South Sudan. The main purpose of the RSSFSC is to ensure that food security is strategized and accorded the necessary status and authority with the aim of reducing and eventually eradicating undernourishment and malnutrition from the Country.

The RSSFSC has the sole authority for making official statements about the food security status of the country. The main methodology recognized by the RSSFSC to produce analyses is the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), which is based on a rigorous and inclusive process, and in which the GRSS is fully involved, from field data collection and analysis to chairing the IPC Technical Working Group.

We welcome any inputs from any of the stakeholders that contribute to the IPC and which are aimed at clarifying or informing the food security situation in the Republic of South Sudan. On the other hand, I request stakeholders active in the food and nutrition security fields not to release or publish any independent or unilateral statements on the food and nutrition situation that are outside the technical process of the IPC and outside the political endorsement of the RSSFSC.

We remind the Development Partners and the media that food security classification phases, including famine (phase 5), are determined by internationally recognized indicators. Currently, Government staff at all levels and partners are traversing the country – in remote and conflict areas – to collect data on these indicators, which will be analyzed by top food and nutrition security experts to produce an update of the situation. This IPC update on hotspot areas will be released late July, and a full IPC analysis will be published in mid-September.

We acknowledge recent reports calling attention to the deteriorating food security situation, sometimes expressed as "risk of famine". Whether or not famine becomes a reality in some areas must not distract attention or resources from the nearly 4 million South Sudanese men, women, and children that are currently severely food insecure (IPC phases 3 and 4).

We recognize the challenges faced by humanitarian agencies providing food assistance, especially in recent months. Nonetheless, we appeal to international partners to scale up their

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"God gives all birds their food but does not drop it into their nests."

response immediately to tackle what is widely acknowledged to be a grave situation. Withholding resources in anticipation of a possible famine declaration is harmful and irresponsible, as it hinders immediate action.


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