

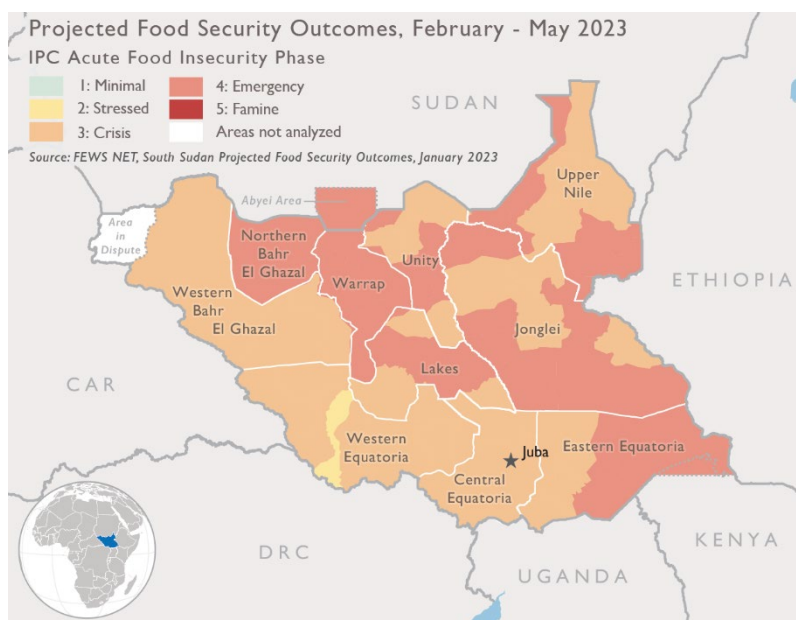
South Sudan – Complex Emergency

MARCH 31, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>12.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of South Sudan</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>9.4 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2023</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p>7.8 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Facing Acute Food Insecurity in 2023 Lean Season</p> <p><i>IPC – November 2022</i></p>	<p>2.2 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in South Sudan</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2023</i></p>	<p>2.3 MILLION</p> <p>South Sudanese Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2023</i></p>
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- Widespread insecurity resulted in the deaths of two WFP-contracted drivers of humanitarian convoys in mid-to-late March and continues to limit humanitarian assistance operations, the UN reports.
- More than 7.8 million people are likely to face Crisis—IPC 3—outcomes or worse due to conflict and climatic shocks between April and July, according to the most recent IPC assessment.
- Health actors, including USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners, continue to respond to a cholera outbreak in Upper Nile's Malakal County and to measles outbreaks across South Sudan.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹ \$363,611,208

For the South Sudan Response in FY 2023

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total \$363,611,208

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Insecurity Hinders Delivery of Assistance and Threatens Aid Workers

Widespread insecurity in South Sudan—including escalating attacks targeting humanitarian convoys and aid workers—continues to disrupt humanitarian operations and endanger relief actors in 2023, with violent incidents against aid workers more than doubling in January 2023 compared to January 2022, the UN reports. Most recently, armed actors attacked two separate humanitarian convoys traveling between South Sudan's Jonglei State and Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) on March 20 and March 17, respectively, with the attacks resulting in at least three deaths, including the deaths of two UN World Food Program (WFP)-contracted drivers, and several injuries, according to the UN agency and international media. Following the March 17 attack, WFP temporarily paused convoy movements out of Jonglei's Bor town, a major logistics hub for a large portion of the country, for the second time in 2023 to re-assess security conditions and implement enhanced security and mitigation measures. The inability to preposition humanitarian supplies ahead of the rainy season when roads are still accessible could delay humanitarian assistance delivery to more than one million people in Jonglei and GPAA, many of whom rely on WFP food assistance due to prevailing conditions of acute food insecurity in the areas. In response to the March 17 incident, U.S. Ambassador to South Sudan Michael J. Adler strongly condemned the attack and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Crop Losses and Environmental Shocks Drive High Levels of Food Insecurity

Vulnerable populations in South Sudan continue to face high levels of food insecurity in 2023 due to environmental shocks and an ongoing food deficit. An estimated 7.8 million people—approximately two-thirds of South Sudan's population—may face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between April and July, according to the most recent IPC assessment.² Among this population, approximately 43,000 people are expected to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity and 2.9 million people are projected to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity.³ Moreover, Emergency or worse food insecurity outcomes are likely to remain widespread during the post-harvest period into the May-to-September lean season, according to Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projections.

Despite South Sudan's net cereal production reaching approximately 936,000 metric tons (MT) in 2022, the country continues to face an estimated 34 percent cereal deficit in 2023, requiring an additional 485,000 MT of cereal to meet its net annual requirement of 1.4 million MT, according to the recent Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission Assessment Report. This deficit has been compounded by environmental shocks, such as fire outbreaks, ongoing droughts, and severe seasonal floods. Seasonal flooding damaged an estimated 321,000 acres of cultivated land in 2022, resulting in an approximate loss of at least 65,000 MT of cereal. Meanwhile, South Sudan's Eastern Equatoria State's government declared a state of emergency in Budi, Kapoeta East, and Lafon counties in late February due to ongoing fire outbreaks and drought conditions, which continue to drive food insecurity and exacerbate high levels of humanitarian need in the area. As of late February, 80 percent of Kapoeta East's Jie population—primarily children and older people—have been displaced, while 80 percent of Kapoeta North County's Jie community members have been displaced since December 2022, due to severe food and water

² The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

³ A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

shortages, according to local authorities and the Eastern Equatoria State Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. Moreover, in Lafon, fires destroyed more than 200 houses and nearly 100 granaries in late February, exacerbating food insecurity conditions, local media reports.

With USAID/BHA support, WFP plans to deliver an estimated 231,000 MT of food assistance to food insecure households in 2023, the UN agency reports. WFP assisted more than 1.1 million people with food and nutrition assistance in January alone. Due to renewed conflicts and projected flooding, however, FEWS NET anticipates the potential disruption of deliveries, which may exacerbate the needs of vulnerable communities in South Sudan.

Health Actors Respond to Cholera and Measles Outbreaks Across South Sudan

The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity—South Sudan’s current governing body—Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a cholera outbreak in Malakal County on March 7, with health actors recording at least two deaths and more than 460 suspected cholera cases in the county between February 22 and March 23. Notably, nearly 90 percent of the affected patients are children ages four years and younger. Moreover, approximately 60 percent of the recorded case patients in the county were from the Malakal UN Mission in South Sudan Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, while 40 percent of recorded cases were from Malakal town, as of March 23. Health actors report inadequate access to safe water, overcrowding in the PoC site, and sub-optimal cholera risk communication and community engagement as key challenges in cholera prevention and control. Health actors also emphasize the urgent need to scale up response efforts before the rainy season, which typically starts in April, as the rains may increase contamination of water supplies and the transmission of cholera among vulnerable populations. In response to the outbreak, health actors began an oral cholera vaccination campaign on March 16, targeting approximately 53,000 individuals ages one year and older in Malakal PoC site and Malakal town, reaching nearly 60 percent of targeted individuals as of March 20, according to relief actors. USAID/BHA partners are supporting MoH authorities with rapid response operations—including infection prevention and control and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities—and the vaccination campaign.

Health actors, including U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partners, additionally have continued to respond to measles outbreaks across South Sudan; health authorities declared measles outbreaks on February 23 and December 10, 2022, respectively. As of February 1, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 46 deaths and more than 4,300 suspected cases across South Sudan since January 2022. In response, health actors conducted targeted vaccination campaigns in 16 of South Sudan’s 23 counties between March and November 2022, vaccinating nearly 770,600 children, relief actors report. A nationwide measles vaccination campaign is planned for late March, as the national level of measles immunization coverage is below the expected 95 percent coverage to interrupt the ongoing transmission, according to WHO. Vulnerable populations across South Sudan face compounding factors that increase the risk of measles transmission, including poor food security and low access to health care. Health actors continue to work with national and state authorities to stop measles transmission and increase immunization coverage.

KEY FIGURES



1.1 Million

People reached with food and nutrition assistance by WFP in January, with support from USAID/BHA and other donors



101

Emergency health kits, capable of supporting 51,300 people for three months, distributed across seven counties by USAID/BHA partner WHO in January 2023



9,900

People reached with community hygiene and sanitation campaigns by USAID/BHA partner Concern in January

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports multiple UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to bolster early recovery, food security, and livelihood efforts in South Sudan. USAID/BHA partners provide emergency food assistance—including cash transfers for food, regionally and internationally procured commodities, and U.S. in-kind food assistance—to food-insecure households across the country. USAID/BHA continues to support WFP to sustain emergency food assistance as food needs increase across South Sudan, while USAID/BHA and State/PRM NGO partners provide agricultural inputs, fishing kits, and livelihood training to support at-risk populations.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA partners continue to provide health care services in South Sudan through community health facilities and mobile medical units (MMUs). Through MMUs, partners provide a range of maternal, mental, and primary health care services. South Sudan has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the world, and MMUs provide life-saving maternal and newborn health care services to reduce the prevalence of maternal and infant deaths. USAID/BHA also supports integrated community case management services in South Sudan, which deliver life-saving curative interventions for common childhood illnesses, particularly in areas with limited access to facility-based services.

Moreover, to mitigate the effects of the measles outbreaks in South Sudan, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners continue to assist in training local health care workers in infection prevention and control methods, provide support for vaccination campaigns, and strengthen community health coordination. Additionally, State/PRM supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs to address the health care needs of refugees and other vulnerable populations in South Sudan. Health interventions are integrated with nutrition and WASH services wherever possible to ensure a sustainable system of clinical services and support.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support partners implementing critical WASH programs, including activities to provide access to safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, sanitation services, and solid waste disposal. Additional WASH programming includes interventions to help prevent cholera outbreaks among vulnerable populations, as well as mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) risks by providing safe access to latrines, sanitation services, and other WASH facilities. Additionally, USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support efforts by UN and NGO partners to

respond to recent flooding throughout South Sudan by rehabilitating WASH infrastructure and providing WASH supplies to flood-affected populations. USAID/BHA also supports hygiene promotion activities through public health campaigns and the distribution of essential supplies, such as dignity and hygiene kits, soap, and water buckets.



13

Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing critical protection interventions

PROTECTION

USAID/BHA supports multi-sector protection interventions that ensure the safety and dignity of vulnerable people in South Sudan. Protection activities include assistance to GBV survivors through case management, mobile emergency response teams, psychosocial support services, and referrals to health specialists, as well as assessments to integrate protection into multi-sector emergency response activities. Additionally, State/PRM partners provide protection services to conflict-affected communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and refugees countrywide, including family reunification interventions, GBV prevention and response programs, legal assistance, and mental health and psychosocial support activities. USAID/BHA and State/PRM also support coordination and capacity-building among protection actors in South Sudan.



24,900

MT of humanitarian cargo transported in 2022 by the South Sudan Logistics Cluster, with USAID/BHA support

LOGISTICS

USAID/BHA and State/PRM provide countrywide support to the humanitarian response through the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the South Sudan Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, composed of UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. UNHAS offers air transportation to relief actors throughout the country, while the South Sudan Logistics Cluster provides coordination and information management services for humanitarian workers, delivery and common warehousing of essential relief commodities, and geographical information system mapping. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration supports humanitarian partner responses across South Sudan by procuring, storing, and transporting critical relief supplies, including emergency shelter and WASH commodities.



2.1 Million

Primary caregivers of children ages 0–23 months who received infant and young children feeding counseling through USAID/BHA support and other donors in 2022

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across South Sudan. USAID/BHA supports NGOs, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WFP to provide nutrition assistance—including specialized food products to treat wasting—to children and pregnant and lactating women countrywide. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education to manage wasting.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The January 2005 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the southern-based Sudan People's Liberation Army officially ended more than two decades of north–south conflict during which disease, famine, and fighting killed an estimated 2 million people and displaced at least 4.5 million others within Sudan. In July 2011, South Sudan became an independent state following a referendum earlier in the year.
- On December 15, 2013, clashes erupted between factions within the Government of South Sudan in the capital city of Juba and quickly spread into a protracted national conflict, prompting displacement and humanitarian needs. On December 20, 2013, USAID activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the U.S. Government (USG) response to the crisis in South Sudan and stood up a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to support the DART.
- After nearly seven years, USAID transitioned the South Sudan DART and RMT to a normalized response under USAID/BHA on November 6 and November 20, 2020, respectively. USAID/BHA remains committed to maintaining a robust humanitarian response in South Sudan, and USAID/BHA partners continue to carry out life-saving programs to meet the humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people.
- On October 5, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Michael J. Adler reissued a declaration of humanitarian need in South Sudan for FY 2023 due to inflation, ongoing conflict, population displacement, restricted humanitarian access, and severe flooding, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023⁴

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance	Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei	\$17,206,056
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Interchurch Medical Assistance	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei	\$2,100,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Central Equatoria, GPAA, Jonglei, Upper Nile	\$5,000,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	Unity	\$229,177
Nonviolent Peaceforce	Protection	Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Warrap	\$4,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Food Assistance, HCIMA, Protection	Countrywide	\$11,151,438
Tearfund	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Central Equatoria, GPAA, Jonglei	\$5,341,652
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Food Vouchers. Logistics Support, Nutrition, Regional and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$150,000,000
	Food Assistance—Nutrition, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$145,105,697
World Vision	Food Assistance	Upper Nile	\$5,436,790

World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$5,000,000
	Program Support		\$40,398
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$363,611,208
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$363,611,208

⁴ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 31, 2023.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)