



South Sudan – Complex Emergency

MARCH 26, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

12.4
MILLION

Population
of South Sudan

UN – November 2023

9
MILLION

Number
of People in Need
of Humanitarian
Assistance in 2024

UN – November 2023

5.8
MILLION

Number of People
Facing Acute Food
Insecurity December
2023–March 2024

IPC – November 2023

2
MILLION

Number
of IDPs in
South Sudan

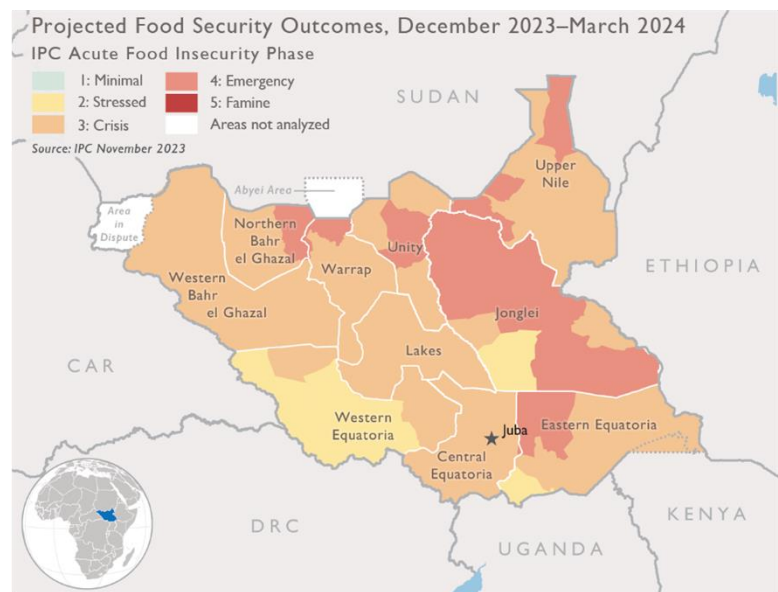
UN – December 2023

614,883

Number of People
Who have Fled Sudan
to South Sudan Since
April 16, 2023

UNHCR and IOM –
March 2024

- Arrivals of refugees and returnees from Sudan, flooding, intercommunal conflict, and poor economic conditions are likely to worsen food insecurity during lean season, leading to increased Emergency outcomes across the country, FEWS NET reports.
- Approximately 19,200 people crossed from Sudan to South Sudan between February 3 and 16, according to IOM and UNHCR. Needs among refugees and returnees remain high, with the UN reporting a nearly 25 percent proxy GAM rate among children five years and younger at the Renk transit center.
- More than 220 instances of violence impacted more than 860 civilians between October and December 2023, UNMISS reports.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the South Sudan Response in FY 2024

USAID/BHA¹

\$244,962,452

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

Total

\$244,962,452

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Arrivals From Sudan, Flooding, and Intercommunal Conflict to Drive Risk of Famine During Peak Lean Season

Refugee and returnee arrivals from Sudan and Ethiopia, severe flooding during the upcoming June–September rainy season driven by likely La Niña weather patterns, intercommunal conflict, and rapidly deteriorating economic conditions are likely to lead to worsening rates of Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity, particularly in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Upper Nile regions, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.² FEWS NET projects the number of counties experiencing Emergency outcomes could nearly double, from 17 to 34 counties, during the upcoming lean season. Furthermore, parts of Unity and Upper Nile states are at risk of Famine—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity during the lean season, according to FEWS NET. While the risk of Famine remains low through May, areas with a high influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan, poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions contributing to high levels of malnutrition, high levels of flooding, and volatile conflict dynamics are at the highest risk of Famine, FEWS NET reports. In response to increasing levels of food insecurity, relief actors—including the U.S. Government (USG) partner the UN World Food Program (WFP)—continue to provide food assistance to populations in need, reaching approximately 818,000 people with food assistance throughout South Sudan during January.

High Humanitarian Needs Persist Among Arrivals from Sudan

Approximately 19,200 people—of whom 55 percent are South Sudanese returnees and 44 percent are Sudanese refugees—crossed from Sudan into South Sudan between February 3 and 16, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR. While 86 percent of total new arrivals entered South Sudan through Upper Nile State’s Joda point of entry, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports increasing numbers of people entering through border points in Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, raising concerns among relief actors about the accuracy of reporting and registration capacities due to limited humanitarian presence in those areas of the border. In response to onward transportation needs for arrivals to South Sudan, USG partners IOM and UNHCR relocated more than 16,000 people from the Joda border crossing to a transit center in Upper Nile’s Renk town by road, nearly 5,400 people from Renk to Upper Nile’s capital city of Malakal by boat, and nearly 5,100 people from Malakal to final destinations by air between February 3 and 16. Additionally, USG partner ACTED facilitated a dialogue between refugees unwilling to relocate from Renk and local, state, and national authorities in early March. Some refugees prefer to remain near the South Sudan–Sudan border in case conditions in their areas of origin improve, facilitating an easier return to Sudan, the UN reports. The transitional government continues to emphasize that refugees requiring assistance should relocate from Renk to refugee camps in Upper Nile’s Maban County, UNHCR reports.

Ongoing arrivals of refugees and returnees from Sudan continue to drive significant humanitarian needs in areas along the South Sudan–Sudan border. For example, findings from a February UN-led mass nutrition screening at the Renk transit center revealed a proxy global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of nearly 25 percent for children ages five years and younger, significantly higher than the UN World Health Organization’s (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent; relief actors also found a proxy GAM

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, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5) for acute food insecurity. A Famine classification applies to a wider population, while the term Catastrophe (IPC 5) refers to 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 classified as experiencing Catastrophe, when the global acute malnutrition level exceeds 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

rate of 15 percent among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the transit site. In response to high rates of malnutrition, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) screened nearly 1,300 children ages 6–59 months for malnutrition at transit centers in Renk and Malakal, referring more than 40 children with severe acute malnutrition for treatment at UNICEF outpatient therapeutic treatment programs during January. Additionally, UNICEF provided more than 900 mothers and caregivers of children ages 0–59 months in Renk and Malakal with key messages on infant and young child feeding practices during the month. Separately, WASH actors have scaled up response activities to try to meet SPHERE standard WASH key indicators, increasing the amount of water distributed to individuals to the minimum required 15 liters per day across all sites in Renk and improving the ratio of people per latrine from 200 to 99.³

Intercommunal Conflict Causes Civilian Casualties and Protection Violations Between October and December 2023

Between October and December 2023, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) recorded more than 220 incidents of violence impacting more than 860 civilians nationwide. These incidents of violence caused the death of 406 people, injured more than 290 others, and included 100 abductions and more than 60 instances of conflict-related sexual violence. The more than 220 violent incidents between October and December 2023 represent a 9 percent increase in the number of incidents compared with the October–December 2022 reporting period; however, the number of civilian victims in the 2023 reporting period decreased by 11 percent compared with 2022, largely driven by a decrease in violent incidents in the Greater Upper Nile Region, UNMISS reports.

Intercommunal violence involving community-based militias or civil defense groups accounted for 86 percent of the violent incidents affecting civilians between October and December, impacting 740 people. For example, an unresolved border dispute between the Dinka Twic Mayardit community in Warrap State’s Twic County and the Dinka Ngok community of the Abyei Administrative Area led to clashes that accounted for nearly 53 percent of civilian casualties during the reporting period, causing 263 deaths and injuring nearly 190 others, according to UNMISS.

³ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN, nongovernmental organizations, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

KEY FIGURES



\$3.1 Million

In WFP cash transfers
for food during January
2024

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports multiple UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to bolster food security across South Sudan. USAID/BHA partner WFP provides 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 in vulnerable areas of South Sudan. With USAID/BHA support, WFP reached more than 818,000 people throughout South Sudan in January 2024, distributing nearly 5,600 metric tons of in-kind food assistance and \$3.1 million in cash assistance during the month. State/PRM NGO partners also provide agricultural inputs, fishing kits, and livelihood training to support at-risk populations.



\$7.4 Million

In dedicated
USG support for
life-saving health care
programming in FY 2024

HEALTH

USG partners continue to provide health support in South Sudan through community health facilities and mobile medical units (MMUs), which provide a range of maternal, mental, and primary health care services. South Sudan has the highest year-on-year 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 health interventions for common childhood illnesses, particularly in areas with limited access to health facility-based services.

To mitigate the effects of infectious disease 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 UNHCR and NGOs to address the health care needs of refugees and returnees while USAID/BHA support addresses health care needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees from Sudan, and other vulnerable populations. Health interventions are integrated with nutrition and WASH services wherever possible to promote a comprehensive and efficient system of clinical services.



\$15.3 Million

In dedicated USG
support for WASH
programming in FY 2024

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, especially in large displacement and transit sites. Additional WASH programming includes interventions to help prevent cholera outbreaks among vulnerable populations and to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence 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 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 containers.



86,000

Caregivers of children
ages 0–59 months
provided with
malnutrition prevention
messaging by UNICEF in
January 2024

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—for children and PLW countrywide. Additionally, State/PRM and USAID/BHA

support UNICEF's nutrition efforts for refugee and returnee populations fleeing Sudan. Using a community-based approach, USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners promote recommended infant and young child feeding practices through one-on-one counseling and group education to manage wasting.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- On October 5, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Michael J. Adler reissued a declaration of humanitarian need in South Sudan for FY 2024 due to ongoing insecurity, widespread population displacement, climatic and economic shocks, and the Sudan crisis, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.
- Fighting between Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces elements began on April 15, 2023, significantly escalating the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and generating widespread displacement to neighboring countries. In South Sudan, the arrival of refugees, returnees, and third-country nationals fleeing conflict in Sudan has exacerbated humanitarian needs among host communities with limited resources due to years of armed conflict, heightened food insecurity, and climatic shocks.
- After nearly seven years, USAID transitioned the South Sudan Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (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 December 15, 2013, clashes erupted between factions within the Government of South Sudan—the country's pre-2018 governing body—in the capital city of Juba and quickly spread into a protracted national conflict, generating displacement and exacerbating humanitarian needs. On December 20, 2013, USAID activated a DART to lead the USG response to the crisis in South Sudan and stood up an RMT to support the DART.
- 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2024^{4,5}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Concern	WASH	Countrywide	\$64,000
IOM	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Logistics Support; Protection, Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Abyei, Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr el Ghazal	\$31,000,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	Unity	\$365,229

OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Solidarités International	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Unity	\$4,000,000
Tearfund	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Jonglei State, Greater Pibor Administrative Area	\$3,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfer for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$53,500,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$149,998,190
	Program Support		\$35,033
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$244,962,452
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2024			

⁴Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 26, 2024.

⁵Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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 [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)