

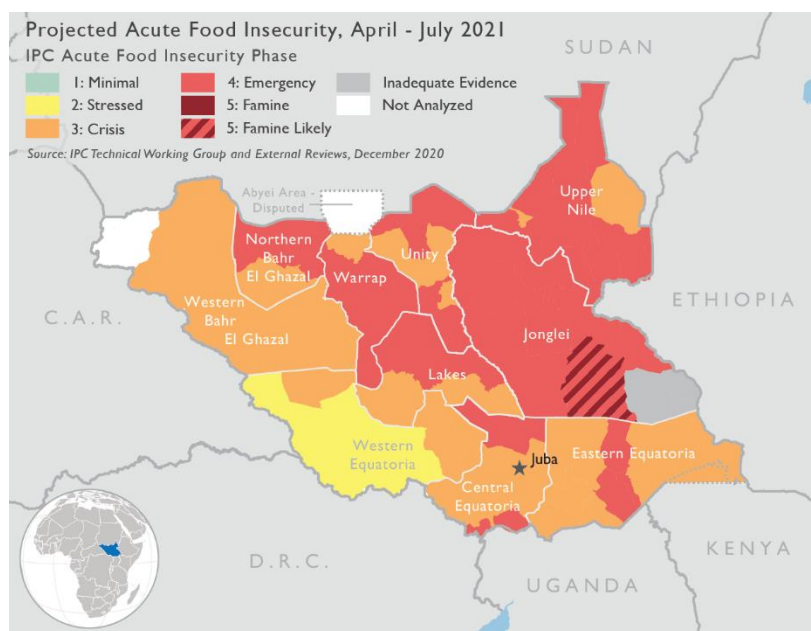
South Sudan – Complex Emergency

MAY 7, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

12.1 MILLION	8.3 MILLION	7.7 MILLION	1.6 MILLION	2.2 MILLION
Estimated Population of South Sudan	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in 2021	Estimated Population Requiring Emergency Food Assistance in 2021	Estimated Number of IDPs in South Sudan	South Sudanese Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UN – January 2021	UN – March 2021	UN – March 2021	UN – March 2021	UN – March 2021

- The USG announced more than \$95 million in new humanitarian funding for the crisis in South Sudan on April 15.
- Multiple attacks in April by youth resulted in injuries to humanitarian staff in Eastern Equatoria and Unity.
- Insecurity along key transport routes hindered humanitarian operations and movement of goods across South Sudan in April.
- Recent NAS–SSPDF clashes displace populations and generate humanitarian needs in Central Equatoria.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the South Sudan Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA ¹	\$451,416,102
State/PRM ²	\$10,100,000

Total \$461,516,102³

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

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ This total does not include approximately \$32.7 million in FY 2021 U.S. Government (USG) funding for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries. This increases total USG emergency funding for the South Sudan crisis in FY 2021 to more than \$494.2 million.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Announces \$95 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance

On April 15, the USG announced more than \$95 million in additional humanitarian assistance for people affected by the ongoing conflict and widespread food insecurity in South Sudan during a joint press conference with U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Larry E. André and UN World Food Program (WFP) Country Director Matthew Hollingworth. The new assistance comprises more than \$52 million from USAID/BHA and nearly \$43 million from State/PRM to provide life-saving emergency food, health, nutrition, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance for some of the nearly 4 million affected people in the country. In addition, the assistance will support internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan, as well as South Sudanese refugees in host communities in neighboring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda.

People in South Sudan are experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since the country’s independence in 2011, according to relief actors. The upcoming May-to-July lean season is expected to be the most severe on record and could leave more than 7 million people, including more than 1 million children, in need of food assistance. Recent floods, ongoing political instability, and effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have exacerbated humanitarian needs in South Sudan. The USG is the largest donor to the response and has provided more than \$494.2 million in total humanitarian assistance to South Sudan and for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries in FY 2021.

April Attacks on Humanitarian Staff Cause Injuries, Suspension of Activities

On April 24, youth entered and attacked a compound belonging to non-governmental organization (NGO) the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Ruweng Administrative Area, Unity State. Approximately 20 youth attacked IRC staff, resulting in multiple injuries, including one serious injury that required aerial evacuation to a nearby hospital, the NGO reported. In an April 28 statement, IRC demanded accountability for the attack and called on authorities to guarantee security for humanitarian staff. In a separate incident in Eastern Equatoria State’s Torit city on April 28, community members assaulted humanitarian staff following a meeting between community groups, humanitarian organizations, and the UN, according to the South Sudan NGO Forum, a coordinating body of international and national NGOs based in South Sudan’s capital city of Juba. The attack resulted in multiple serious injuries requiring hospital treatment, while several humanitarian organizations subsequently relocated staff to safer areas and suspended some activities, including critical health and nutrition assistance, the UN reported. Both the April 24 and April 28 incidents occurred in part due to grievances over local recruitment for aid agencies, the NGO Forum reported.

In response to the April 24 incident, the U.S. Embassy in South Sudan released a statement calling on authorities at all levels to ensure accountability by arresting those responsible and to guarantee the safety and security of humanitarian workers. The statement also acknowledged the critical need for better employment and economic opportunities across South Sudan, particularly for young people, but emphasized that violence, and threats of violence against humanitarian workers—most of whom are South Sudanese—results in the delay and interruption of life-saving assistance to the country’s most vulnerable communities. UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Alain Noudéhou also condemned the violent attacks by youth groups against humanitarian workers and assets in an April 29 statement. The RC/HC called upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GoRSS) to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and pursue accountability for perpetrators of the attacks. The RC/HC stressed that humanitarian needs will increase if aid workers are not able to safely resume their activities. These attacks continue a pattern of threats and violence against aid workers in South Sudan in recent years, and an increasing number of aid workers have been killed in the country since 2019.

Insecurity Along Key Transport Routes Hinders Relief Operations

Insecurity along key transport routes throughout South Sudan hindered relief operations throughout April, often delaying or preventing the delivery of critical life-saving assistance, the UN reports. Throughout the month, relief organizations reported numerous ambushes by armed actors on commercial and humanitarian convoys across Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Warrap, and Western Equatoria states that resulted in civilian deaths, injury to aid workers, and damage to or theft of relief supplies. Attacks have been particularly prominent in recent weeks along the Juba–Nimule road that runs through Central and Eastern Equatoria states, which serves as the key corridor for goods to move from neighboring Uganda into South Sudan. On April 1, two attacks on commercial trucks along the road in Eastern Equatoria's Magwi County by unknown armed actors resulted in the deaths of seven civilians and injury to at least three others, as well as the destruction of multiple vehicles. The area surrounding the road has been the site of ongoing fighting between the National Salvation Front (NAS) and the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) in recent months.

In response to the violence along the route, in early April, international media report that commercial truck drivers responsible for moving goods from Kenya and Uganda into South Sudan went on strike, stranding hundreds of trucks at the South Sudan–Uganda border. Additionally, humanitarian actors reported suspending movements along the route while officials worked to resolve the situation. On April 10, security officials from the GoRSS and the Government of Uganda agreed to ensure the security of drivers, local media report. However, the delay in the movement of goods for more than a week hindered the delivery of food and other household items to South Sudanese people in need, as well as to relief organizations, at a critical time when they are scaling up delivery and pre-positioning of supplies in preparation for the May-to-September rainy season.

Other parts of South Sudan also continue to face persistent insecurity along transport routes. An April 4 attack by unknown armed actors on commercial trucks along the Juba–Mundri road in Western Equatoria's Mundri East County resulted in the deaths of two civilians and the abduction of five others, prompting relief actors to briefly suspend movements in the area. Meanwhile, in Jonglei's Fangak County, an unidentified armed group attacked barges contracted by USAID/BHA partner WFP, resulting in the temporary theft of cash and equipment. Further, in Warrap's Tonj North County, an area facing particularly severe levels of acute food insecurity, unidentified armed actors ambushed a commercial vehicle along the Akop–Warrap–Wau road, resulting in one death. As of April 29, more than 20 percent of the main transport routes in South Sudan were impassable to commercial vehicles due to insecurity or poor road conditions, according to the Logistics Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. This lack of logistical access throughout the country continues to impede the delivery of assistance needed to respond to South Sudan's severe food security crisis.

NAS–SSPDF Clashes Generate Humanitarian Needs in Central Equatoria

Clashes between NAS elements and SSPDF in Central Equatoria's Yei County, which began increasing in mid-March, continued to prompt population displacement and generate humanitarian needs throughout April, according to the UN. A joint humanitarian mission to the area between April 14 and 20 assessed that IDPs are facing heightened protection risks and violence, including reports of arbitrary detention, harassment, and torture by conflicting parties. Relief actors also report that displaced populations require emergency assistance, including food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH support. While relief agencies are still assessing the scale of the displacement, the UN reported that at least 1,000 IDPs arrived at a former IDP settlement in Yei on April 18. Previously, in March, NAS–SSPDF clashes had displaced at least 1,500 people in Central Equatoria's Lainya and Yei counties, according to the UN. Overall, the UN estimates at least 235,000 IDPs are currently sheltering across the state.

Refugee Returns Increase Sharply in March as Region Faces Economic Woes

Refugee returns to South Sudan increased sharply in March, particularly reflecting ongoing economic challenges in neighboring countries that host South Sudanese refugees, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UN agency reports that more than 13,300 refugees returned to South Sudan from their country of asylum, nearly triple the number of returns reported in February. Approximately 37 percent of returnees cited lack of employment opportunities in the country of asylum and a further 36 percent cited lack of access to basic services as the main reason for returning to South Sudan, even while South Sudan itself faces continued economic hardship. The large majority of returns—nearly 90 percent—were from Sudan, which has faced significant price inflation and a widespread COVID-19 outbreak in recent months. According to UNHCR, returnees report facing numerous protection risks at border points and in areas of return, including arbitrary detention, extortion, and harassment, while many are also unable to return to their communities of origin due to continued armed conflict. State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to provide critical assistance to meet the basic needs of returnees in South Sudan.

KEY FIGURES



**\$281.6
Million**

In USG funding for
emergency food
assistance and
livelihoods support
in FY 2021



\$8.9 Million

In USG support for
life-saving health
care programming
in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports multiple UN agencies and NGOs to bolster food security, livelihoods, and early recovery efforts in South Sudan. With nearly \$281.6 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA partners provide emergency food assistance, agricultural inputs, fishing kits, and livelihoods training to support vulnerable populations across the country. Emergency food assistance includes U.S.-sourced commodities, locally and regionally procured commodities, and cash-based resource transfers where feasible. USAID/BHA partners reached approximately 1.3 million beneficiaries with food assistance monthly in FY 2020.

HEALTH

With more than \$8.9 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA provides health care services in South Sudan through community health facilities and mobile medical units (MMUs). Through MMUs, partners provide a range of primary care, mental health, and maternal and newborn health services. USAID/BHA also supports integrated community case management services in South Sudan, which deliver life-saving curative interventions for common childhood illnesses, particularly where there is limited access to facility-based services. To mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, USAID/BHA partners are training local healthcare workers in infection prevention and control methods and strengthening community health coordination. Additionally, State/PRM supports UNHCR to address the specific 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.



\$6.9 Million

In USG funding for life-saving WASH programming in FY 2021

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$6.9 million in FY 2021 funding for WASH programming in South Sudan to provide access to safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, sanitation services, and solid waste disposal to more than 3 million people—including more than 1 million IDPs. 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 assets. USAID/BHA also supports hygiene promotion activities through public health campaigns and the distribution of essential supplies, such as buckets, soap, and dignity and hygiene kits.



\$94.6 Million

In USG funding for life-saving nutrition programming in FY 2021

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners in their efforts to prevent and treat malnutrition across South Sudan. In partnership with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, and NGOs, USAID/BHA nutrition assistance reaches children and pregnant and lactating women nationwide with specialized food products to treat malnutrition and provide supportive supervision to frontline health nutrition staff. 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 acute malnutrition. USAID/BHA has dedicated nearly \$94.6 million in FY 2021 funding for nutrition assistance in South Sudan.



\$2.7 Million

In dedicated USG support for critical protection interventions in FY 2021

PROTECTION

With nearly \$2.7 million FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA supports multi-sector protection interventions that ensure the safety and dignity of more than 5 million people—including approximately 200,000 IDPs—in South Sudan. Protection activities include assistance to GBV survivors through case management, emergency protection-led assessments, mobile emergency response teams, psychosocial support, and referrals to health specialists. Additionally, State/PRM partners provide protection services to IDPs, refugees, and conflict-affected communities countrywide, including through GBV prevention and response programs, mental health and psychosocial support activities, family reunification, and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation. USAID/BHA is also working to strengthen protection coordination and capacity-building by funding the GBV Sub-Cluster in South Sudan.



\$14 Million

In USG funding for logistics support in FY 2021

LOGISTICS

With \$14 million in FY 2021 funding to date, USAID/BHA provides countrywide support to the humanitarian response through the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and Logistics Cluster for South Sudan. UNHAS offers air transportation to relief actors throughout the country, while the Logistics Cluster provides coordination and information management services for humanitarian workers, delivery of essential humanitarian relief items, common warehousing of basic relief

commodities, and geographical information system mapping. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supports fellow humanitarian partners' responses across South Sudan by procuring, storing, and transporting critical relief supplies, including emergency shelter and WASH commodities.

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 famine, fighting, and disease 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 GoRSS in 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 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 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 ongoing humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese people.
- On November 12, 2020, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Jon Danilowicz redeclared a disaster in South Sudan for FY 2021 due to ongoing conflict and population displacement; restricted humanitarian access; and disruption of cultivation activities, markets, and trade, all of which have significantly exacerbated food insecurity and humanitarian needs.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA ²			
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind	Jonglei	\$17,108,241
	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Nutrition	Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei	\$10,058,615
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide, Unity, Upper Nile	\$641,791
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Central Equatoria, Upper Nile	\$6,500,000
IOM	Agriculture, Health, HCIMA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity, Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Western Equatoria	\$5,500,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	Unity, Western Equatoria	\$3,031,399
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, HCIMA, Nutrition, WASH	Unity, Western Bahr el Ghazal	\$10,058,614

Relief International	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Upper Nile	\$4,900,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—53,480 Metric Tons of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$130,977,992
	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$210,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture, DRRPP, ERMS, HCIMA, Nutrition	Upper Nile	\$4,882,771
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, WASH	Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile	\$2,529,172
Program Support			\$227,507
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$451,416,102
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$10,100,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH SUDAN RESPONSE IN FY 2021³			\$461,516,102

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 7, 2021.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ This total does not include approximately \$32.7 million in FY 2021 USG funding for South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries. This increases total USG emergency funding for the South Sudan crisis in FY 2021 to more than \$494.2 million.

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)