

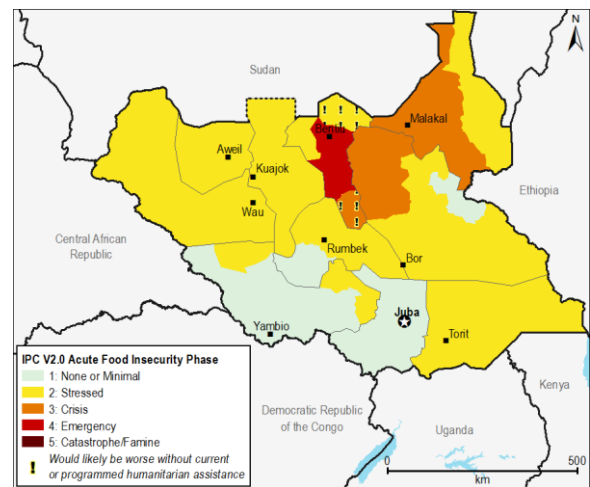
Emergency (IPC Phase 4) persists in Greater Upper Nile

FEWS NET produces forward-looking food security analysis and IPC compatible mapping several times a year for 36 countries, including South Sudan. FEWS NET is a member of South Sudan's multi-stakeholder IPC Technical Working Group and an active participant in national IPC analysis workshops in South Sudan. The map and classifications in this report use IPC standards and methods, but do not necessarily reflect a consensus view of the national IPC Technical Working Group, IPC partners, or the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. The next national IPC analysis will convene in December 2015.

KEY MESSAGES

- The [September IPC Food Security and Nutrition Analysis](#) estimated that 2.4 million people would remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3), primarily in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States. Similarly, FEWS NET's own analysis finds the same areas of concern. Both analyses suggest that protracted conflict has disrupted livelihoods, led to a worse economic outlook for South Sudan, constrained functioning of markets, reduced market access, and made the delivery of humanitarian assistance very difficult. All of these factors continue to lead to very severe acute food insecurity.
- Staple food prices have remained very high, despite slight seasonal declines from August to September. For example, the September sorghum price in Rumbek was 109 percent higher than last year. Difficulty purchasing fuel, high transaction costs for trade, depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) against the U.S. dollar (USD), and associated low food import volume are likely to continue due to a variety of macroeconomic drivers. This will lead to continued very high staple food prices that limit household food access.
- An estimated 2.54 million people were displaced by conflict from December 2013 to the first week of November 2015. Acute food insecurity is expected to remain atypically elevated during the harvest from October through December for approximately 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States.
- Sporadic conflict has displaced households in all parts of South Sudan, even in Greater Equatoria. While Greater Equatoria is not as severely acutely food insecure as Greater Upper Nile, if sporadic conflict continues to disrupt trade and displace households, the number of households needing humanitarian assistance is likely to grow, especially as the lean season is expected to start early in March instead of May across the country.
- Food insecurity is expected to deteriorate significantly from January through March in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States. Early depletion of the limited harvest, lack of access to markets, lack of access to humanitarian assistance, and lack of access to typical food and income sources will continue to make a large number of people acutely food insecure.

Current food security outcomes, October 2015

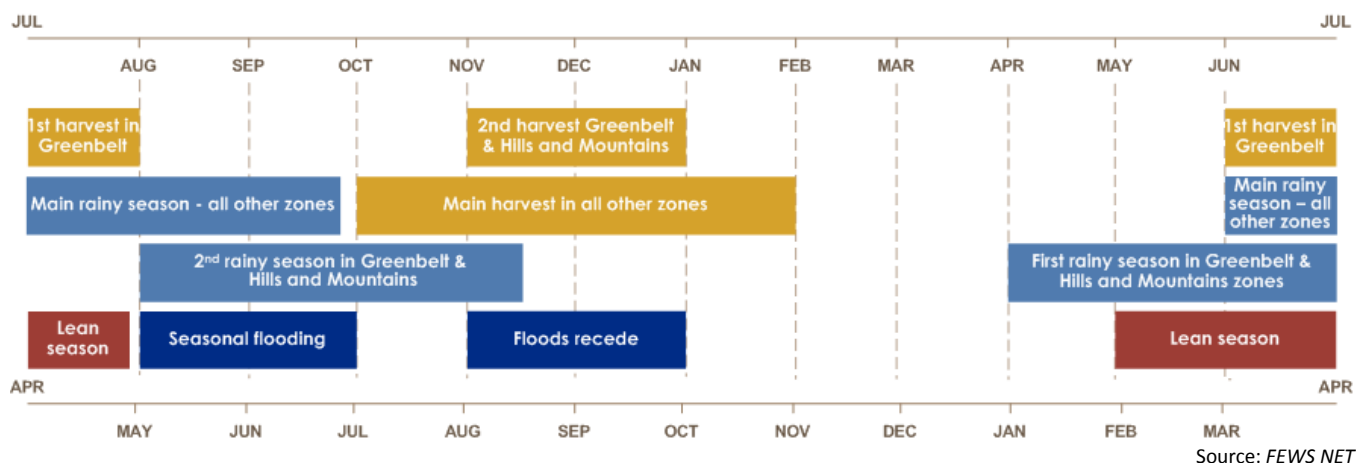


Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

The boundaries used on this map are illustrative and do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by FEWS NET or the United States Government.

SEASONAL CALENDAR IN A TYPICAL YEAR



NATIONAL OVERVIEW

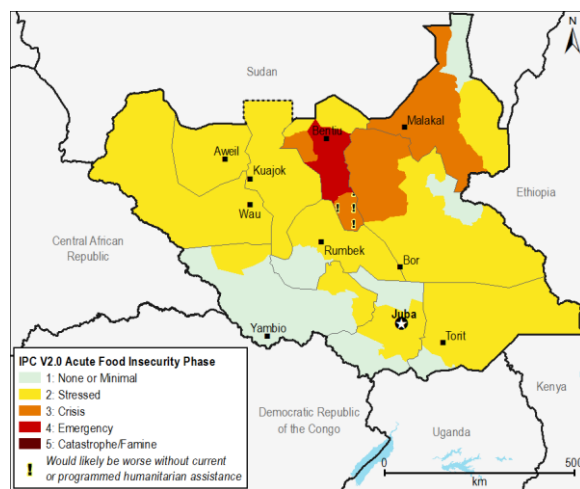
Current Situation

Even as the harvest is starting, many areas remain severely food insecure, including the conflict-affected areas of the Greater Upper Nile (GUN) States of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei. The rains mostly started on time in April in bimodal areas and in June in the rest of the country, but July and August were fairly dry in many areas. Long dry spells were common, and overall, June to September was moderately below average in some areas. Very low planted area coupled with erratic timing of rainfall has contributed to what is estimated to be an overall well below average harvest. However, in most of the country outside of GUN, with the start of green consumption and the start of the dry harvest, household food consumption has increased marginally and its quality has improved slightly.

From December 2013 to the first week of November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that 2.54 million people had been displaced. About 1.6 million people are internally displaced within South Sudan. In addition to that, South Sudan hosts 295,000 refugees. An estimated 643,000 people have fled the country to neighboring countries since the conflict started in December 2013. The displaced populations generally have limited access to humanitarian assistance or to markets. As food prices continue to rise, particularly in Greater Upper Nile (GUN) where many of the displaced remain, the displaced have decreasing food access.

Despite the peace deal signed in August by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in Opposition (SPLM-IO) and renewed commitment by both parties in October to cease hostilities, protracted conflict and insecurity remain the major drivers of acute food insecurity, especially in GUN. Sporadic fighting continues in many parts of the country. Fighting has recently expanded in GUN, and sporadic, localized conflict has even occurred in Greater Equatoria, leading to some displacement. The ongoing conflict has disrupted livelihoods, market functioning, and humanitarian access in most counties in GUN and even in some areas that have not hosted active fighting, including parts of Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and localized areas in Greater Equatoria, limiting productivity while constraining household food access.

Projected food security outcomes, October to December 2015



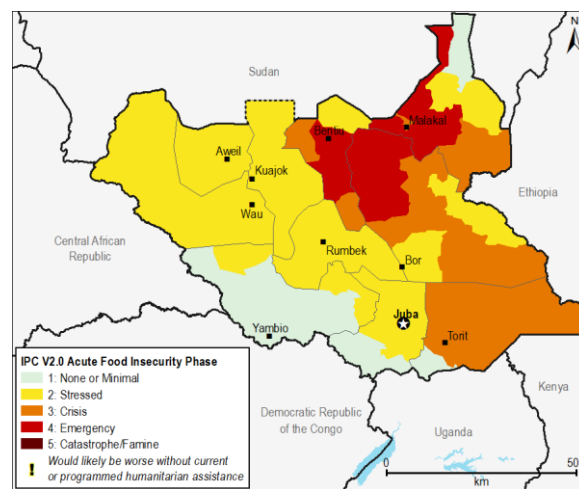
This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

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Insecurity and displacement have even occurred in the Greater Equatoria States. In Yambio, Mundri East, Mundri West, and Maridi Counties in Western Equatoria, thousands of people have been displaced since August. In several areas, first season crops were left unattended in the fields by the displaced, and they have only partially been harvested. Due to insecurity, some far fields were not planted, so planted area for second season crops was lower than usual. With the harvest underway, it is projected there will be far less surplus than last year in these counties. In Magwi County in Eastern Equatoria State and Wondoruba County in Central Equatoria State, insecurity and ongoing tensions have limited access to typical food and incomes sources, reducing household food access.

South Sudan's national economy continues not to bring in much foreign currency and not to be fully operable throughout the country due to the conflict. As a result, the value of the South Sudanese pound (SSP) is depreciating against the U.S. dollar (USD) and other foreign currencies used for trade. With fewer USD available for trade, the exchange rate in the parallel market depreciated from 16 SSP per USD in September to 17.5 SSP per USD in October. The currency depreciation and difficulties trading have also led to less fuel being imported. The difficulty acquiring fuel and its high cost increase the cost of trade. This has driven up food prices to levels even well above last year, decreasing the purchasing power of many households **at a time when food availability and access typically seasonally increase across South Sudan.**

Projected food security outcomes, January to March 2016



Source: FEWS NET

This map represents acute food insecurity outcomes relevant for emergency decision-making. It does not necessarily reflect chronic food insecurity. To learn more about this scale, click [here](#).

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From August to October, staple food prices remained much higher and did not seasonally decline in many parts of GUN, a period when normally prices decline as households start green consumption and the dry harvest starts to enter markets. However, prices of staple food commodities have declined seasonally in some markets between August and September. Even in those markets, staple food prices in September remained higher than last year and the five-year average. From August to September, the sorghum price fell 10 percent in Juba and five percent in Aweil. However, September sorghum prices in these markets were 160 and 140 percent higher than their five-year averages, respectively (Figure 2). September sorghum prices in Rumbek and Kuajok were 109 and 31 percent higher than last year, respectively. Continued high staple food prices are driven by low agricultural production, depreciation of the South Sudanese pound (SSP), low supply of foreign currency for trade, the high cost of fuel and transportation, continued high marketing costs due to difficult roads and insecurity, and lower effective demand from households for food purchases.

However, in Greater Bahr El Ghazal, food consumption has improved seasonally for poor households. In Lakes, Warrap, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, the recent green harvest was accompanied by increased access to fish and wild foods at the end of the rainy season and just after that. As food consumption has seasonally improved, many poor households have moved from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Poor households are typically getting most of their food from their own production at this time of year. However, very low agricultural production, higher-than-average food prices and prices of essential non-food goods, insecurity, and currency depreciation have limited poor households' food access.

Insecurity remains a major impediment to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to much of Unity and parts of Upper Nile and Jonglei States. There has been little or no humanitarian access to several locations where IDPs and their hosts have clustered in Adok, Bill, Boaw, Dablual, Jaguar, Kedat, Rubkuai, and Rieri Payams in Unity State, Wau-Shilluk in Upper Nile, and Canal in Jonglei. In the absence of food assistance or health and nutrition services, widening food consumption gaps and rising prevalence of acute malnutrition are likely. Food assistance has been more regularly delivered over the past several months to refugee camps and the Protection of Civilians (POC) sites.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition remains very high in GUN. 35 Standard Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) nutrition surveys were conducted by the Ministry of Health and partners between March and August 2015. They found an overall global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence using weight for height z-scores (WHZ) of 15 to 20 percent and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence of between three and eight percent. However, GAM prevalence in conflict-affected counties in Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile States recorded extremely high GAM prevalence of between 20 and 34 percent.

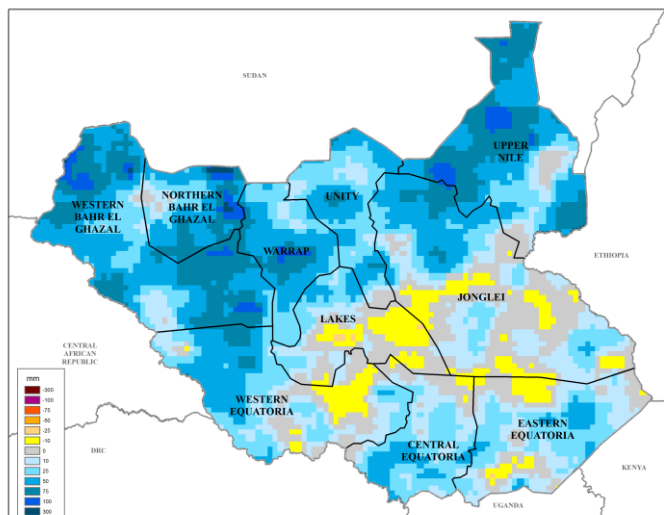
The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted in September by the South Sudan Technical Working Group (TWG) estimated that about 30,000 people were likely in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)¹ in September in Guit, Koch, Mayendit, and Leer Counties in Unity State. Insecurity and continued fighting has prevented humanitarian assistance delivery to these areas, yet livelihoods remain severely disrupted since the conflict started two years ago. A multi-agency assessment conducted in these locations found the majority of households were primarily getting food by gathering wild foods and fishing and had little or no agricultural production. Markets remained non-functional with minimal or no trade in most areas. Food insecurity is likely to expand further and deepen in the absence of increased humanitarian access.

From October to December, it was estimated that 2.4 million people would be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The substantial portion of this population are IDPs and their hosts in Unity in Guit, Koch, Leer, Mayendit, and Panyijar Counties, in Upper Nile in Fashoda, Malakal, and Melut Counties, and in Jonglei in Ayod, Duk, and Fangak Counties. Despite the green harvest and the start of the dry harvest in many places, most IDPs and many in the host community were unable to plant this year due to conflict and displacement. In areas of the country less directly affected by the conflict, food insecurity has lessened with the green harvest and the start of the dry harvest. However, many households in Lakes, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Warrap, and the Greater Equatoria States are Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

National Assumptions

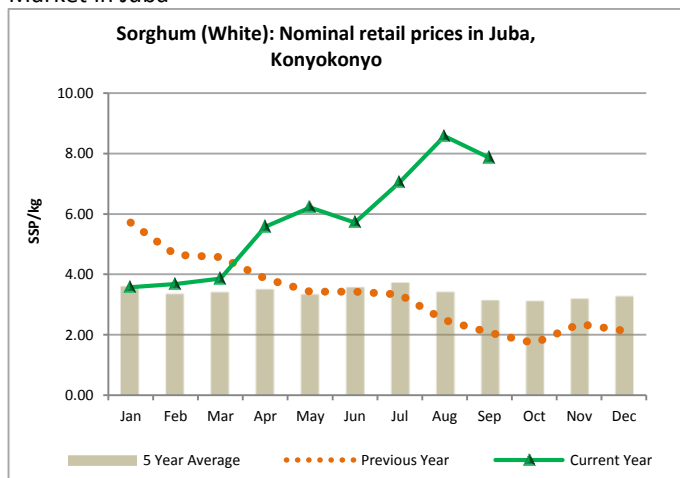
From October to December, projected food security outcomes are based on the following national assumptions:

Figure 1. July to September 2015 rainfall anomalies in millimeters (mm)



Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 2. Nominal retail white sorghum prices in Konyokonyo Market in Juba

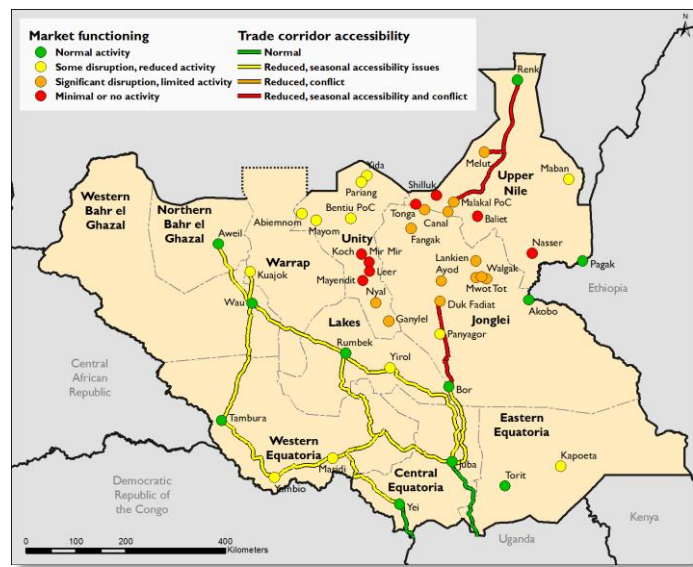


Source: WFP

¹ [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#), or IPC, describes acute food insecurity at the household level and area level. At the **household level**, Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) is described as: "Even with any humanitarian assistance, household group has an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies." Famine (IPC Phase 5) applies to the **area level** and is declared when more than 20 percent of households are classified in Catastrophe, the prevalence of GAM exceeds 30 percent, and the Crude Death Rate exceeds 2/10,000/day.

- Despite a peace deal signed in August and consolidation of the process in October which culminated in the signing of a more detailed security agreement on November 4, conflict in GUN is expected to continue. Conflict is expected to persist through at least March, based on previous violations of a series of permanent ceasefire agreements by the warring parties. Civil insecurity is expected to continue in Unity and Upper Nile States and central and northern Jonglei. The counties of Malakal, Fashoda, Manyo, and Melut in Upper Nile, Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Mayendit, and Leer in Unity, and Fangak, Canal, Ayod, and Duk in Jonglei will continue to remain insecure.
- Inter-communal conflict and cattle-raiding is expected to continue in parts of Lakes State. More localized tensions are also likely to continue in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, and Eastern, Central, and Western Equatoria States that are likely to disrupt livelihoods and prevent markets from functioning normally.

Figure 3. Market functioning as of October 30, 2015



Source: FEWS NET

- Despite continued heavier than usual rains being forecast both upriver in the Ethiopian highlands and in northern South Sudan from October to December due to El Niño, a near average area is likely to flood in low-lying areas in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States.
- Above-average rainfall is likely over Greater Equatoria and Jonglei State in November and December. Parts of the GUN states are also likely to have above-average rainfall in November. As October through December is the main harvest, unusual late season crop damage and post-harvest damage during storage, processing, or due to high moisture content of grain is likely. Greater Equatoria is also expected to receive unseasonal rains from January through March.
- The national harvest is expected to be below average in volume. Production is likely to be the furthest below average in GUN and Lakes State, due to below-average area planted, disruptions in land preparation, planting, weeding, harvesting, and other tasks due to insecurity, and erratic rainfall distribution, especially the lack of steady rainfall in July and August. However, late rains in parts of Greater Equatoria are likely to improve crop performance. More growth will lead to higher yields than were earlier anticipated for second season crops. Similarly, long-cycle sorghum in Greater Bahr el Ghazal has had recently increased chances for higher yields due to late rainfall.

Market functioning and staple food prices:

- Staple food prices are expected to remain significantly higher than last year and the five-year average from October to December. Elevated prices will continue to be due to a combination of expected below-average harvests, increased marketing costs, and depreciation of the South Sudanese pound (SSP) against the U.S. dollar (USD), which increases the cost of imports.
- There may be a slight, modest reduction in prices following the October-to-January harvest, as supplies from surplus-producing areas in Western Equatoria and continued imports from Uganda lead to higher supply. Also, at this time, there will be slightly less demand from households, as some households consume their harvest. However, prices may start to rise as early as January due to below-average production, the high costs of imports, and high marketing costs.
- Staple food prices are expected to remain the highest in areas affected by the conflict. Food prices will begin to rise more sharply, as early as December, in these areas due to less local supply from below-average green and dry harvests and continued high costs of bringing in supplies from other parts of the country.

- Market activity will remain most constrained in GUN where some areas lack functional markets. Low production and limited trade due to insecurity and the local population's lack of purchasing power will continue to limit market supply and sustain the highest food prices in the country, even during the harvest.

Livestock: Insecurity resulting from the ongoing conflict, inter-communal clashes, and localized tensions have disrupted livestock migration patterns in Jonglei, Unity, and Lakes States. However, improvements in rangeland quality and increase in the quantity of forage and water available at the end of the rainy season will increase many households' access to livestock products such as milk and meat from October through December. However, flooding and heavy rainfall may delay livestock migration to dry-season grazing areas until later in early 2016.

Humanitarian assistance: Although food assistance to IDPs and refugees will continue, insecurity will continue to limit humanitarian access to many areas of GUN, especially rural areas hosting IDPs. Humanitarian access is also likely to be constrained in Lakes, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Warrap States. While road access is expected to increase from January to March during the dry season, continued insecurity and inter-communal conflicts will prevent delivery of humanitarian assistance to many people.

Nutrition and mortality: The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) is expected to remain above 15 percent in most of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei States. Ongoing conflict will continue to limit access to health and nutrition services, increasing the incidence of infectious diseases, while hindering delivery of humanitarian assistance to the displaced and their hosts. While crude mortality rates are expected to remain below the emergency threshold of one per 10,000 per day, continued conflict will likely increase mortality rates. Increased food access during the harvest from October through December coupled with the expected decline in water-borne diseases and disease spread by mosquitoes are expected to decrease GAM prevalence from above 15 percent in some areas outside of GUN to the 10-to-15 percent range.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

From October to December, some households will move from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) including in Warrap, Lakes, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, as more food is consumed from the green and dry harvests and their incomes increase from harvest labor. While there will be similar improvements in some areas, a large number of households in GUN will remain severely acutely food insecure. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will persist for IDPs and their hosts in Guit, Koch, Leer, Mayendit, Panyijiar, and Rubkona Counties in Unity State. These households will continue to consume wild foods, fish, and humanitarian assistance. However, in other areas of GUN, including Baliyet, Fashoda, Malakal, Manyo, Nasir, Panyikang, and Ulang Counties in Upper Nile, and Ayod, Duk, Canal, and Fangak Counties in Jonglei, many households will move from Emergency (IPC Phase 4) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) as they gain food and income during the harvest.

From January to March 2016, household stocks from the harvest are likely to be exhausted earlier than usual due to below-average production and higher than usual post-harvest losses. However, food security is likely to deteriorate most rapidly in GUN due to the limited green and dry harvests, continued difficulty in delivering humanitarian assistance, and continued inability to access areas normally accessible to earn income or gain access to food. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will persist in parts of Unity State. In conflict-affected areas of Upper Nile and Jonglei, many households will move from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) back into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) from January to March, as they draw down stocks and lose various forms of income. Other areas in GUN will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

AREAS OF CONCERN

Unity State: Guit, Koch, Leer, Mayendit, Panyijiar, and Rubkona Counties

Current Situation

Following widespread fighting and displacement, food security has deteriorated as the displaced lose access to typical food and income sources. Approximately 273,436 people were displaced within Unity State as of September 2015. 100,257 were displaced in Panyijiar, 67,850 in Leer, 52,448 in Rubkona, 30,681 in Koch, 19,000 in Guit, and 3,200 in Mayendit. An estimated 338,377 people live in the host communities. In October, fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudan People's Liberation Army-in Opposition (SPLA-IO) in Leer County, led to further displacement, looting of livestock, destruction of food stocks, and further disruptions to trade and livelihoods.

Renewed fighting in May and June disrupted land preparation and planting. As a result, planted area was highly limited. Insecurity persisted, preventing late planting, weeding, and other agricultural activities. While households typically start to consume their green crops in late August/early September, there was almost no green harvest. In October, some areas had some dry harvest, primarily of maize, okra, and green vegetables. Staple food production is anticipated to be far below average, and the dry harvest may be as little as 10 or 20 percent of average. The only developed grain crops for harvest are in less insecure parts of Panyijiar, Leer, Guit, and Rubkona Counties.

Fish is always an important source of food in this area, and it has become an even more significant proportion of the diet for households displaced to swampy areas in Guit, Koch and Mayendit Counties. Livestock are in wet-season grazing areas, and milk and ghee are available for households who still have some livestock. However, after widespread looting of livestock from April through June, especially in Guit, Koch, Leer, and Mayendit Counties, very few households still have livestock. Since households do not have green or dry harvests to consume, for the most part, they are primarily fishing and gathering wild foods to feed themselves.

Many or most markets are not operating. In some cases, people are traveling up to eight hours each way in order to reach a market. Food prices have remained higher than last year and well above their five-year averages, and they have not declined a bit with the start of the harvest, as would typically occur. Food prices fluctuate frequently in conflict-affected areas as markets are not regularly supplied, in addition to the high prices in areas of supply. However, markets close to Protection of Civilian (POC) sites in Bentiu and Panyijiar are more regularly supplied, and food aid is more regularly supplied to these areas. From August to September, the prices of beans, maize, and sorghum declined by around half in these markets.

For IDPs and the host community in swampy areas of Guit, Leer, Koch, and Mayendit, many typical sources of food and income, such as the sales of grass, wild foods, charcoal, and firewood are not happening due to the lack of operating markets. A few households are selling dried fish and firewood in Mayendit, Leer, and Panyijiar towns. However, as many households have very little or no income, they are unable to purchase food and are consuming fish, wild foods, and food aid when it is available. However, access to humanitarian assistance is primarily in and around POC sites in Rubkona and Panyijiar where 145,965 and 69,959 people, respectively, have received food aid and other forms of assistance from the World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF), MEDAIR, and UNIDO, a national NGO. In Mayendit and Koch Counties, Samaritan's Purse provided food aid to 17,000 and 15,074 people, respectively, between July and September.

The majority of the displaced are unable to meet their minimal food needs, and it is likely that less than 10 percent of the displaced who are living outside of POC sites have accessed food aid in recent months. GAM and SAM prevalence far exceed the World Health Organization's (WHO's) emergency threshold of GAM being greater than 15 percent. A recent SMART survey conducted in August in Bentiu POC by Concern Worldwide estimated a GAM (WHZ) prevalence of 34.1 percent among under-five children. Currently, displaced households are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Assumptions

In addition to the national assumptions above, projected food security outcomes for conflict-affected areas of Unity State are based on the following assumptions:

- Violence and insecurity are expected to increase between November and March as conditions become drier allowing more movement. Clashes between SPLA and SPLA-IO during the first week October in Leer may continue. Additional displacement is likely between November and March.
- Incidence of human and livestock diseases is likely to increase between October and March as lack of medical and veterinary services allows contagious diseases to spread.
- While many areas will remain unserved by markets, staple food prices are likely to decline marginally in November but remain volatile and well above average from January and March. Prices will remain highest in Leer, Mayendit, and Panyijiar Counties. However, food prices are likely to start rising later in Panyijiar and Rubkona Counties as areas in and around the POC sites are likely to be more regularly supplied.

- Humanitarian access will remain highly restricted, particularly in southern and central Unity in Guit, Koch, Leer, and Mayendit Counties due to insecurity and difficulty traveling on roads, especially during likely above-average rains from October through early January.
- Income from labor, crop sales, fish sales, charcoal sales, and firewood sales will remain much lower than usual, and many households will lack access to some or all of these sources of income.
- Without much income and in many cases without physical access to markets, many households will be unable to make market purchases of food, especially in southern and central Unity in Guit, Koch, Leer, and Mayendit Counties.
- Leafy wild foods will become less available from January to March as these foods will have been consumed already. Also, their growth is more limited during the dry season. Needing to find these farther from homesteads also means that insecurity may limit the gathering of wild foods.
- GAM prevalence is likely to remain very high, well above WHO's emergency threshold of 15 percent for the displaced in Guit, Koch, and Leer, Mayendit, and Panyijiar Counties from October to March.
- Mortality rates are likely to rise to above the WHO emergency threshold of one per 10,000 per day from January through March, resulting from inadequate food consumption coupled with limited health and nutrition services and ongoing conflict.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

With little food from own production, other than milk and ghee for some households, most households will remain unable to purchase food on markets, both due to limited market access and limited or non-existent incomes, especially for the displaced. These households will continue to consume fish and wild foods, plus make some sales of dried fish in order to purchase grain. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will persist from October through December in many areas. As households have more difficulty acquiring wild foods during the dry season from January to March, food consumption gaps will likely to widen. More areas and households will thus move into Emergency (IPC Phase 4) from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) as they consume less. While humanitarian access remains very limited, increasing humanitarian access and larger-scale humanitarian assistance could help prevent further deterioration of food security in these areas.

Upper Nile State: Baliet, Fashoda, Malakal, Manyo, Nasir, Panyikang, and Ulang Counties

Current Situation

Few households planted as a result of an outbreak of fighting and sporadic clashes in June/July in Baliet, Fashoda, Malakal, and Panyikang Counties. The conflict resulted in a substantial number of households being displaced during the typical planting time. Consequently, consumption of the green harvest that typically begins in late August and peaks in September, started late, mostly in October.

Households are unable to get additional fish and wild foods as many of the primary areas for fishing and gathering wild foods are far from where IDPs and host communities live, and they are unlikely to travel far due to insecurity.

Markets and trade routes continue to be disrupted by persistent insecurity, constraining food access for displaced households and the host community. Marketing costs remain high, so supply in markets is low, and markets are not being regularly resupplied. Trade routes have grown longer as traders seek to avoid conflict, increasing marketing and transportation costs, leading to higher food prices. For example, cross-border trade with South Kordofan State in Sudan is being redirected through Kosti, which is a considerably longer route. Cross-border trade flows between Gambella Region in Ethiopia and Baliet County in southern Upper Nile are also curtailed by the closure of the primary Nassir-Ulang route. The September sorghum price in Malakal was 75 percent higher than the five-year average, in September, reducing household purchasing power.

The majority of IDPs from Baliet, Fashoda, Malakal, and Panyikang Counties are living in POCs in Malakal, Melut, and Renk, but an estimated 79,759 people are displaced in isolated areas in Akoka, Panamdit, Roam, Wau Shilluk, Kodok, Athidway, Wadakona, Mading, Jikmir, Koat, Kurenge, Tonga, Pakwa, Doma, Yomding, and Ulang Payams. Sporadic fighting has limited movement for those displaced outside POCs, limiting access to food, labor opportunities, markets, and humanitarian

assistance. Insecurity is highest in Fashoda, Panyikang, and Baliet, in part due to proximity to Malakal, where repeated fighting has occurred. Movement of the displaced has also been limited by regular military reconnaissance along the River Nile corridor, narrowing opportunities to access food and earn income.

Humanitarian access to areas where the displaced are remains highly restricted and erratic. For example, food aid deliveries have not occurred in Wau Shilluk in Fashoda County since August. Humanitarian assistance was delivered to an estimated 32,400 people in Detang, Lelo, and Warjock Payams Fashoda County in October, when the insecurity eased. However, food aid deliveries remain highly erratic in Baliet, Manyo, Nasir, Panyikang, and Ulang Counties due to sporadic fighting in spite of the August ceasefire agreement. WFP and partners provided more regular humanitarian assistance to POC sites from July to September.

Food consumption for the displaced and the host community is highly limited as households are unable to access some areas to grow their own food, go to market, fish, or receive humanitarian assistance. Conflict has consistently disrupted access to sources of food and income. Reduced own production of crops and livestock have led households to access food primarily from humanitarian assistance, fishing, and gathering wild foods in the more secure areas of Upper Nile State.

SMART nutrition surveys conducted before the harvest in September in Nasir by UNKEA and by GOAL in Ulang estimated GAM prevalence using weight-for-height of 19.9 percent and 15.3 percent, respectively, above the World Health Organization's (WHO's) emergency thresholds. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) persists for the displaced and the host community in areas isolated from trade by conflict.

Assumptions

In addition to national assumptions above, the projected food security outcomes for conflict-affected areas in Upper Nile State are based on the following assumptions:

- Fighting and sporadic clashes are expected to continue through at least March. Continued fighting will likely cause additional displacement and disruption of market functioning. Trade flows, livelihoods activities, and humanitarian access will also be disrupted and limited by continued conflict.
- Household and market food stocks in Manyo, Fashoda, Melut, and Panyikang Counties are likely to have been exhausted as early as November/December, due to substantially below-average crop production. As a result, the lean season may start as early as January instead of April.
- The harvest in Ulang, Nasir, Maiwut, and Longochuk will also be below average, and household and market stocks will last through February. The lean season will start in early March in these areas.
- With heavier than usual late rainfall into 2016 due to El Niño, livestock will not be migrated to dry-season grazing areas until January instead of in October/November.
- Insecurity will continue to constrain cross-border trade with South Kordofan State in Sudan and Gambella Region in Ethiopia. Consequently, food prices will remain elevated and far above average between October and December. They will likely rise even further from January to March.
- Insecurity will limit the gathering of leafy wild foods, as households will not want to travel long distances to gather wild foods, especially from January to March.
- Persistent insecurity coupled with above-average October to December rains are likely to cause livestock to be kept in wet-season grazing areas longer than usual.
- Fishing in the Nile and Sobat Rivers and wild food gathering will continue to provide food and income for displaced households through March. However, limited movement will limit fishing and wild food gathering.
- Some households will access some milk from October through December, but households will have less milk to consume by late January when livestock are migrated later than usual to dry-season grazing areas.
- Displaced households will have less income than usual. Most households will have little access to income- from crop sales, labor, fish sales, charcoal sales, or firewood sales.

- WFP's stock report of October 19 indicates that 4,434 MT and 658 MT of cereals and pulses are intended to be distributed as food aid in Upper Nile. However, most humanitarian assistance will continue to be at POC sites due to more limited humanitarian access to rural areas.
- GAM prevalence is likely to exceed emergency thresholds for the displaced from January to March.
- Typical crude mortality rates in post-harvest period in Upper Nile state are normally well below the WHO emergency threshold of 1/10,000/day. However, mortality rates may increase above the WHO emergency threshold in localized areas of Baliet and Fashoda Counties from January to March due to likely ongoing conflict, lack of access to health and nutrition services, and likely declining household food consumption.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

While food consumption, even by displaced households, will increase slightly from October to December during the harvest, many households will still only have food from fishing, gathering wild foods, and purchases funded by firewood and charcoal sales. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will persist from October through December in Baliet, Fashoda, Manyo, and Panyikang Counties.

Consumption gaps are likely to widen from January through March, as households exhaust their stocks from the harvest. As households consume less and acute malnutrition prevalence increases, many households will move from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Baliet, Fashoda, Manyo, and Panyikang Counties between January and March. Similarly, as households start to have food consumption gaps, they will move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between January and March in Malakal, Nasir, and Ulang Counties.

Jonglei State: Ayod, Duk, Fangak, Canal, Nyirol, and Uror Counties

Current Situation

Approximately 241,402 people are displaced within Jonglei State in the Eastern Plains Sorghum and Cattle livelihood zone. This includes 38,839 people in Ayod, 29,252 in Duk, 57,925 in Fangak-Canal, 78,517 in Nyirol, and 26,869 in Uror. This area has been more secure after the signing of the ceasefire agreement in August. However, conflict continues intermittently in parts of northern and central Jonglei and along the Nile River, primarily in Ayod, Canal, Duk, and Fangak. The conflict limits access to income-earning opportunities markets, and humanitarian assistance. It limits labor and livestock migration, trade, and other activities requiring long-distance movement.

Households consumed very little green harvest due to low planted area. Crop production was estimated to be less than 20 percent of average in some places. Below-average crop production is attributed to a combination of insecurity and erratic rainfall distribution with long dry spells in many areas. However, rangeland conditions for livestock are generally good, as the rains increased the availability of water and pasture and ongoing livestock vaccination and veterinary care programs conducted by FAO and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Milk access has increased, enhancing food consumption for households who have some livestock, especially in Nyirol and Uror Counties.

Markets remain largely non-functional in the northern counties of Ayod, Canal, and Fangak due to continued insecurity and sporadic attacks. Also, road access remains limited following July to September rainfall. Delivery of food from Bor South and Aboko to markets in Ayod, Canal, and Fangak Counties remain constrained, keeping staple food prices much higher than average. However, market access has improved slightly in central Jonglei in Duk, Nyirol, and Uror Counties that are closer to Aboko and Bor South.

SMART nutrition surveys conducted in Nyirol and Fangak Counties between March and July 2015 estimated GAM prevalence using weight-for-height z-scores of greater than 20 percent. Mortality surveys reported crude mortality rates that are above the WHO emergency threshold of 1/10,000/day during the lean season.

With little own produced food, many households are consuming humanitarian assistance. Food aid deliveries have been fairly consistent to IDPs and host communities in Ayod, Uror, Fangak, and Duk, especially when compared to other areas of GUN. However, no food assistance went to Canal/Pigi from July to September due to continued insecurity.

Acute food insecurity remains elevated even during the harvest. However, increased availability of food from the harvest, intermittent access to humanitarian assistance, and increased milk access prevented deterioration of food security outcomes during October. IDPs and the host community are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Ayod, Duk, Canal, and Fangak Counties and are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) in Nyirol and Uror Counties, where access to markets and humanitarian assistance is greater.

Assumptions

In addition to national assumptions above, the projected food security outcomes for Jonglei State are based on the following assumptions:

- Sporadic fighting is expected to continue, particularly in Ayod, Fangak, and Canal Counties through at least March 2016, restricting movement of people, goods, and livestock, increasing uncertainty for traders, and disrupting other income-earning activities.
- Staple food prices are likely to decline slightly during the dry harvest between October and December. Food supply from Bor will remain constrained, while Uror and Nyirol Counties are likely to continue to receive supplies imported from Gambella Region of Ethiopia through Akobo.
- Although trade routes are expected to be open during the dry season that starts in November, insecurity is likely to continue to restrict trade flows from both Bor South through Twic East and Duk and Ayod Counties. Trade routes from Akobo County to Nyirol and Uror Counties will remain passable during the dry season.
- Increased food access during the October to December harvest is expected to contribute to some improvement in nutrition outcomes, resulting in more typical GAM prevalence of between 15 and 19.9 percent in these areas. Mortality rates are likely to decrease to below the WHO emergency threshold of 1/10,000/day.
- WFP's in-country planning report from October 19 shows that 4,642 MT and 252 MT of cereal and pulses, respectively, are planned for distribution in Jonglei State. However, the extent to which insecure locations will be reached remains unclear.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Food consumption for displaced households and the host community is likely to remain limited due to below-average green and dry harvests, limited market access coupled with low purchasing power, and inconsistent humanitarian access. With limited ability to travel to expand income-earning or collection of wild foods, households will not be able to meet their minimal food requirements. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) will persist from October through December in Ayod, Duk, Canal, and Fangak. Stressed (IPC 2) will remain in Nyirol and Uror Counties, where there is more access to humanitarian assistance and somewhat less insecurity.

Food consumption gaps are likely to widen from January to March as crop harvests will be exhausted early in December. Gathering wild foods, hunting, and fishing will increase substantially during the dry season beginning in November. However, households will be unable to gather sufficient quantities of food. Persistent insecurity will also reduce access to some areas for gathering wild foods, hunting, and fishing. GAM prevalence is expected to remain elevated, especially in areas where IDPs are clustered and medical facilities are largely unavailable. Most areas, including Ayod, Duk, and Fangak are likely to have the prevalence of GAM remain above WHO's emergency threshold of 15 percent through March, though Canal County may be lower as prevalence was only estimated at 10.2 percent in June.

Although humanitarian assistance will be critical in forestalling further deterioration in food security, it is unclear that the IDPs will be reached or whether insecurity will ease to allow for food aid distributions, especially in Ayod, Duk, Canal, and Fangak Counties. Emergency (IPC 4) is likely from January through March. However, in Nyirol and Uror Counties, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) is the most likely outcome.

Lakes State: Cueibet, Rumbek East, Rumbek North, and Yirol East Counties in the Ironstone Plateau Agropastoral livelihood zone

Food consumption is atypically low for an estimated 129,556 people displaced by conflict and around 136,000 in the host community in October and early November, following below-average and late green harvests. Erratic rainfall in June, followed by a prolonged dry spell in July, resulted in yields for maize, sorghum, and groundnuts being as low as half of usual. IDPs and the host community are getting food and income from livestock sales, gathering wild food, pole sales, charcoal production, and firewood sales in Cueibet, Rumbek East, Rumbek North, and Yirol East Counties. Maize, sorghum, and bean prices remain high and are volatile, despite markets remaining much more accessible than in GUN.

Access to fish, an important source of food and income for the poor, has been restricted due to insecurity in fishing grounds in Awerial and Yirol East. Fish availability and supply in Rumbek has tightened because of lower than usual supply from Awerial and Yirol East.

Humanitarian assistance was 70,907 IDPs and members of the host community in Awerial, Cueibet, and Rumbek East between July and September. These areas are currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

The below-average dry harvest will mean households have less food to consume from October to December when typically they would primarily consume food from the harvest. As household food stocks are exhausted early in January, households will instead consume fish, wild foods, and food purchased using income from firewood and charcoal sales. Milk availability will be limited by early migration of livestock to dry-season grazing areas. High staple food prices are expected to persist through at least March, leading to continued constrained purchasing power. From January to March, food consumption will decrease, but IDPs and poor households to be able to afford a minimally adequate quantity of food from. They will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through at least March.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1: Possible events over the next six months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Nationwide	The October peace agreement intended to bring about a complete cessation of hostilities and conflict holds.	Reduction in fighting and conflict would increase humanitarian access and market functioning, and the availability labor opportunities. Food security outcomes would improve significantly and likely not deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as expected in parts of Greater Upper Nile.
Nationwide	More conflict and more widespread conflict than expected	Intensification of conflict in Greater Upper Nile and the spread of conflict in more stable areas would likely restrict income-earning opportunities, market functioning, and humanitarian access. Acute food insecurity would likely deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in many areas, including Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States. Some households in localized areas in the Greater Upper Nile States may move into Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
Nationwide	Further and deeper macroeconomic instability	Depletion of foreign currency reserves would cause even higher consumer price inflation. Some households using markets to earn income, including traders, may be unable to continue operating. Purchasing power would fall precipitously, leading to wider consumption gaps. Emergency (IPC 4) would be widespread in GUN and some counties in Eastern Equatoria, Lakes, and Northern Bar el Ghazal States.

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming six months. [Learn more here.](#)