IPC Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

Evidence and Standards for Better Food Security Decisions

IPC IN SOUTH SUDAN

IPC ALERT, ISSUE 8, 21 JUNE 2017

FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION STILL DIRE AND WIDESPREAD

Despite efforts made to contain famine, 6 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance – the greatest number of food insecure people ever recorded in South Sudan

Based on the IPC South Sudan Technical Working Group results*:

HOW MANY &WHEN

- As of May 2017, 5.5 million people were estimated in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).
- As of June-July 2017, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (IPC phase 3 and above) is estimated to rise to 6 million, out of which 45,000 are facing catastrophic conditions and extreme food gaps, specifically 25,000 people in Leer, Koch and Mayendit counties of Unity State and 20,000 in Ayod county of Jonglei state.

WHERE

- The highest proportions of populations in Crisis, Emergency and Catastrophe are observed in Greater Jonglei State (63%) and Unity State (61%). In particular, people facing catastrophic conditions are located in Ayod county and Leer, Koch and Mayendit counties, respectively.
- The greenbelt counties in Greater Equatoria, the Western Bank of Upper Nile state, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states are also of high concern as people are facing high levels of food insecurity.

WHO

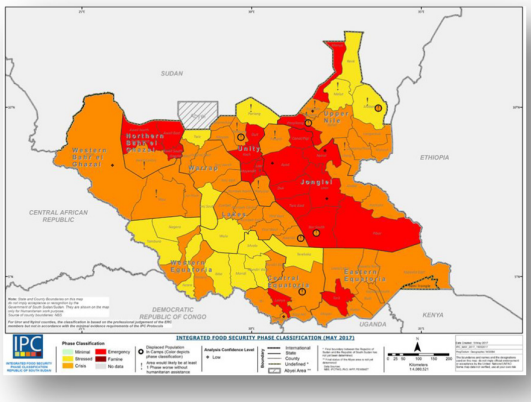
The economic crisis is hitting the whole society. However, the most affected populations are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the host communities affected by the ongoing conflict.

WHY

Armed conflict has resulted in massive population displacement, disruptions to people's livelihoods, trade and access to humanitarian assistance, which remains people's main source of food in conflict areas. This is compounded by below-average food production and high food prices which have eroded household purchasing power. **Acute malnutrition remains a major public health emergency in several parts of South Sudan**. Evidence shows that the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence is above the WHO emergency threshold of 15% in Duk county of Jonglei State. The acute malnutrition is expected to deteriorate even further as the peak lean season approaches in July 2017, especially in Mayendit, Aweil North, and Ayod counties, which are projected to experience extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition.

FAMINE MONITORING

Famine is no longer occurring in Leer and Mayendit counties, and further deterioration was prevented in Koch and Panyijiar counties of former Southern Unity State as a result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance delivered to the affected population since March 2017. However, as of June-July 2017, 45,000 people in localized areas of South Sudan are still facing famine conditions (IPC Phase 5) and 1.7 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) - one-step below Famine on the IPC scale. This is based on most likely assumptions of continued armed conflict, food shortages associated with seasonality, and humanitarian assistance delivery constraints.



South Sudan IPC TWG IPC Map, May 2018

ACTIONS NEEDED

- Continue to scale up humanitarian assistance in the most affected counties, especially in Unity State and Greater Jonglei State, where the situation will rapidly further deteriorate if humanitarian assistance doesn't reach the intended beneficiaries;
- Secure humanitarian access to allow data collection to provide information on the exact magnitude of this humanitarian catastrophe and to plan responses accordingly;
- Vigilance is needed for monitoring the evolving conflict and the food security and nutrition situation and updating the IPC analysis in real time.

The SOUTH SUDAN IPC Process and next steps - The South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group (IPC TWG) undertook the IPC analysis in early May 2017. Due to the high levels of food insecurity and acute malnutrition prevailing in South Sudan, the IPC TWG requested the activation of the Global IPC Emergency Review Committee (ERC) to review the preliminary results. IPC ERC findings and conclusions were shared with the IPC TWG that has considered the ERC review to reach final conclusions. The final results were validated by the South Sudan IPC TWG and officially endorsed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. The South Sudan IPC TWG has planned to conduct the **next IPC analysis in August 2017**.

IPC Global Partners

Contact: IPC Global Programme Manager Jose.Lopez@fao.org

*The European Commission in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)

This Alert reflects the results validated by the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group and officially endorsed by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Government of South Sudan. The full IPC results are available on the IPC Website - www.ipcinfo.org