**WFP News Video:**

**South Sudan Simultaneously Drowning and Drying as Sudan Fighting Strangles Supply Routes**

**Shot: 11-15April23**

**Bentiu, South Sudan**

**TRT: 9:46**

**SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:15**

**Aerials Flooding**

Four consecutive years of record flooding has led to widespread displacement, the destruction of livelihoods and the loss of arable land that has contributed to rising hunger.

**Shot: 11April23**

**Bentiu**

**:15-:22**

**Aerial WFP Built Road Cuts Through Floodwaters**

There are few roads in South Sudan but those that do exist are arteries of hope for families living in remote areas of the country, with WFP moving as much as 1,000 metric tons (mt) of food along these roads each day. WFP is in a race against time to preposition food ahead of the next rainy season when roads become impassable, but fighting in Sudan and attacks on humanitarian convoys are limiting access.

**Shot: 15April23**

**Bentiu**

**:22-:43**

**UNHAS plane landing**

WFP run UNHAS flights are one of the few ways humanitarians and urgently needed supplies can reach cut off areas

**Shot: 11April23**

**Bentiu**

**:43-1:10**

**GV’s Bentiu**

Dikes, many built by WFP, hold back the waters from Bentiu where approx. 200,000 people displaced first by fighting and now by floods are staying.

**Shot: 11April23**

**Bentiu**

**1:10-1:41**

**GV’s Flooding**

Bentiu has been swallowed by Al Suud, the largest swamp in the world. Farms, grazing land, homes and entire villages have been submerged, livelihoods and food sources destroyed.

It’s been four years since floodwaters covered much of the northern part of the country. More than one million people were impacted by flooding in 2022.

Most of the flooding has been driven by the outflow from the Great Lakes that feed into the White Nile. Beyond this, above-average rainfall and flooding in the Ethiopian highlands and western states of South Sudan has contributed to, and exacerbated, flooding in parts of the country that are not usually affected.

**Shot: 11April23**

**Bentiu**

**1:41-1:52**

Submerged Former Police Station

**Shot: 11April23**

**Bentiu**

**1:52-1:59**

Redundant Water Pump

**Shot: 14April23**

**Bentiu**

**1:59-2:12**

Live Stock grazing on the few patches of land left above the floods.

**Shot: 14April23**

**Bentiu**

**2:12-2:19**

**Kids Fishing**

Former farmers and herders have now been forced to fish for food even though the fish cause diarrhea and other health problems.

**Shot: 14April23**

**Bentiu**

**2:19-2:49**

**WFP Dike Building Project**

WFP pays people with food to build dikes around shallow flooded areas. The water is then drained to create temporary farming lands.

**Shot: 14April23**

**Bentiu**

**2:49-3:39**

**WFP Amphibious Vehicles**

In order to reach cut off communities that were once accessible by road, WFP uses amphibious vehicles that can carry small amounts of cargo and aid workers.

**Shot: 12April23**

**Bentiu**

**3:39-3:49**

Flooded Former School

**Shot: 12April23**

**Bentiu area**

**3:49-4:09**

GV’s community that has congregated on higher ground near what was once Nimni.

**Shot: 12April23**

**Nimni**

**4:09-4:49**

**SOT Peter Gatdoor, Community Chief (Nuer)**

“These are people with no income, no food for school children, no toilets and no clean drinking water for children. The water here is unclean. The rainy season is here and we do not have plastic sheets. All their houses are under water so, no one can stay there. We will be here on this dry island without shelter.”

**Shot: 12April23**

**Nimni**

**4:49-5:28**

**Nutrition testing**

Children being tested for malnutrition. If the band shows red it means the child is severely malnourished and should be hospitalized.

Two-thirds of the population (7.76 million people) are facing hunger, including 43,000 people in Jonglei and Unity States facing famine-like conditions (IPC 5), struggling to access even the most basic food items.

Only 4 percent of children in South Sudan have an acceptable diet in terms of quantity and quality and 1 in 6 (1.4 million) children are malnourished. There are 105,000 children at risk of dying if they don’t receive immediate treatment for malnutrition.

**Shot: 12April23**

**Nimni**

**5:28-5:35**

Nyataba gets her children tested for malnutrition. Her son is severely malnourished

**Shot: 12April23**

**Nimni**

**5:35-5:45**

**SOT Nyataba, mother of severely malnourished child (Nuer):**

“We used to farm and our children would drink milk. Now we harvest water lilies from the river. They make the children sick but they have no choice because they have no milk to drink.”

**Shot: 12April23**

**Nimni**

**5:45-5:49**

WFP provides special fortified nutritional foods for treatment of malnutrition.

**Shot: 13April23**

**Bentiu**

**5:49-6:15**

**SOT Aachal Chand, WFP South Sudan Chief Nutritionist (English)**

“The situation in this particular state is really bad. It has one of the highest malnutrition rates in all of South Sudan so, 1 in every 5 children is suffering from acute malnutrition here and the numbers here are as high as 200,000 children who are in need of treatment. Unfortunately, we only have the resources as the World Food Programme to feed 62,000 of the 200,000 that are in need.”

**Shot: 15April23**

**Dingding**

**6:15-6:43**

Collecting firewood for cooking is challenging and dangerous. People must travel great distances to find wood in the flooded landscape. Women run the added risk being raped and kidnapped.

**Shot: 13April23**

**Bentiu**

**6:43-7:38**

**WFP Water Hyacinth Project**

WFP has created a process to produce cooking fuel in the form of charcoal briquets from the Water Hyacinth that spreads like a weed in the flooded waters. WFP teaches and provides support to communities to produce charcoal so that they are less dependent on collecting firewood.

**Shot: 14April23**

**Dingding**

**7:38-8:18**

**WFP Food Convoy Arrives from Sudan**

33 Trucks carrying 1200metric tons of food arrive in Bentiu from Sudan. This is enough food to feed 16,000 people for 1 month.

This was last convoy that made it from Sudan before the fighting stopped this route. With the rainy season coming, getting food to Bentiu will become a longer and more expensive process and with fewer resources, this will impact the number of people who WFP can help.

**Shot:14April23**

**Bentiu**

**8:18-8:42**

WFP Food Distribution Bentiu

**Shot:14April23**

**Bentiu**

**8:42-9:03**

People Bringing WFP food back to their communities by boat

**Shot:15April23**

**Bentiu**

**9:03-9:46**

Families in isolated communities cooking and eating

**Shot:15April23**

**Dingding**

**ENDS**

**South Sudan is simultaneously drowning and drying as the climate crisis tightens its grip. An unprecedented flooding crisis has swallowed large swathes of the country while other parts are grappling with devastating drought.**

* Two-thirds of the population (7.76 million people) are facing crisis or worse levels of hunger. This is the highest number ever, surpassing that seen even at the height of the country’s civil war.
* Four consecutive years of record flooding has led to widespread displacement, the destruction of livelihoods and the loss of arable land that has contributed to rising hunger.
* At the same time - two consecutive years of failed rainy seasons in the southeast of the country (Kapoeta/Eastern Equatoria state) has contributed to a rise of almost 20 percent in the number of critically food-insecure people in Kapoeta since December.
* The effects of these concurrent climate shocks are compounded by rising food and fuel prices and ongoing conflict, putting basic meals out of reach of families who were previously able to feed themselves.

**WFP is in a race against time to preposition food ahead of the next rainy season when roads become impassable, but attacks on humanitarian convoys are slowing progress.**

* There are few roads in South Sudan but those that do exist are arteries of hope for families living in remote areas of the country, with WFP moving as much as 1,000 metric tons (mt) of food along these roads each day. Those arteries are under attack.
* There have been at least 15 significant security incidents involving WFP food since January, most of them on the road leading out of Bor in Jonglei State. Each security incident forces WFP to pause movement along that road, delaying the prepositioning of food.
* More than one million people in Jonglei and Pibor rely on WFP assistance, if we are unable to use these roads to preposition food, families will struggle once the lean season takes hold in April.

**In 2022 the international community came together and helped us almost halve the number of people facing famine in South Sudan[[1]](#footnote-1). While much of our work in the country is focused on keeping people alive, WFP is also working with conflict and climate-affected communities to implement long-term solutions to reduce hunger.**

* With fertile land, a youthful population, and immense natural resources, South Sudan really does have the potential to be the breadbasket of Africa.
* In some communities where we have been supporting the construction of shared assets, we have seen a reduction in conflict and more incentives for communities to have dialogue instead of resorting to violence.
* School enrolment and attendance increased by almost 80% in conflict-affected areas once school feeding programmes were introduced – this is an enormous feat in a country where more than half of the children are currently out of school.
* In areas affected by widespread flooding, WFP has been supporting families to grow flood-resistant crops like rice, increasing production of vital cereals and improving household food security.

**Despite record levels of hunger in the country, funding levels for both humanitarian responses and resilience-building initiatives are not keeping pace with rising needs -- making it difficult for WFP to support the country’s most vulnerable people.**

* Investing in resilience initiatives provides more than a quick fix and enables communities to become self-sufficient instead of relying on humanitarian assistance year after year. Yet these programmes are WFP’s most underfunded in South Sudan.
* The humanitarian response is also struggling. Funding constraints mean WFP can only provide half rations and must prioritise life-saving assistance for those closest to famine. Investing in humanitarian assistance early prevents a more costly response in the future.
* WFP urgently needs an additional US$567 million[[2]](#footnote-2) over the next six months to keep life-saving assistance going and to invest in long-term resilience building initiatives.

**Context:**

**Hunger and Food security**

 **Food security:**

* Two-thirds of the population (7.76 million people) are facing hunger, including 43,000 people in Jonglei and Unity States facing famine-like conditions (IPC 5), struggling to access even the most basic food items.
* A further 2.9 million people are in the IPC4 “emergency” category and on the brink of starvation, unable to find enough food for themselves and their families. This is the highest number of South Sudanese in IPC4+ since independence and at levels even exceeding those seen during the civil war.

**Nutrition:**

* Only 4 percent of children in South Sudan have an acceptable diet in terms of quantity and quality and 1 in 6 (1.4 million) children are malnourished. There are 105,000 children at risk of dying if they don’t receive immediate treatment for malnutrition.
* Conflict areas are particularly susceptible to high levels of malnutrition with rates reaching almost 30% in the worst affected counties, well above the emergency threshold.
* In 2022, WFP provided more than 1.4 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women with support to treat and prevent malnutrition. Childhood malnutrition has long-term, negative impacts on a nation’s productivity and wages while also increasing poverty and gender gaps in income - meaning the next generation of South Sudanese risk being left behind.

**School Feeding:**

* Through 2022, WFP supported more than half a million students through the school feeding programme.
* In 2023 the number of students targeted has been reduced to 440,000 due to funding constraints. This leaves children at greater risk of joining the 2.8 million children out of school (around half of the school-aged population), disproportionately impacting girls who are at greater risk of early marriage or being pulled into domestic work.
* South Sudan has one of the lowest literacy rates worldwide, with only 29 percent of women literate and 40 percent of men. More than one in five children enrolled in school drop out before completing primary education.

 **Conflict and Displacement**

* More than 2 million people are displaced across South Sudan with the majority being forced from their homes due to conflict. Violence continues to surge in Jonglei and Upper Nile States and between Warrap and the Abyei Administrative Area, forcing thousands from their home and hampering humanitarian access.
* Areas impacted by increased violence at the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023 are already among the most food insecure in South Sudan with a high prevalence of people classified under IPC 4&5. Ongoing conflict and displacement, along with limited humanitarian access, will exacerbate existing vulnerabilities such as entrenched inequity and isolation.
* As pasture and farming areas are swallowed by creeping floodwaters through the April-August lean season, many people are unable to move to higher ground due to a conflict that continues to destroy lives and livelihoods.

**Climate and Flooding**

* More than one million people were impacted by flooding in 2022 as South Sudan has been through four consecutive years of flooding with floodwaters never receding across much of the northern part of the country since 2021.
* Most of the flooding has been driven by the outflow from the Great Lakes that feed into the White Nile. Beyond this, above-average rainfall and flooding in the Ethiopian highlands and western states of South Sudan has contributed to, and exacerbated, flooding in parts of the country that are not usually affected.
* In 2021 many areas of South Sudan (such as Unity State) experienced below-average rainfall alongside some of the worst flooding, reinforcing the fact that local rainfall is not the primary cause of the flooding in South Sudan.

**Facts & figures**

* **People in IPC3+** 7.76 million
* **People in IPC4** 2.9 million
* **People in IPC5** 43,000
* **People WFP plans to reach in 2023** 5.7 million
* **Children with malnutrition** 1.4 million
* **Internally displaced people** 2.2 million
* **Funding requirements for the next six months** US$567 million
1. The latest [IPC](https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_South_Sudan_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_22July_23July_report.pdf) report says that 103,000 people were facing IPC5 in 2022 vs 43,000 facing IPC5 through the 2023 lean season. This reduction is due to a scale-up of humanitarian assistance in Jonglei State and an overall improvement in food security in Lakes State. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. US$326.5million and US$240.5 for life-saving assistance and resilience building initiatives respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)