



Release of IPC Analysis Report
Food Security and Nutrition Situation in the Republic of South Sudan
Pyramid Hotel in Juba
Friday, 03 November 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

Speech by Honorable Josephine Joseph Lagu
Minister of Agriculture and Food Security

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

It is my pleasure and honour to welcome you here today on behalf of the Government of South Sudan to witness the release of the IPC Analysis Report providing the food security and nutrition situation in South Sudan.

I would like to thank members of the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group. The Steering Committee and Government Officials, especially those who travelled to Juba from the 10 States and 3 administrative areas to participate in the IPC analysis workshop in September and October. Thank you for the hard work you have put into producing the 2023 report that we are making public today. I reiterate that it is because of your efforts and professionalism that South Sudan's IPC process has the credibility to contribute towards food security and nutrition programming by the Government and other relevant actors.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentleman.

These latest IPC findings point to a deeply worrying situation, but I am also delighted to report that there is a silver lining in the dark cloud.

In the analysis period of September to November 2023, an estimated 5.82 million people (46.2% of the population) are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, acute food insecurity, of which 35,000 people are facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Duk and Nyirol counties of Jonglei State, Rubkona County of Unity State, and among the population of returnees from Sudan. During the same period, an estimated 1.6 million people face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.

In the harvest and post-harvest projection period of December 2023 to March 2024, an estimated 5.78 million people (45.8% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or

worse, acute food insecurity, with 25,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Pibor County in Greater Pibor Administrative Area, and among the population of returnees from Sudan.

An estimated 1.71 million people will likely face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity during the harvest and post-harvest projection period of December 2023 to March 2024.

During the lean season projection period of April to July 2024, an estimated 7.1 million people (56.3% of the population) will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with 79,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Pibor County in Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Aweil East County of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, and among the population of returnees from Sudan.

An estimated 2.34 million people will likely face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity during the 2024 lean season.

Given the high levels of severe acute food insecurity in the country, immediate scale-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance is needed to save lives and prevent the total collapse of livelihoods in the affected counties, particularly those with populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. Urgent action is also required for people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to protect their livelihoods and reduce household-level food consumption gaps.

The most severe acute food insecurity conditions have been exacerbated by shocks such as severe flooding, dry spells, sub-national and localized violence, the conflict in Sudan, and the effects of the ongoing macroeconomic crisis, among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are opportunities to seize on.

Last year, the IPC report estimated that 7.76 million South Sudanese would face severe acute food insecurity between April and July this year. The new analysis points to a reduction of about 600,000 people in next year's lean season of April to July 2024. This is worth noting.

These projected improvements assume peace prevails and the macroeconomic environment is stable with low inflation and a favourable exchange rate of the SSP.

The Government will continue focusing on resilience building for communities by improving community-based extension systems and strengthening the institutional and food system governance frameworks such as the Food Security Council. Sustainability requires a functional food systems governance.

Resilience policies and programmes in support of food systems transformation through the propagation of climate-resilient technologies and supporting the provision of social protection and social safety net programmes simultaneously.

The objective of support through policies and a good business environment is to make farms profitable and contribute to the local economy. The Ministry is reviewing the seed policy to be adopted before the end of the year.

We are sharing knowledge with the Government of Zambia (South-South cooperation) about the operations of the National Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and how best to empower farmers and industry organisations to enhance their roles in the food systems and use sustainable business models to support public and private investment.

The IPC report mentions the positive impact of the Juba-Bor Road on improved food security in parts of Jonglei State. Indeed, road rehabilitation and construction should be driven by the need to connect regions with excess production (e.g., Renk, Yambio) to areas with food deficits.

The infrastructure of rural and feeder roads should be complemented with storage facilities and cold chain infrastructure to support farmers to produce for the urban markets. States with a significant urban population, such as Western Bahr El Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria, can quickly benefit from such infrastructure.

To conclude

I want to highlight the work on value chains, including (1) Sorghum, representing cereals; (2) Sesame, representing oil crops; and (3) rice, responding to the changing consumer preferences. Adding value to these crops is critical for a diversified, inclusive, sustainable economy and is necessary to close the growing grain deficit.

These measures will reverse the upward spiral of the IPC figures.

You can find more detailed information in the folder. Make sure you have one.

Thank you.
