Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

South Sudan 2020 Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM) – Crop Component

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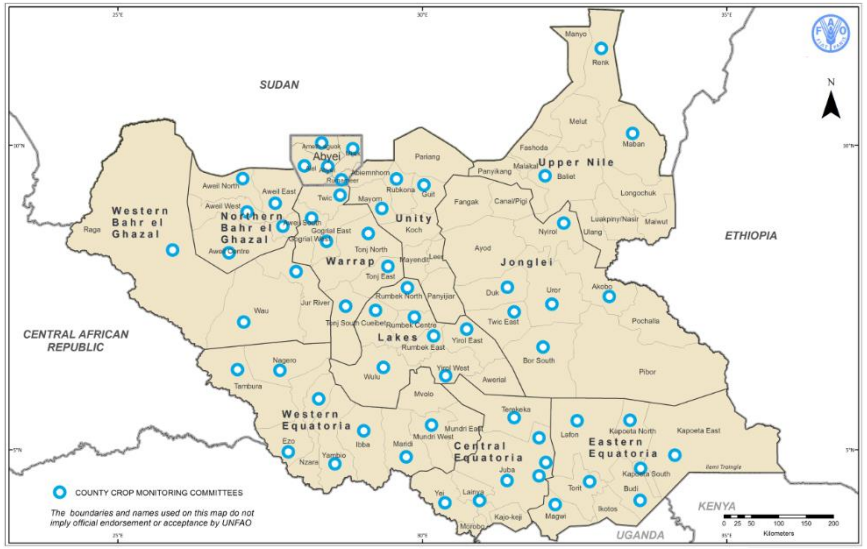
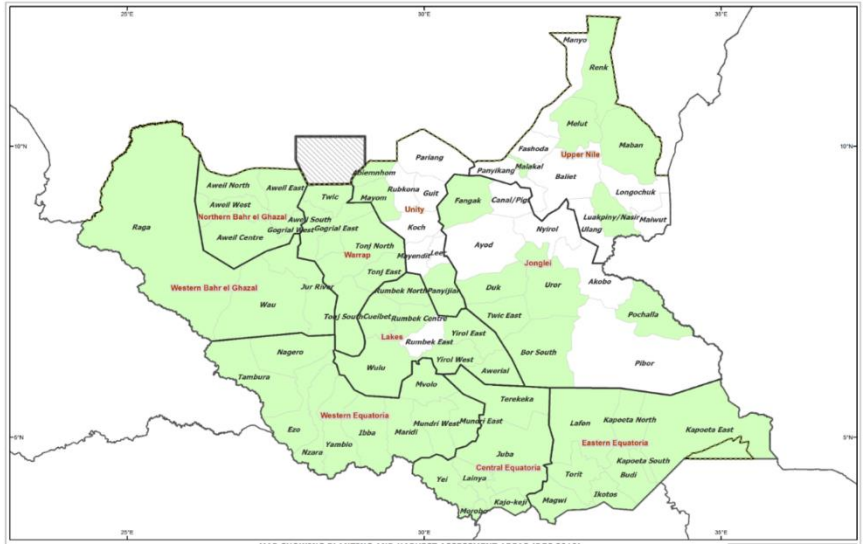
METHODOLOGY

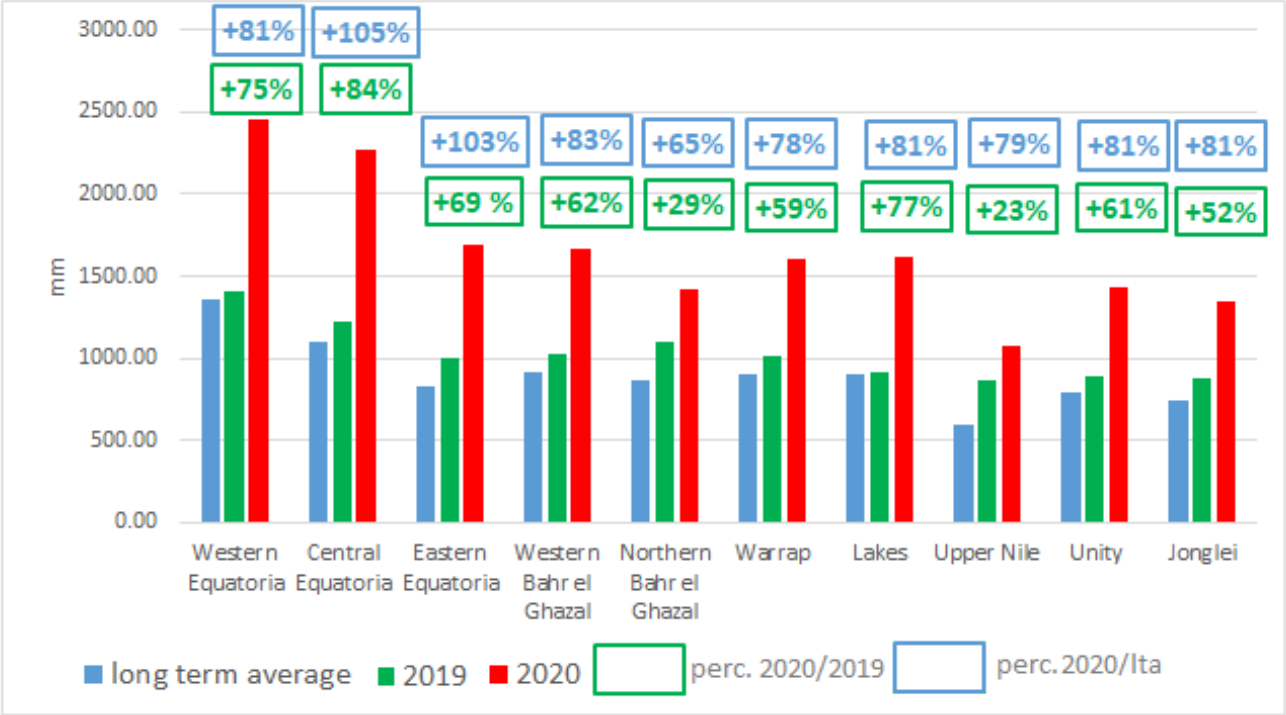
- Since 2014, a special **taskforce of 22 national experts has been leading** rapid assessments on annual crop and harvest performance
- **County Crop Monitoring Committees (CCMC)** provided updates on crop performance despite the COVID-19 lockdown and related travel restrictions
- **FAO/WFP team** collected and analyzed remote sensing/climate information analysis, measuring NDVI, drought stress index, and rainfall anomalies
- **About 25 missions and 1,000 plus case studies and interviews were completed during the harvest season**





MAIN FINDINGS

Cumulative Seasonal Rains (2020 vs 2019 and average)



Cumulative rains -2020 was the wettest year vs 2019 and long term average

A generally **timely onset and withdrawal** of seasonal rains

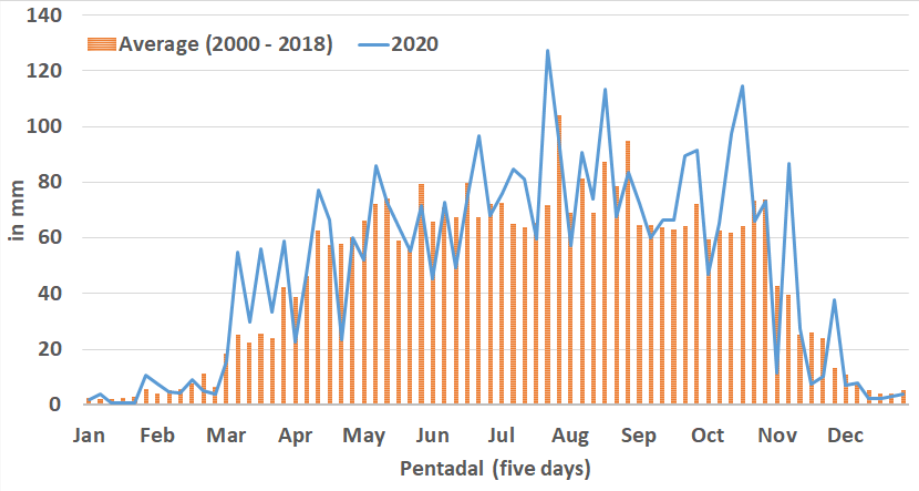
Average to above-average rains across the country during the growing period and timely withdrawal

However, **excessive rains** in some states triggered widespread flooding and **dry spells in others** affected crops and LS

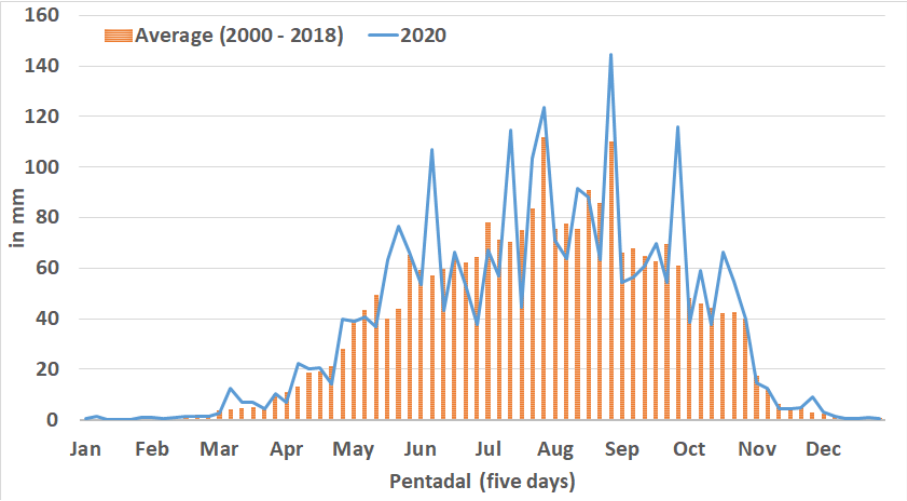
In many low-lying areas, the floods seriously affected crops and livestock

RAINFALL PERFORMANCE BY REGION (2020 VS AVERAGE)*

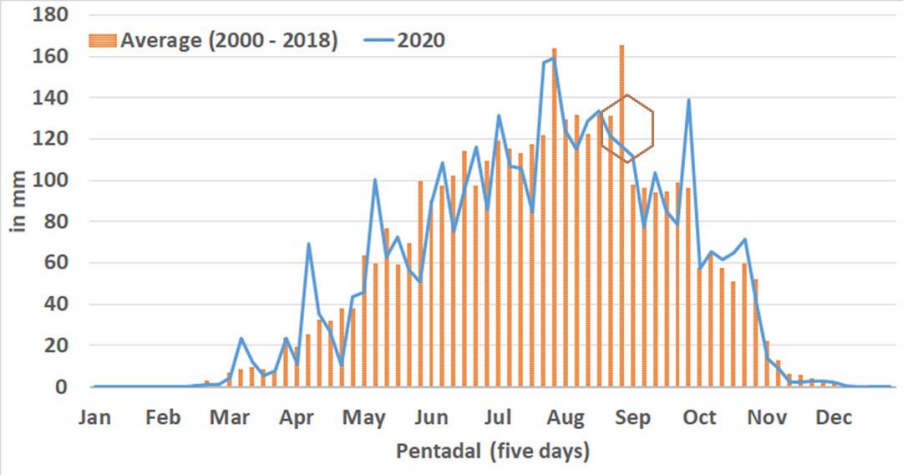
Greater Equatoria



Greater Upper Nile



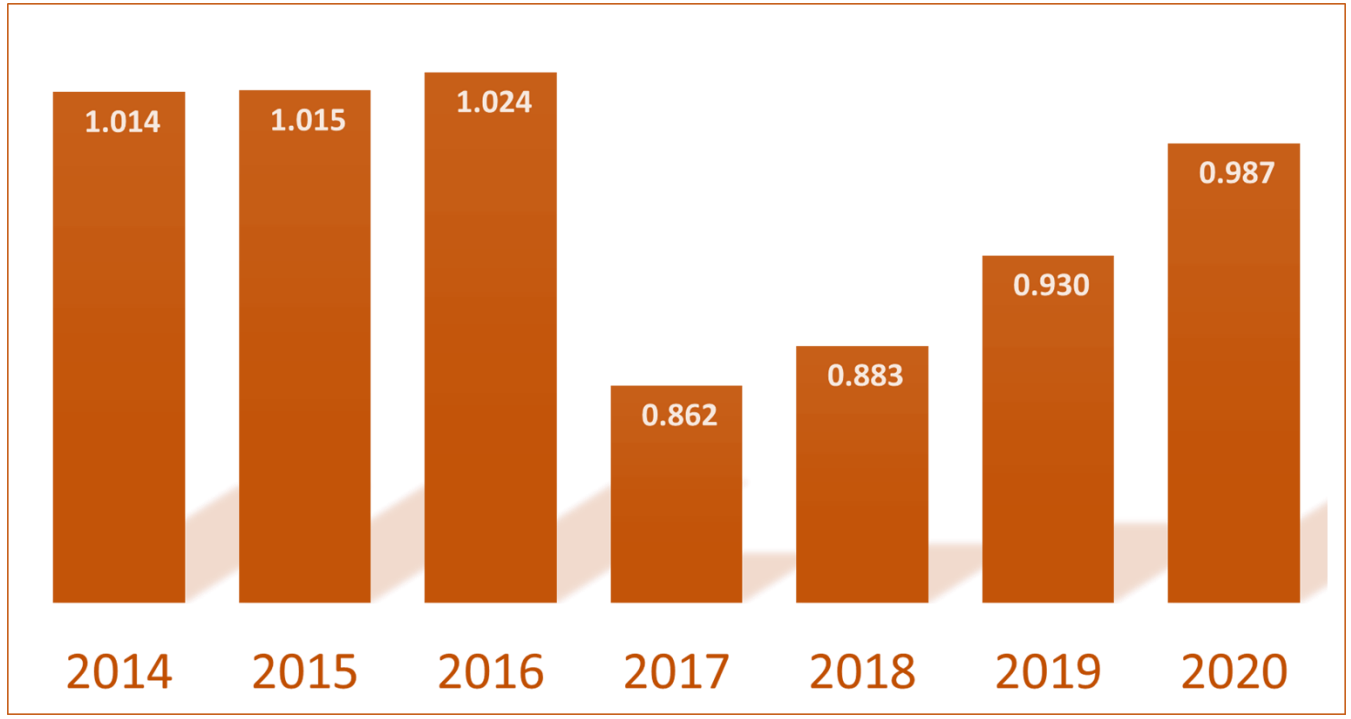
Greater Bahr el Ghazal



Adequate rainfall during the cropping season benefited crops but triggered flash floods in other areas

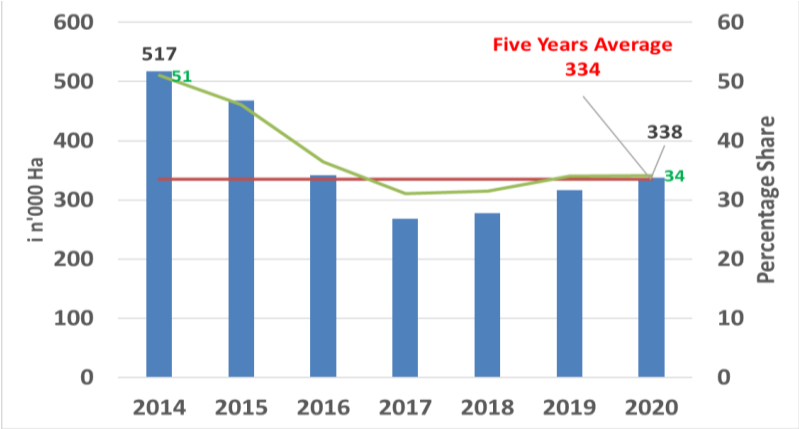
CULTIVATED AREA IN MILLION HECTARES

- An **increase in the area planted** was observed in 2020
  - a trend that has been observed since 2018 due to improved security – 6% higher than 2019
- Trends have not yet reached pre-conflict levels
- Semi-mechanized farming areas continued to decline, replaced by sesame (a lucrative cash crop) – e.g. Area planted with sorghum in Renk and Melut declined

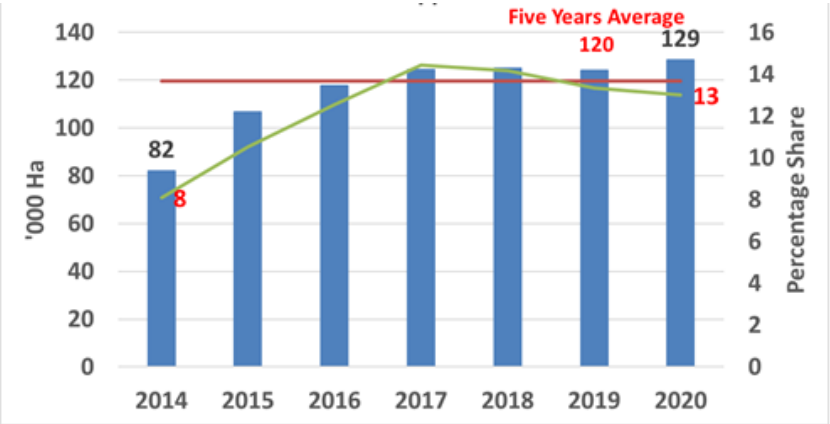


CEREAL CULTIVATED AREA – TRENDS BY REGION

Greater Equatoria

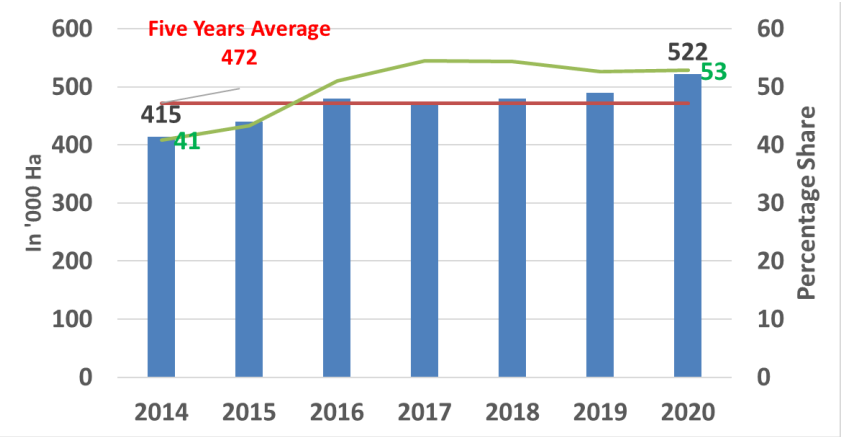


Greater Upper Nile

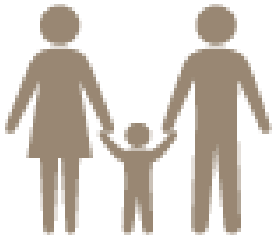


- **Greater Equatoria** – increased since 2017 due to relative stability and favorable weather (% Share declined)
- **Grater Upper Nile** – Overall area cultivation **low** (driven by the shock of conflict that disrupted livelihoods), but with slight increase over time
- **Greater Bahr el Ghazal** – area cultivated is largely consistent – relative calm and % share increased

Greater Bahr el Ghazal



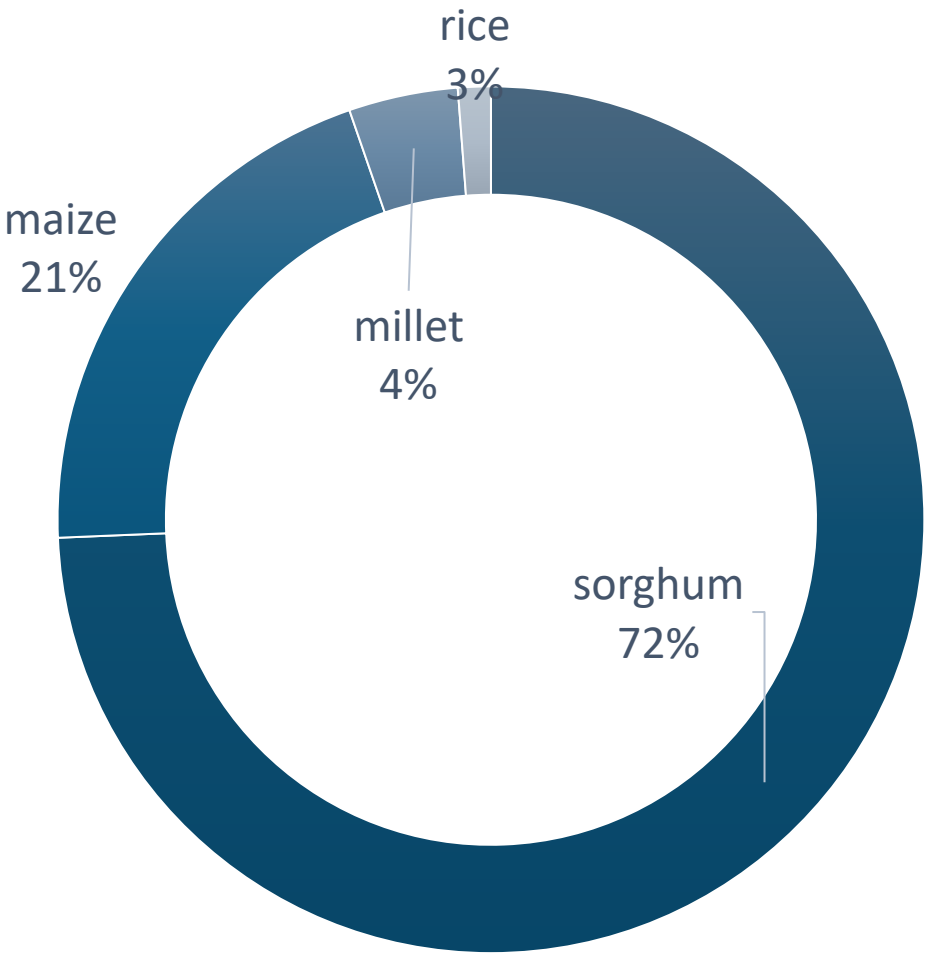
NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION Estimate (2020)



1 125 986 farming households
5% higher than last year

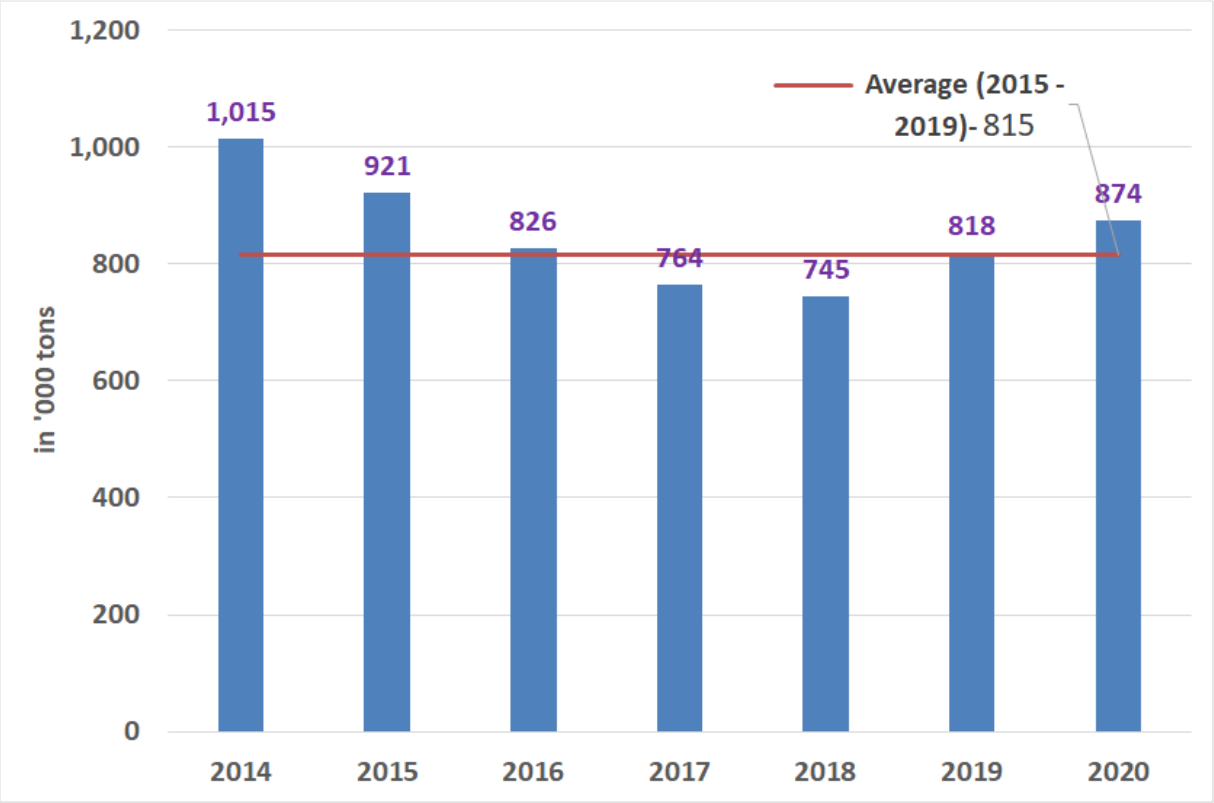
874 400 tonnes of net cereal produced

6% higher than last year
7% higher than past 5-year average



NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATES – Trends (2014-2020)

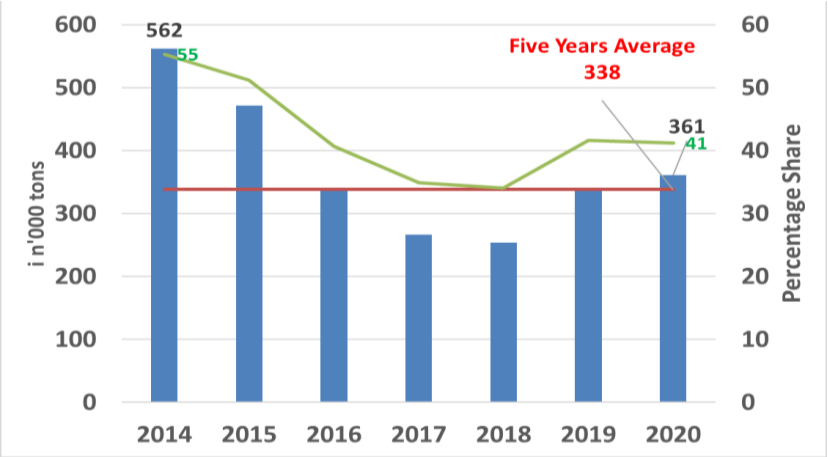
Net cereal production (in '000 MT)



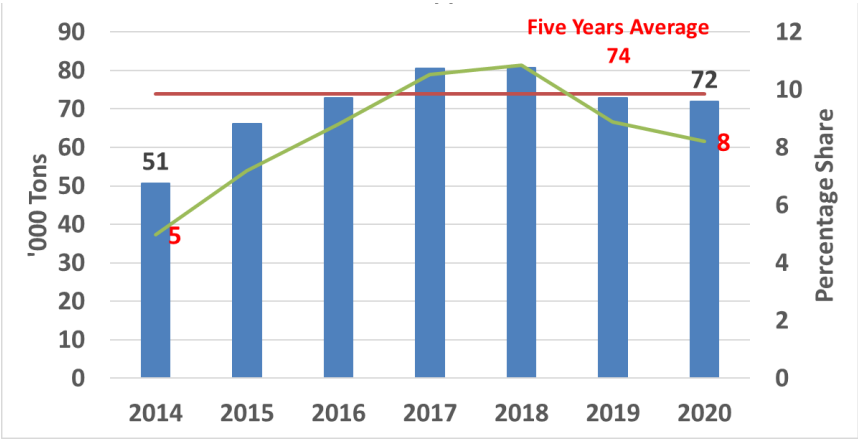
- Despite floods, this year's net production surpassed previous 5-year average of 815 000 MT.
- Production increase is partly attributed to **distribution of quality seeds and tools** to farming households.
- Despite improved cereal production and reduced gap, **impacts of floods are magnified in Jonglei, Lakes** and **Upper Nile**
- **Localized flood impacts resulted in worsening food security situation in those areas leaving at least 21 counties in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency)**

CEREAL PRODUCTION TRENDS BY REGION

Greater Equatoria



Greater Upper Nile



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- **Greater Upper Nile** – Overall area cultivation **low** (driven by the shock of conflict that disrupted livelihoods), but with slight increase over time
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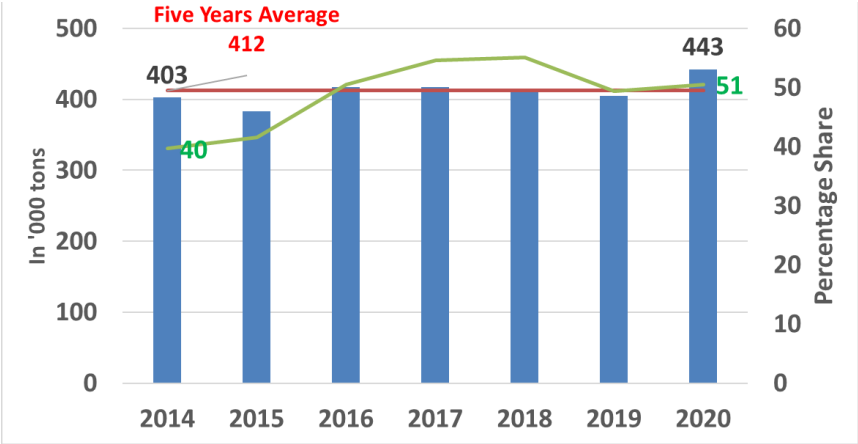
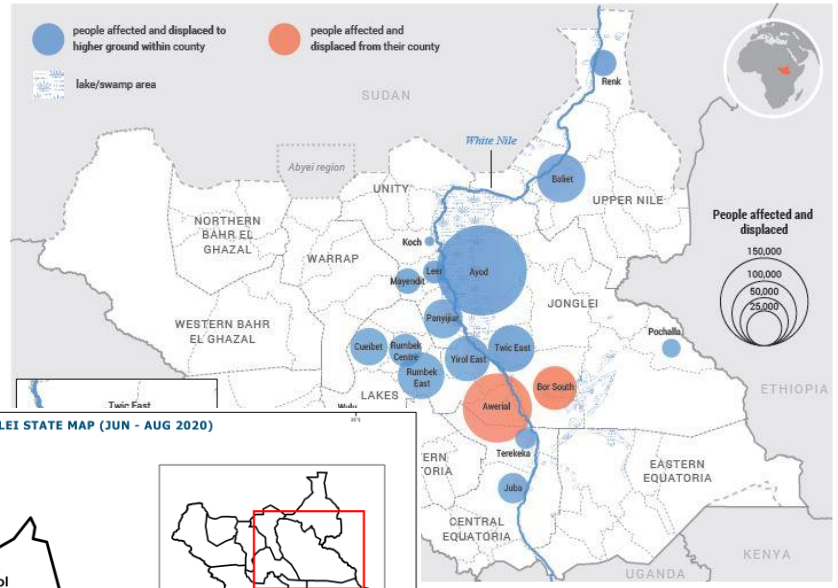
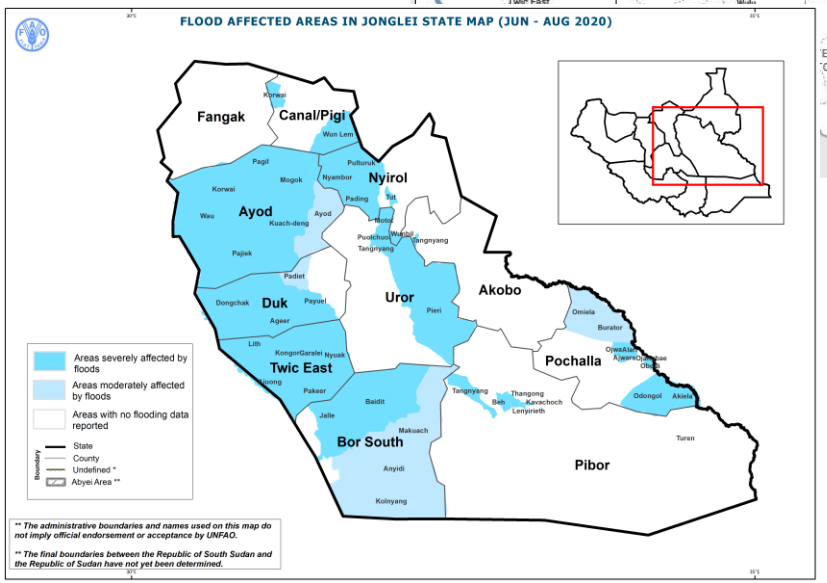
Greater Bahr el Ghazal



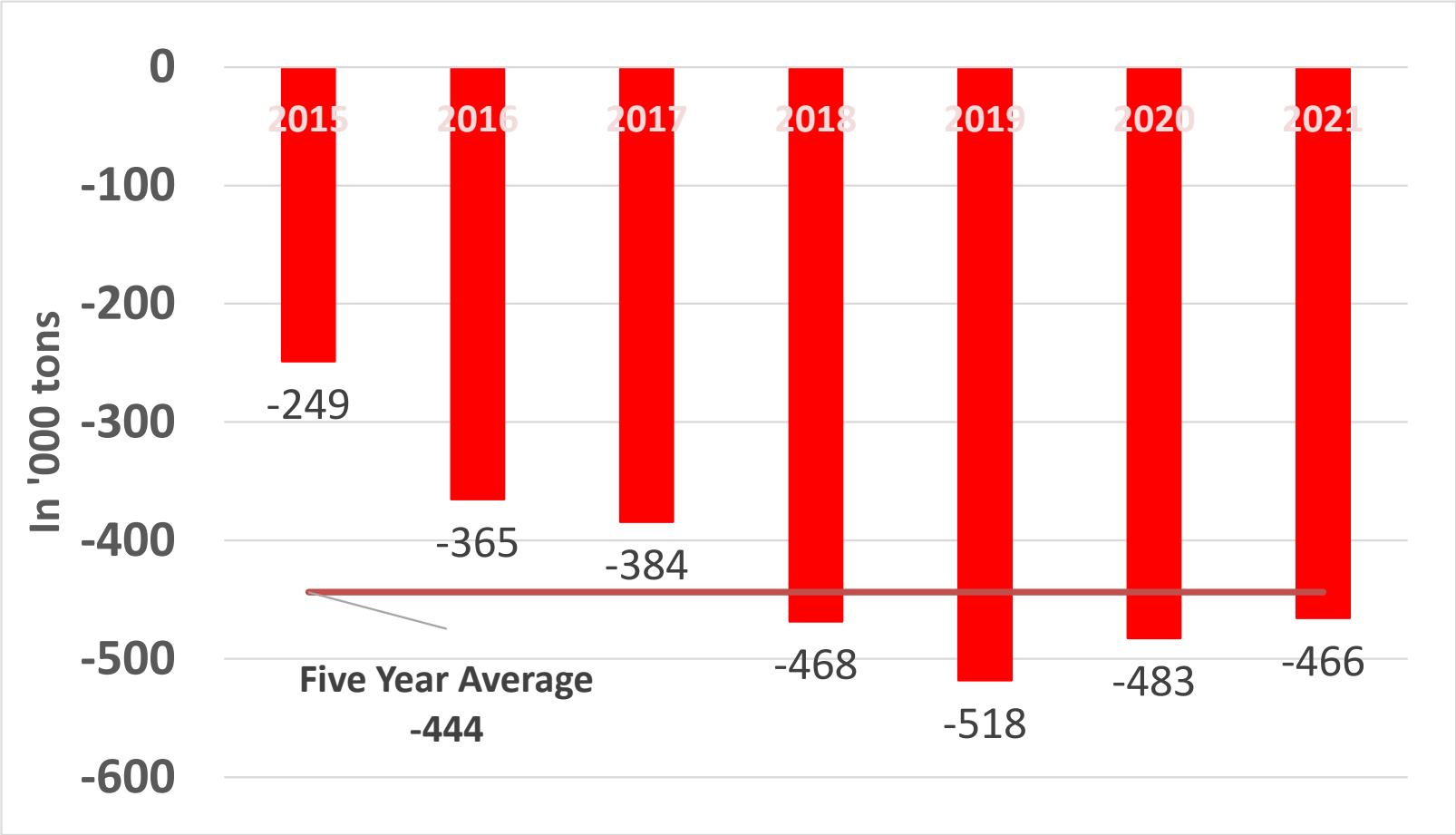
Estimated flood-related losses (FAO assessment)

- An estimated **loss of 18,600 tonnes of cereals**, with about **41,134 hectares of cultivated land damaged** in Jonglei, Lakes and Upper Nile.
- COVID-19, Fall Armyworm, Desert Locusts and other diseases brought minimal negative impact to crops.
- About **711,400 livestock heads affected** and **48,000 perished** in Jonglei
- **Widespread livestock mortality:** threefold increase in livestock diseases and limited availability of forage → decreased livestock productivity and milk production.





NATIONAL CEREAL GAP (2015-2021)



Total cereal requirement (2021)

1 340 019 tonnes

Net cereal production

874 410 tons

Food gap

465 610 tons

representing one-third of South Sudan's cereal needs – 4% lower than last year

Parting thoughts …

- If similar conditions as last year's persist (population growth rate, cereal production growth rate, levels of humanitarian support, security situation, weather conditions etc.), South Sudan is likely to achieve cereal production self sufficiency as early as 2030. If any of these conditions improve further, an earlier timeline is achievable.

- Majority of the production occurs in the southern parts of the country (breadbasket), which are poorly connected to the rest of the country. There is need to invest in infrastructure (roads, storage facilities etc.) to ensure that food moves from the surplus areas to the deficit areas in a cost-effective way so that it is affordable to the consumer.

- Important to champion the conversation about nutrition security, which goes beyond "cereal security".

- All stakeholders are important as everyone's efforts do count (e.g., peace building, food security, nutrition security, WASH, shelter, protection, infrastructure, markets etc.)

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Thank you

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