



World Food
Programme

COVID-19: Potential impact on South Sudan

A WFP analysis of the market
and food security implications
of the pandemic

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit

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WFP South Sudan

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



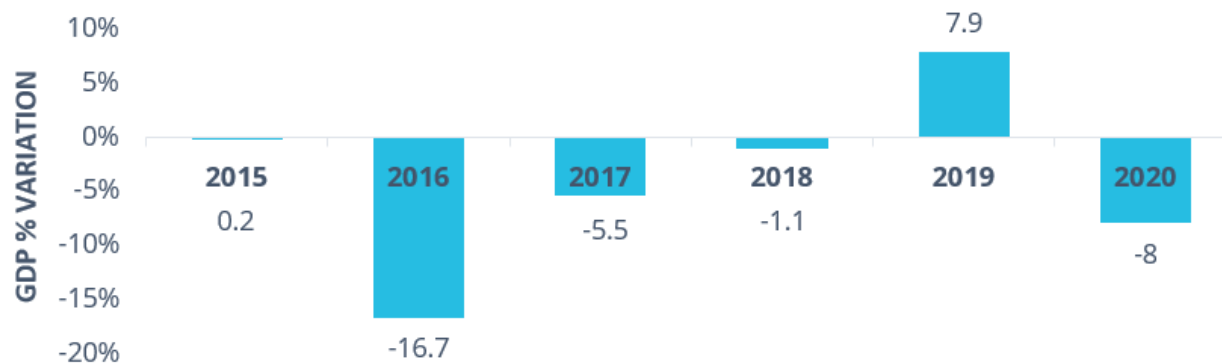
ECONOMIC IMPACT of COVID-19

Direct cost on the South Sudanese economy, as the pandemic disrupts people's daily lives in terms of low economic activities and fewer jobs, less income and therefore lower purchasing power;

Spill over of market disruptions, globally and in China: as global demand falls because, among other factors, consumers' confidence collapsed, causing a massive drop in consumption. As a result, production and supply chains are likely to be disrupted;

Loss of oil revenue, as crude oil prices have more than halved since the beginning of the year, magnifying the impact of the first two effects.

These economic shocks are likely to exacerbate the severity of acute food insecurity in South Sudan.



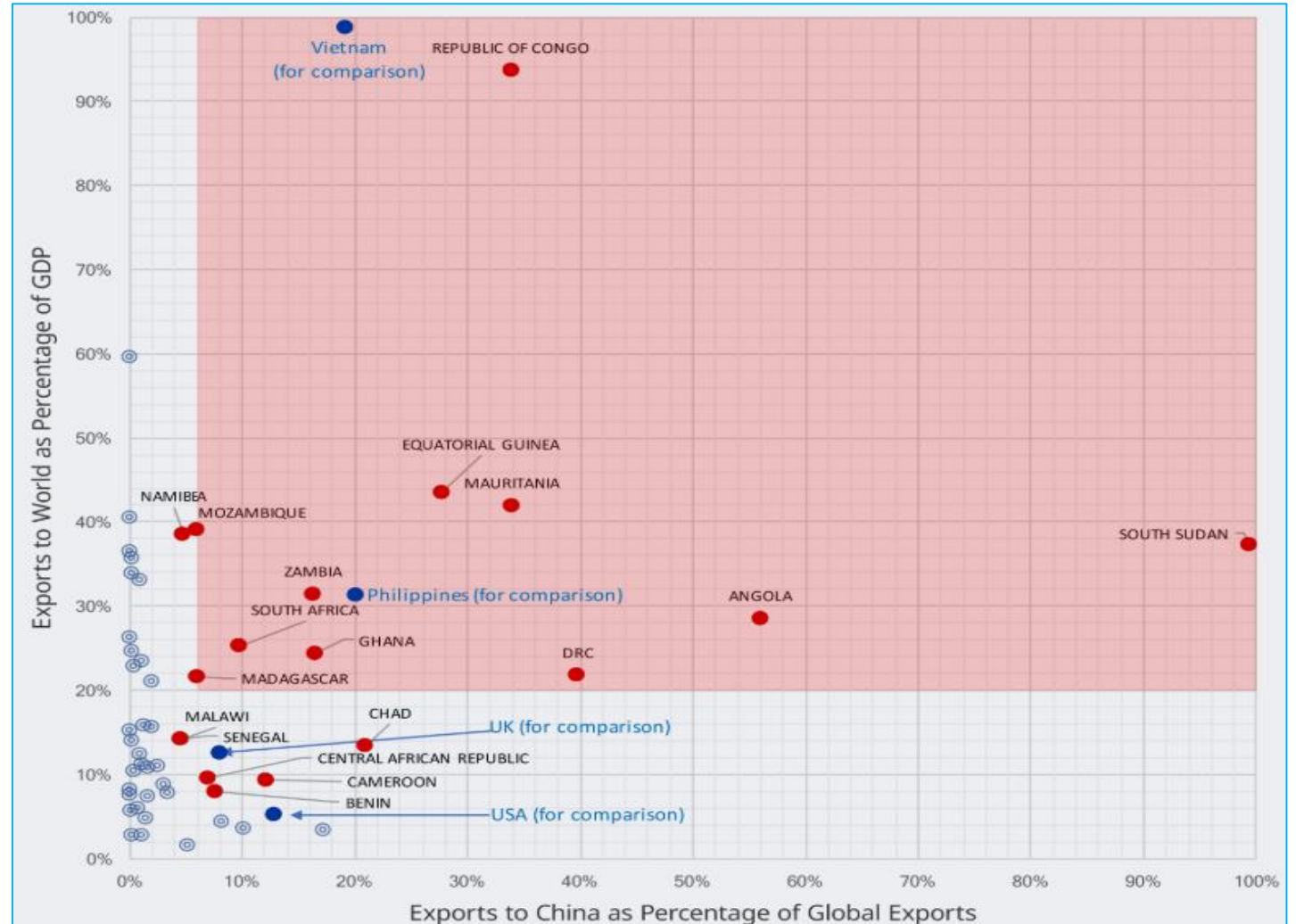
VULNERABILITY TO A DEMAND-SIDE SHOCK FROM CHINA

South Sudan is highly dependent on China as an export market, which accounts for over 90 percent its export.

It does not have alternatives to China as a buyer nor has viable alternatives to its commodities for sources of growth.

Although it is expected to avoid recession, China's growth rate is forecast to fall from 6% to 4.5%. That means far less demand for South Sudan's crude oil.

While guarantees for infrastructure financing as payment may reduce South Sudan's vulnerability, there is still a huge risk, if buyers claim "force majeure" and renege on those guarantees.



IMPACT ON COMMODITY FLOWS AND PRICES

Food prices in main markets are **increasing** due to a combination of **stockpiling and supply shock**;

In Juba, for instance, the prices of essential food commodities have risen in the main markets from week 3 (the week prior to adoption of restrictive measures) to week 5, as only shops dealing in food items can operate, while street vendors have been prevented from working;

Large increase in transport fares;

Price hikes are also reported in Yei and Maridi (Greater Equatoria), and Aweil (Northern Bhar-el-Ghazal);

If sustained, this is likely to translate into an **early onset of the hunger season for market-reliant populations**



MARKET PRICES IN KONYOKONYO MARKET, JUBA

		Mar-20					
Commodity	Units	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	% change
Cereals							
Maize Flour	1kg	250	250	250	300	300	20%
Sorghum Flour	1kg	250	250	250	300	300	20%
White Sorghum (feterita) Grain	Malwa (3.5kg)	500	500	500	500	600	20%
White Sorghum (feterita) Grain	S hawal (50 kg)	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	6,500	18%
White Sorghum (local)	Malwa (3.5kg)	500	500	500	500	600	20%
White Sorghum (local)	S hawal (50 kg)	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,500	6,500	18%
White Maize (grain)	S hawal (50 kg)	5,500	5,500	5,500	7,500	7,500	36%
White Wheat Flour	1kg	250	250	250	300	300	20%
Other Food							
Vegetable Oil	1 litre	400	400	400	425	425	6%
Irish Potatoes	1kg	350	350	350	400	500	43%
Salt	1kg	120	120	120	200	200	67%
Livestock							
Bull (medium size)	per head	135,000	135,000	135,000	135,000	140,000	4%
Goat (adult male medium size)	per head	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	27,000	8%
Chicken (cock)	per head	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,500	13%
Non-Food							
Water	1 litre	120	120	120	120	140	17%

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Significant implications on humanitarian assistance delivery, due to:

- procurement and funding difficulties,
- movement restrictions, and
- challenges related to ensuring distributions and other interventions are conducted in such a manner to avoid further spreading of the virus.

In South Sudan, as shown by various analysis in recent years, ongoing food security programmes play a key role in preventing a further deterioration of already precarious food security outcomes.





**IMPACTS by
POPULATION GROUPS**

URBAN POPULATIONS

Further restrictions on non-essential local business activities likely to negatively impact business-derived livelihoods.

Labour opportunities for the urban poor already declining and will likely continue to, as social distancing measures take effect and limit movement.

Casual and fixed income workers paid in SSP will be trapped with lower wages, as their purchasing power continually diminishes (as inflation rises).

RURAL POPULATIONS

Negative impact on the agricultural sector, characterized by labour intensive production, aggravating the already limited production.

Main agricultural season is about to start: reduced labour force and, in turn, reduced production is likely to have long-lasting effects on 2020-2021 production levels.



REFUGEES AND IDPs

Displaced populations, especially those hosted in camps, are likely to be at much higher risk of contagious diseases.

This is due to overcrowding, intense social mixing between the young and elderly, and poor sanitation capacity within camps which might propagate transmission disproportionately.



A blue-tinted photograph of a boat with a child in the foreground and another boat in the background. The child is holding a long wooden plank. The boat has a metal structure with numbers '185503729' and '0916613436' written on it. A flag is visible on the right side of the boat. The background shows another boat and a body of water.

WHAT TO DO NOW

While COVID-19 is a health emergency, it is likely to further exacerbate acute food insecurity. Beyond measures to contain the pandemic, it is essential to continue providing food assistance to support vulnerable populations. Thus, the following are critical:

For humanitarian organizations

Continue providing support to the most vulnerable populations through shock-responsive assistance and consider monitoring additional population groups that could become vulnerable and in need of food assistance, as a result of COVID-19 related effects.

Continue monitoring food prices and markets, as they represent a very critical indicator for the evolution of the food security situation.

Information is to be shared timely with decision-makers and all relevant stakeholders.

This will help evidence-based programming and using the most appropriate assistance modalities.



For the international community

Advocate for humanitarian corridors to remain open and restrictions on commercial trade to be minimized to ensure adequate food supplies.

WFP and the wider UN family has so far successfully liaised with the High Level Task Force to maintain free humanitarian movement, by air and cross-border.

The Government of South Sudan needs to advocate with their counterparts in the region and with trade organizations (i.e. IGAD) for a regional approach and strategy which takes into consideration the special needs and challenges of landlocked countries.

Advocate for the free movement of humanitarian cargo and ensure that rent seeking checkpoints are minimized along the transport corridors in the country, as Government puts in place measures to restrict movements between cities or communities.

Expedite contributions that are already pledged but not yet received as well increase resource allocations where possible, to support new needs.



A blue-tinted photograph of a village scene. In the foreground, there is a dirt path or clearing. Several traditional round huts with conical roofs are visible. The roofs are made of layered, overlapping materials, possibly mud or clay, and are topped with a small cross-like structure. The huts are surrounded by trees and some smaller structures. The sky is filled with large, white clouds. The overall scene is captured in a monochromatic blue color scheme.

QUESTIONS?