Main and second agricultural season overview

- As the main agricultural season comes to an end, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and a network of food security and livelihood partners have helped up to **565,711 farming families** plant cereal and vegetable crops, and fish for their livelihood, while also sustaining their food and nutrition security in over 78 counties of the country. This figure represents 99 percent of the overall main season direct distribution target.

- Against the backdrop of COVID-19, FAO scaled up its direct distribution operations with the reach of the Organization’s field hubs spanning distributions to **27,650 farming families** in Abyei, Aweil, Wau, Jur River, Yambio, Maban, Tambario, Bari North, and others.

- At the same time, FAO commenced the second season response in the greenbelt of the Equatorias through cash for seed initiatives. By the end of July, the Organization reached **8,000 households** through partners, enabling each respective household to receive **SSP 5,000 (USD 30)** to buy quality seed from local markets.

- Cash for seed initiatives – a first for FAO – have reached up to **58,605 farming families** over the course of the main and second agricultural seasons.

- Such cash transfers have injected **USD 1.52 million** in support of national seed traders, suppliers and producers, keeping local agri-business afloat, while enabling farming families to buy their seeds of choice.

- Together, direct distributions and cash for seed initiatives along the main planting season have reached a total of **608,831 farming families** – 3.65 million people – in 78 counties of South Sudan. This represents 99 percent of the combined main season direct distribution and cash for seed target.

- Across the country, FAO and partners with county officials and boma management committees alike have participated and supported awareness creation on COVID-19 and its prevention measures. This includes the announcement and display of information, education and communication (IEC) materials at distribution points, hand-washing stations, markers for social distancing and face masks for field agents.

- In preparation for direct distributions as part of the second season response, 20 trucks are en route to FAO’s central warehouse carrying

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**In numbers**

- **565,711** households received emergency livelihoods assistance during the main agricultural season
- **58,605** households reached with cash for seed initiatives during the main and second agricultural seasons
- **9,292** tonnes of seeds received by FAO
- **941,931** animals vaccinated and treated
- **USD 14.6 million** required by December 2020

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*FAO supplied Wadeng Wings of Hope (WWOH) additional vegetable and fishing kits to reach conflict-affected households in the Sudd Islands*
**Conflicts and floods**

- The localized conflicts in Jonglei, Greater Pibor Administrative Area and Warrap State have caused a number of delays during the livelihood kit distributions. FAO’s implementing partners had to postpone interventions in Duk, Twic East, Pibor and Tonj North counties. The imminent fleeing of conflict-affected communities is expected to severely impact crop production outcomes and consequently the food security of affected populations.

- FAO has been working with partners on the ground to cover livelihood gaps for households that have missed the main agricultural season due to conflict through the provision of fishing kits in areas where there is a window for humanitarian access, and vegetable kits in areas where there are opportunities of internally displaced person (IDP) stabilization. Furthermore, FAO is preparing rapid response missions to support conflict-affected communities in hard-to-reach areas.

- Heavy rainfall in some locations of Greater Upper Nile such as Bor, Pochalla, Twic East and Pibor have resulted in floods that have displaced populations, leading to asset loss and destruction of key infrastructure such as main roads. In July, as part of the flood response, FAO provided fishing kits, vegetable seeds and agriculture hand tools to 1,800 households in Bor and 2,000 households in Twic East. Preparation for response in Pibor and Pochalla is ongoing.

- In addition to intensified conflict and flooeing, other operational challenges include custom clearance delays associated with importing pipeline input, insecurity along main transportation routes and increased checkpoints when it comes to river transport, delaying movement of ELRP inputs to areas such as Ulang, Koch and Nasir.

**COVID-19 response**

- As part of the COVID-19 response, FAO kicked off the USAID-funded project “Grow your own vegetable kit: Promoting home gardening for improved nutritional status” among vulnerable households in
Juba, Nimule, Wau and Aweil towns, which will be implemented in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The programme targets a total of 25,000 households with the provision of vegetable kits composed of ten assorted vegetable seeds and agriculture hand tools.

- Moreover, FAO is disinfecting two major slaughter slabs in Juba town using 5,000 liters of disinfectant for a period of two months. Approximately 30,000 households or 180,000 people are expected to benefit from the intervention. An estimated 70 cattle are slaughtered in these two slaughter slabs in Juba on a daily basis. The livestock slaughter facilities were operating below the recommended minimum standards of hygiene, exercising negligent waste management and carcass disposal practices, leaving the local population and other livestock exposed to potential disease epidemics.

Responding to food security and livelihood gaps

- Intensified insecurity in Northern Jonglei and in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area have led to the imminent fleeing of communities for refuge, resulting in a missed agricultural season.

- In some of the most remote areas, such as the Sudd Islands, FAO supplied partners with additional fishing and vegetable kits for displaced households affected by intensified conflict.

- Operating out of Bor, FAO started responding to the flood using two amphibious all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to deliver life-saving inputs to areas cut off from assistance by heavy rains, such as Twic East, thus helping meet the food security needs of displaced beneficiaries.
So far, FAO and three partners have supported an additional caseload of 5,200 households that missed the main agricultural season due to intensified conflict and flooding.

Livestock vaccination and treatment campaign

As of July 2020, FAO has vaccinated 895,248 animals and treated 46,683, reaching a total of 20,912 households. In collaboration with partners in the livestock sector, FAO has launched a peste des petits ruminants (PPR) eradication programme in Eastern (all counties) and Central Equatoria (Juba and Terekeka counties), with an initial goal of reaching 2.3 million heads of sheep and goats. The programme is aligned with the Global PPR Eradication Strategy and will gradually expand to the other states.

2020 ELRP targets and funding status

In 2020, FAO plans to reach over 4.6 million severely food-insecure people (IPC Phase 3 and above) through livelihood support. FAO requires USD 14.6 million to reach this goal. An additional USD 42.2 million is required to support households at risk of sliding into acute food insecurity as a result of COVID-19. ELRP donors comprise the Governments of the United Kingdom (UK Aid), the United States (USAID), the Netherlands, Norway, the United Nations Central Emergency Fund (CERF) and the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund.

Funding

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<th>FUNDING GAP</th>
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<tr>
<td>USD 14.6 million</td>
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80.5%
FUNDING TO-DATE
USD 60.4 million

FAO requires
USD 14.6 million
by December 2020

to assist
4.6 million people

With the support of

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