



**Press Release on 18 December 2020**  
**Food Security Situation in the Republic of South Sudan**

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, The National Bureau of Statistics, the IPC South Sudan Technical Working Group and all food security and nutrition stakeholders in the country, I am pleased to announce the results of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) situation analysis conducted in October and November 2020.

The IPC is an evidence-based analytical approach that adheres to internationally accepted protocols for classifying the nature and magnitude of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the area of interest – in this case, South Sudan.

The October/November 2020 IPC situation analysis shows that, the food security and nutrition situation has deteriorated. This is because of pockets of insecurity that have led to population displacement, low crop production because of climatic shocks such as floods and droughts, the ongoing macro-economic crisis, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, pests such as Desert Locusts, and inadequate multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance. Compared to 2020, we anticipate that **the food security situation in 2021 will be worse** because of the factors that I just listed.

According to the IPC situation analysis, between **October and November 2020**, an estimated **6.35 million people (52.6% of the population)** faced Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, of which **2.102 million people** faced Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity. **During the same period, 24,000 people were likely in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity, out of which 11,000 were in Pibor County, in Pibor Administration Area, and 13,000 were in Tonj North County, in Warrap State.** The most food insecure states are Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal where more than 50% of their respective populations are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity.

In the **first projection period of December 2020 to March 2021**, an estimated **5.82 million people (48.3% of the population)** will likely face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, with **11,000 people likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Pibor County, in Pibor Administrative Area.** During this period, an estimated **1.79 million people are likely to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.**

In the **second projection period of April to July 2021**, an estimated **7.24 million people (60% of the population)** are likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. During the same period, **31,000 people are likely to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity, with 11,000 people in Akobo County in Jonglei State, 7,000 people in Aweil South County in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, and 13,000 people in Tonj North County in Warrap State.** During this period, an estimated **2.47 million are likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity.**

**In order to save lives and avert total collapse of livelihoods in the affected counties, particularly those with populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4), there is urgent need for immediate scale-up of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.** Furthermore, urgent action is also required for populations in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.

When it comes to nutrition, about 1.4 million children under five years are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021 based on same season historical data of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS), SMART nutrition surveys, and admission trends for 2020. According to the IPC Acute Malnutrition scale, 53 counties are in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 (Serious) and above. Out of these, 29 counties are in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4 (Critical), while 24 counties in

IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 (Serious). About 80% of the counties in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4 (Critical) are in the Greater Upper Nile region, followed by 17% in Greater Bahr el Ghazal region.

However, seasonal deterioration of the acute malnutrition situation is expected during the lean season due to increased morbidity, high food insecurity, and poor infant and young child feeding practices. A total of 57 counties are projected to be in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 (Serious) or worse – of which 19 are in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 3 (Serious) and 38 are in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4 (Critical). Based on the historical data trends used in this analysis, coupled with disruptions to basic health, nutrition and food security and livelihoods services, Renk is projected to be in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 5 (Extremely Critical). Of the counties in IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase 4 during the projection period, nearly 70% are in Greater Upper Nile region followed by Greater Bahr el Ghazal with 18%.

The major factors contributing to acute malnutrition include high prevalence of diseases (affecting up to 36% of children under five), poor quality and diversity of food (Minimum Acceptable Diet: 7%, Minimum Dietary Diversity: 15%). Elevated levels of food insecurity (IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase 3 and above) which are worse than the previous year in most counties, are also contributing to acute malnutrition. COVID-19 related disruptions, including those rightfully implemented to curb coronavirus infection rates, as well as changes in SAM and MAM detection and referral protocols for children have exacerbated access to services. Furthermore, access to health and nutrition services in the Greater Upper Nile region have been severely disrupted due to heightened subnational conflict and flooding.

As some of you may be aware, contrary to today's release of the IPC findings by the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, the IPC Global Support Unit released two reports on 11 December 2020. One was a Real Time Quality Review (RTQR) report indicating a likelihood of populations in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Akobo, Aweil South, Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South; and the other was a Famine Review Committee (FRC) report that classified some Payams in Pibor as Famine Likely.

The ongoing implementation of the revitalized peace agreement signed in September 2018, National dialogue and healing continues. This has sustained a peaceful environment that has supported recovery of disrupted livelihoods, greater access to vulnerable populations by various humanitarian actors, and continued participation of the population in agricultural activities.

The IPC Technical Working Group, the National Bureau of Statistic (NBS), together with all other relevant Ministries, urge all stakeholders to scale up their efforts in the coming months in order to prevent further deterioration of the food security and nutrition situation in the Country.

Thank you.

Signed:

  
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