South Sudan
Food Security Update

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PROJECTED FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

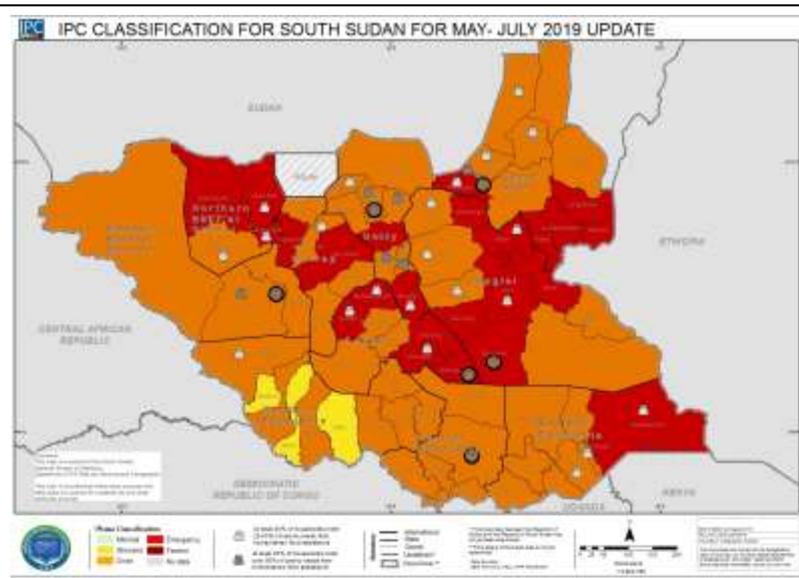
Highlights:

- Estimated **6.96 million people (61% of the population)** likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity or worse.
- Insecurity remains the key driving factor to the food insecurity across the Country,
- Erratic rainfall in 2018, affected the green harvest (early harvest) of 2019.
- High food prices constraining access to food for large sections of the population.

FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

As extreme levels of acute food insecurity persist across the country. Food availability and access remain severely constrained to the entire population. According to IPC update in May 2019, about 6.96 million people (61% of the population) are facing acute food insecurity, although some sections of the population in certain areas have received humanitarian assistance. Out of 5,120,000 people in crisis (IPC Phase 3), 1,815,000 people are in emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 21,000 people are in catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). The main driving factors of the food insecurity in South Sudan are shortage of food stock due to poor harvest of 2018, delayed rainfall that has affected the availability of food stuffs, fish and livestock products as delay in the green harvest (early harvest), macro-economic instability, the effect of conflict of previous years has caused depletion of assets, population displacement, insecurity in some areas. The protracted conflict in 2018 adversely contributed to disruption of livelihoods and eroded the capacity of households in coping up. Other factors include: high food prices caused by scarcity of local commodities due to poor harvest, high transport cost, the continuous depreciation of the local currency and markets disruption by insecurity. As can be seen from the Map above, IPC update of May

Map Showing Acute Food Security Situation in South Sudan from May –July, 2019



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2019, projected 26 counties in Emergency (IPC phase 4) between May-July 2019, out of which 5counties are in the Greater Upper Nile State, 20 are in the Greater Bahr El Ghazal State, and one (1) in the Greater Equatoria Region.

Counties projected in the crisis (IPC phase 3) between May – July include: 7 counties in Greater Upper Nile Region, 23 in Greater Bahr El Ghazal Region and a total of 20 counties in the Greater Equatoria Region, while counties in the Stressed (IPC phase 2) food security situation are only 3 in number and are found in Greater Equatoria Region.

Also in the map, there are two bags, grey bags and white bags. The white bags indicate 22 counties that have at least 25% of their population who received 25%-49% of their caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance but the food they received would last for a few days, whereas the grey bags indicate: 8 counties that have at least 25% of their population who got 50% or more of their caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance, meaning the food assistance they received would last longer than the white bag.

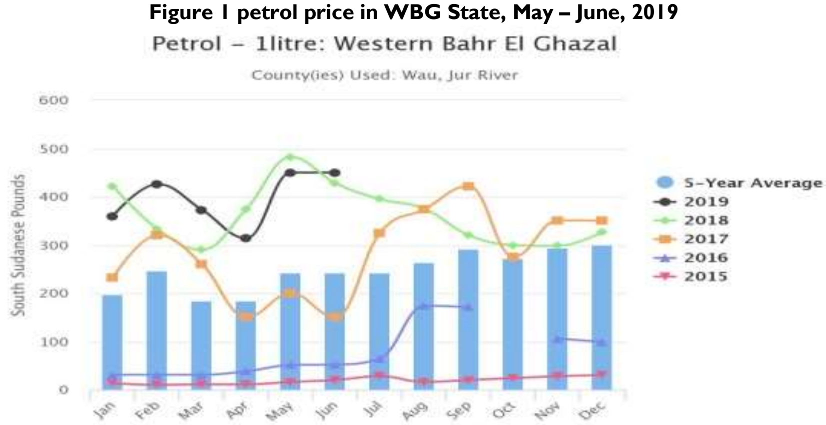
MARKET PRICE TRENDS IN TEN FORMER STATES

The South Sudan market prices operating across the ten former States are mainly monitored periodically, in a weekly and monthly basis, to determine food availability and ability households to access food. The following information indicates market price analysis within the last two months (May – June, 2019)

Exchange Rate: The South Sudanese Pound (SSP) continued to depreciate across the country between May and June, 2019. In Juba, the average exchange rate in June 2019 was 290.5 per US Dollar in the parallel market, while the official rate was SSP 157.99 per US Dollar. In May 2019, the exchange rate was 280.00 in parallel market, and official market rate was 157.06 respectively.
The South Sudan food commodities commonly monitored include; eight selected cereal items, livestock three different type, fish and Petrol price which are frequently consume by households across the country.

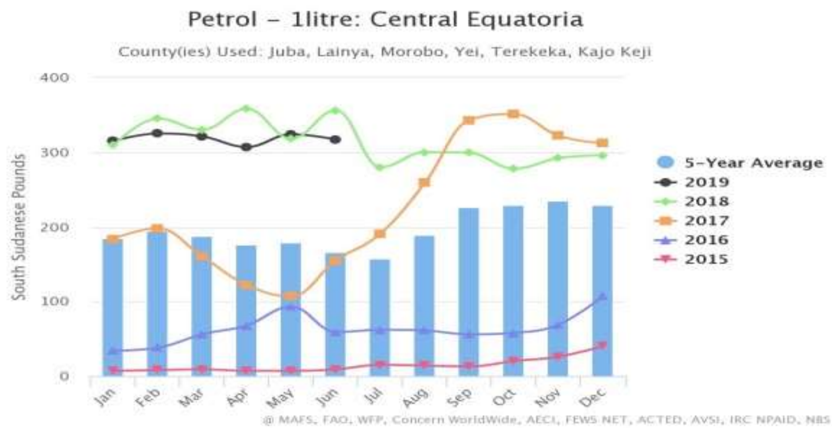
Fuel Prices: From May to June 2019, fuel prices in different petrol stations increased in most of the monitored markets by more than 10 percent. The highest fuel price increase was recorded in former WBG state, where petrol price increased from 81 to 100 percent compared to June 2019.

Figure 1 petrol price in WBG State, May – June, 2019



(Source: Climis)

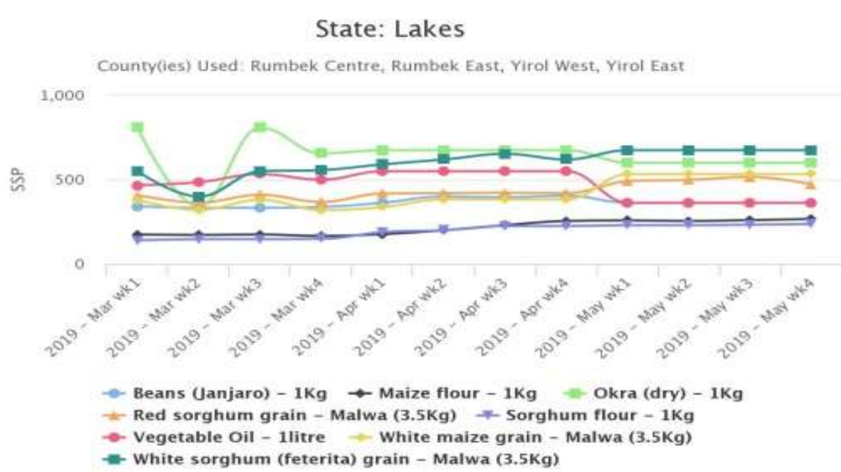
Figure 2 petrol price in CES May – June,2019



(Source: Climis)

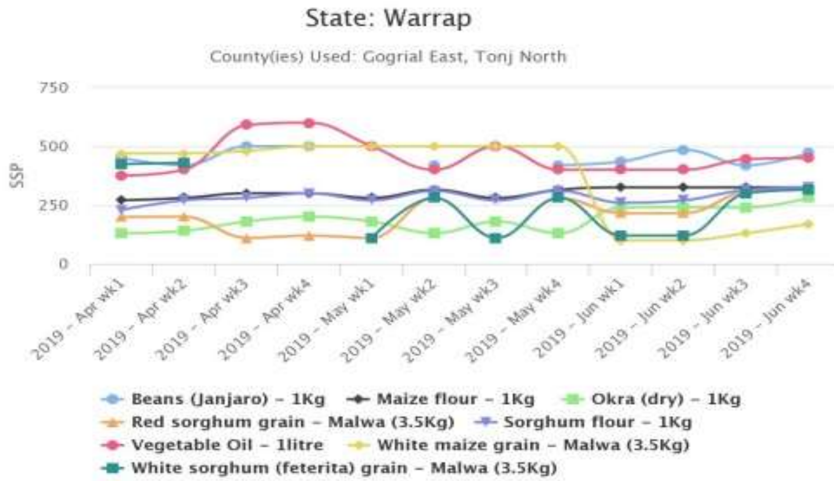
Cereals: Between May and June 2019, the price of white and red sorghum grain, maize grain 3.5 kilogram and beans 1KG kept increasing at a normal rate as shown in former Lakes state. The increase is noted as 69%(white sorghum) 46%(red sorghum), 19%(maize) and 6% (beans), between May to June 2019 respectively. In the same monitored market trend, food prices in the former Western Equatoria state market witnessed a significant increase by 24% for sorghum, 76% for maize, -21% for beans prices over the last two months as compared to other former states of South Sudan. In the former Warrap state, prices of red sorghum, white sorghum, maize and beans decreased by -97%, -24%, -70%, and 11% respectively in the last two months as compared to the previous month (Figure 3and 4).

Figure 3: Former Lakes market price May – June2019



Source: Climis

Figure 4: Former Warrap state market price May – June,2019

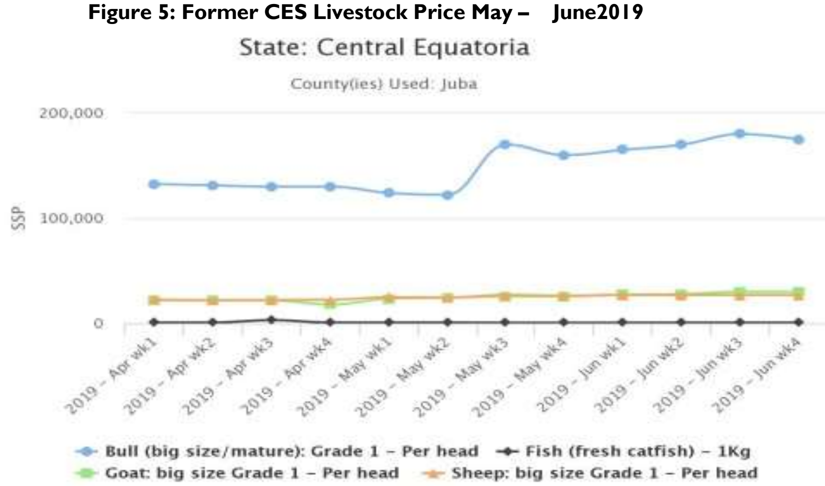


(Source: Climis)

South Sudan livestock monitored market prices in different former states were increasing in the country. The highest price increase for a bull, a goat, a Sheep and fish was noted in the former Central Equatoria market by 46%, 30%,13%, respectively but price for 1kg fish decreased by -11% between May and June 2019, followed by former WBG state with a rise of bull price by 41%, and goat by 91%. The lowest markets price of livestock decrease was observed in former Warrap State markets that is; 12% (big size bull), 57 %(big size goat) and 60% (1kg fish)

The increasing prices of livestock markets could be due to high demand for cereals for food among the pastoralists that made them sell more animals to acquire enough cereals to meet their food demand. The situation of livestock market prices in former central Equatoria and Warrap states were different to what has been experienced in the other markets. The decline of the former Central Equatoria prices of cattle's and goats (46%, 30%) is due to increase in supply of livestock in the market. Similarly, cattle and goat prices remain relatively stable in former Warrap state market as from May to June2019.

Figure 5: Former CES Livestock Price May – June2019



Source: Climis

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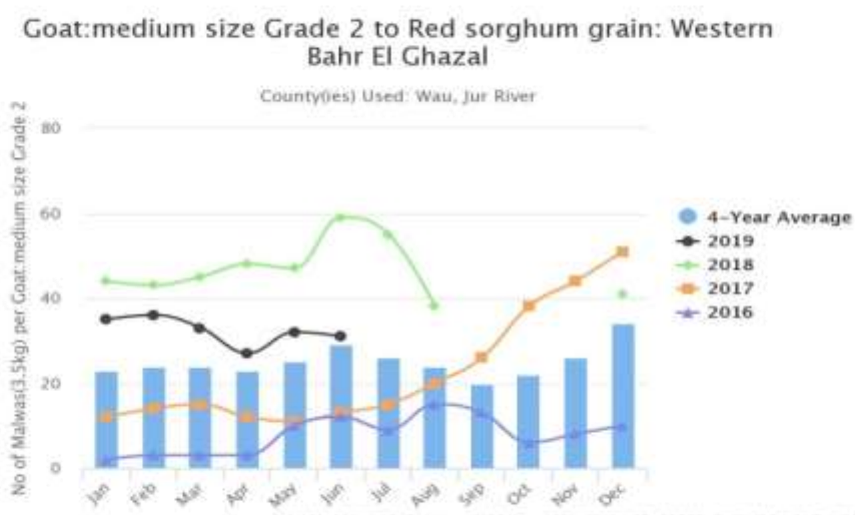
Figure 6: Former Warrap State Livestock price May – June,2019

Source: Climis

In June 2019 TOT (Terms of Trade) of exchange of goat for sorghum and sheep for sorghum within different markets of ten former states was: the highest price of TOT of goat to sorghum has shown mixed trends in most markets. As indicated in figure (7) below, goat to sorghum TOT in former WBG state has increased by 97% among ten former states and put the livestock households in a disadvantageous position. In terms of amount in Kgs, 3.5kgs of sorghum is equivalent to 38kg per goat when they sell a goat. Therefore, they were receiving persistently more amount of sorghum in exchange for a goat. While in that same period the TOT markets had swollen up in favour of livestock owners and has improved food security situation of most pastoral households

Figure 7: **Former WBG state Sorghum, to Goat price selected market, May - June 2019**



Source: Climis

FOOD SECURITY ANALYSIS BY FORMER STATES

FORMER CENTRAL EQUATORIA STATE

The overall food security situation in former Central Equatoria is classified at Crisis Level (IPC Phase 3) in the Six Counties between May – July 2019. Though rainfall started earlier, the prolonged dry spell from Mid-June to Mid-August 2018, resulted in low production hence food deficit of 47% (620 MT) in 2019 according to CFSAM (Crop and food Security Assessment Missions). Food stock at the household level is most likely to be depleted during this period. Market prices will be high as more food stocks are likely to enter the market from Uganda and other neighbouring countries. A major section of the Population is likely to depend on markets. There was no Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) provided in the areas of need especially in Lainya and Morobo counties. Fishing is likely to be minimum due to likelihood of low water levels during this period of May – July 2019. Conflicts continue to disrupt Markets, flow of goods and services, causing displacement of rural populations and restricting free movement of people in counties of Yei, Lainya, and Morobo.

FORMER WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Out of the ten counties in Western Equatoria, only three (Tambura, Nzara, and Ibba) are likely to be in Stress (IPC Phase 2). The rest (Maridi, Nagero, Ezo, Yambio, Mundri East, Mundri West and Mvolo) are expected to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3.) This will be as a result of lack of sufficient rainfall and heavy reliance on rain fed agriculture that affects the production level, hence limiting food availability. There is likely to be huge cereal Gap based on the 2019 cereal requirements, Conflict and insecurity resulted in massive population displacement/movement and disrupted livelihood activities in Maridi and Mundri.

FORMER EASTERN EQUATORIA STATE

Food security in former Eastern Equatoria State is likely to deteriorate during this period May to July 2019 according to IPC analysis workshop outcomes in May. The state is classified at crisis level in most Counties (IPC Phase 3) and Kapoeta East at Emergency. The main drivers of food insecurity in the State include; dry spell that had affected Cereal production, economic crisis, food deficit impacting at household level, especially those whose Stocks were running out in the next one to four months, unusual high food prices and poor pasture and water. Other factors include Livestock migration that took place one month earlier than normal, limiting some households from access to livestock products.

FORMER NORTHERN Bahr El Ghazal STATE

Out of the five counties in the former Northern Bahr El Ghazal State, only Aweil Centre is projected at Crisis level (IPC Phase 3). The other four counties (Aweil North, Aweil South, Aweil East, and Aweil West) are in Emergency level (IPC Phase 4) from May to June 2019. This is due to the effect of pests and diseases, floods and dry spell, that reduced expected harvest and yield, and access to milk as cattle moved away from homesteads. Limited food availability in the Market is one of the main Drivers of the food insecurity in Northern Bahr El Ghazal State. The stock from the last harvest is expected to have been depleted by now for majority of the households, thus resulting in food gaps. This situation, coupled with reduced market access due to worsening road conditions as a result of the seasonal rains, may to lead to increased food prices at the market.

FORMER WESTERN Bahr El Ghazal STATE

Food security in Western Bahr El Ghazal State is likely to deteriorate during this period from May to July 2019 according to IPC analysis workshop outcomes in May 2019. All the counties of the State are classified at crisis level (IPC Phase 3). The main Drivers of the food insecurity in the State include; dry spell that had affected Cereal production in 2018, economic crisis impacting negatively on food deficit of the households especially those whose Stocks are running out in the next one to four months, unusual high food prices and poor pasture and water for the livestock. Although the food consumption gap widens due to depletion of own stock, most households have access to natural food source to cope the situation.

FORMER UNITY STATE

In the former Unity state, two counties (Koch and Panyijiar) are classified to be in emergency level (IPC phase 4), the rest of the counties are at Crisis level (IPC phase 3) between May- July 2019. This is attributed to insecurity that has disrupted livelihood profiles and lead to severe food consumption Gaps, livelihood changes especially in Koch and Panyijiar counties. Consistently high cereals gap due to both dry spells and flooding is another driver for the food insecurity. During this period May to July 2019, cereal crops plus other sources of livelihood are most likely to be deplete hence leaving significant fraction of the population in phase 4, markets are most likely to be inaccessible due to rainfall which might render trade routes inactive and result in unusually high prices of the Basic Food Commodities. There is slight improvement in the food security situation in the former unity state between May-July 2019 Compared to what was initially projected in January 2019, due to the relative calm of security situation, movement of goods and humans has improved which help households access to livelihood, markets, fishing grounds and wild foods.

FORMER JONGLEI STATE

Food security situation remains high with estimated 73% of the population facing crisis (IPC phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. Coincidentally, it is also the most populated and the most food insecure state in South Sudan during the May-July projection period 2019. Six counties are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) namely Canal/Pigi, Twic East, Uror, Nyirol, Bor South and Akobo. Canal/pigi is the worst affected. Food insecurity in former Jonglei state is driven by low harvests that have been depleted for majority of the households, lack of markets, or disrupted ones as a consequence of the rainy season, high prices, limited livelihood opportunities, depleted assets and reduced livestock holdings occasioned by increased incidents of cattle raiding. Risk factors to monitor closely during the projection period include progression of the Agricultural season and likely impacts of the FAW, flooding, disruptions to delivery of Humanitarian Food Assistance, increased incidents of water borne diseases, cattle raiding and impact of Returnees.

FORMER WARRAP STATE

in former warrap state It is expected that there will be slight improvement in the food security situation compared to the January 2019 IPC analysis , Gogerial East has moved from Emergency (phase 4) to Crisis (phase 3), In spite of the slight I movement, the proportion of households projected to be in Crisis (IPC phase three) and Emergency (IPC phase four) has moved from 52% projected in January to 54% estimated during the update analysis due to inter-communal conflicts and cattle Raiding, Erratic rainfall and flooding reduced crop production, leaving a major cereal deficit and yield sizes for the households who are relying on harvesting crops early due to hunger. This resulted to crop exhaustion within 1-2 months (46%), and therefore, large food consumption gaps for households' post-harvest. Most households are relying on their own production, there is high market reliance due to low production.

FORMER UPPER NILE STATE

Relative calm Security Situation in former Upper Nile State has reduced the number of people facing extreme food insecurity in State. This notwithstanding, food security persists an estimated of 691,000people (67% of the population) are likely to be facing Crisis (IPC phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity in May-July 2019.All the Counties are in crisis (IPC phase 3),with the exception of Panyikang, Maiwut, Longochuk, Nasir, and Ulang which are in Emergency(phase 4).During the Lean season (May- July)2019, majority of Households mainly rely on livestock products (for those households who have access to Livestock), fish and wild food. There is very limited amount of cereals mainly being purchased from market, prices are high and the distance to the functional markets are far. Other factors resulting in heightened food insecurity include the presence of Returnees from neighbouring countries. Major risk factors to be monitor over the period May-July 2019, are cereal price trend, progression of Agricultural season and likely impacts of Fall Armyworm (FAW), and extent of delivery of humanitarian assistance.

FORMER LAKES STATE

Food security situation in former Lakes State is expected to remain at the same scale of Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase (3&4), By now Food stocks from the last harvest is expected to have been depleted for majority of the households, thus resulting in food consumption gaps. Culminated by reduced market access, due to worsening road conditions as a result of rains, it is more likely that food prices would increase resulting into widening food consumption gap. Prolonged dry spell during peak growing season, influx of 30,000 IDPs, inter-communal violence in bordering areas of Lakes and Unity State (Rumbek East and Panyijiar) increased market prices. Vulnerable households include those reliant solely on agricultural production, those heavily affected by the dry spell and crop failure resulting from crop pests.