In 2020, the protracted crisis in South Sudan was exacerbated by unprecedented levels of subnational conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic and a second consecutive year of record flooding, which affected more than one million people. Nearly 6.5 million people were estimated to be facing severe acute food insecurity at the height of the lean season. WFP extended the L3 emergency response for South Sudan from January 2020 to January 2021. WFP employed an agile response, aligned with the continuum of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, through a combination of unconditional resource transfers and resilience building activities to respond to the diverse needs of the populations. Addressing root causes of food and nutrition insecurity in South Sudan, WFP sought to tackle entrenched inequity and isolation, with the goal of “leaving no-one behind”. WFP focused on equitably meeting the most pressing needs of today, while contributing to building a better future for the South Sudanese people.

In response to the significantly deteriorated food security situation, WFP provided life-saving food and nutrition assistance to 5.3 million beneficiaries including 420,000 people living in areas at risk of or with pockets of famine. WFP reached 12 percent more beneficiaries in 2020 than in 2019 and 8 percent more than planned. However, limited resources and increasing numbers of people in need led to 82 percent of beneficiaries receiving a 50 percent or less ration.

Total number of people reached

5,343,327

Women 57%

Men 43%

Estimated number of people reached who are living with disabilities: 93,558
The closure of schools in March affected the regular provision of school meals to 460,000 children attending WFP assisted schools. As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP provided Alternative Take-Home Rations to ensure that the most vulnerable food-insecure school-aged children continued to receive a nutritious meal despite school closures.

UNHAS acquired a dedicated aircraft, to support the COVID-19 response in South Sudan, which transported 754 COVID-19 test samples and personal protective equipment (PPE).

WFP through the Logistics Cluster, as co-lead of the Operational Support and Logistics Pillar of the National COVID-19 Response Plan, coordinated requests for PPE from humanitarian organizations in South Sudan.

185,000 people reached through the Urban COVID-19 Response.
Changing Lives

As people affected by conflict rebuilt their livelihoods, WFP supported them through resilience building activities. Through the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme, WFP supported vulnerable households to address their immediate needs through cash-based transfers or provision of food, while at the same time promoting long-term food security and resilience by supporting the creation of assets – such as vegetable gardens, community access roads and flood protection dykes – that helped to improve food availability at the household level, reduced the risk of disaster and increased access to basic services. In 2020 WFP adapted the FFA programme to ensure COVID-19 mitigation measures were respected and, in some cases, assistance was provided regardless of output level due to the pandemic.

WFP continued to support the local economy, injecting USD 58 million into local markets through cash-based transfers and purchasing 13,000 mt of food locally, including from 4,350 smallholder farmers, at a value of USD 4.4 million. During 2020 WFP rehabilitated 640 km of strategic roads connecting tens of thousands of people, enabling humanitarian operations, boosting farm-to-markets access and supporting commercial activities in South Sudan.

Support to the Humanitarian Community

WFP continued to play an integral role in the humanitarian community, managing UNHAS, leading the Logistics Cluster, and co-leading with FAO, the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster. WFP led and supported food and nutrition studies, including the inter-agency Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reports. WFP assessments supported geographical targeting and resource prioritization. Providing technical support and delivering a variety of trainings, WFP worked to strengthen capacities of cooperating partners and the Government of South Sudan in food security and nutrition programmes.

While school feeding activities were impacted by school closures due to COVID-19, WFP reached more than 55,000 boys and 52,000 girls with Alternative Take-Home Rations to ensure children did not go hungry. WFP supported the Ministry of General Education and Instruction in developing plans for safely reopening schools in 2021.

WFP Supported Sustainable Development Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>ZERO HUNGER</th>
<th>Number of people reached through WFP support to improve their food security:</th>
<th>5,343,327</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</td>
<td>Number of partners participating in multi-stakeholder partnerships:</td>
<td>289 (direct)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Donors

For more information please contact:
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Top Photo: WFP/Theresa Piorr