Over the past 3 years the PiN caseload has increased from 6.5 to 7.7 million people (excludes refugees) whilst funding & resources have declined; support is then spread more thinly.

Due to ongoing crisis ongoing since December 2013, in a country with existing high level of vulnerability, food insecurity reached its peak in 2022 with 10 counties in extreme levels of food insecurity as compared to 6 in 2021.

Counties of extreme concern found in Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Warrap and Western Equatoria with the highest priority being Fangak County, comparable to Pibor County in 2021, which was classified as IPC phase 5 due to high food consumptions gaps and populations exhausting emergency coping strategies.

A total of 52 counties are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, 23 counties are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, and only 3 counties are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

With the planned levels of HFA, 0.7% of the population (about 87,000 people) will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity; 23.4% of the population (about 2.90 million people) will likely be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity; and 38.6% of the population (about 4.76 million people) will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity.
The main drivers causing this are:

- **covariate climatic, conflict & economic shocks** such as floods and dry spells, high food price rises, and the continued disruption of livelihoods due to violence or the fear of violence.
- **household level idiosyncratic stressors** such as death of bread winner, gender-based violence, and morbidity and mortality due to poor hygiene and lack of access to essential basic services.

**Access:** despite increased security & access in 2019 the past two years have seen a dramatic reversal due to three years of flooding, severe localized conflict events & youth agitation disrupting delivery of humanitarian assistance.

New displacements due to intercommunal fighting creates additional needs for humanitarian assistance that is causing resources gaps.

**Impact of funding constraints on response**

- **Food pipeline:** reduced ration for refugees and former POC residents from 100% to 50% in 2021; and funding shortfalls for 2022 will result in only nine counties of greatest risk (Fangak, Canal Pigi, Ayod, Leer, Mayendit, Pibor, Cueibet, North Rumbek & Tonj East) receiving 70% ration with other counties, at best, receiving 50% rations.

- **Livelihood pipeline:** essential for protection and restoration of rural livelihoods was only 40% funded in 2021 and there are similar trends for 2022.

**Seasonal Calendar**

South Sudan has 12 livelihood zones each with slightly different seasonal calendar in the Green belt with biannual rainfall.

**Immediate support required to:**

- Scale up Humanitarian food assistance to save lives and prevent collapse of livelihoods especially in counties of extreme & severe concern;
- Provide livelihood support through improved market access, provision of seeds and tools (farm inputs) to stimulate production back to surplus levels, particularly in the greenbelt (parts of Greater Equatoria);
- Maintain support to small scale subsistence producers in locations with less favorable agricultural potential and include animal health support;
- Scale up and improve access to basic services, including WASH and health service delivery throughout the year and emergency nutrition, especially during the lean season;
- Implement the peace agreement to address the root causes of insecurity.