



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

South Sudan

Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2018



South Sudan

Emergency Livelihood
Response Programme
2018

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Photo cover: Beneficiary working in her vegetable garden in Greater Bahr el-Ghalzal area thanks to FAO vegetable kits.

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Contents

A deteriorating situation	1
Overall context	1
Extreme levels of food insecurity and elevated risk of famine	2
Criticality of agricultural production to close the food gap	4
Regional contexts	5
Emergency Livelihood Response Programme	7
Leveraging impact by targeting at scale	7
Results framework	8
Implementation modalities: integrating quality and flexibility	16
Cross-cutting themes	22
Gender and nutrition	22
Accountability to affected populations	23
Budget	24



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Distribution of rapid response kits in Padding, Jonglei in July 2017. FAO's rapid response kits include fast-maturing vegetable and legume seed and fishing equipment to provide households affected by the crisis with quick access to nutritious food.

A deteriorating situation

Over the past four years, the food gap has widened at both local and national levels

Humanitarian needs in the Republic of South Sudan are increasing at an alarming rate as a result of the protracted crisis. With the declaration of famine in two counties of Unity in February 2017 and the continued escalation of food insecurity across the country since 2014 – and each subsequent year reaching new record highs – South Sudan’s food crisis is unprecedented.

Overall context

What began as a political conflict in December 2013 quickly took on a strong ethnic dimension, with tribal rivalries deepening, groups arming, aligning and re-aligning, and youth becoming increasingly charged. Peace processes have been continually undermined by outbreaks of violence, including the July 2016 crisis. The situation has evolved to become a three-fold crisis, encompassing violent conflict, economic turmoil and poor governance, exacerbated by climate extremes and the deterioration of already limited infrastructure. The implications are immense in terms of human and economic costs, social tolls and political instability, with immediate and long-lasting consequences for livelihoods and food security.

Over the past four years, the food gap has widened at both local and national levels. The cereal gap in 2017 was 500 000 tonnes, and the situation in 2018 is unlikely to improve. Conflict and political instability remain major drivers of food insecurity in South Sudan as recurring violence continues to displace populations and disrupt markets, livelihoods and humanitarian interventions. Crop, livestock and fisheries production, the main source of income and food security for at least 85 percent of the country’s population, has been hindered and limited by the insecurity. Consequently, the availability of and access to food has steadily declined.

The economy of South Sudan is on the brink of collapse. Oil, the country’s dominant export, has dropped in terms of production and globally prices have plummeted, significantly impacting the national budget. With extremely little investment and declining revenues, gross domestic product has decreased and employment is low. Depleted foreign exchange reserves and heavy domestic borrowing from the national bank have led to hyperinflation and widespread market failure.

In 2016, South Sudan claimed the highest food price inflation rates in the world, as high as 700 percent. Soaring prices are further constraining household access to food. Large sacks of staples such as sorghum, maize and wheat flour have increased in price by up to 281 percent compared with 2016, and were as high as 560 percent during May, the peak of the lean season. This is vastly beyond what most families can afford. The cost of the minimum expenditure basket has increased dramatically – by a factor of 24 (from SSP 930 to SSP 22 924) between April 2014 and October 2017. Purchasing power among consumers has been significantly eroded by the devaluation of the local currency, increasing transport costs and insecurity along roads. Fuelled by economic downturn and the effects of

conflict, market functionality has deteriorated, with a marked reduction in the number of cereal wholesalers in major consumption centres. This has destabilized food systems and household access to food and income.

Driven largely by conflict and related food insecurity, by the end of 2017 about 4 million South Sudanese had fled to other areas of the country or to other countries in the region. Massive displacement is having wide implications. Around one-third of the population have abandoned their homes, and many are unable to continue their livelihoods without assistance. As farmers leave typically surplus-producing areas – most notably Greater Equatoria – food availability is being severely compromised across South Sudan.



Fisher in Bahr el-Ghazal area showing his catch after receiving fishing inputs from FAO. Fishing inputs offer immediate relief to households experiencing food shortages, as it enables a fresh catch to feed a family from day one.

Governance has collapsed at all levels in conflict-affected areas; with a general lack of presence of the state, basic services are largely unavailable and basic infrastructure lacking or in disrepair. Movement is restricted by insecurity, road blocks, as well as taxation at random checkpoints. Connections with markets are limited for both traders and consumers, leaving producers without access to sell their goods and buyers without access to food, agricultural inputs or other household needs.

The provision of humanitarian aid has been critical to assisting vulnerable populations, but is constrained by the increasingly difficult operational environment. The number of attacks on humanitarian workers has risen, and looting of assets and aid supplies remains a challenge.

This is compounded by intermittent but reoccurring access restrictions. Furthermore, limited infrastructure renders a majority of the country inaccessible during the rainy season, which has made the procurement and distribution of aid complex and costly.

Extreme levels of food insecurity and elevated risk of famine

All available indicators point to an unprecedented deterioration of the food security situation across South Sudan in 2018. The risk of famine is still real for tens of thousands of people as local food production declines, markets are disrupted due to paralyzed trade routes, price soar and the economy teeters on the brink of collapse.

While the famine declared in February 2017 was quickly contained by the rapid delivery of massive, multisector humanitarian assistance to affected areas, by mid-year there were more severely food insecure South Sudanese than ever before. According to the May 2017 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, 6 million people were experiencing severe food insecurity from June to August about - 56 percent of the total population. The situation has since improved due to post-harvest gains, with 4.8 million people estimated to be severely food insecure between October and December 2017. The number of people experiencing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5 at household level) dropped from 40 000 to 25 000 people from August to September.

The overall food insecure population has grown considerably, shifting into worse classifications as the situation has deteriorated

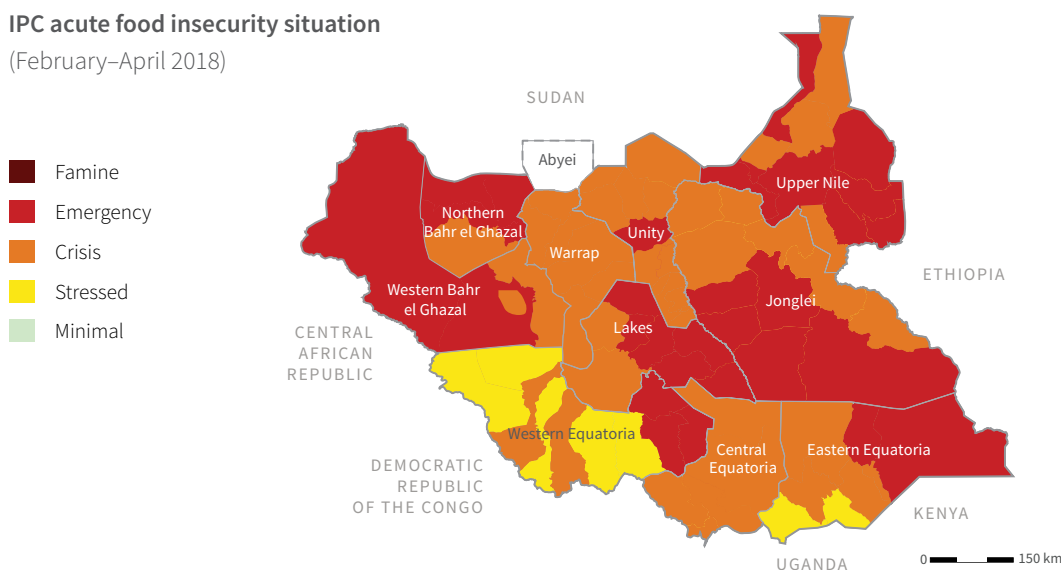
However, these improvements are likely to be short-lived with an expected early start of the lean season in March. The number of severely food insecure people climbed to 5.3 million in January 2018. This follows an alarming trend that has emerged over the past four years – harvest seasons are bringing less respite than they should, and seasonal fluctuations in food security are becoming less stark. The number of severely food insecure people at the time of harvest has grown at an accelerating rate since 2013, and conditions indicate this is likely to continue into 2018.

If timely humanitarian assistance is not provided at scale, 6.3 million people will be severely food insecure between February and April 2018

In the total absence of humanitarian assistance, 6.3 million people will be severely food insecure between February and April 2018 – this is about 57 percent of the country’s population. The peak of the lean season, around July, is when food insecurity levels are most dire. Household food stocks are typically depleted, food prices are at their highest and heavy rains restrict commodity flows into markets and disrupt humanitarian access. While wild foods, fish and milk consumption partially offset the food deficit during this season, it is not sustainable for long. From May to July 2018, an unprecedented 7.1 million South Sudanese will be severely food insecure if humanitarian assistance is not timely provided and at scale. Food insecurity levels have become progressively worse and lasted longer with each lean season, and the overall food insecure population has grown considerably, shifting into worse classifications as the situation has deteriorated.

The national cereal gap has widened significantly since the outbreak of conflict in 2013. Widespread insecurity and climatic extremes have led to below-average harvests, impacting food availability both at household and national levels. In 2017, the shortfall was estimated at 500 000 tonnes. The food gap in 2018 is likely to be similar, exacerbated by a reduction in area planted. In many areas, farmers are forced to leave agricultural land fallow or untended due to safety concerns, planting instead in limited spaces outside their homes or having to abandon their farms entirely. In some areas, dry conditions have constrained production, and throughout the country farmers lack access to necessary inputs and training on good

IPC acute food insecurity situation
(February–April 2018)



Source: South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group, January 2018

agricultural practices. In addition, the arrival of a new and devastating plant pest in 2017, the fall armyworm, has exacerbated the challenges facing farmers.

Low domestic crop production is impacting not only the food security of farmers, but those that rely on markets to meet their food needs. This has led to an increase in the prices of staple foods, further constraining access among households with poor purchasing power. This is felt hardest in areas that have traditionally been unable to meet food needs with local production – such as Greater Bahr el-Ghazal, as well as urban and peri-urban areas – which are notably not directly constrained by violence, but by the macroeconomic crisis and related market failure.

The conflict has had a significant impact on livestock production, with an estimated real loss of between USD 3.35 and USD 5.08 billion in gross domestic product attributed to the sector. Trade and migration routes have been disrupted, the risk and occurrence of cattle raids has increased, and tensions between and among livestock holders and settled farmers heightened. Resulting low levels of meat and milk production are affecting household income generation, food security and nutrition. In addition to abnormal migration, damage to critical livestock infrastructure (notably the cold chain network, necessary for the viability of veterinary medicines and vaccines), have contributed to enhanced livestock morbidity and mortality rates.

Fisheries-based livelihoods have been impacted by limited access to fishing grounds and markets, as well as damage to transport infrastructure, leading to low production and higher levels of post-harvest losses. In swampland areas where families are sheltering from violence, their ability to catch much-needed fish is constrained by extremely limited access to necessary inputs. In addition, internally displaced populations are straining limited natural resources, depleting woodfuel sources around camps and settlements.

In addition, malnutrition levels are very concerning. Rates of Global Acute Malnutrition remain critical, and in many areas above the emergency threshold of 15 percent. A worsening nutrition situation – not typical in the harvest season – has been observed in Greater Equatoria (particularly in Central Equatoria) and parts of Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap.



Farmer weeding his crops planted with seeds received during FAO emergency livelihood response programme distribution in Greater Upper Nile area.

Criticality of agricultural production to close the food gap

Since the outbreak of conflict, humanitarian food assistance has played a critical role in alleviating hunger, but it isn't enough to sustainably improve food security. The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan calls for the need to provide food aid and livelihood support to 5.7 million South Sudanese during the coming year. The amount of imported food it will take to cover this need is massive, and is unlikely to cover the entire food gap.

Given the bleak food security outlook for 2018, it will be critical to support the agricultural livelihoods of vulnerable families to improve local food

availability and access. By supporting farming families to produce food for themselves and even the wider community, reliance on external food aid is likely to decrease. The government and humanitarian partners can significantly reduce the amount of funding spent on meeting the food needs of vulnerable people. In addition to greater value for money, support to agriculture entails other wide-reaching benefits, such as increasing labour opportunities in rural areas, sustainably supporting local food production and enabling people to maintain their livelihoods where it is safe to do so.

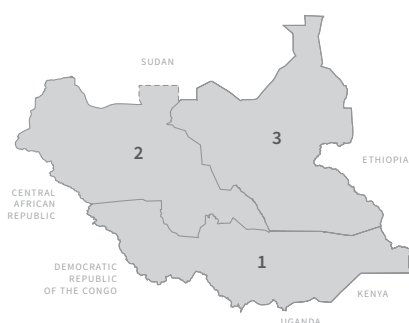
Regional contexts

South Sudan has three main regions: Greater Equatoria (1), Greater Bahr el-Ghazal (2) and Greater Upper Nile (3). Each have been affected by the crisis differently, and therefore require responses that are tailored to the specific challenges facing livelihoods and food security in those areas.

The Greater Equatoria region has been severely affected by insecurity and the economic crisis, which have disrupted agriculture-based livelihoods – and for a traditionally surplus-producing area, this has been hard-hitting. Farmers were not able to safely access their fields to plant, fishers unable to venture out to fishing grounds and traders limited by hyperinflation, lack of hard currency, insecurity and access. More than 1 million people from Greater Equatoria have fled to Uganda, citing insecurity and hunger as the main reasons for fleeing. Displacement has left many farmers without access to the tools and inputs needed to restart their livelihood activities when they return to their lands or settle with host communities.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal, a region traditionally dependent on markets, has been heavily impacted by disrupted trade routes and diminished purchasing power of the local currency. As a result of these factors, as well as inter-communal conflict, massive displacement and climate extremes that have affected production, the region faces record levels of food insecurity, with the largest number of food insecure people. Alarming rates of malnutrition were observed in Wau, Raja and Baggari in 2017, and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has steadily grown since the eruption of fighting in October 2016. Given heavy dependence on markets in this region, interventions that promote local food production will go a long way in improving household food security.

In Greater Upper Nile, recurrent fighting has caused massive displacement, impacting livelihoods and disrupting humanitarian access. Conflict has also affected livestock migratory routes, resulting in an increase of livestock disease incidents and compounded by weakened capacity to respond. While humanitarian partners were able to scale up response activities in 2017 to mitigate the impact of famine, if assistance is hampered this year, the situation is expected to deteriorate. In this region especially, there is need to support the livelihoods of displaced families, as well as those returning to areas such as Bentiu.



Source: FAO South Sudan, 2016



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Woman harvesting sorghum in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal area after receiving crop seeds from FAO.

Emergency Livelihood Response Programme



to assist
800 000 households
(4.8 million people)
80% of households in IPC 3
100% of households in IPC 4 & 5



FAO requires
USD 75 million



period
2018

Targets



Support crop, vegetable
and fisheries production
to produce at least
300 000 tonnes
of food



7.4 million
animals vaccinated
1.3 million animals treated

In 2018, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in South Sudan must respond to the highest levels of food insecurity ever recorded in the country. To address this challenge, FAO revised its multiyear Emergency Livelihood Response Programme (ELRP) to enable rapid food production among the most vulnerable communities, protect their livelihoods and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid while building their resilience.

Drawing on experience from the past four years of ELRP implementation and building on its work in 2017, FAO will continue to deliver time-critical emergency livelihood kits to protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable. This will include support to crop and vegetable production during the main and lean seasons, as well as support to fishing activities. In conflict-affected areas, rapid response missions will be critical to delivering severely food insecure households kits comprising a combination of inputs tailored to their specific needs.

FAO's emergency response programme is part of the Organization's broader resilience-building efforts in South Sudan, bridging the divide between humanitarian and development outcomes. This year, the ELRP includes resilience outputs to go beyond emergency response programming and contribute to a longer-term vision for food security in locations where feasible, including the creation of better linkages between short- and long-term interventions.

Leveraging impact by targeting at scale

This year, FAO aims to reach at least 800 000 food insecure households through emergency livelihood support and resilience-building activities. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable, including women-headed households, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities, and programming will take into account the specific needs of women and youth, who will represent at least 60 percent of FAO's beneficiaries in 2018.

ELRP beneficiaries will fall into one of two groups: those receiving emergency support and those with the potential to benefit from longer-term resilience activities. The programme will provide the flexibility to determine the exact geographical location of beneficiaries based on the latest IPC results, as well as the most recent assessment and monitoring data. Detailed targeting criteria will be developed for the selection of vulnerable households.

Households targeted to benefit from emergency livelihood support will be those facing severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) that possess basic knowledge and skills in crop, vegetable and/or fisheries production and have sufficient access to land and water.



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Women carrying a sack of fishing equipment and seeds from the helicopter to the distribution site in Greater Upper Nile area.

For households to be linked to longer-term resilience-building activities, a certain level of stability, security and access is required. Target beneficiaries will therefore be in IPC Phases 2 and 3 (Stressed and Crisis).

Results framework

Through the implementation of the 2018 ELRP, FAO aims to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid by protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population groups and increase food production while building communities' resilience.

Outcome 1. Livelihoods of the most vulnerable households protected

FAO aims to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid by protecting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable population groups while building their resilience

Focusing on emergency activities to safeguard livelihoods and provide lifesaving support to the most vulnerable (those facing Crisis, Emergency and Catastrophe/Famine levels of food insecurity), under Outcome 1 FAO aims to support the most vulnerable to maintain or resume food production. Activities will revolve around the timely provision of inputs necessary to engage in crop, vegetable and fisheries production and protect livestock assets.

FAO emergency livelihood kits*

Crop production support	Vegetable production support	Fishing kit	Rapid response kit
Three types of crop seed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 kg maize • 5 kg cowpea • 3-5 kg sorghum 	At least five types of vegetable seed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 g amaranth, collard, eggplant, onion, tomato • 30 g watermelon, pumpkin • 50 g okra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 hooks • One coil of monofilament • Two spools of twine 	Seed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 g amaranth • 20 g collard • 50 g okra • 5 kg cowpea
At least one agricultural tool: maloda (shovel), rake, hoe, sickle	At least one agricultural tool: maloda (shovel), rake, hoe, sickle		One agricultural tool: One fishing kit

*Composition will vary depending on context and agro-ecological zone.

FAO emergency livelihood support by season

	Main season	Second season	Lean season	Rapid response
Type of support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop production support • Vegetable production support • Fishing kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop production support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetable production support • Fishing kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid response kit
Households	400 000	70 000	155 000	175 000

Output 1.1. Increased access to emergency livelihood inputs by food insecure and displaced households to maintain food production

In 2018, soaring food insecurity and an elevated risk of famine will require targeted livelihoods response to support local food production.

FAO's livelihood kits are designed to be easily portable, provide maximum nutritional value and minimize time to harvest. The kits are adaptable, building on a minimum kit composition depending on needs. Customizations – such as additional tools or substituting different crop types – are made based on agro-ecological zones, beneficiaries' preferences and local agricultural knowledge. For instance, while in Greater Equatoria the preferred staple crop is maize, in the rest of the country it is sorghum.

FAO will provide livelihood inputs according to seasonality, supporting crop, vegetable and fisheries production in the main season, and vegetable and fisheries production in the lean season. A total of 800 000 households are targeted to receive livelihoods support in 2018. Some households will benefit during both the main and lean seasons, and the type of kit they receive will depend on the agro-ecological zone, preference and the prevailing situation. Rapid response kits will be provided to extremely vulnerable households wherever necessary.

In preparation for the main planting season – from March to June – FAO aims to reach 400 000 households with livelihoods kits. For the second agricultural season in Greater Equatoria, FAO plans to reach some 70 000 households. Household will receive up to 15 kg of crop seed each (nearly double the amount provided in 2017) and a hand tool. A rapid seed security assessment will be carried out early 2018 in order to determine the most suitable method for seed distribution. This will be followed by a more comprehensive national seed security assessment mid-year to better understand how the conflict has affected the seed system in the country.

Seed fairs will be prioritized over the direct distribution modality wherever seed is available and security permits as they enable farmers to choose their preferred seed variety and engage with local seed producers, thereby supporting the local economy. In addition, FAO aims to provide vegetable production inputs (comprising five to seven types of seed and a hand tool) and fishing kits (containing hooks, monofilament and twine) to enhance diet diversification and nutrition status of the targeted population.

During the lean season (November to February), when household food security is typically low, FAO plans to provide 155 000 vulnerable beneficiary households with livelihood support according to rapid need assessments results. The vegetable and fishing kits will increase households' access to nutritious food outside of the main planting season. FAO also aims to continue its implementation of nutrition vouchers, facilitating access to fresh nutritious food among the most vulnerable households. Where feasible, nutrition vouchers will be redeemable at local markets for vegetables, milk, fish and other food products. The intervention will enhance linkages with market traders as well as support the local economy. The intervention has been linked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) therapeutic feeding centres, which will be continued.

FAO's rapid response will include fast-maturing vegetable and legume seed as well as fishing equipment to provide 175 000 households affected by the ongoing crisis with access to nutritious food, fast – vegetables will be ready to eat after one month of cultivation, while fishing tools can enable a fresh catch to feed a family from day one. The assistance specifically tailored according to the needs of households in the most severely food insecure areas of the country, with distributions based on assessments, such as inter-agency response needs, food security and livelihoods assessments. FAO will directly distribute the tailored kits by helicopter or small plane to areas NGOs are unable to reach and are inaccessible over land. To ensure complementarity, FAO activities will be coordinated with various rapid response operations by other agencies.

Output 1.2. Improved livestock health through provision of animal health services

In South Sudan, where livestock are an important social and economic asset, endemic diseases undermine livestock production. The current conflict has caused abnormal migration, which has in turn increased the likelihood of disease outbreaks as well as heightened tensions between herders and settled farmers. Local and national capacity to monitor, control and respond to these diseases is severely limited. Annually, over 7 million livestock are in need of vaccination and over 1 million in need of treatment in South Sudan. Since milk and meat are the major sources of food security for pastoral and agropastoral communities – and critical to people’s survival in times of crisis – keeping livestock healthy has a direct impact on people’s health and income. Through the ELRP, FAO will prioritize emergency animal health services to prevent and contain livestock disease outbreaks.

In 2018, FAO aims to vaccinate 7.4 million animals and treat 1.3 million animals by continuing to work closely through the network of community-based animal health workers established in the past years. Community-based animal health workers will receive a livestock kit and training, and support will be given to link them up with veterinary pharmacies for subsequent drug supply. The ELRP will promote cost-recovery where feasible, meaning that herders will be asked to pay a fee for services by community-based animal health workers. This will both contribute to make such services sustainable for the future and encourage farmers to have an active stake in the health of their animals.

To facilitate the emergency animal health campaigns, FAO will continue its efforts to re-establish the national cold chain network to its full potential. Across the country, 86 solar cold chain facilities for vaccines have been established, but require additional solar fridges and equipment. In 2018, an additional 46 cold chain facilities will be established to facilitate animal health campaigns in other areas. There are four vaccine cold chain hubs in Juba, Rumbek, Wau and Torit; there is need to establish additional hubs in Abyei, Malakal and Bor as UNHAS does not always have the capacity to transport animal vaccines to various locations when they are urgently required. FAO will continue to work with the relevant ministries and local institutions to ensure a reliable and stable supply of veterinary drugs, vaccines and equipment to safeguard livestock production.

FAO also plans to scale up the engagement of communities in livelihood interventions as an entry point for larger community dialogue around important agricultural and resource issues in ways that ease tensions and reconcile inter-communal conflict. For example, animal vaccinations campaigns in Abyei Administrative Area brought different tribes together to negotiate over shared grazing land and water resources. Wherever possible, FAO will try to be a catalyst for such dialogue in the process of implementing the ELRP.



©FAO/Lieke Visser

FAO beneficiaries discussing seed selection with a trader during a seed fair in Greater Equatoria area. Seed fairs are the preferred modality of distribution as it enables farmers to choose their preferred seed variety and engage with local seed producers, thereby supporting the local economy.

Output 1.3. Increased access to timely agriculture information for informed decision-making

Accurate and timely food security information and analysis is crucial to inform evidence-based decision-making and monitoring. As a technical agency specialized in gathering, analysing and generating food security and agriculture information, FAO is strengthening South Sudan's national capacity for food security data collection, analysis and coordination through support to the IPC, which remains a key assessment tool to guide humanitarian interventions.

Existing food security monitoring tools will be tailored to assess the impact of ELRP interventions in improving the food security and nutrition status of the target households and communities. Collected data will further support evidence-based targeting, ensure accountability to affected populations, determine the value for money achieved through the interventions, and allow FAO and partners to learn lessons from the various activities implemented through the programme.

In addition to food security and nutrition monitoring, FAO monitors markets, rainfall patterns and crop production, and develops partners' capacity to collect and analyse information. This is critical in providing an accurate picture of the evolving food security and livelihood situation – helping to focus assistance in communities that need it most. Early warning is key to equipping farming communities (90 percent of agricultural production depends on rainfall) and policy-makers with the knowledge they need to improve production and food security programming.



FAO field monitors visit farmers in Greater Bahr el-Ghazal area to assess crop yields and production during the 2017 main planting season. FAO is strengthening South Sudan's national capacity for food security data collection, analysis and coordination.

FAO will continue to provide the humanitarian community with relevant data and sound analysis. As the co-lead of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster in South Sudan together with the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO will continue to coordinate the food security and livelihoods interventions of humanitarian agencies across the country and contribute to building the capacities of humanitarian actors beyond its direct implementing partners.

To support the generation of reliable statistics on crop yields and production and enhance ownership, FAO plans to continue to build country-level capacity following the methodology and road map already piloted through national task forces. Under the ELRP, FAO will train extension workers and establish several county crop monitoring committees that will collect data and provide analysis and reporting on a long-term basis. Under the ELRP, a country-wide seed security assessment will be conducted to inform decision-makers on status of seed systems, trends and options for further development.

Outcome 2. Increased household- and community-level resilience to food and nutrition insecurity

In providing a stronger foundation for food security, the resilience component of the ELRP strategy for 2018 links each of the emergency activities to longer-term support. This has to be done in a way that is flexible enough to address the unpredictable and changing context, while at the same time helping to rebuild social cohesion. Building economic

interdependence is key to enhancing food security and nutrition, linking producers with markets while strengthening production capacity. It also improves livelihood resilience of different categories of the community, with emphasis on youth and women. Increased resilience at household and community levels will ultimately reduce dependency on food aid.

Output 2.1. Increased household capacity in crop, horticulture and fisheries production and diversification, and post-harvest handling thanks to improved practices

FAO aims to support households to restore and strengthen their main existing income and food generation activity to become net food producers. Particular attention will be given to improving the most critical points in the production chain (e.g. access to quality inputs and improved production, storage, processing and marketing techniques) in a way that enables beneficiaries to cope with the current insecurity and economic instability. Through these means, farmers will strengthen their capacity to increase their food production and income.

Agricultural production is limited by several factors in South Sudan. Farmers largely engage in rainfed subsistence farming, and typically employ inefficient agronomic practices that lack market orientation. Quality inputs (e.g. seed and tools) are difficult to access. Rainfall variability remains a major factor in determining crop performance, and extension services have been disrupted by low government capacity and budget. In addition, post-harvest losses occur as a result of inadequate post-harvest techniques and storage facilities for their harvested produce. Similarly, despite South Sudan's fisheries potential, production is constrained by a lack of access to appropriate inputs, lack of storage facilities and poor transport infrastructure.

To improve households' resilience, FAO will promote the adoption of improved production and post-harvest practices. The ELRP will promote the adoption of climate-smart and conservation agriculture practices to ensure stable yields, as well as seed multiplication activities to increase the availability of quality seed at local level. Extension services and training will promote appropriate food processing and preservation technologies in order to reduce post-harvest losses, add value and improve household income. This will include training on fish processing technologies.

Output 2.2. Improved nutritional status of women and children by promoting school gardens and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Displacement, poor access to services, disease outbreaks and a very poor diets (in terms of quantity, diversification and quality) have driven up already high levels of malnutrition across South Sudan. While nutrition partners such as UNICEF and WFP have established feeding centres to support children and mothers affected by malnutrition, a coordinated

The resilience component of the ELRP strategy for 2018 links emergency activities to longer-term support



Women planting vegetable seeds received after a distribution in Greater Upper Nile area. FAO's livelihood kits are designed to be easily portable, provide maximum nutritional value and minimize time to harvest.

effort to promote food-based nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production is vital. This involves increasing access to nutritious food, in particular through support to the production of key staples and vegetables. This will ensure families that have recovered from malnutrition can continue improving their health and nutrition through local production and feeding practices.

In many schools, food security and livelihood partners have introduced feeding programmes (e.g. WFP's Food for Education programme) to increase enrolment and attendance. To supplement these programmes and eventually phase them out where possible, school gardens and demonstration plots will be introduced at selected schools through the ELRP. This initiative will include trainings for teachers, student groups and parent associations on how to tend to the plots to ensure they produce the maximum amount of nutritious food to students, teachers and the wider school community. This approach also recognizes that schools are the places where future farmers are formed and that instilling an interest and skills in agriculture at this early stage will have long-term benefits for food security in these communities. As an incentive for parents to send their children to school, FAO will also provide support to parent associations through conditional inputs vouchers, which they, in turn, can use to purchase seeds and tools for their own production. This activity goes hand-in-hand with the distribution of nutrition vouchers described under Output 1.1.



FAO beneficiaries register for the distribution of inputs in Greater Upper Nile area. FAO aims to support households to restore and strengthen their main existing income and food generation activity.

Output 2.3. Improved agriculture tools and equipment production capacity and maintenance skills through vocational training

In order to reduce post-harvest losses and support the capacity development of farmers, FAO aims to introduce various technologies (such as silos) and processing equipment in rural areas. However, the sustainable use of such technologies is entirely dependent on the skills and capacity of local artisans to produce and maintain them (e.g. blacksmiths). With the aim of helping facilitate the introduction of agriculture-oriented technologies, FAO will engage selected vocational training centres in an effort to make support to the agriculture sector an integral part of their training curriculum. FAO and its partners will first assess existing vocational and technical trainings in the country to identify capacity gaps and potential to support the agriculture sector. Based on the assessment results, FAO will strengthen skills training in the production and maintenance of appropriate farm implements and other equipment, for onward support to local food production.

Implementation modalities: integrating quality and flexibility

ELRP procurement and logistics

Key to FAO's ELRP is massive-scale procurement and logistics operations, as well as partnerships with frontline organizations. FAO will establish a pipeline of inputs, procuring agricultural goods (seeds, tools, etc.) in bulk to be delivered to primary warehouses for further distribution as tailored

kits to beneficiaries by food security and livelihoods partners, along with relevant sensitization and/or training. In areas where no partner is present, FAO will directly distribute inputs.

As the main pipeline supplier of food security and livelihood inputs for the Cluster, FAO ensures adequate and timely planning and coordination in order to guarantee interventions adhere to quality standards, are technically appropriate and inputs are properly distributed. During the procurement process, quality is FAO's first priority, followed by competitive selection of local and international suppliers. For agricultural inputs, it is critical to ensure the quality of procured is controlled throughout the process. In terms of seed procurement, FAO confirms procured seed varieties are aligned with an approved list provided by the national Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to ensure the seeds perform well in the areas they are distributed. The seed is then inspected at loading and unloading sites by external companies, and cross-checked by FAO's technical team.

In addition to FAO's warehouses in Juba, Bor, Rumbek, Torit and Wau, in 2018 new warehouses will be set up in Maban and Yambio to facilitate the importation and distribution of inputs from new sources. The field warehouses will store livelihood items for further release to partners operating in the respective regions.

Wherever possible, FAO works with both national and international partners that have adequate operational and technical capacities on the ground to distribute inputs and services to end beneficiaries. Having worked with over 70 implementing partners, FAO has established and expanded networks to cover each subregion, county and payam of South Sudan. As part of the Organization's commitment to improve localization under the Grand Bargain and build the capacity of partners operational in the field, FAO provides a series of training sessions on a wide range of topics to enhance the capacity and improve the overall performance of its partners. This includes required sessions on accountability to affected communities, gender-sensitive programming, monitoring and evaluation and information management. To further ensure that partners implement projects according to the agency's rules and standards, FAO has its own internal monitoring and financial audits systems by which it assesses partners' performance and holds them accountable.

Implementing partners will collect pipeline inputs at various locations, depending on the capacity of the partner and any situational or logistical constraints, and distribute to the intended area and households. However, for most of the inputs, direct distribution will be the only possible means. This year, FAO must continue to operate in a complex environment where insecurity and access restrictions continue to pose a risk to response activities. Increased insecurity forced FAO in its recent campaigns to rely heavily on air transport – both rotary and fixed wing – for the pre-positioning and delivery of inputs to their final destination.



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FAO staff working in the warehouse in the capital, Juba, to ensure timely delivery of livelihood inputs across the country.

FAO has revised its strategy each year to address new challenges facing food and agriculture, integrate lessons learned and adapt modalities to the prevailing situation

Acting on learning

FAO first developed its ELRP for South Sudan following the outbreak of conflict in 2014, and has revised its strategy each year to address new challenges facing food and agriculture, integrate lessons learned and adapt modalities to the prevailing situation. Correspondingly, the 2018 ELRP draws from the previous four years of implementation with a view to future multiyear planning. Lessons learned from implementation over the previous campaign were consolidated and used to improve on future planning and implementation. The following recommendations and lessons learned will inform the implementation of the 2018 ELRP and future programming.

Timeliness of ELRP response

Thanks to timely procurement, FAO was able to roll out the 2017 response in a relatively short timeframe, which added greatly to its impact. Through the diversification of input supply and suppliers, FAO will ensure timeliness is a priority for the 2018 ELRP. Engaging resource partners on the importance to address the seasonality aspects of its interventions will be a key feature of FAO's planning.

Expanding the implementation of seed fairs

In 2017, FAO expanded its implementation of seed fairs beyond Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el-Ghazal to include areas of Greater Upper Nile. Farmers, traders and FAO staff have all responded positively to seed fairs as they provide farmers with the option to choose from a variety of seed suitable for their region, while also supporting the local seed sector. In 2018, FAO plans to further expand seed fairs in areas identified to have conducive conditions according to the national seed security assessment.

Timely procurement of quality seed

A key challenge faced in 2017 was the availability of quality seed, particularly maize, owing to import restrictions as a result of Maize Lethal Necrosis disease in neighbouring countries, and limited domestic production as a result of conflict and displacement. The import restriction of maize seed has since been lifted and in the implementation of the 2018 ELRP, FAO will expand the international and local procurement coverage of seed and introduce new warehouse hubs to facilitate the importation and distribution of inputs from new sources. In addition, the 2018 campaign will increase the amount of seed amount distributed to each household from 8 kg in 2017 up to 15 kg in 2018. This amount of seed – if managed well, and given a normal rainfall season – is sufficient to produce enough food for a family of six for 12 months.

Nutrition-sensitive response

The economic downturn and ongoing insecurity continue to disrupt markets, with a marked reduction in the number of wholesalers in major consumption centres. Similarly, consumers' purchasing power has been significantly eroded by the further devaluation of the local currency, increasing transport costs and insecurity along main trading routes. As a result, a balanced diet is out of reach for many. FAO will thus continue to specifically target affected communities through the provision of agricultural inputs to boost the production of vegetables, cereals, legumes and fish in order to help meet families' nutrition requirements. In addition, FAO's nutrition vouchers will contribute to enhancing vulnerable families' access to fresh vegetables, fish, milk and meat. Support to school gardens and training in fish and vegetable processing will further provide essential proteins and vitamins.

Multi-agency rapid response actions

In 2017, FAO set up a dedicated team to deliver rapid response, enhancing timely response to the rapidly expanding emergency situation in the areas where famine was declared or likely to occur. The rapid response operation particularly underscores FAO's strength in accessing locations which NGOs cannot reach due to safety and security concerns. As insecurity and access issues increase, the need for such teams will likely expand. To enhance impact, FAO aligns this operation jointly with other rapid response interventions facilitated by WFP, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other agencies.

Enhanced impact through increased collaboration with other organizations

Interventions that are coordinated with other humanitarian stakeholders can significantly increase the number of lives saved, boost food security and build the long-term resilience of households and communities, while often saving resources in the process. In order to increase the impact of its interventions, FAO continues its commitment to collaborating with other agencies.

As co-leads of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in South Sudan, FAO and WFP have a presence across the country. Regular cluster meetings with partners' response teams ensure emergency livelihood and food security response actions are appropriate, coordinated and timely. Given the complex operating environment and dire outlook for food security in 2018, the Cluster will remain an important forum for identifying priorities based on sound evidence, developing strategies for targeting beneficiaries and using resources efficiently, and building synergies among the various interventions and coordinating with other, related clusters in the country such as the Nutrition Cluster. The current cluster coordination mechanism



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FAO field staff receiving FAO inputs in Greater Upper Nile area from the capital, Juba, in collaboration with WFP. In 2018, FAO will strengthen and scale up joint and complementary programming with WFP.

should be strengthened to fine-tune response activities and implement joint decisions on the ground. The Cluster has recruited Area Cluster Coordinators currently covering Greater Bahr el-Ghazal, the Greater Upper Nile and the Greater Equatoria, as well as the Abyei Administrative Area to enhance harmonized response and avoid overlap. Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster members participate in IPC and other food security and agriculture assessments, as well as joint rapid response missions. Where possible, FAO works to build the capacity of humanitarian actors beyond its direct implementing partners.

To enhance the efficiency of emergency response and its impact on beneficiaries, in 2018, FAO will strengthen and scale up joint and complementary programming with WFP. This will include employing WFP's biometric targeting system where possible, as well as complementing response by continuing the coordination of the distribution of crop, vegetable and fishing inputs to WFP food aid beneficiaries to ensure households' immediate food needs are met while they pursue livelihoods activities, helping ensure that the inputs provided are not sold. Furthermore, FAO aims to transport 80 percent of its inputs through the WFP-led Logistics Cluster.

In terms of complementing WFP's food and cash for assets programmes – such as clearing land for crop production, digging wells and building dykes for floodwater management – FAO will provide livelihoods inputs and training to the same beneficiaries. FAO will also align its efforts with the WFP's Purchase for Progress programme to enhance beneficiaries' agricultural production so food products can be sold through established markets.

Likewise, FAO will seek to target families receiving assistance from UNICEF and WFP health and feeding centres with nutrition voucher and other livelihoods support. In addition, coordination with UNICEF will also be

strengthened in the education and nutrition sector under the 2018 ELRP's resilience component. Interventions will also continue to link with OCHA's inter-cluster rapid response mechanism as much as possible.

Streamlining monitoring and evaluation

Regular monitoring will be carried out to ensure activities remain relevant and useful according to needs on the ground, and are achieved as planned. Monitoring of performance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact will be conducted through strengthening FAO's existing monitoring and evaluation system at national and regional levels. A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy for the 2018 ELRP is available upon request.

FAO continues to build on its programme-cycle tracking and reporting system, which provides detailed and timely information to stakeholders on emergency operations. Monitoring data will be collected through field visits, routine project records and beneficiary tracking data, such as attendance lists for training sessions, farmer/fisherfolk registration records and cooperatives' records. In order to reduce costs, increase accuracy and for the ease communication, the monitoring system will use mobile devices for data collection. Also key to the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation system will be building the capacity of implementing partners through the provision of trainings and technical support as well as ensuring accountability and compliance with harmonized sets of quality standards.

FAO field staff collecting data from targeted areas. Regular monitoring will be carried out to ensure activities remain relevant and useful according to the needs on the ground, and are achieved as planned.

In addition to monitoring the livelihood kits distribution process and assessing the satisfaction of beneficiaries, in 2018 FAO will focus on results-based monitoring. Presence in the field will be ensured to monitor distribution and, where possible, assess implementation following planting and post harvest. Working closely with the field monitors, an FAO



monitoring and evaluation expert will be fully assigned to the emergency response programme. Emphasis will be placed on the implementation of results-based monitoring tools, including a post-planting assessment to determine changes in area planted and adoption of improved techniques, a post harvest assessment to determine changes in production at household and county level, and an impact assessment to determine changes in income, nutrition status, IPC phase classification and resilience. Findings from results-based monitoring will be linked to a dashboard, which will be updated and circulated to the wider humanitarian community on a regular basis, and inform in real time.

In addition, FAO will seek to more rigorously assess and analyse resilience levels in South Sudan, including through research studies of measuring how households cope with shocks and stressors. While the security situation may constrain this initiative, it could be an important step to formulate appropriate resilience-related programming and criteria for more in-depth resilience monitoring in South Sudan.

Cross-cutting themes

Gender and nutrition

While South Sudan has a number of policies and protocols that support gender equality and participation, implementation of these at the national and local levels remains weak. Access to technology is also limited, especially among women. Due to the lack of land tenure policies, access to the use and ownership of land often disadvantages women. Conflict, displacement, fragile governance systems and the deterioration of infrastructure and basic services have helped increase the inequalities between men and women, resulting in increased labour of women. In the most conflict-affected areas, a rapid disruption of livelihoods with severe depletion and loss of productive assets and massive displacement have been seen, with an increased number of female-headed households, as well as loss of social safety nets. This also has an impact on child nutrition outcomes, as women may not have adequate time to feed and care for their children.

The economic and social costs of acute and chronic under nutrition are unacceptably high in South Sudan. Acute malnutrition mostly affects children under five and women, as well as other vulnerable groups. Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition are nine times more likely to die than their healthy peers. The continued increase in malnutrition has been driven by rising food insecurity, spread of endemic diseases, limited access to safe water and sanitation, and declining availability of health and nutrition services, especially in areas affected by conflict. Addressing malnutrition in this context requires complementary multisectoral strategies and approaches that respond both to long-term development challenges and to immediate needs, linked to the survival and well-being of families and communities.

Community resilience, as well as the elimination of hunger, cannot be achieved without closing the gap between women and men in agriculture and food production, as well as ensuring the protection of vulnerable women. Reducing malnutrition is also crucial to strengthening resilience. When people are well nourished, they are healthier, can work harder and have greater physical reserves. Moreover, households that are nutrition secure are better able to withstand, endure longer and recover more quickly from external shocks.



In South Sudan, where livestock are an important social and economic asset, endemic diseases undermine livestock production. Protecting them from animal diseases is vital to food security.

The traditional role of agriculture in producing food and generating income is fundamental, but agriculture and the entire food system – from inputs and production, through processing, storage, transport and retailing, to consumption – can contribute significantly to the eradication of malnutrition. In recognition of this and women’s essential role in improving household food security and nutrition, FAO has designed its programme to respond to their needs. The ELRP seeks to help women as they help their families manage the consequences of crisis and food insecurity, providing opportunities for income generation and increasing access to nutritious food sources.

Emergency livelihood kits have been designed to be lightweight, enabling women to transport them easily. FAO’s vegetable kits enable women and their families to have increased access to nutritious food sources, while cultivating vegetables close to home. Although women do not often participate in fishing (as shown in an FAO field evaluation), women-headed households are still able to benefit from fishing kits as owners of the technology. Vegetable and fisheries production can benefit the most vulnerable both as a source of nutrition-rich food and to trade or barter in locations where markets are functioning.

Accountability to affected populations

In 2018, FAO will continue to promote an accountability to affected populations framework that will engage seven commitments:

- strengthening leadership and governance to embed good practices;
- greater and more routine transparency;
- feedback and timely response;
- fair and representative population;
- accountability to affected communities mainstreamed in design, monitoring and evaluation;
- prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; and
- collaboration with partners.

This approach calls for transparent targeting which involves the community through participatory rural appraisal to allow beneficiaries as well as non-beneficiaries to understand why they were or were not targeted. It is expected that this will help to reduce potential internal conflicts.

FAO developed a monitoring system in South Sudan to strengthen accountability to affected populations, which includes on-site monitoring during the distribution of inputs to obtain rapid feedback from beneficiaries. Post-distribution monitoring assessments will also obtain feedback on perceived positive aspects of assistance as well as shortcomings. Feedback will be taken into consideration and, where appropriate, will inform alterations to the design and implementation of activities. For example, in previous projects crop and vegetable kit compositions were modified based on beneficiary feedback received.

To ensure accountability to affected populations is mainstreamed in ELRP implementation, FAO has built implementing partners' capacities on the approach through the provision of guidelines, conducting trainings and setting up feedback mechanisms.

Budget

To deliver the 2018 ELRP, FAO requires an estimated USD 75 million, as per the below breakdown.

	Output	Total (USD)
Outcome 1. Livelihoods of the most vulnerable households protected	Output 1.1. Increased access to emergency livelihood inputs by food insecure and displaced households to maintain food production	56 million
	Output 1.2. Improved livestock health through provision of animal health services	10 million
	Output 1.3. Increased access to timely agriculture information for informed decision-making	3.5 million
Outcome 2. Increased household- and community-level resilience to food and nutrition insecurity	Output 2.1. Increased household capacity in crop, horticulture and fisheries production and diversification, and post-harvest handling thanks to improved practices	3 million
	Output 2.2. Improved nutritional status of women and children by promoting school gardens and nutrition-sensitive agriculture	1 million
	Output 2.3. Improved agriculture tools and equipment production capacity and maintenance skills through vocational training	1.5 million
Total		75 million

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