



Overview

The overall food and nutrition security situation has deteriorated in many parts of the country with an estimated 4.3 million people in Phases 3, 4 & 5¹ in April 2016, a significant increase from the 2.8 million people in January–March 2016 projection. This population is also a significant increase when compared to the 3.8 million people that faced severe food insecurity in April 2015. According to the normal ‘lean season’ pattern, the situation is expected to deteriorate further during the May–July 2016 lean season with an estimated 4.8 million people being severely food insecure. The current deterioration in food security and nutrition is primarily due to physical insecurity, the effects of the economic crisis and depleted stocks from the last harvest.

The worst affected population is likely to include the displaced, returning households and the low income earners who are characterized by minimal assets and low purchasing power to satisfy their food needs. Approximately 300,000 people are the urban poor/food insecure located in Juba, Wau and Aweil towns. In the current analysis, approximately 350,000 people in Protection of Civilians [PoC] and IDP camps are excluded because they are classified in Phase 2 although their survival depends on regular humanitarian assistance.

As the Peace Agreement is implemented and the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) starts functioning in earnest, it is expected that the physical security situation will gradually improve within the projection period (May–July 2016). This will have some positive impact on markets, livelihoods and humanitarian space. However, despite these limited gains the food security and nutrition situation between May and July 2016 will continue to be affected negatively due to the economic crisis, high food prices, pockets of insecurity and restrictions on movement as roads become impassable during the rainy season. Notwithstanding scaled up humanitarian assistance, the risk of famine cannot be ruled out in parts of former Unity state and the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region where some food security and nutrition indicators were within the Phase 5 thresholds during the analysis. The current monitoring system will be maintained and measures for real time access to areas at risk will be strengthened.

The IPC TWG recommends that Government and humanitarian and development partners should:

- Continue ongoing interventions to protect and save lives and livelihoods and scale up these same in counties where there are no interventions yet, especially in Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria regions.
- Scale up interventions to reduce structural causes and curb food and nutrition insecurity upward trends.
- Secure the environment for monitoring food security, nutrition and mortality data in the field to support real-time IPC updates.

Food Insecurity – April 2016

South Sudan is structurally import-dependent such that, on average, the country annually imports about 250,000 MT of cereals from Uganda, Sudan and Kenya. Despite a marginal increase in the national cereal production in 2015 compared to the five year (2011–2014) average, the aggregate cereal deficit for the year 2016 was estimated at 381,000 MT, higher than the 2015 deficit by over 100,000 MT. Physical insecurity in the former Western Equatoria State and prolonged dry spells in the former Eastern Equatoria State affected agricultural activities and production in these normally cereal surplus states. During the first quarter of 2016, cereal import reduced to 20 percent of the volume imported during the same period in 2015 due to the challenging environment characterized by a rapidly devaluing local

¹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, describes acute food insecurity at the household and area level. At the household level, Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) is described as: “Even with any humanitarian assistance, household group has an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies.” Famine (IPC Phase 5) applies to the area level and is declared when more than 20 percent of households are classified in Catastrophe, the prevalence of GAM exceeds 30 percent, and the Crude Death Rate exceeds 2/10,000/day.

currency, high informal taxes, limited access to hard currency, declining consumer purchasing power and deteriorating terms of trade between livestock and labour to cereals.

In April 2016, the highest proportions of populations in Crisis, Emergency and Catastrophe food insecurity situations were in former Unity (65 percent) – mainly due to insecurity - and former Northern Bahr el Ghazal (50 percent) - mostly attributed to market disruptions and deteriorating terms of trade (ToT). The Greater Upper Nile region remains structurally fragile and vulnerable to heightened food insecurity as a result of the protracted conflict, though physical insecurity has remarkably reduced in many locations since August 2015. Access to humanitarian assistance for the affected populations has greatly improved in former Unity and Jonglei states, and this has averted a catastrophe in the counties of Mayendit, Guit and Koch, whose populations were at risk of famine as per previous analysis. Humanitarian assistance has also improved food access in Duk county, which was inaccessible for the past two years. In Leer county, however, an estimated 5,000 people located in swampy hiding places with no access to humanitarian assistance were classified in a food security Catastrophe in April 2016.

Significant food security deterioration as a result of the current economic crisis in the highly market-dependent former Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal states has been observed. The disruptions of the western trade corridor through Western Equatoria State and the persistent violence in Wau county have further resulted in reduced trade flows into the region in addition to displacing thousands of rural residents into Wau Town. The closure of the Sudan/South Sudan border is also constraining cereal imports into the two former states. The Terms of Trade (ToT) for livestock/labour to cereal, an indicator for households' economic access to food, has fallen significantly compared to the same period last year chiefly as a result of faster growth in cereal prices compared to livestock prices and labour wages.

In the Greater Equatoria region, the food security situation has significantly deteriorated in parts of the former states of Western Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria due lack of stocks from last harvest, insecurity and population displacements, and the prevailing economic downturn, resulting in unprecedented 24 percent of its population experiencing Crisis and Emergency food security situations.

Food insecurity is causing a migration wave to the neighbouring countries. The population migrating from parts of former Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states are presumed to be mainly former returnees without established livelihoods, who have again been registering in refugee camps in Sudan. As of 25 April 2016, UNHCR and OCHA reported that about 54,000 South Sudanese had crossed the border to Sudan and the number was projected to increase to about 100,000 people by end of June 2016. In addition, about 28,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in Uganda, some 23,000 people have crossed into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), mostly from Western Equatoria, while some 4,185 South Sudanese refugees arrived at Kakuma camp in Kenya this year, the majority of whom are children and women fleeing from insecurity, food insecurity and high cost of living².

In April 2016, improvement in the former Lakes and Warrap states, and most parts of Greater Upper Nile region is recorded compared to the same period last year on account of diminished intensity of both political and resource-centred conflicts – e.g. cattle rustling. In those areas, relative conflict de-escalation has also partially eased constraints to humanitarian access, free movement, livelihood recovery and markets.

Nutrition IPC Classification – April 2016

The April 2016 IPC for Acute Malnutrition analysis was based on the recently released version of the global IPC for Acute Malnutrition tools and procedures. As a result, sufficient data was available in 15 counties and one PoC for the current classification. The nutrition situation is “Very Critical” in Wau while it remains “Critical” in Akobo, Nyirol, Yirol West, Aweil South, Koch, Mayendit, Panyijar, Fashoda, and Maiwut counties. In Bor South, Rumbek Centre, Leer, Bentiu PoC, and Malakal–Wau Shilluk, the nutrition situation is “Serious”. Significant improvement is noted in Bentiu PoC, which was in “Very Critical” situation in the December 2015 analysis. Although there was insufficient recent evidence to assess and determine the current classification in most counties, projection analysis was largely tenable using historical data.

² OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin, 09 May 2016

The major contributing factors to malnutrition in the worse-off counties are sub-optimal Infant and Young Children Feeding (IYCF) practices and poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and practices. Child feeding practices such as untimely introduction of complementary foods or poor quality and inadequate quantity of these foods contribute substantially to the high levels of malnutrition. Additionally, low exclusive breastfeeding practices are a key contributing factor to the nutrition situation in these areas. In terms of WASH, poor access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities is contributing significantly to high morbidity levels with a resultant adverse effect on nutrition. Furthermore, food insecurity in parts of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile states is at Emergency levels and contributes to the high levels of malnutrition in these areas.

Food Insecurity – May to July 2016 Projection

According to the normal seasonal pattern, the projection period coincides with the lean period, when most households have depleted their food stocks; food prices are at their highest; heavy rains make roads impassable and disrupt food commodity flows into markets; and it is premature to realize the full benefits of the rainy season in terms of increased availability of wild foods, milk, fish and green harvest. The total number of severely food insecure people is projected to increase from about 4.3 million in April to 4.8 million by July 2016. About 80 percent of this population will be from the former States of Unity, Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Despite the expected improvements in the physical security situation, the displaced and returning populations will have lost most of their livelihood assets and likely be unable to resume their livelihoods in a significant capacity. As an additional risk factor, a higher-than-normal flooding scenario is projected in flood-prone areas of Pibor, Pochalla, Lopa Lafon, Kapoeta North and Kapoeta East between June and July. While flooding is likely to increase fish availability and support recession farming later in the year, livelihoods will initially be disturbed through displacements and this will be manifested in the form of a declining food security situation in these locations.

It is imperative that in all areas humanitarian assistance must continue where it is currently underway with significant projected impacts in the benefiting locations. These counties are denoted by a lower IPC Phase followed by an exclamation mark (!) in the relevant counties in the IPC map in line with IPC procedures. It is imperative that food security and livelihoods humanitarian assistance in all areas with IPC Phase 3 and above, which are not currently receiving humanitarian assistance, especially in Greater Bahr el Ghazal and Equatoria regions.

Nutrition – May to July 2016 Projection

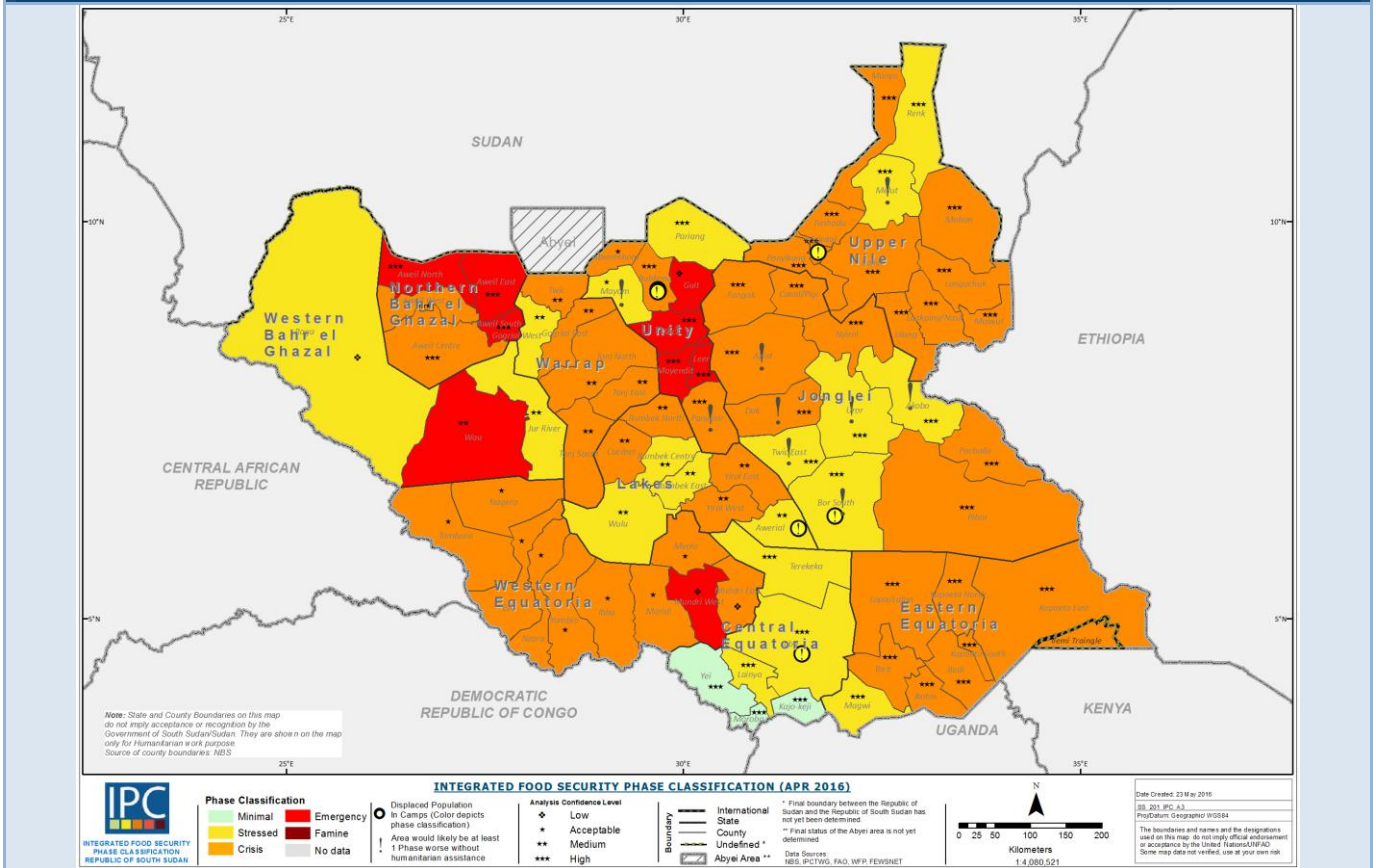
In the lean season (May–July 2016), the nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate further in several counties. Projection analysis was possible using historical data in counties with three data points of the same season in the last 3 years as well as the counties with recent data. In general, more than two thirds of the 44 counties analyzed are likely to be in “Critical” situation. These counties are mainly in Greater Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap and parts of Eastern Equatoria. Significant deterioration is also expected in Western Bahr el Ghazal’s Wau County where people that have been displaced due to recent on-going conflict are displaced to with no access to food. Central and Eastern Equatoria states are likely to be in alert phase. The major contributing factor to malnutrition in the lean season is likely to be higher incidence of waterborne diseases, which will compound already poor conditions (WASH, IYCF and food security). Therefore, close monitoring of the situation and scaling up of interventions to address the contributing factors is urgent, while continued focus on the treatment of acute malnutrition should also be prioritized.

This document updates the IPC projections made in December 2015, available here:

<http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-detail-forms/ipcinfo-map-detail/en/c/379480/>

For any comments or questions on this IPC update, please contact the Chairperson of the IPC Technical Working Group, Mr John Pangech at jo.pangech@yahoo.co.uk, or Mr Philip Dau, Deputy Chair from NBS at dabekdit@yahoo.com, or FAO Project Implementation Consultant, Sarah Wright at sarah.wright@fao.org

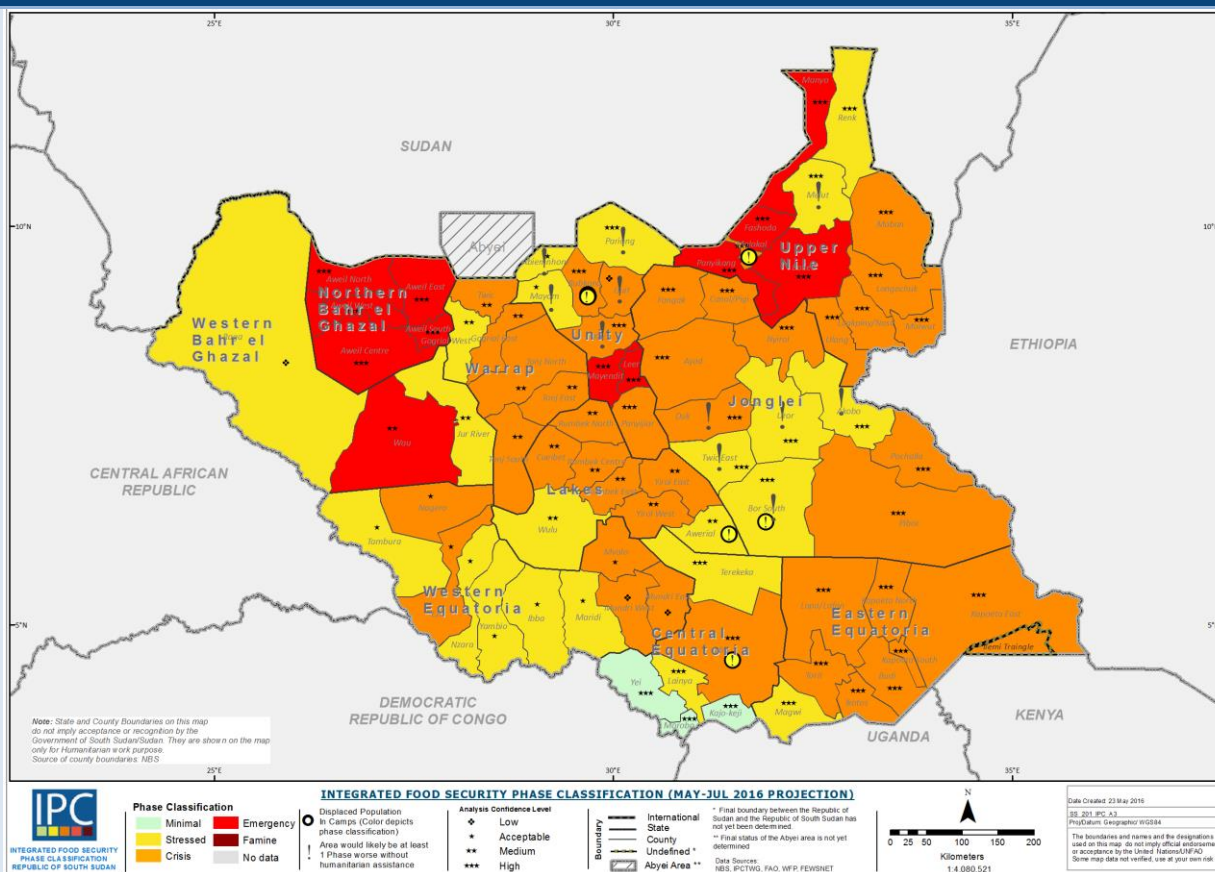
UPDATED IPC CLASSIFICATION FOR SOUTH SUDAN FOR APRIL 2016



Disclaimer: State and County boundaries on this map do not imply acceptance or recognition by the Government of South Sudan and partners. They are shown on the map only for humanitarian work purposes. Source: NBS

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION FOR APRIL 2016							
State	Mid-2016 Population (NBS)	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Catastrophe	% of Crisis, Emergency & Humanitarian Catastrophe
Central Equatoria	1,581,765	970,000	320,000	275,000	45,000	-	20.2%
Eastern Equatoria	1,142,503	255,000	470,000	305,000	110,000	-	36.3%
Jonglei	1,790,579	310,000	735,000	440,000	145,000	-	32.7%
Lakes	1,094,426	350,000	515,000	280,000	25,000	-	27.9%
Northern BeG	1,393,547	220,000	485,000	430,000	260,000	-	49.5%
Unity	1,030,081	205,000	345,000	515,000	160,000	5,000	65.5%
Upper Nile	1,236,597	165,000	440,000	420,000	70,000	-	39.6%
Warrap	1,299,058	305,000	520,000	375,000	100,000	-	36.6%
Western BeG	536,115	195,000	135,000	105,000	90,000	-	36.4%
Western Equatoria	798,416	300,000	335,000	140,000	40,000	-	22.5%
Total	11,903,088	3,275,000	4,300,000	3,285,000	1,045,000	5,000	36.4%

UPDATED IPC CLASSIFICATION FOR SOUTH SUDAN FOR MAY TO JULY 2016

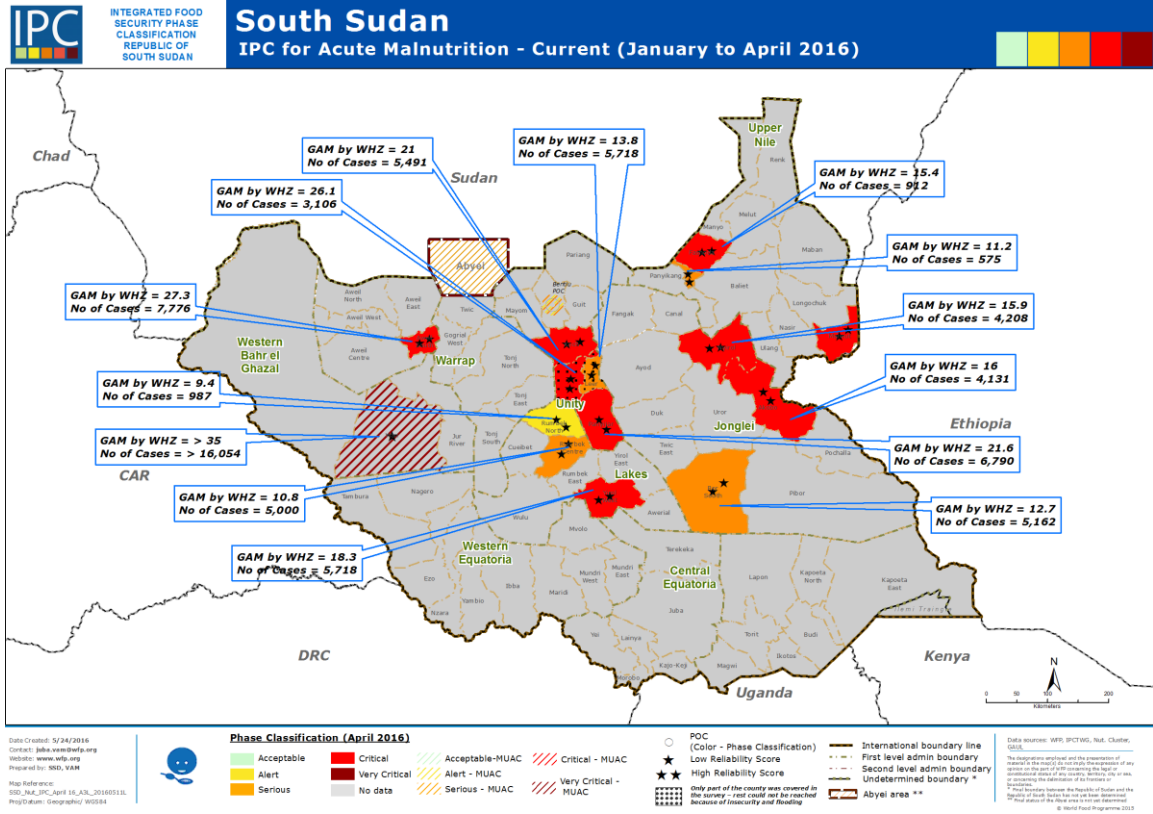


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POPULATION DISTRIBUTION FOR MAY TO JULY 2016

State	Mid-2016 Population (NBS)	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Catastrophe	% of Crisis, Emergency & Humanitarian Catastrophe
Central Equatoria	1,581,765	1,020,000	275,000	260,000	55,000	-	19.9%
Eastern Equatoria	1,142,503	300,000	480,000	280,000	85,000	-	31.9%
Jonglei	1,790,579	305,000	700,000	515,000	115,000	-	35.2%
Lakes	1,094,426	275,000	570,000	305,000	25,000	-	30.2%
Northern BeG	1,393,547	145,000	405,000	565,000	280,000	-	60.6%
Unity	1,030,081	110,000	345,000	560,000	220,000	-	75.7%
Upper Nile	1,236,597	110,000	390,000	485,000	105,000	-	47.7%
Warrap	1,299,058	285,000	520,000	440,000	55,000	-	38.1%
Western BeG	536,115	150,000	115,000	140,000	120,000	-	48.5%
Western Equatoria	798,416	305,000	335,000	135,000	40,000	-	21.9%
Total	11,903,088	3,005,000	4,135,000	3,685,000	1,100,000	-	40.2%

UPDATED IPC FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION MAP FOR SOUTH SUDAN: JANUARY - APRIL 2016



UPDATED IPC FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION MAP FOR SOUTH SUDAN: MAY-JULY 2016

