



# Standard Project Report 2015

## World Food Programme in South Sudan, Republic of (SS)

### Strengthening Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Coordination in Response to the Humanitarian Situation in South Sudan

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200775
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	December 30, 2014
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2015
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2015
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,029,937
Direct Support Costs	249,081
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	89,531
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,368,549</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

# Table Of Contents

## **COUNTRY OVERVIEW**

Country Background

Summary Of WFP Assistance

## **OPERATIONAL SPR**

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Results

Outputs

Outcomes

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Management

Partnerships

Lessons Learned

# COUNTRY OVERVIEW



## Country Background

The Republic of South Sudan, a land-locked country situated in eastern Africa, is sparsely populated, with an estimated population of 11.7 million people on 644,329 square km of land. In 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the Republic of Sudan, ending one of the longest civil wars on record. In July 2011, the Republic of South Sudan gained independence and remains the world's youngest nation.

On 15 December 2013, armed conflict broke out in the capital Juba between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and those loyal to ex-Vice President Riek Machar and quickly spread to Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States, a region known as Greater Upper Nile. By the end of 2015, approximately 1.66 million had been displaced in country (including 185,000 in UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites) and about 646,000 into neighbouring nations.

Basic services within the country have been severely limited by several decades of nearly continuous war. In August 2015, the parties to the conflict signed a peace deal after months of mediation from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Infrastructure, institutional capacity and economic stability continue to suffer as implementation of the peace agreement has been slow.

During the rainy season, between May and October, access to already limited basic services is significantly decreased as huge swaths of the country become inaccessible. Each year, infrastructure assets, including roads and bridges, deteriorate further due to insufficient maintenance during the dry season, thus extending the effects of the rainy season.

Despite plentiful natural resources, including fertile soil and rich biodiversity, only 4 percent of arable land is cultivated. More than 80 percent of the population live in rural areas and survive on subsistence farming. The country's economy is 98 percent dependent on oil revenues. Although it retained the bulk of the oil fields with the independence split, South Sudan remains dependent on the Republic of Sudan for its oil pipeline. Disputes between the two countries over the pipeline as well as interruptions to investments have contributed to the volatile economic situation. By the end of 2015, the decline in oil production together with falling oil prices resulted in a devastating declining revenue and to a huge disparity between the official exchange rate of the South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to the US Dollar. In December 2015, the government announced the adoption of a market regulated exchange rate, and the official rate leapt overnight from 3.16 SSP to 18.55 SSP per 1 USD, dramatically changing the way business is conducted in country.

South Sudan has some of the world's worst socio-economic indicators and is not on track to achieve any of the Millennium Development Goals. It ranks 169 out of 188 on the 2014 Human Development Index. More than 53 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and the average life expectancy at birth is only 55.7 years. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, the country's overall nutrition status remained Critical, with Global Acute Malnutrition rates above the World Health Organization's Emergency threshold (more than 15 percent of the population was classified as malnourished). Moreover, the last IPC of the year showed 3.9 million people classified as severely food insecure with 2.4 million people projected to be in Crisis and Emergency phases from October to December 2015.

## Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP continued to implement its emergency operation (EMOP) 200659 from 01 January to 30 September 2015 to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable groups including internally displaced persons and conflict-affected residents. These population groups live in United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Protection of Civilian sites (PoCs), in IDP settlement camps (such as Mingkaman in Lakes state), or shelter in hard-to-reach locations. Most interventions took place in the three conflict affected states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. From 01 October 2015 to the end of the year, assistance continued under EMOP 200859.

The continued efforts of the 'Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism' (IRRM) have been vital to the success in providing assistance to communities in hard-to-reach locations. The mobile teams were composed of WFP, other United Nations agencies and NGOs, deployed to remote locations to deliver an essential package of food, nutrition, emergency health, livelihood and protection services. WFP was able to reach nearly 80 remote and insecure sites with emergency food assistance at least once in the year, a significant increase from about 55 locations in 2014. However, frequent delays and mission cancellations related to security concerns and logistical challenges meant that several locations were served very infrequently.

Under the EMOP, WFP has continued its joint Nutrition Scale-Up Plan with UNICEF. The two organizations provided their specific nutrition expertise to address severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF) and moderate acute malnutrition (WFP). Cash-based transfers were successfully introduced in the largest single IDP population outside of UNMISS camps. However, the current market situation, including prices and consistent availability of goods, has become volatile and WFP will therefore continue to monitor the sustainability of cash-based transfers.

Before the start of the conflict in December 2013, WFP had developed its protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200572, to promote the country's shift from unconditional emergency food assistance to more recovery-based food transfers. The operation continued in 2015, in the seven states identified as non-conflict (Central, Western and Eastern Equatoria, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap). General food distributions were still provided to vulnerable populations, particularly refugees, but the main focus remained on Food/Cash Assistance for Assets, Food for Education and nutrition interventions, including the prevention of acute malnutrition, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, and Institutional Feeding Programme. Purchase for Progress was integrated into the PRRO, to promote the work of smallholder farmers.

WFP's portfolio in South Sudan included five special operations (SOs) to support the two main food assistance operations and to provide services to the greater humanitarian community and the Government of South Sudan.

WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) co-lead the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, which was operated in part through SO 200775. This cluster was dedicated to ensuring a coordinated and efficient response for food availability, production and access issues and aimed at reaching the most affected population in close coordination with food security and livelihood actors at both national and sub-national levels.

WFP led the Logistics Cluster under SO 200778. As a service cluster, the Logistics Cluster provided the humanitarian community in South Sudan with logistical expertise, coordination, warehousing and transport services.

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is also led by WFP, under SO 200791, and ensured the delivery of a reliable Internet connectivity network and information technology services to the entire humanitarian community.

SO 200786 is the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which facilitated the movement of humanitarian actors and relief items across the country. Most areas in the country cannot be reached by road due to difficult terrain, insecurity and the lengthy rainy season.

The construction of feeder roads under SO 200379 benefitted the people and Government of South Sudan as well as the humanitarian community by improving access to rural markets and essential social services.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	290,864	290,864	581,728
Children (5-18 years)	569,604	669,384	1,238,988
Adults (18 years plus)	531,438	556,483	1,087,921
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2015</b>	<b>1,391,906</b>	<b>1,516,731</b>	<b>2,908,637</b>

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	88,044	4,753	7,407	10,284	489	110,976
Single Country PRRO	64,969	3,979	5,472	4,563	350	79,334
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2015</b>	<b>153,013</b>	<b>8,732</b>	<b>12,879</b>	<b>14,847</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>190,311</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPR

## Operational Objectives and Relevance

Special operation 200775 was launched as part of the food security and livelihood cluster's (FSLC) continued response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in South Sudan, following the conflict that erupted in December 2013. The core purpose of the operation was to support national coordination of food security and livelihoods interventions and information management, while strengthening the area/field coordination of members' activities in response to acute food insecurity and life-saving needs. Under the co-leadership of WFP and FAO, the food security and livelihoods cluster works with some 60 partners throughout South Sudan, including international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and United Nations agencies. The FSLC special operation contributed to WFP's Strategic Objective 1: Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.

For this purpose, the cluster identified four strategic objectives: 1) strengthen the capability of the FSLC to coordinate and support partners in their implementation of high quality humanitarian assistance to affected communities; 2) promote and support the use of accurate and timely information for decision-making; 3) provide guidance and a strategic vision to cluster partners to develop innovative and integrated projects and programmes; and 4) formalize inter-cluster strategic linkages with the nutrition, protection, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) clusters to foster a programme-based approach and create opportunities for greater impact.

The FSLC worked most closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries (which encompasses what was previously the Ministries of Agriculture; Forestry; Tourism; and Animal Resources, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development) and the government's operational arm – the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) at both national and state levels.

## Results

### Outputs

In 2015, the FSLC strengthened information management in the cluster, providing efficient analysis of gaps and prioritization to eliminate overlap in response efforts. The Food Security Cluster Information Management Tool was introduced to track partners' actual performance against their plans, leading to enhanced accuracy and consistency of "5W" information (who is doing what, where, when and for whom). However, the underachievement of partners' inputs through the online reporting tool was a major area of concern. In 2016, the FSLC plans to modify the data management tool in order to facilitate easier reporting and greater buy-in and support by the FSLC NGO co-chair.

As was the case in previous years, the cluster led about 70 organizations in the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Cluster Response Plan, which informed the national Humanitarian Response Plan.

There were no significant gains made under the project's emergency preparedness plans. However, this will be a focus of the FSLC's efforts in 2016.

To strengthen inter-cluster collaboration, the FSLC established strong linkages with the nutrition and protection clusters, leading to a joint approach to contingency planning for Greater Upper Nile, and the start of gender and protection mainstreaming by FSLC partners. The number of partners targeted for training by this special operation increased, therefore causing an overachievement in the United Nations agency and NGO trainings. In collaboration with OCHA and NGO partners, the cluster delivered training sessions on protection mainstreaming, cash-based programming and information management. A special training for national NGO partners on humanitarian response planning and common humanitarian funding mechanisms aimed to increase national partners' participation and access to humanitarian funding.

The total budget for the FSLC in 2015 was USD 1.3 million, equally divided between WFP and FAO, including a full-time staff member from the Norwegian Refugee Council. About half of the budget (USD 568,000) was mobilized by the end of 2015.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: Special Operation (Cluster)</b>				
Number of UN agency and NGO staff trained	individual	100	214	214.0
Number of cluster coordination meetings conducted	instance	24	21	87.5
Number of field coordination meetings convened	instance	80	55	68.8
Number of food security and nutrition monitoring/surveillance reports produced with WFP support	report	3	3	100.0
Number of inter-cluster contingency plans developed	contingency plan	1	1	100.0
Number of partner organizations participating in the cluster system nationally	agency/organization	100	70	70.0
Number of partners that provided updated information through the online reporting tool	partner	100	53	53.0

## Outcomes

The FSLC established a robust country-wide coordination mechanism that provided advocacy and leadership as well as capacity development support to its members in their efforts to implement food security and livelihood response activities. Through the inter-cluster working group (ICWG), the FSLC supports the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) with programmatic and technical follow-up on operational issues through inter-cluster and interagency collaboration. The ICWG meets on a weekly basis and the outcomes of the meetings regularly inform HCT discussions. Through coordination, life-saving assistance was provided in a timely, efficient and effective way, reducing elements of duplication and ensuring a reasonable level of predictability. Cluster partners took advantage of synergies to provide relevant aid to disaster-affected communities, and also learned from each other to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions.

While the FSLC did not, on its own, establish joint working mechanisms with other clusters, the co-lead agencies and other key partners contributed to efforts such as the establishment and distribution of 'survival kits' (a collection of essential life-saving items, such as mosquito nets, seeds, fishing supplies, water containers, oral rehydration salts, water purification tablets, high energy biscuits, and kitchen sets, that improve people's ability to survive when they are unable to otherwise access basic goods) and enhanced coordinated programming between WFP and FAO. Moreover, the co-coordinators for the FSLC in South Sudan were part of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Committee which ensured that humanitarian response was accurately reflected in the IPC analysis.

Feedback from partners (international and national NGOs, United Nations agencies, donors) through the FSLC evaluation survey in 2015 indicated that over 80 percent of partners strongly agree the FSLC provided the level of support needed for prioritized and well-coordinated service delivery, while over 90 percent of respondents concurred that the FSLC created an enabling environment for participation of stakeholders in cluster meetings. In January 2016, the FSLC plans to launch a similar user feedback survey for 2015, with the aim of validating these results and discovering potential areas for further improvement.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies</b>				
<b>National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies</b>				



Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>User satisfaction rate</b>				
<p>CLUSTER USERS , <b>Project End Target:</b> 2015.12 User Feedback Survey ,</p> <p><b>Base value:</b> 2014.12 WFP survey User Feedback Survey , <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2015.03 WFP survey User Feedback Survey</p>	>82.00	82.00	-	82.00

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

In 2015, FSLC continued to enhance the emergency response capacities available in South Sudan by offering training to NGO partners. The FSLC, working with OCHA and NGO partners, provided four technical trainings with 214 participants in total. A one-day session for all national NGOs on working within the humanitarian system was particularly important. This training was designed to improve the capacity of NGO partners to navigate procedures for the Humanitarian Needs Overview and humanitarian response planning, and better position themselves to receive resources from the Common Humanitarian Fund.

Cluster partners officially re-established the central cold chain for livestock vaccine storage and delivery with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Animal Resources and Fisheries in September 2015. The process included trainings for cold chain technicians and livestock officers in the use and maintenance of direct drive solar refrigerators and the construction of the country's central cold chain in Juba. Partners also deployed cold chain technicians to the state level to improve the system (including installations of solar-powered refrigerators). Since 2013, the storage capacity of the central cold chain has tripled in size through FSLC partners' continued efforts.

Staffing deficits and logistical challenges made it difficult to increase cluster presence in the field. The cluster co-leads worked with their agencies at the state level to improve food security coordination outside of Juba.

Despite the fragile political situation, the FSLC will continue to work with partners, including government partners, on capacity development when and where possible. A comprehensive understanding of the changing political landscape will be crucial to these efforts in 2016.

## Management

### Partnerships

The FSLC coordinated some 70 organisations throughout South Sudan. These actors were responsible for the delivery of food security and livelihoods programmes, in addition to helping define the overall approach of the cluster. United Nations partners within the cluster included FAO, OCHA, UNHCR and UNICEF. FAO is the co-coordinator of the FSLC with WFP and shares higher level coordination and strategy development, particularly on the survival kit strategy and on the response in the UNMISS Protection of Civilian sites, where thousands of IDPs are sheltering. The Norwegian Refugee Council also had a leadership role in the FSLC, managing NGO - cluster relations and the accountability to affected populations-agenda on behalf of food security partners.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
<b>Total</b>		1		4

## Lessons Learned

Information management has been challenging for the cluster due to limited capacity across organisations and the cluster's systems. Receipt of timely, quality data was not consistent in 2015. The FSLC is addressing this area by establishing a more robust protocol for collecting and analysing data, in addition to providing regular, monthly external reports in order to inform response and better advocate on behalf of partners.

Insecurity in South Sudan limited travel and access at state level for the cluster, generally affecting coordination and information management. The FSLC will focus on these issues in 2016. Instead of the original plan of deploying roving area coordinators, the cluster will capitalise on FAO and WFP staff already based at the state level for basic coordination activities.