SOUTH SUDAN
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS
CLUSTER

MONTHLY BULLETIN
March 2026

Fish aggregation center in Renk, South Sudan. Photo @ GOAL

Key figures *Cumulative as of March 2026*

HNRP 2026 Reached

7.6 M people
In Need

2.7 M people
Target

0.8 M people
Food assistance

0.3 M people
Emergency Agriculture

58 K people
Resilience building

92 partners

Funding

USD 25 M received as of March 2026
Received out of USD 410 M

Food Security Situation Update

Food insecurity in South Sudan continued to deteriorate in March 2026 despite the fact it's part of dry season and pre lean season, the situation is driven by escalating armed conflict, widespread displacement, market disruptions, rising food and fuel prices, disease outbreaks, and severely constrained humanitarian access. The situation remains most critical in Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, and parts of Central Equatoria, where repeated shocks are significantly undermining household food access, livelihoods, and nutrition outcomes.

According to the latest IPC and NAWG analyses, 5.86 million people were experiencing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse food insecurity between December 2025 and March 2026, including 1.4 million in Phase 4 (Emergency) and 28,000 people in Phase 5 (Catastrophe). Food insecurity is projected to worsen during the April–July lean season, with up to 7.55 million people expected to face IPC Phase 3 or higher outcomes unless humanitarian access and response scale up significantly.

Ongoing conflict resulted in the displacement of nearly 280,000 people across Jonglei, Upper Nile, Lakes, and Central Equatoria, compounding already protracted displacement.

In early March, evacuation orders in Akobo triggered the flight of over 110,000 people to Ethiopia, while additional evacuations in Nasir led to the suspension of humanitarian activities. Akobo town was left largely deserted, with markets, health facilities, and basic services severely disrupted. Elsewhere, inter and intra communal violence in Warrap, Unity, Ruweng, Western Equatoria, and Central Equatoria caused further displacement, fatalities, and widespread looting of livestock and productive assets.

As of the end of February, South Sudan hosted approximately 2 million internally displaced persons, many residing in overcrowded sites with limited access to food, safe water, health services, and livelihood opportunities. Repeated cycles of displacement have significantly eroded household coping capacities, particularly among populations dependent on agriculture, livestock, fishing, and wild food collection. Food consumption outcomes worsened notably in conflicted counties, especially among displaced populations. Nutrition indicators signal an alarming situation in counties such as Nyirol, Uror, Akobo, Fangak, and Duk, where access to food assistance, health, and nutrition services remain severely constrained.

The number of women and children at risk of acute malnutrition is expected to increase as conflict driven displacement continues to disrupt access to diversified and nutritious diets, while disease outbreaks further exacerbate vulnerability.

Market based food access deteriorated due to rising prices and declining household purchasing power. In early March, a government directive requiring customs duties and clearance fees to be paid in cash combined with fuel supply concerns triggered a sharp increase in fuel prices, which rose by 20–60 percent between February and March in major markets. Higher fuel costs significantly increased transport expenses and food prices, including in relatively stable areas. The cost of the minimum expenditure basket increased by 10–42 percent month on month in several counties and remains multiple times higher than pre-Sudan conflict levels. WFP VAM indicated that the cost of food basket slightly increased by 6 %.

Broader macroeconomic pressures including inflation, currency depreciation, informal taxation, and supply chain disruptions continue to undermine household purchasing power. While higher global oil prices may marginally increase government revenues, persistent insecurity and structural weaknesses are limiting broader economic recovery, leaving households highly vulnerable to further price shocks.

Although rainfall in March 2026 was significantly higher than the same period in 2025 and above average in many areas, its impacts were generally moderate. Continued or intensifying rainfall in April and May may increase the risk of flooding and related disruptions in some counties.

Humanitarian access remains severely constrained in Greater Upper Nile due to insecurity, evacuation orders, and damage to infrastructure. Although partners are scaling up food and nutrition assistance in accessible displacement hotspots such as Bor South, Nyirol, Uror, Duk, Fangak, Canal/Pigi, and Twic East overall response capacity remains far below identified needs. Repeated suspensions of operations in Akobo and Nasir, attacks on humanitarian assets, and movement restrictions are significantly limiting the ability to reach populations facing extreme food insecurity.

Rebuilding life through fishing : Emmanuel at the fish aggregation center in Renk, where he spends most of his days selling freshly caught fish.

When conflict broke out in Malakal in 2013, Emmanuel Peter Akol was forced to flee with nothing but hope for safety. He resettled in Renk, where he began rebuilding his life from the ground up. Today, he is a proud member of the Fisherfolk Association and an active seller at the THRIVE-supported fish aggregation centre.

"Joining the Fisherfolks Association changed my life. The idea of the aggregation centre has helped us so much," Emmanuel said.

Thanks to improved organization and collective action, the group has been able to collect small user fees from the centre, which they used to hire refrigerators for fish preservation. This has significantly reduced wastage, a major challenge for local fishers.

"Before, we lost a lot of fish because we had no way to preserve it. Now with the fridge we hired, we can keep fish fresh and sell more," he explains. "My weekly profit now reaches about 700,000 SSP—and on good days, even more. "Boosting Income through better Preservation

The improved preservation, better price negotiation, and reliable selling point have increased market confidence and drawn more customers.

High fuel prices continue to impact transportation, especially for long trips to fishing grounds. "Fuel is too expensive. Sometimes we spend a lot just to reach the fishing areas," Emmanuel notes. He also points out the challenge of competition from external buyers: "Some trucks come from Sudan and buy most of the fish directly at the river sites. When that happens, the supply at our aggregation centre becomes very low."

Now 36 years old, Emmanuel supports his three children and siblings. For him, the THRIVE programme is not just about economic empowerment, it represents dignity and stability.

"I thank UKAid and the THRIVE team for supporting us. This programme has helped us stand on our feet again," he says with a smile.

GOAL and its partners work with fishers to improve income opportunities, reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen local market systems through **THRIVE programme funded by UKAid.**

Useful links

- FSLC HNRP Operational Guideline 2026
- FSLC Partner Presence Maps 2025

Learning corner

- 2025 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) South Sudan
- Hunger Map Live

Contacts

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