SOUTH SUDAN FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER

MONTHLY BULLETIN

April 2026

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Key figures *Cumulative as of April 2026*

HNRP 2026 Reached

7.8 M people
In Need

2.7 M people
Target

0.9 M people
Food assistance

0.3 M people
Emergency Agriculture

69 K people
Resilience building

99 partners

Funding

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

Food Security Situation Update

South Sudan is facing one of the most severe food security crises globally, with the latest IPC analysis projecting that 7.8 million people representing 56 percent of the population will experience Crisis-level hunger or worse (IPC Phase 3+) between April and July 2026. Among them, 2.5 million people are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 5.3 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 73,300 people are already in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), marking a 160 percent increase compared to the previous estimate. The analysis also warns of a credible risk of famine in four counties across Upper Nile and Jonglei States if conflict escalates further, displacement continues, and humanitarian access remains constrained. In addition, 2.2 million children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition, underscoring the scale of the crisis.

The situation is compounded by multiple shocks. Escalating conflict in Jonglei and Upper Nile has intensified displacement and worsened the ongoing cholera outbreak, which has already recorded 102,105 cases and 1,662 deaths as of 10 April, with a case fatality rate above the emergency threshold. Climate shocks, erratic rainfall, economic pressures, and declining humanitarian funding are further undermining the ability of humanitarian partners to respond at scale, leaving millions of people exposed to deteriorating conditions.

Displacement continues to rise sharply, with over 304,000 people uprooted in Jonglei State since December 2025. In April 2026 only Canal/Pigi County has reported 8,427 newly displaced individuals due to recent insecurity with urgent needs including food, shelter, NFIs, health services, water, sanitation, and protection. In Nyirol County, 5,915 people have been displaced and are sheltering within host communities, while Mundri West County has recorded 2,064 new arrivals following localized conflict. Across all locations, food, water, and basic services remain critical priorities.

At the same time, return movements are adding pressure to already fragile communities. In Akobo County, approximately 30,445 individuals have voluntarily returned from Ethiopia's Gambella Region between March and April 2026, driven by poor living conditions in displacement sites. In Uror County, 5,690 returnees have come back after months in Gambella camps, facing acute needs for food, shelter, NFIs, and safe drinking water. These returns highlight the dual challenge of supporting displaced populations while also reintegrating returnees into communities with limited resources.

The Risk of Famine (RoF) analysis conducted in April 2026 confirmed famine risk in **Akobo and Nyirol (Jonglei State)**, as well as **Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang (Upper Nile State)**. These counties are facing extreme vulnerabilities under worst-case scenarios.

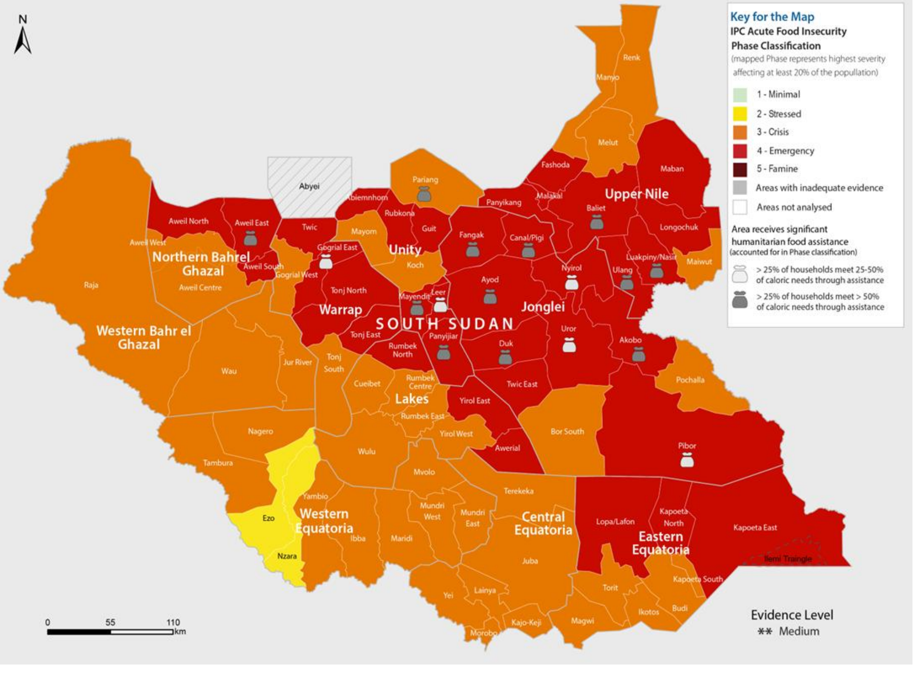
In **Akobo**, famine risk is driven by sustained conflict, large-scale displacement, influx of asset-depleted returnees, collapse of markets and livelihoods, severe food access constraints due to high prices and cereal deficits, near-total breakdown of health and nutrition services, and absence of humanitarian assistance.

Similarly, **Nyirol** faces famine risk due to sustained conflict, extreme restrictions on humanitarian access, structural food deficits, exhausted stocks, collapse of livelihoods and markets, and breakdown of health and nutrition services.

In **Luakpiny/Nasir**, famine risk is linked to renewed conflict, persistent restrictions on humanitarian access, exceptionally poor harvests, reduced livestock and fish-based food access, and worsening flood and WASH conditions.

Meanwhile, **Ulang** is at risk of famine due to renewed violence leading to displacement, disruption of humanitarian assistance including suspension of food distributions, influx of highly vulnerable populations, and breakdown of health and nutrition services. These counties represent the epicenter of South Sudan's food security crisis, where the convergence of conflict, displacement, market collapse, and service breakdown could push populations into famine if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up.

Projection Update Acute Food Insecurity | April – July 2026



Building resilience through savings and livelihoods in Doro Refugee camp

Khaltum Buba, a 30-year-old mother of five, has been living as a refugee in Doro Refugee Camp since 2011 under Sheikh Amir Hamoda in Tomfona village, Jumjum community. Although her husband supported the household, increasing economic pressures and the growing needs of their children made it difficult to sustain daily living. Determined to improve her family's future, Khaltum sought long-term economic opportunities but lacked the start-up capital to begin a business.

In 2021, her situation began to change when she was introduced to the **Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)** methodology by Relief International, with support from UNHCR. Through the VSLA, she gained essential financial management skills, including saving and accessing group-based loans.

At the end of a nine-month savings cycle, Khaltum received 300,000 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) in savings and dividends. She invested this amount in starting a small business trading sorghum, a staple food in her community, and later expanded into a retail shop at the local market. With the profits, she purchased a goat, which gradually multiplied into a herd of 31 goats. She further diversified her income by investing in a motorbike (boda-boda), and through effective financial management, she was able to acquire a second motorbike to increase her earnings.

Her improved income has transformed her household. Her children now have more diversified and nutritious food. She can also afford school fees, clothing, and scholastic materials for her children.

A boda-boda ride remits income to Khaltum Buba in Doro Refugee Camp, reflecting diversified livelihood opportunities supported through VSLA participation.

"When I joined the VSLA group, I learned how to save and manage money. With my share-out, I started small with sorghum trading, and today I own 31 goats and two motorbikes. This has completely changed my life."

"Now I feel very happy because I can send my children to school and support their dreams," she said. "I can also meet our basic needs, and together with my husband, we sometimes support the most vulnerable members of our community with in-kind assistance.

Beyond economic gains, Khaltum has invested in her personal development. Using her income, she enrolled in an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and has now reached Primary Eight (P8), with plans to continue to secondary school.

"I will use my resources to fund both my education and my children's education," she added.

Khaltum also encourages other women in her community to pursue small businesses and contribute to household stability.

"**Women should focus on supporting their families through small, affordable businesses. This can reduce financial stress and even help lower domestic violence in the home."**

Relief International introduced Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology with support from UNHCR.

Useful links

- FSLC HNRP Operational Guideline 2026
- FSLC Partner Presence Maps January – April 2026

Learning corner

- 2025 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) South Sudan
- Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early warnings on acute food insecurity June – November 2026 outlook

Contacts

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