**WFP News Video: Climate and Conflict Keeps South Sudan Battling Floods and Fighting Starvation**

**Shot: June-November 2022**

**Locations:  South Sudan**

**TRT: 3:16**

**SHOTLIST:**

**:00-:07**

Aerial view of Leer County, one of the counties worst affected by the flooding.

Many people have been forced from their villages into Camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) around Leer town, the only high ground in the area, which has been inaccessible by road since July 2021.

**Shot: 7Oct22**

**Leer County**

**Unity State**

**:07-:30**

GVs of WFP barge transporting food for displaced people.

This barge carrying 87 MT of food, navigated 162 km on the White Nile River and tributaries to reach remote villages on a man made island in Al-Sudd, one of the biggest swamps in the world.

**Shot: 10June22**

**Duk County**

**Jonglei State**

**:30-:47**

Nyadend Majok walks through what is left of her sorghum crops, after they were submerged by the floods. She had built a dyke around her home and crops but the floodwaters were too high, destroying her crops and killing 30 of her goats.

After the latest flooding, Nyadeng’s family all moved to camps for displaced people near Leer Town, while she remained behind to care for an elderly relative.

**Shot: 5Oct22**

**Leer County**

**Unity State**

**:47-1:01**

**SOT Nyadeng Majok, (Nuer)**

*“All our food is ruined! You can see my sorghum crops. The floods bring hunger because they take all our food. If we have no food how can we survive?”*

**Shot: 5Oct22**

**Leer County**

**Unity State**

**1:01-1:28**

GVs of Meer Koch watering vegetables in a community vegetable garden supported by WFP.

Meer is a widow with 7 children. She was injured during an armed raid on her village in 2017 and then, in 2021, was forced to leave her home after flooding submerged her village and killed all her livestock. Over the course of 4 days, she travelled with her 7 children in a makeshift canoe made out of plastic sheeting, finally arriving in one of the few  dry villages left in Rubkona County.

**Shot: 30June22**

**Rubkona County**

**Unity State**

**1:28-1:50**

**SOT Adeyinka Badejo, WFP Deputy Country Director South Sudan (English)**

*“More than 1 million people in South Sudan have been affected by extreme flooding. The surface area of land permanently submerged underwater has tripled and an already dire food security situation exacerbated, leaving 2.9 million people at risk of starvation.”*

**Shot: 10Nov22**

**Juba**

**1:50-2:19**

Mothers with children at Juba Nutrition Centre in a camp for Internally Displaced People, where children are tested for malnutrition and treated with special fortified food. 20 year old Nyawuok Muon is among thousands of people displaced by flooding who now lives in the camp. Her 7 month old daughter, who suffered from Moderate Acute Malnutrition, is now on her way to recovery after several months of treatment. Almost 65 percent of the population (7.76 million people) are facing hunger, including 43,000 people facing famine-like conditions and struggling to access even the most basic food items.

**Shot: 17Aug22**

**Juba**

**2:19-2:47**

**SOT Adeyinka Badejo, WFP Deputy Country Director South Sudan (English)**

*“Vulnerable communities here have done very little to contribute to climate change, living largely off of the land and without polluting technology. Now It’s vital that the international community comes together to support the South Sudanese to build resilience against increasingly severe climate shocks and a future free from the threat of famine.”*

**Shot: 10Nov22**

**Juba**

**2:47-3:04**

GVs of people harvesting rice.

As part of a WFP climate adaptation project, farmers are trained in the cultivation of rice and other food crops that thrive in flood plains, to help improve food security even as flooding increases.

**Shot: 27Oct22**

**Twic County**

**Warrap State**

**3:04-3:16**

Alek Ngoar, who works on the WFP climate adaptation project eating rice with her family. Families working on the project are provided with cash assistance (around $40-50/month) for three years as they complete the project cycle which includes training and asset creation to support livelihood opportunities that are resilient to climate shocks.

**Shot: 22June22**

**Twic County**

**Warrap State**

**ENDS**

**INFO:**

**South Sudan is on the frontlines of the climate crisis and millions in the country are living the daily reality of a worsening climate. More than one million people have been impacted by an unprecedented, multi-year flood event that is sweeping the nation, exacerbating high levels of hunger caused by ongoing conflict and the global food crisis.**

* South Sudan is one of the most rapidly warming areas in the world with temperatures increasing at two-and-a-half times the global average.[[1]](#footnote-1)[1]
* South Sudan is experiencing a fourth consecutive year of flooding and the country’s wetlands, known as the Sudd, have expanded threefold since 2019, now covering 10-15 percent of the country’s land area.
* There has been a year-on-year increase in families consuming wild foods, such as water lilies since this flood began in 2019 - a coping mechanism used during times of extreme food scarcity in South Sudan.
* While half of the country finds itself underwater, other areas are experiencing drought for the first time on record and the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis shows drought-affected areas in the southeast of the country have recorded the largest deterioration in food security this year.

**Communities are seeing their resources become depleted amid the climate extremes but It isn’t too late to support them as they adapt to the new reality. WFP is working with flood-affected communities to build their resilience to increasingly severe climate shocks, expanding livelihood projects to support 800,000 people[[2]](#footnote-2)[2].**

* WFP trains farmers to diversify their crops by supporting them to grow drought-resistant and water-tolerant crops such as rice, cassava and Sukuma – helping to improve food security throughout the year.
* WFP’s livelihoods programmes promote peace by encouraging communities to build collective farming assets such as flood-protective dykes and shallow ponds – helping to prevent conflict and promote social cohesion between pastoralists and landowners over water and land.
* In Unity State, a WFP resilience pilot project is helping women turn the invasive water hyacinth weed - a large emitter of methane when it decomposes naturally - into cooking fuel.

**Protracted funding shortfalls have forced WFP to prioritize those who are on the brink of starvation. WFP needs flexible, predictable and sustainable funding to support both the immediate and long-term needs of all vulnerable people in South Sudan, especially displaced populations and host communities.**

* In April, funding shortfalls forced WFP to suspend food assistance to 1.7 million of the 6.2 million people it planned to reach. Funding constraints have also led to ration reductions with people currently only receiving half rations.
* Recent donor contributions have enabled WFP to resume food assistance to people in some of the areas that were impacted by the suspensions: in the 8 counties with people in IPC5/famine-like conditions families are receiving 70 percent rations. But, WFP urgently requires US$585 million to deliver life-saving assistance for more than 6 million people for the next six months.
* Programmes that can build long-term solutions are also the most underfunded with WFP forced to suspend or reduce assistance to more than half of those we planned to reach with livelihoods and school meals due to funding shortfalls.

**Facts & figures**

**People in IPC3+[[3]](#footnote-3)[3]**7.76 million

**People in IPC4** 2.9 million

**People in IPC5** 43,000

**People WFP plans to reach in 2022**6.2 million

**People WFP will actually reach due to funding shortfalls** 5.6 million

**Children with malnutrition**1.4 million

**Children at risk of dying if not treated**105,000

**Internally displaced people** 2.2 million

**Funding requirements for the next six months**                                       $585 million

**Conflict and Displacement**

* More than 2 million people are displaced across South Sudan with a large proportion of those being forced from their homes due to conflict.
* Sub-national violence is surging in Jonglei and Upper Nile States, forcing thousands from their home and hampering humanitarian access.
* The areas impacted were already among the most food insecure in South Sudan with high prevalence of IPC 4&5, the surge in conflict and displacement, along with limited humanitarian access, will exacerbate these existing vulnerabilities.
* As pasture and farming areas are swallowed by creeping floodwaters, many people are unable to move to higher ground due to sub-national conflict that continues to destroy lives and livelihoods.

**Flooding**

* Most of the flooding seen over the past four years has been driven by the outflow from the Great Lakes that feed into the White Nile[[4]](#footnote-4)[4], although this year has also seen above average rainfall and flooding in the Ethiopian highlands and western states of South Sudan which has contributed to and exacerbated flooding in central parts of the country.
* The flooding isn’t completely dependent on rainfall; in 2021 many areas of South Sudan experienced below average rainfall alongside some of the worst flooding. In 2021 the area around Bentiu in Unity State was flooded for the first time and the waters never receded, this will likely be a long-term, structural change to the landscape.
* Rainfall in the Great Lakes region is expected to increase over the coming months which means flooding in South Sudan is expected to peak in January 2023. This phenomenon is now interacting with above average rainfall events across northern parts of the country which is causing a sharp increase in localised flooding too.

**Hunger and Food security**

**Food security:**

* Almost 65 percent of the population (7.76 million people) are facing hunger, including 43,000 people facing famine-like conditions and struggling to access even the most basic food items.
* A further 2.9 million people are in IPC4 and on the brink of starvation, unable to find enough food for themselves and their families. This is the highest number of South Sudanese in IPC4 and above since independence and at level even exceeding those seen during the civil war.

**Nutrition:**

* Only 4 percent of children in South Sudan have an acceptable diet in terms of quantity and quality and 1 in 6 (1.4 million) children are malnourished.
* Conflict prone areas are particularly susceptible to high levels of malnutrition with the rates rising up to 28 percent in the worst affected counties – well above the emergency threshold.
* In the first half of 2022, WFP provided more than 435,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and over 600,000 young children with nutrition support to treat and prevent malnutrition.
* Childhood malnutrition has longterm, negative impacts on a nation’s productivity and wages while also increasing poverty and gender gaps in income meaning the next generation of South Sudanese risk being left behind.

**School Feeding:**

* WFP’s School Feeding programme was suspended in April 2022 across 470 schools due to funding shortfalls. 450,000 school children had received WFP school meals in 2022 prior to the suspension.
* This left children at greater risk of joining the 2.8 million children out of school, disproportionately impacting girls who are at greater risk of early marriage or being pulled into domestic work.
* South Sudan has one of the lowest literacy rates worldwide, with only 29 percent of women literate and 40 percent of men. More than one in five children enrolled in school drop out before completing primary education.

**Global Food Crisis**

* South Sudan is heavily dependent on food imports and is feeling the pinch as other countries cap their exports in response to the global food crisis.[[5]](#footnote-5)[5]
* The cost of a monthly food basket has risen by nearly 90 percent since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, putting adequate and basic food out of reach for millions of families.
* It now costs WFP an extra US$34 million per year to cover its operational costs in South Sudan due to an increase in food and fuel costs alone – funding support has become even more urgent to ensure WFP can reach the more than 6 million people it plans to.

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1. [1] In the last 30 years, South Sudan has been among the most rapidly warming countries globally, with an increase in temperature of as much as 0.4 degrees Celsius (°C) per decade, especially in the central and southern regions [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/South%20Sudan%27s%20Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution.pdf](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Funfccc.int%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FNDC%2F2022-06%2FSouth%2520Sudan%2527s%2520Second%2520Nationally%2520Determined%2520Contribution.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cjulian.frank%40wfp.org%7Cd85eb87935e146ce93c208dac328c8ae%7C462ad9aed7d94206b87471b1e079776f%7C0%7C0%7C638036877171967019%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BwsAdqM1QVwfGDRBslIvSAPE%2BCiNj3XFjKAWnz%2BrWw4%3D&reserved=0) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [2] Up from 730,000 in 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [3] Through the 2023 lean season (April-July) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [4] Specifically Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and Lake Edward in Uganda which are feeding into the White Nile river system which winds north into the Sudd. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [5] Uganda, Kenya, and Sudan which have all capped exports in response to the crisis and conflict in Ukraine. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)