



MAY 2017 – COMMUNICATION SUMMARY

- Food security in South Sudan has further deteriorated due to armed conflict, economic crisis, and below-average harvests that were exhausted well before the ongoing lean season. **An estimated 6.0¹ million (50% of the population) people are expected to be severely food insecure in June-July 2017, compared to 5.5 million (45% of the population) people in May 2017.** This is the greatest number of people ever to experience severe food insecurity (IPC Phases 3, 4 and 5) in South Sudan
- **Famine is no longer occurring in Leer and Mayendit counties, and further deterioration was prevented in Koch and Panyijiar counties of former Southern Unity State as a result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance delivered to the affected population since March 2017.** The early detection of the deterioration of the food security situation into famine followed by the subsequent large-scale immediate response averted further loss of life, thus underscoring the importance of evidence based analysis and response. However, in June-July 2017, approximately 45,000 people will still be facing Humanitarian Catastrophe in Leer, Koch, Mayendit in former Unity State and Ayod County in former Jonglei state based on most likely assumptions of continued armed conflict, food shortages associated with seasonality, and humanitarian assistance delivery constraints.
- **Even though no county has been classified under famine (Phase 5) in this IPC update, the situation continues to be very critical.** In June-July 2017, in addition to approximately 45,000 people estimated to be facing Humanitarian Catastrophe², an estimated 1.7 million people are likely to be facing food security emergency (IPC Phase 4) - one-step below Famine on the IPC scale. This is based on most likely assumptions of continued armed conflict, food shortages associated with seasonality, and humanitarian assistance delivery constraints. This projected number in June-July 2017 is up from 1.0 million projected for February-April 2017 period in the last IPC report.
- While effective response was provided in the famine affected areas, thus avoiding what would have most likely been significant loss of life due to the interaction of starvation and disease, the situation in central former Unity remains extremely vulnerable with some populations in Humanitarian Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in June-July 2017. **Gains made in previously Famine-affected and Famine-risk counties must not be jeopardized through the reallocation of humanitarian assistance** to ongoing and developing acute food insecurity hotspots because the affected populations' livelihoods are effectively eroded thus leaving them heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance. Should humanitarian assistance be compromised, the areas could easily slip into Famine again.
- Of great concern is former Greater Jonglei State, where food security is rapidly deteriorating, predominantly in the counties of Ayod, Canal/Pigi, Duk, Nyirol and Uror, which are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, **with Ayod having an estimated 20,000 people experiencing Humanitarian Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) at least through July 2017.** The conflict-related displacement of over 200,000 people from northern, central, and eastern former Jonglei has severely disrupted livelihoods and access to social services, thus severely undermining food security in the State. The situation has been further exacerbated by last year's poor harvests as well as the economic crisis that has eroded households' purchasing power. The classification for Nyirol and Uror is based on professional judgement of the IPC ERC and the South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) but not in accordance with the minimal evidence requirements of the IPC Protocols.

¹ The official NBS population is used for classification. Out of the total 1.8 million refugees out of the country, only 470,000 have been deducted from the population used in this IPC analysis. The rest of the refugees will be deducted before the next IPC workshop in August 2017 once their counties of origin are determined.

² In IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe households are expected to have extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even with full employment of coping strategies where starvation and destitution are evident. Households may be in Phase 5 Catastrophe but the area may not be classified as Phase 5 Famine if widespread deaths and acute malnutrition have not yet been expressed at the area level, either because the population facing Catastrophe is smaller than 20% of population, because of a relatively limited geographical coverage of the dire situation, or because of the natural time delay expected between food deprivation, and collapse of livelihoods and the consequential increase in acute malnutrition levels and death rates.

- **Greater Equatoria, and particularly some of the country's most productive Greenbelt counties from Yei, Lainya, Morobo, Kajo Keji and Magwi, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity, driven largely by armed conflict that has had severe effects on agricultural activities and markets.** Large farming populations have been driven across the border into Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, severely inhibiting the 2016 harvest and causing large portions of the population to miss the first planting season of 2017. There is a high likelihood that this population will also miss the second planting season – a situation that will most likely result in a record high national cereal deficit in 2018.
- **The Western Bank of former Upper Nile state is experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity, mainly in Manyo, Panyikang, and Fashoda where large displacements have occurred due to ongoing armed conflict.** This has resulted in disruptions to livelihoods, markets, and access to humanitarian assistance.
- **Former Northern Bahr el Ghazal state is facing severe food insecurity caused by high food prices and diminished household purchasing power.** All counties except Aweil Center are experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity through July 2017. In former Western Bahr el Ghazal, a spike in armed conflict in the counties of Wau and Raga has disrupted trade, displaced populations, and destroyed livelihoods.
- **Acute malnutrition remains a major public health emergency in several parts of South Sudan.** A total of 12 SMART surveys were conducted between March-May 2017, and 10 showed Global Acute Malnutrition Weight-for-Height (GAM (WHZ)) prevalence above the WHO emergency threshold of 15%, with a peak of 26.1% in Duk, bordering Extremely Critical classification. Alarming proxy GAM (MUAC) prevalence above 20% was observed in Ayod, (Karmoun, Normanyang, and Kandak payams) between January-April 2017. Widespread fighting, displacement and poor access to services, disease outbreaks, extremely poor diet (in terms of both quality and quantity), low coverage of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices are the key drivers of the high levels of acute malnutrition across South Sudan. Levels of acute malnutrition are expected to deteriorate even further as the peak lean season approaches in July 2017, with Mayendit, Aweil North, and Ayod projected to be at Extreme Critical nutrition levels.

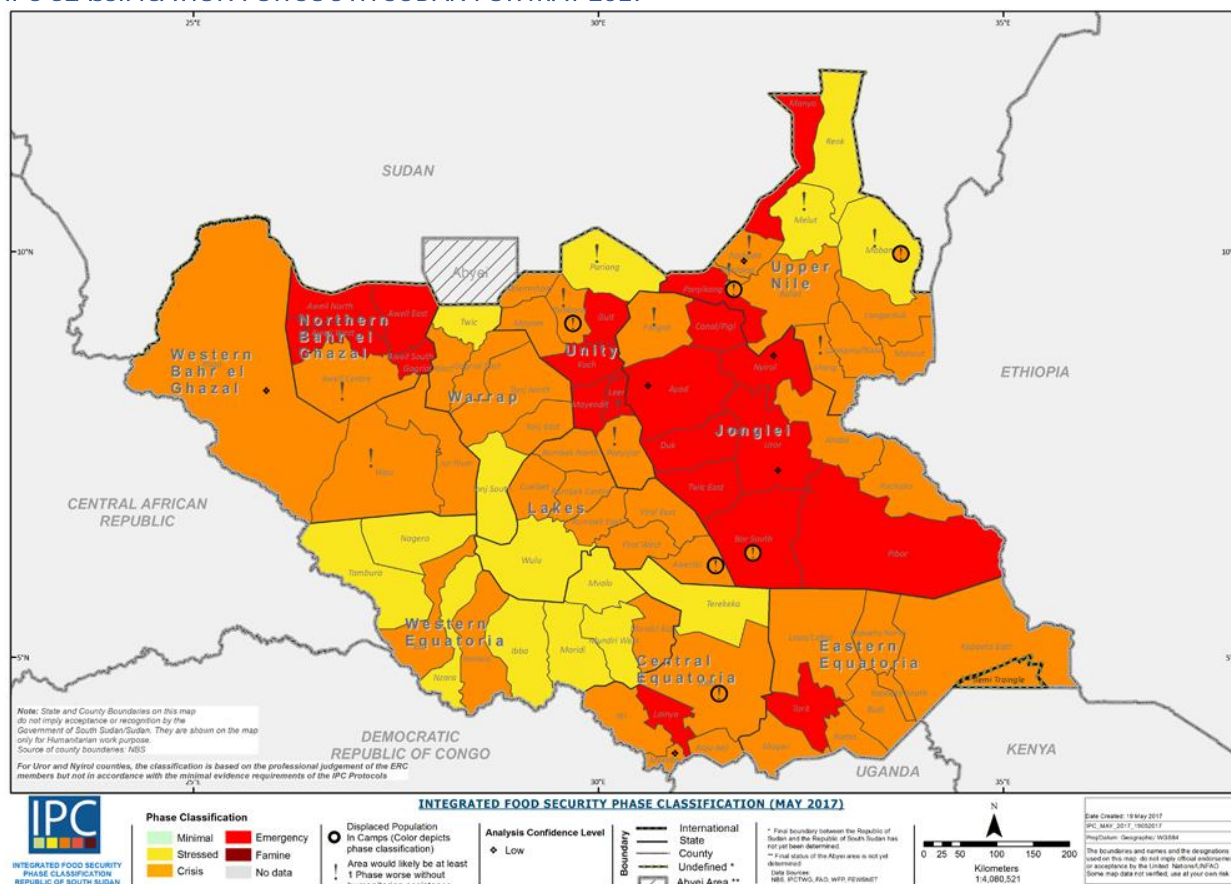
NOTES

The Global IPC Emergency Review Committee (ERC) was activated for this analysis and conducted a review of the IPC analysis in the most critical counties, in support of the South Sudan IPC TWG.

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IPC CLASSIFICATION FOR SOUTH SUDAN FOR MAY 2017



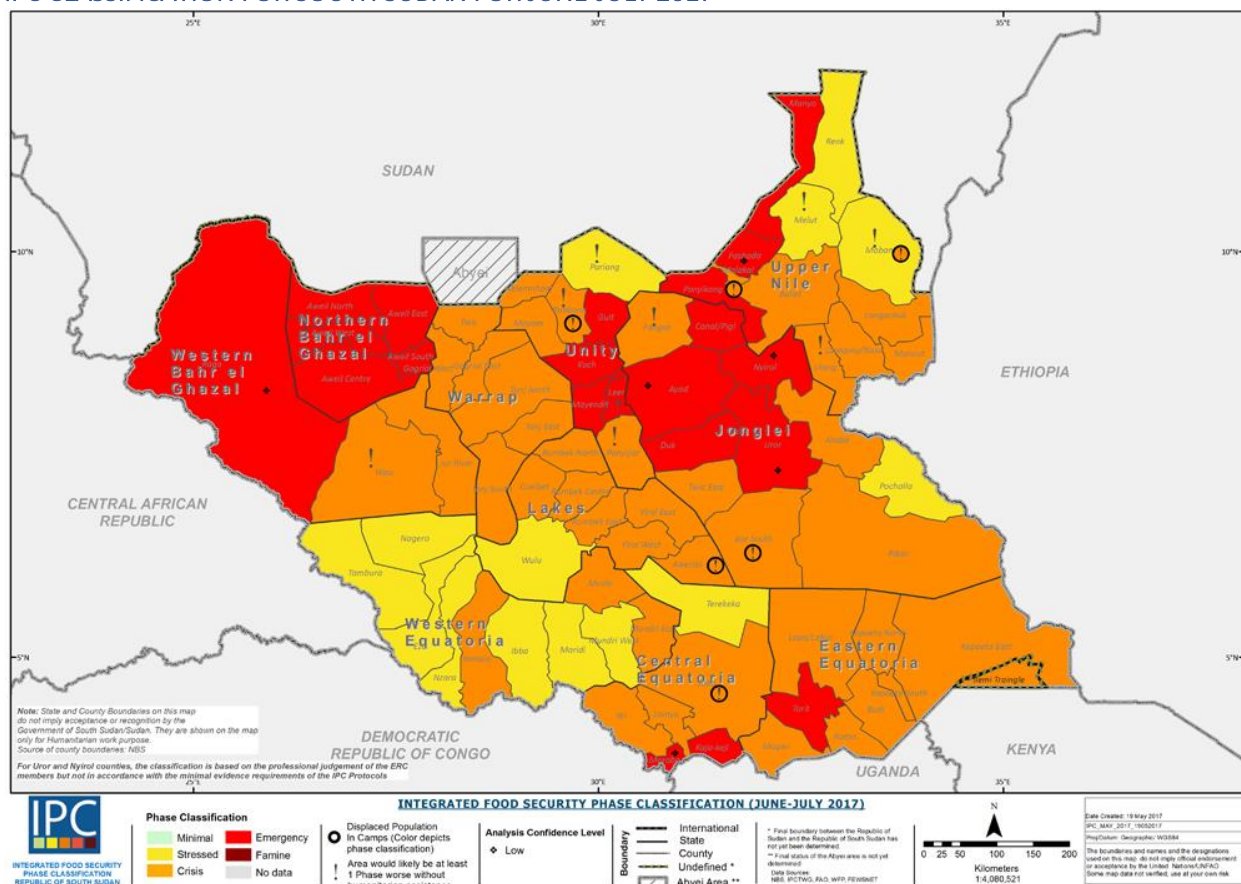
Disclaimer:

- Former state and county boundaries on this map do not imply acceptance or recognition by the Government of South Sudan and/or its partners. They are shown on the map only for humanitarian purposes (Source: NBS).
- The classification for Nyirrol and Urol is based on professional judgement of the IPC ERC and the South Sudan IPC TWG but not in accordance with the minimal evidence requirements of the IPC Protocols.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION FOR MAY 2017

Former States	Mid-2017 Population (NBS)	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Famine / Humanitarian Catastrophe	% of Crisis, Emergency & Humanitarian Catastrophe
Central Equatoria	1,609,344	385,000	465,000	410,000	130,000	-	33.6%
Eastern Equatoria	1,162,641	260,000	340,000	420,000	145,000	-	48.6%
Jonglei	1,822,086	115,000	485,000	825,000	385,000	10,000	67.0%
Lakes	1,113,716	310,000	500,000	235,000	70,000	-	27.4%
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	1,418,111	115,000	345,000	640,000	310,000	-	67.0%
Unity	1,048,238	125,000	310,000	470,000	135,000	10,000	58.7%
Upper Nile	1,254,313	260,000	410,000	415,000	165,000	-	46.2%
Warrap	1,448,812	280,000	580,000	355,000	105,000	-	31.8%
Western Bahr el Ghazal	545,565	100,000	285,000	135,000	25,000	-	29.3%
Western Equatoria	812,340	370,000	310,000	110,000	25,000	-	16.6%
Total	12,235,167	2,320,000	4,030,000	4,015,000	1,495,000	20,000	45.2%

IPC CLASSIFICATION FOR SOUTH SUDAN FOR JUNE-JULY 2017



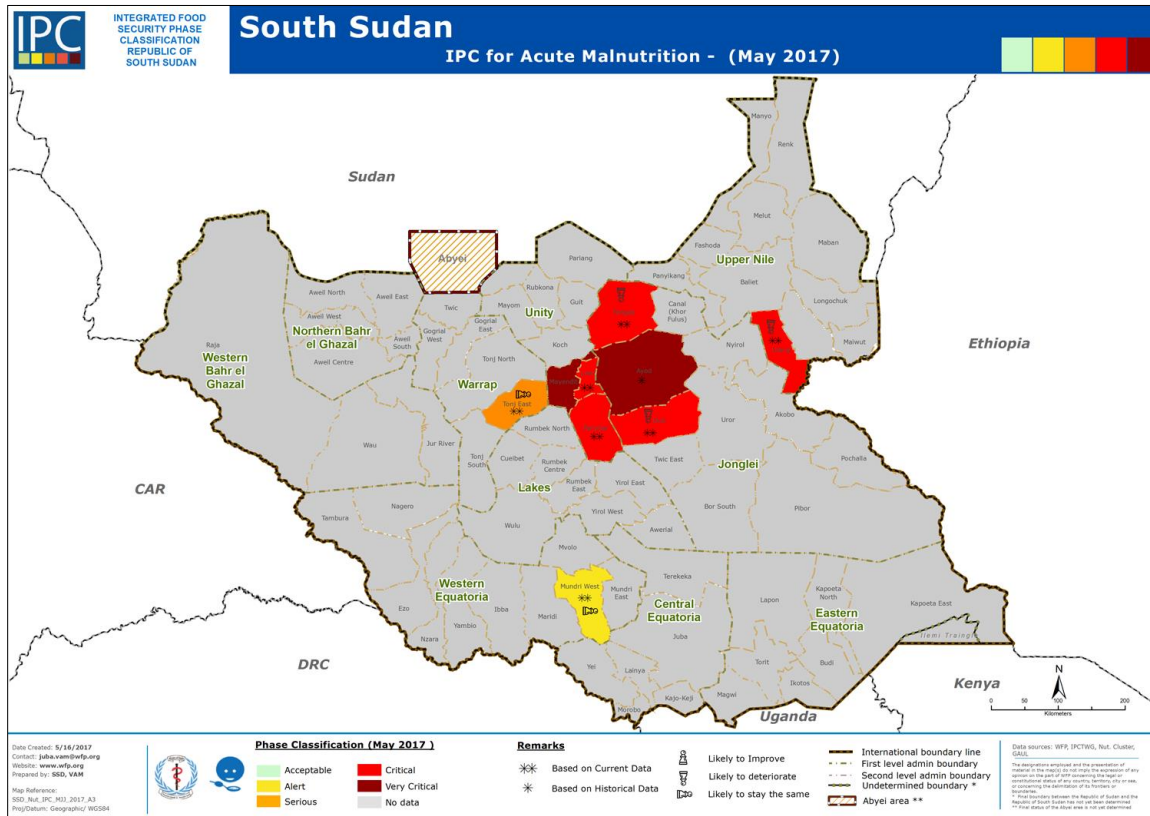
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POPULATION DISTRIBUTION FOR JUNE-JULY 2017

Former States	Mid-2017 Population (NBS)	Phase 1 Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Famine / Humanitarian Catastrophe	% of Crisis, Emergency & Humanitarian Catastrophe
Central Equatoria	1,609,344	345,000	430,000	465,000	145,000	-	37.9%
Eastern Equatoria	1,162,641	285,000	335,000	430,000	115,000	-	46.9%
Jonglei	1,822,086	150,000	525,000	795,000	335,000	20,000	63.1%
Lakes	1,113,716	275,000	410,000	330,000	100,000	-	38.6%
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	1,418,111	95,000	280,000	595,000	435,000	-	72.6%
Unity	1,048,238	120,000	295,000	455,000	155,000	25,000	60.6%
Upper Nile	1,254,313	225,000	420,000	430,000	180,000	-	48.6%
Warrap	1,448,812	240,000	430,000	510,000	140,000	-	44.9%
Western Bahr el Ghazal	545,565	65,000	175,000	245,000	60,000	-	55.9%
Western Equatoria	812,340	390,000	315,000	90,000	20,000	-	13.5%
Total	12,235,167	2,190,000	3,615,000	4,345,000	1,685,000	45,000	49.7%

IPC FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION MAP, MAY 2017



IPC FOR ACUTE MALNUTRITION MAP, JUNE-JULY 2017

