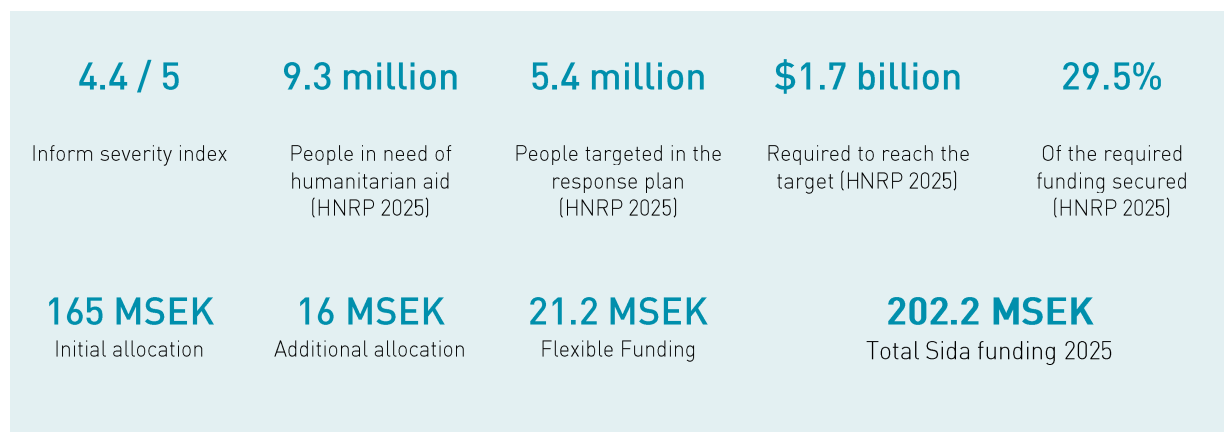


1. Crisis overviewⁱ



Since 2013, civil war and intercommunal violence have led to widespread insecurity, large-scale displacement, and worsening food security in South Sudan. Climate change has compounded these issues, intensifying frequent floods and droughts. Poor governance and limited state finances, including less revenues from oil export, have hampered the government's efforts to improve conditions for vulnerable groups. The depreciation of the South Sudanese pound has caused sharp inflation, tripling prices of gasoline and sorghum, further straining an already struggling population. Concurrent shocks, including the influx of returnees, ongoing conflict, and flooding, continue to drive high levels of acute food insecurity.

Despite the revitalised peace agreement, intercommunal violence and new or renewed conflicts between armed forces and armed groups continue to persist. In the first quarter of 2025, intense fighting broke out in Nasir in eastern Upper Nile state, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee. According to the UNHCR, around 200,000 people have been internally displaced as a result of the clashes and more than 164,000 people have fled to neighboring countries so far in 2025.

The increased conflict has resulted in a spike in food insecurity levels and in July 2025, the IPC carried out a risk of famine assessment in Nasir, Ulang, Pibor, and Fangak counties after which Nasir and Ulang were classified as facing a risk of famine. In addition, South Sudan continues to be affected by seasonal flooding, which has so far in 2025 affected more than 379,000 people, including 135,000 people newly displaced by the floods, as well as the largest ongoing cholera outbreak globally, with more than 90,000 cases and 1,500 deaths reported since September 2024.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

It is estimated that more than nine million out of 12.4 million people (approximately 70 per cent of the population) in South Sudan need humanitarian assistance. Approximately five million South Sudanese have been displaced since 2013, with approximately two million internally displaced and almost 2.4 million people seeking refuge in neighboring countries. In addition, 1.2 million returnees and refugees have arrived from the war-torn Sudan. The latest Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for South Sudan targets 5.4 million people, leaving many people in dire conditions without assistance.

The food security situation remains critical, with 7.7 million (57 per cent of the population) people experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 2.4 million people projected to be in Phase 4 and 83,000 people in Phase 5, including two counties (Nasir and Ulang in Upper Nile state) projected to face a risk of famine. Cases of acute malnutrition have continued to increase, with 2.3 million children under 5 years of age projected to be acutely malnourished, including 714,000 children experiencing Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 1.2 million pregnant or lactating women projected to be acutely malnourished.

The high levels of movement, displacement, and secondary displacement in South Sudan significantly increase the exposure of the civilian population to hardships and violence. Protection activities remain key to improve the humanitarian situation, but are underfunded. As in many conflict contexts, gender-based violence remains one of the most critical protection concerns. Although official data is scarce, studies estimate that 65 per cent of women and girls have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

Many people are also affected by war-like violence, caused by ongoing localised conflicts related to cattle raiding and competition over natural resources. Weak governance has resulted in widespread insecurity, high crime rates, limited access to justice, and inadequate law enforcement, often leading to revenge killings. The prevalence of firearms in the country has fuelled violent confrontations among youth and increased incidents of rape and abduction of women and girls. Additionally, climate change has exacerbated these issues, with recurrent cycles of flooding and drought intensifying violent conflicts over land use, particularly competition for higher grounds and dry lands.

Another concern is the weak health system, highlighted by the November 2024 outbreak of cholera in transit centres near the Sudan border, which may spread to other areas, unless rapid and decisive action is taken by health and WASH actors. The outbreak, currently the largest globally, has affected 90,695 people and resulted in 1,560 deaths between September 2024 and September 2025, with an overall case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.7 per cent since the start of the outbreak, exceeding the maximum acceptable threshold of 1 per cent.

3. The humanitarian response

The humanitarian appeal aims to reach 5.5 million people with a budget of USD 1.7 billion for 2025. Over the past few years, humanitarian funding for South Sudan has consistently met around 55-60 per cent of the total HNRP/HRP requirements. However, despite this consistent funding level, many needs remain unmet, and humanitarian standards are not fully adhered to.

The chronic funding gap requires further prioritisation of the humanitarian response, focusing on only the most immediate needs. This means that groups with less severe needs may go completely without assistance, putting them at risk of deteriorating into more severe conditions. In order to improve prioritisation, the Health, Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) clusters have adopted a common integrated plan, focusing on IPC 4 areas, including pockets of IPC 5.

South Sudan is also one of four countries selected for implementation of the OCHA Flagship Initiative, which is a community-centred approach to humanitarian action, launched in 2023. It aims to redesign humanitarian efforts by focusing on the priorities of crisis-affected communities rather than those of aid providers. The initiative is being piloted in Upper Nile, Unity, and Northern Bahr el Ghazal states. The initial results from the initiative have been promising in South Sudan, but tangible effects on community engagement, planning and coordination are hard to measure. A more decentralised coordination structure could enhance field-level response coordination and better ensure that the appropriate assistance reaches the affected communities, especially in hard-to-reach locations.

Delivering humanitarian aid in South Sudan presents exceptional challenges due to armed checkpoints that halt and tax transportation, along with rainy seasons that complicate road travel. While air shipments via helicopters can mitigate these risks, they come at a very high operational cost. The field capacity of partners, especially in remote areas, is crucial for pre-positioning humanitarian supplies to reduce reliance on air assets. Thus, logistics and air transportation become critical sectors. These factors significantly increase the cost of aid operations in the country. In terms of particularly underfunded sectors, Protection, Education and WASH have been the least funded sectors in the past, and are expected to remain underfunded during 2025, despite Sida and likeminded donors' efforts to highlight protection needs.

Many underlying factors driving humanitarian needs in South Sudan are beyond the scope of humanitarian activities. Nevertheless, most basic services in the country would not function without humanitarian aid. Over a decade of substantial assistance has, in many ways, replaced regular public services, particularly in the health sector. Unfortunately, there are few signs of positive development or improvement in the humanitarian situation. There is also a significant risk of donor fatigue, especially considering that South Sudan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for humanitarian staff.

In addition to humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), is currently one of the world's larger peacekeeping

operations. UNMISS currently has some 18,000 personnel deployed, with large military bases in former conflict areas.

The rapid shutdown of USAID has significantly reduced active operations in South Sudan, effectively cutting the number of people targeted from 5.4 million to 2.9 million, with re-prioritized requirements of USD 1.03 billion, down from the initial USD 1.7 billion. This has necessitated drastic prioritization, posing severe risks of widespread malnutrition, food insecurity and potentially even famine.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

In 2025, Sida's prioritised humanitarian sectors in South Sudan will continue to be FSL, Nutrition, Protection and WASH. The Protection and WASH sectors, although underfunded, are crucial to maintain due to their direct impact on the safety and health of vulnerable populations. Sida and its selected partners play a vital role in filling these gaps.

The Protection sector focuses on safeguarding individuals from violence, exploitation, and abuse, which is particularly important in conflict-affected areas. The WASH sector is critical for preventing waterborne diseases and ensuring access to clean water and sanitation facilities, which are fundamental for public health. Food Security remains the sector receiving the most international funding, but the funding received is still far from sufficient and the ongoing food crisis necessitates continued prioritisation and support to ensure that life-saving food aid reaches those in need. Ensuring food security also helps mitigate the risks of further deterioration into chronic malnutrition and/or increased tensions and conflicts.

Overall, Sida's commitment to these sectors underscores the importance of a comprehensive approach to humanitarian aid, addressing both immediate needs and contributing to longer-term resilience and stability.

In September, Sida made an end of year allocation focused specifically on crises with very acute needs and severe underfunding. In this allocation, an additional 16 MSEK was allocated to South Sudan. This funding has been directed towards acute food security interventions due to the increase in emergency and catastrophic levels of food insecurity, including the risk of famine.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
AAH	FSL, WASH, Health, Nutrition, Protection	18,000,000 ¹
ICRC	Protection, Multisector	25,000,000
IRC	Food Security, Nutrition, Health, Protection	15,000,000 ¹

¹ Already committed in 2024.

Islamic Relief	Food Security, WASH, Health, Nutrition, Protection	15,000,000 ²
NRC	Education, Shelter, WASH, Protection, Food Security	20,000,000 ²
SSHF	Protection, Multisector	30,000,000
Swedish Red Cross	WASH, Health, Food Security Protection	15,000,000 ³
UNHCR	Multisector	27,000,000
TOTAL		165,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2025 (SEK)

PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ⁴	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger	2,000,000	-
Islamic Relief	3,000,000	-
MSB ⁵	10,239,000	-
OCHA Field Coordination ⁶	6,000,000	-
WFP	-	16,000,000
TOTAL	21,239,000	16,000,000

¹ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

² Already committed in 2023.

³ Of which SEK 10 million already committed in 2023 and SEK 5 million in 2024.

⁴ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

⁵ Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.

⁶ Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.