

South Sudan

The UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub Country Support Brief

South Sudan continues to grapple with a complex humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, economic instability, and climate-related shocks. By the end of 2024, the country was hosting over 500,000 refugees and asylum seekers—mostly from Sudan—and nearly 2 million internally displaced people (UNHCR, 2025). Food insecurity has reached alarming levels, with 7.7 million people—57 percent of the population—projected to face Crisis or worse conditions (IPC Phase 3+) during the lean season. Additionally, 2.3 million children are at risk of malnutrition (WFP, 2025).

JOINT HUB SUPPORT

From 2022 to 2024, the UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub supported operations in South Sudan in transitioning from status-based to targeted humanitarian assistance. This engagement extended into mid-2025, providing ad-hoc technical support and facilitating a learning exercise. The Joint Hub conducted two field missions: one in February 2023 to validate qualitative data from the joint assessment, and another in July 2023 to carry out community consultations.

KEY SUPPORT AREAS



Assessment and Analysis



Targeting & Prioritization



Accountability to
Affected People



Learning



Coordination

ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

The Joint Hub supported the design of Joint Post Distribution Monitoring (JPDM) - an expanded module of WFP's regular PDMs - to cater additional data needs to inform targeting. The South Sudan JPDM was guided by the Joint Analytical Framework (JAF [Joint Analytical Framework](#)). The primary data was collected in January 2023, covering a total of 1,294 households. Data analysis was carried out, reviewed and finalized by country offices and the Joint Hub. The assessment showed 85

percent of refugee households were highly vulnerable. However, prioritisation was deemed necessary due to resource constraints. The 2023 prioritisation approach considered location-specific seasonal factors, livelihood opportunities and protection-related concerns.

Recommendation: Regularly monitor outcomes for the targeted versus non-targeted population, ideally through joint monitoring to optimise resources.

External files: The [Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Report](#) and [Brief](#)

Metadata

- WFP Library: [SSD JPDM 2023](#)
- UNHCR Micro-library: [South Sudan - Joint Post Distribution Monitoring - 2023 \(unhcr.org\)](#)
- UNHCR RIDL: [South Sudan 2023](#)

Internal Files: JPDM [ToR](#); Questionnaires [Tool](#); [Analysis Plan](#), [SSD Analysis Results 20230207.xlsx](#)

TARGETING AND PRIORITIZATION

Following the joint assessment and community consultations, eight initial eligibility criteria were proposed. Country offices analyzed the prevalence of combinations of these criteria using UNHCR's proGres registration data, while also considering WFP's available budget. Several scenarios were assessed, and ultimately, five criteria most closely associated with household vulnerability were selected. These prioritized groups—households receiving the 'protection top-up' and new arrivals—were targeted to receive food rations throughout the year. Households not meeting these eligibility criteria received food assistance only during the location-specific lean season (ranging from four to eight months, starting May 2024).

The final eligibility criteria included:

- Households with member(s) suffering from chronic illness
- Households with member(s) with disabilities
- Child-headed households
- Elderly-headed households or elderly living alone
- Households with children at risk or unaccompanied children

In 2025, due to severe funding constraints, country offices implemented more restrictive targeting measures, limiting the assistance to only the most vulnerable group targeted for protection top-ups and to new arrivals.

Recommendation: Conduct review of targeting, and update approach as necessary, especially to revise the arrivals and returnees from 2023.

Internal Files: [Targeting and prioritization approach](#)

JOINT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

The Joint Hub supported the development of the Joint Communication Strategy to ensure meaningful community engagement ahead of and throughout the implementation of the new targeting approach. This included support in the planning and facilitation of community consultations. The report is publicly available.

Recommendation: Continuously improve community engagement.

External files: [Community Consultation Report](#)

Internal Files: [Joint Communication Strategy](#); [Key Messages](#); [ToR community consultation](#); Questionnaires: [FGDs tool \(refugees\)](#); [KIIs tool \(refugee leaders/stakeholders\)](#); [KIIs tool \(protection experts\)](#); [KIIs tool \(livelihood experts\)](#)

JOINT APPEALS MECHANISM

The Joint Hub supported the design of the joint appeals process, building on existing feedback mechanisms.

Recommendation: *Analyse the appeals trends for strengthening of appeals mechanism.*

Internal Files: [Joint Appeals Mechanism SOPs](#); [Joint Appeals Committee ToR](#);

LEARNING

A learning review was conducted to document best practices and lessons learnt from the process of joint targeting in South Sudan. Led by the Joint Hub team, the review was based on information gathered through interviews with colleagues in country operations and key documents.

Recommendation: *Head of programme or relevant units to ensure learning is used to inform ongoing programming.*

TORs: [SSD Learning Review TOR V1.docx](#)

ADVOCACY FOR SELF-RELIANCE AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Country offices highlighted the need of support on advocacy efforts to strengthen resource mobilization for medium to long-term inclusion efforts on self-reliance and economic inclusion. However, meaningful discussions couldn't take place and was put on-hold until learning exercise is completed.

Recommendation: *Relevant partnership and development/resilience colleagues to liaise bilaterally.*

COORDINATION

The Joint Hub coordinated monthly (or biweekly) online meetings with country offices, documenting the process and decisions.

Internal Files: [First scope of work](#); [Second/extended scope of work](#)



Photo Credit: © WFP/Mohamed Galal

Learn more: www.wfp-unhcr-hub.org