



World Food
Programme

SUDAN

Executive Board, February 2010



SUDAN OVERVIEW: 2010



Five years into the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Sudan is at a major crossroad with elections and the referendum ahead

Recent political advancements have yet to show tangible results

Humanitarian situation remains complex and widespread

Conflict and displacement in Darfur has stabilized but insecurity remains a real threat

High levels of vulnerability remains across the country

Sudan faces formidable challenges in 2010.

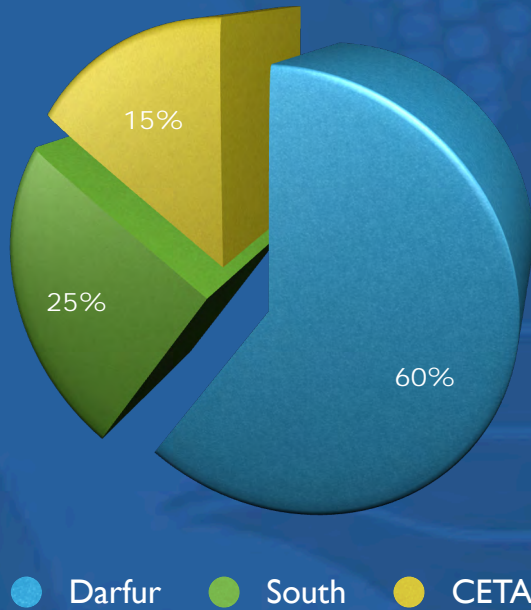
Five years into the comprehensive peace agreement, Sudan is approaching its first national election since 1986 this April. In February 2011, a referendum will follow to determine unity with the north or secession for the south. The already semi-autonomous southern Sudan may shortly become an independent state. And yet, widespread insecurity and massive poverty continue to threaten the peace deal. It is clear that Africa's largest country and its southern region in particular are at a major crossroad.

Political advancements have not translated into better lives for the Sudanese people and millions continue to live in extremely vulnerable conditions. Highest levels of vulnerability expand across the western region of Darfur and the south as well as the north-south boundary and pockets in the East. Displacements continue to be reported both in Darfur and the South.

In Darfur, the situation has stabilized somewhat in terms conflict and new displacements. However, the continued threat of banditry and lawlessness cannot be ignored and the threat of targeted incidents against humanitarian workers that, in 2009, culminated in multiple kidnapping incidents, remains a real concern. On a more positive note, the ICRC colleague who was captured in Chad and held in West Darfur for several months was recently released and evacuated by UNHAS to safety.



FOOD ASSISTANCE: WFP 2010



FOOD ASSISTANCE TO POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN SUDAN

EMOP 200027

Duration
Jan – Dec 2010

Requirement
US\$897 million

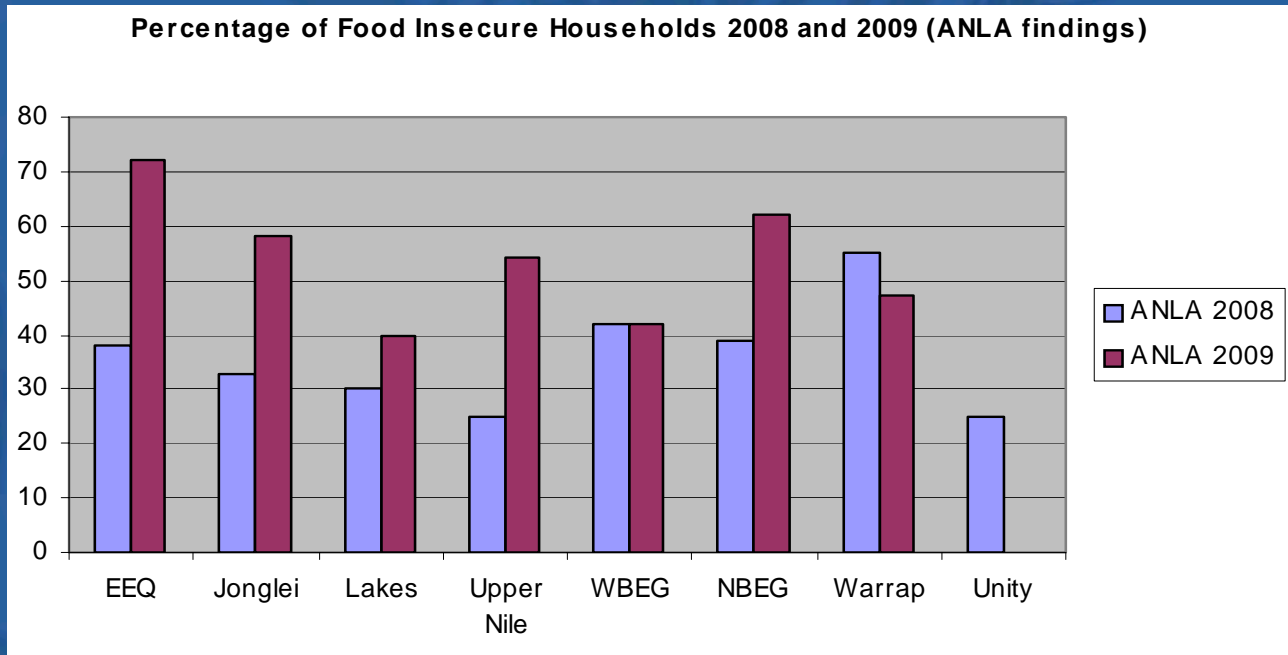
Caseload
11 million people

Tonnage
764,005 mt

The overall impact of the drought in 2009 has cast a gloomy picture on food security prospects in 2010. The WFP and FAO-led Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission in the north recently reported that cereal production levels in 2009 were 30% lower than previous years. The Mission report for the south, that is still being finalized, indicates that the production levels in the south may have dropped by almost 40% compared to 2008.

High sorghum prices prevail - in fact, it is cheaper to buy wheat from the international market, ship it to Sudan and deliver it to beneficiaries than it is to buy local sorghum. Not only does this discount possibilities for local procurement but the outlook for the average farmer in Sudan is extremely alarming as the terms of trade for livestock owners continue to deteriorate. To cite an example, last year, a cow could be exchanged for 1,600 kg of sorghum. Today, it can be bartered for about 400 kg.

What does this mean? About a quarter of Sudan's population will need some form of food assistance this year. From assisting 6.5 million last year, WFP's targeted caseload has now increased by 70% to almost 11 million. The bulk of the increase is primarily in southern Sudan.



Last November, I was able to present some of the preliminary results of the Annual Needs and Livelihoods Assessment as they were being analysed. We now have the full picture.

The percentage of food insecure households in 2009 versus 2008 has increased significantly across the board, with the exception of just two states. The findings show this to be the direct result of drought and insecurity. The number of people facing food deficit has quadrupled, from just over one million in 2009 to 4.3 million. This is almost half the population of southern Sudan. Out of 4.3 million affected people, 1.6 million are severely food insecure while 2.7 million are moderately affected.

The highest vulnerability levels are seen in Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria states. In Jonglei, the primary factors are conflict and displacement while Eastern Equatoria was badly hit by the drought.

The rainfall in June will be a key determining factor for how the situation pans out for the rest of the year. WFP will be monitoring this closely for early indications as another failed harvest will generate a massive domino effect in the situation further spiraling out of control.



SOUTH SUDAN: EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Not all 4.3 million people will receive food throughout the year - about 3.2 million are beneficiaries under general food distribution and most will only need partial and seasonal assistance for 2 to 5 months of the year leading up to and during the lean months. Among these are moderately food insecure people whom WFP will assist through existing targeted programmes such as Food for Education and Food for Recovery wherever possible.

Nevertheless, existing household food stocks are expected to deplete before March, which means that vulnerable families will start going hungry much earlier than normally expected.

However reaching and feeding 4.3 million people in a region that has only 3,600 km of road poses a huge challenge. There is a massive capacity problem in the region and despite working with more than 100 partners, coverage remains thin on the ground and direct distribution by WFP will be a necessity in many remote locations. We are also working against time. Existing resources have been stretched to the limit and WFP will struggle to respond to any unforeseen shocks such as flooding that may arise.

We are in the process of prepositioning 60,000 mt of food to avoid costly air deliveries. For this, WFP is augmenting its storage capacity with 50 additional mobile storage units and increasing barge capacities serving the eastern states, particularly Jonglei that has been the hardest hit. We are also moving some of our fleet of all-terrain trucks from Darfur to support the south. Staff have been deployed from all corners of Sudan and everything that can be done is being done to augment our capacity on the ground. Food has been diverted from Darfur and other regions and even within Southern Sudan, WFP is already prioritizing emergency activities above other recovery-type interventions.

Donors have been generous and the EMOP is already close to being 50% funded. However, the pipeline starts to break in June and unless WFP is able to resource funds immediately, distributions in Darfur and the rest of Sudan will suffer.

Sudan is the world's 10th largest country and it takes anywhere between 4 to 6 months for a donation to become food distributed.



DARFUR: ADAPTING TO EVOLVING NEEDS

- Six years on, the humanitarian needs in Darfur have changed and WFP is adapting its emergency
- WFP will focus on more nuanced and targeted assistance through Food Security and Monitoring System
- Blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programme will be further refined and expanded
- WFP and partners will re-verify IDP camp populations throughout Darfur
- Support will be provided to returns under the UN framework as an interagency priority



Over the past 2 years, WFP has recognised a need to adapt its emergency programming in Darfur in order to respond to the evolving needs of IDPs and vulnerable residents. It is evident that 6 years on, humanitarian needs and the food security/nutritional status of beneficiaries have changed.

WFP's strategy is to gradually decrease general food distribution while increasing targeted safety net programmes. This strategy will be guided by our Food Security and Monitoring System that has been successfully rolled out in 2009. Our focus is to further strengthen this capacity to better understand the evolving nature of food needs in the region to enable more nuanced assistance.

WFP will also expand the use of vouchers, for milling for instance, to further reduce costs and to provide households with an indirect income transfer. The possibility to use fresh food vouchers will also be explored to further benefit the dietary diversity of households. These new initiatives will ultimately serve to reduce high commodity costs of the operation.

Blanket supplementary feeding programmes and targeted supplementary feeding is an area that WFP continues to refine and work closely with partners on strengthening methodologies for monitoring and evaluating in 2010.

WFP plans to re-verify and rationalize IDP camp caseloads together with partners IOM and UNHCR. The Government, our important partner, is fully supportive of this initiative. A Darfur-wide camp population count has not been possible to implement since 2005 because of security concerns.

Provision of support to returns in the context of the UN framework is an important inter-agency priority in the region and food assistance will be part of an integrated returns package.



HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE



PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICES IN SUDAN

Duration

Jan – Dec 2010

Total Cost (including nominal fee income)

US\$63 million

Funding Requirement

US\$45 million

Users

300 organizations including UN agencies, NGOs and donors/ diplomatic missions

WFP has launched a new 12-month Special Operation for 2010 with an overall requirement of US\$63 million. Based on 2009 utilization rate, WFP anticipates that US\$18 million of this (28%) will be cost recovered through passenger nominal fees while US\$45 million will remain contingent on voluntary donor funding.

UNHAS users rely heavily on regular and undisrupted services to carry out their humanitarian assistance in Sudan. In the effort to deliver adequate services and ensure efficiency of the operation, predictable and timely funding is an immediate operational obligation. UNHAS is requesting user agencies including WFP to advance 75% of its projected fees for the year. WFP is in a much better position to negotiate lower rates if we are able to contract for a longer period.

The World Food Programme has been operating the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) in Sudan since 2004 with the objective of providing reliable, safe, efficient and cost-effective inter-agency air transport service. In 2009, UNHAS operated across 108 locations across the country, serving more than 300 UN agencies, NGOs, diplomatic missions and donor organizations working in Sudan.

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My presentation thus far does not paint a pretty picture. However I am happy to report that my presentation does have some positive news.

Our original EMOP plan and budget for 2010 was first prepared in May/June last year, relying heavily on rates, assumptions and estimates based on the operational environment of 2008. You will recall that this was a year when insecurity and hijacking of trucks and cars were at its highest. The world was grappling with high food and fuel prices. Moreover, the expulsion of key NGO partners in Darfur in early 2009 necessitated additional staff and infrastructure for WFP to take over direct distributions to 1.1 million beneficiaries.

The circumstances have changed since then. Insecurity in Darfur does not influence transport rates as they have done before. Commodity and fuel prices have come down. The increased need in the south has forced WFP to look at ways of meeting demands without hiking up costs at a time when donor countries continue to suffer the aftermath of the 2009 financial crisis.

The 2010 EMOP budget has thus revised and I am pleased to report that the overall rate per ton has gone down from \$1,311 of the original EMOP prepared in May/June to \$1,100, representing a reduction of more than \$200 per ton. WFP will continue in its efforts to further reduce its costs in the coming months and maximise the tonnage on the dollar received.



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THE END

World Food Programme Sudan
