

Applicant	World Food Programme
Request Type	New request
Activity Title	Access to food, nutrition and livelihoods during and after the crisis to people affected by shocks (Strategic Outcome #01, Sudan Country Strategic Plan 2019-23)
Country	Sudan
Submission Date	24 November 2022
Total Funding Level Requested	Euro 10 million
Total (in MT if applicable)	A total of 10,382
Overarching Appeal or Project Document + Duration	Sudan Country Strategic Plan (CSP), January 2019-December 2023
Total Operation Funding Level	Approximately USD 230 million is the requirement for Strategic Outcome #01, ACT 1 (end hunger by protecting access to food), of which there is a shortfall of nearly USD 78 million from October to March 2023.
Proposed Interventions (If Applicable)	Activity #01: Provision of food assistance to people affected by shocks
Proposed Timeframe for Award	3 months
Contact Persons	Field Contact: Samuel Eddie Rowe, Country Director and Representative, WFP Sudan Country Office (eddie.rowe@wfp.org)

1. Description of Emergency or Disaster Risk and Current/Projected Needs

The combined effects of conflict, economic and political crisis, climate shocks and poor harvests are significantly affecting people's access to food and compromising their food and nutrition security. Needs are widespread across the country, from conflict-affected areas to impoverished areas that are bearing the brunt of the economic downturn.

Economic vulnerability, fueled by the deterioration of the macroeconomic environment and rising food and transportation costs, is making it harder for families to put food on the table. Even though the inflation rate has decreased in recent months, it remains high at 117.4 percent in September 2022. The increases in fuel prices (over 400 percent greater than the same time last year) and the high cost of local food baskets are negatively affecting the purchasing power of households. The WFP local food basket (LFB) cost increased to SDG 566 in September 2022, an increase of 8 percent compared to the previous month and 143 percent higher than one year ago. The high food prices are driven by the high costs of agricultural inputs (including fuel, fertilizer, pesticides and labor) as well as rising global food prices.

The Ukraine conflict is driving food and fuel prices further up. Sudan is dependent on wheat imports from the Black Sea region – with an estimated 54 percent of its wheat imports coming from the region [\[3\]](#). Disruptions in wheat production and cereal export flows due to blockades in the Black Sea region are limiting global wheat supplies and unfolding into higher global wheat prices. Moreover, disruptions in fertilizer production and export will further augment agricultural production costs and contribute to higher food prices.

The domestic cereal production from the 2021/22 agricultural season was affected by erratic rainfalls, including dry spells and floods in certain areas, generating a poor harvest season (35 percent below last year production and 30 percent lower than the five-year average). The country is facing a significant deficit in sorghum for the first time in years, affecting food availability and access. In September, the national average retail price of sorghum reached SDG 461/Kg, which is an increase of 11 percent compared to the previous month.

In addition, as a result of conflict, more than 2.5 million people are displaced across Darfur and Kordofan States, and Blue Nile. From January to September 2022, over 211,000 people were displaced across the country due to intercommunal conflict and armed attacks. This has eroded livelihoods, damaged farms, and triggered widespread unemployment.

The Food Security and Livelihood Sector (FSL), which WFP is a part of, indicates in the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) that 11.7 million people are in need, amounting to over 25 percent of the population. These categories of people are experiencing crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 and above) levels of food insecurity, which represents an increase of around 2 million food insecure people when comparing the same seasons in 2021. This deterioration in food security is in line with WFP's Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA), conducted in the first quarter of 2022, which indicates that 34 percent of the population are food insecure. Although WFP's CFSVA numbers are different from the IPC, due to differing methodologies in assessing food security,

the actual target population (10 million) for WFP's food and cash assistance remains within the HRP's People in Need (PIN) figure (11.7 million).

Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa – with over 1.14 million refugees from South Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Chad, and Yemen. In early November 2020, a full-scale humanitarian crisis unfolded as thousands fled from the ongoing fighting in Ethiopia's Tigray region to seek safety in Eastern Sudan, with nearly 56,000 refugees from Ethiopia seeking refuge in Kassala, Gedaref and Blue Nile^[5]. With the on-going conflict between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray Liberation Front (TPLF) in Ethiopia, UNHCR and WFP are planning a contingency planning for possible 30,000 new arrivals into Sudan as the likely scenario in 2022 and early 2023.

Sudan is affected by recurrent natural shocks, particularly floods every year. By the end of September 2022, torrential rains and flash floods had affected about 349,000 people, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Government's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), humanitarian organizations on the ground, and local authorities. The rains and floods have destroyed at least 16,400 homes and damaged another 42,200 in 16 out of the 18 states. Over 12,100 feddans (about 5,100 hectares) of agricultural land has been lost.

In 2023, WFP is planning to reach 5.8 million people in Sudan through ACT 1 in our CSP with life-saving food and cash assistance and livelihood opportunities. However, severe funding shortfalls may jeopardize this plan. WFP faces a current major funding shortfall of USD \$78 million until March 2023.

On 11 November, WFP received an invitation to participate in the *Grain from Ukraine* initiative. This follows the announcement on the 90th Anniversary of the Great Famine (Holodomor) of 1932-33 in Ukraine by the President of Ukraine to provide up to 125,000 MT of additional Ukrainian grain to countries most affected by hunger.

Following negotiations with the Government of Ukraine (GoU), WFP has been informed of an initial in-kind contribution from the GoU of 86,500 MT, of which 54,500 MT will go to Yemen and 32,000 MT to Sudan. The wheat commodity for Sudan is valued at USD 9.5 million. To secure the contribution, WFP must urgently mobilize about USD 25 million in twinning resources to meet the associated costs required to move the commodity to the hands of beneficiaries. Ukrainian authorities indicated that they have arranged for vessels to be loaded by November 26.

2. Description of Activity Objectives/Purposes and Proposed Interventions

Using this contribution, WFP plans to meet associated costs related to a contribution of approximately 10,382 metric tons of wheat from Ukraine (a third of the whole tonnage provided) which will support the provision of life-saving food assistance to approximately **473,077** most vulnerable people in Sudan — including refugees and IDPs, in targeted areas to ensure people have access to food during/after crises. As such, food insecure populations such as refugees and IDPs will be targeted through Unconditional General Food Assistance.

- **General Food Assistance (in-kind transfers)**

Under the WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Strategic Outcome 1, WFP will target the most food insecure, shock-affected population with life-saving assistance to ensure their daily food needs are met and people recover from shocks.

Key response mechanism will be **predominantly unconditional general food assistance** to address the immediate emergency food and nutrition needs, targeting the most vulnerable refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) **country-wide**. IDPs will continue to receive half ration of the full 2,100 kcal/person/day as per WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP).

The other commodities of the food basket: Pulses, VegOil and Salt are funded by other donors.

- **Implementation details**

According to the latest HRP, more than 11.7 M people (24% of the population) are experiencing crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity in Sudan, based on the latest IPC analysis. The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) indicates that over 15 million people (34 percent of the total population in Sudan) are food insecure. The CFSVA was conducted in all 18 states across Sudan and identified food insecure population, assessed risk factors that contribute to food insecurity, and pinpointed vulnerable geographical areas. The highest prevalence of food insecurity was observed in West Darfur (65 percent); Central Darfur (59 percent); North Darfur (56 percent); and Blue Nile (50 percent). WFP's priority target population are refugees, IDPs and severely food insecure resident population (equivalent to IPC 3 and above).

1. **Refugees:** Unconditional food assistance will be provided to refugees with full ration, to those who are registered by UNHCR and residing in camps. WFP does not provide assistance to refugees outside camps. This activity is part of WFP's monthly unconditional emergency food/cash-based transfers (red category beneficiaries, equivalent to IPC Phase 4 and above)
2. **Internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in South Kordofan, West Kordofan, Blue Nile and the Darfur States will receive 50% rations. IDPs are assessed and categorized into two vulnerability groups — red category (highly food insecure, equivalent to IPC Phase 4 and above); orange category (moderately food insecure, equivalent to IPC Phase 3)[\[7\]](#) - with each group receiving appropriate support accordingly:

Reprofiling activities are currently ongoing across the country, including in North/West/ Central/South Darfur states to determine the food security levels of the IDPs and hence fine tune targeting for food assistance.

Pending future funding availability, the food insecure **resident population** will be targeted using the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA), identifying the most vulnerable population category, i.e, IPC 4 equivalent. Unconditional Food Assistance will also be provided following a sudden onset shock(s) such as floods. This is currently not being funded by this in-kind contribution.

3. Targeting approaches

Targeting is core to WFP's food assistance operations. It is a series of processes aimed at providing the right people with the right assistance at the right time.

WFP follows a three-step sequential targeting approach for food-insecure caseloads (including IDPs).

- **Targeting of states:** the most food insecure geographical areas are selected using the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA), conducted in the first quarter of 2022, and constitute the defined project areas. States and localities with the highest rate of food insecurity are identified, with localities that have a higher percentage of their population severely food insecure prioritized. These include West Darfur, Central Darfur, North Darfur, South Darfur, East Darfur, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, Blue Nile, Gadarif, Kassala and Red Sea States.
- **Targeting of locations:** Within the food-insecure localities, WFP works with local authorities and community leaders to identify the most vulnerable locations to economic and health shocks, including villages and settlements. Community leaders represent different sections of the community such as the youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Local leaders also include sheiks/religious leaders. Implementation of the project must go through local leaders who not only provide community buy-in but also influence and motivate people to action.
- **Targeting of households (IDPs):** The community-based targeting approach enables the community to determine the actual beneficiaries in a participatory process. The approach involves communities, following sensitization and mobilization efforts by WFP and the Cooperating Partners, forming a selection committee with at least 7 members who categorize beneficiaries using criteria that they have defined and in line with WFP's guidelines. Criteria for ranking and selection of households are based on demographic composition within targeted localities and decided on together with local communities. Identifiers of high vulnerability to food insecurity usually include female/ elderly/ widowed/ child-headed households; households with high dependency ratio; households with disabled persons and unaccompanied minors; households with unsustainable income; and households affected by livelihood or health shocks. WFP and/or Cooperating Partners verify the process via in situ visits to the committees. Once the beneficiary list has been finalized, WFP selects 10 - 20 percent of the committee's beneficiary list to confirm that the selected households are vulnerable and food insecure. If more than 10 percent of the verified households do not meet the defined criteria, the exercise is considered void and re-done. The Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) allows beneficiaries and communities to raise concerns about the targeting process and/or results directly to WFP and its partners via calling or writing a complaint on the spot to the focal point of CFM.
- **Targeting of households (refugees):** WFP targets refugees that are residing in camps only. IPC and CFSVA will both be updated during Q2 of 2023, which will enable WFP to further review, adjust and sharpen its targeting mechanism and beneficiary figures. **Further beneficiary breakdown per locality has been included as Annex 4 below.** This locality level targeting is subject to change according to operational context and needs, assessment results, and implementation plan, as this assistance is scheduled to begin in Q2 of 2023.

4. Integration of Cross-Cutting Factors into Programming

- **Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations**

Drawing on the organizational WFP Humanitarian Protection Policy (2016) and Community Engagement for Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Strategy (2021-2026), WFP Sudan remains committed to mainstreaming protection and AAP into all activities, encompassing gender and age considerations, through consultations including focus group discussions and regular protection assessments throughout the lifecycle of the Project. WFP is an active member of the Protection Sector, as well as Gender Based Violence and Child Protection subsector working groups at country and state levels and the Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network. Participation in these forums enhances collaboration, coordination and learning to incorporate best practices within WFP operations. To ensure Accountability to Affected Population, WFP has established Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) through a centralized national Call Centre in Khartoum. As a key communication channel, the Call Centre has six operators who receive complaints and feedback on WFP activities from beneficiaries through toll-free helpline number (1460) every day and the cases are handled in a secure and confidential manner. The received cases are safely managed in a corporate case management software system, SugarCRM, ensuring data protection, and are utilized to improve WFP activities. Through this, WFP addresses concerns/complaints immediately as they are received or referring them to any of the thirteen focal points for each of the WFP activities when they are not in a position to respond immediately. WFP and UNHCR have recently established a joint inter-agency CFM to address the specific concerns of refugees through an appropriate referral system. WFP has also recruited senior protection associates in each of the Area Offices.

- **Gender Sensitivity, Integration and Empowerment**

Gender inequalities remain a significant impediment to social and economic development in Sudan. Assessments show that in Sudan, households headed by women are more food insecure than households headed by men and report also showed that the impact of COVID-19 and the deteriorating economic situation has increased incidence of violence against women and forced marriages. Against such contexts, in accordance with WFP Gender Policy (2022), WFP pursues gender equality and women's empowerment as central to WFP's mission of saving lives and changing lives.

WFP regularly conducts consultation and training sessions with its CPs and community members and provides guidelines with views to enhance gender-responsive food assistance that meets the different needs and interests of men, women, boys and girls, as well as promote equal and unhindered access for all groups. WFP makes every effort to ensure female representatives are part of the on-site helpdesks and any local committees established for targeting and food assistance purposes. At the Area Office level, WFP's senior gender focal points will closely work with the target communities to ensure that the women, girls and minorities have access to WFP assistance in a safe and dignified manner.

- **Community Participation and Social Inclusion**

WFP Sudan ensures close involvement of beneficiaries in the design and implementation of its activities through their participation in the design and implementation of the methodologies to target/profile those most vulnerable, and provide avenues to request information, channel complaints and challenge project-specific decisions. WFP also receives feedback and collects perception of beneficiaries regarding the distribution process via distribution and post-distribution monitoring. These findings are discussed with Cooperating Partners and incorporated into the design of the distribution process itself.

Through the Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM), WFP and its Cooperating partners ensure protection and other key concerns reflected in the distribution process are received and processed in a timely manner.

WFP Sudan further develops and maintains communication and relationships with beneficiaries and traditional/local authorities through regular meetings, focus group discussions and communication campaigns aimed at guaranteeing that messages regarding WFP programs and decisions are communicated accurately to all members of the community. It also takes note to ensure that beneficiaries, emerging from different vulnerable groups are adequately represented and targeted in the design and implementation, including receipt of transfers, verification and record keeping.

- **Conflict Sensitivity and inclusivity**

WFP ensures that its interventions do not perpetuate any pre-existing or new conflict dynamics. WFP Sudan's capacity to intervene almost immediately in the aftermath of conflict patterns and shocks ensures that it is sensitive to dynamic circumstances as a first responder and stabilizes the situation. Additional measures WFP Sudan takes include fostering a comprehensive approach that does not differentiate the delivery of services by parties to armed conflict and violence but provides food and nutrition assistance based on the needs of affected populations. Protection assessments are undertaken to identify potential risks and mitigation measures particularly in conflict-sensitive areas prior to activity implementation.

Assessments on disability status, namely the number of persons with disability per household, are routinely included in WFP's food security assessment and process monitoring. After the Executive Board approval of the WFP Disability Inclusion Roadmap 2020–21 in November 2020, WFP is working towards exploring the types and extent of disabilities amongst potential and target beneficiaries, and their influence on interventions provided to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are embedded in the project.

5. Budget

Included in the enclosed funding application package.

Cost Category	Amount in USD	Amount in EURO
Total Transfer Costs	10,438,531	10,020,990
Implementation costs	1,488,535	1,428,993
Direct Operating Costs (DOC)	11,927,066	11,449,983
Direct Support Costs (DSC)	633,327	607,994
Total Direct Costs	12,560,393	12,057,978
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)	816,426	783,769
Grand total	13,376,819	12,841,746

Annex I: Geographic Overview of Countrywide Operations and Food Insecurity



