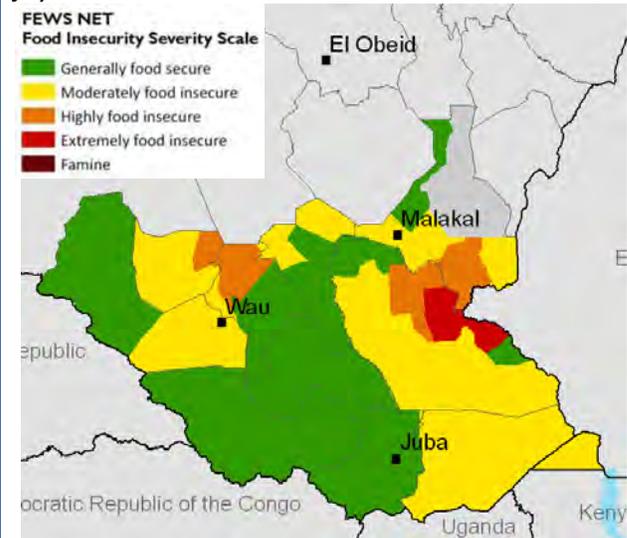


SOUTH SUDAN Food Security Outlook

July to December 2009

- Food insecurity remains concentrated in the northwest, eastern, and southeastern parts of south Sudan. Needs from August to October in these areas have nearly doubled, especially in areas of conflict (Akobo, Wanding, Nyirol, and Pibor areas) and rainfall-affected areas. Inter-ethnic and inter-tribal conflicts across Southern Sudan have displaced close to 250,000 people since January.
- Current food security conditions are likely to remain unchanged until the end of October, when harvesting of the delayed harvest is expected to peak.
- There has been a general increase in food prices. These increases are slightly above or comparable to the sharp increases that occurred globally in 2007 and 2008. This year's high food prices may be caused by a combination of above-normal hunger season food shortages and escalating conflict across southern Sudan that has impeded the flow of goods. There are unconfirmed reports suggesting the unavailability of government-subsidized grain in some parts this year. Subsidized grain has been available since 2006-2007.

Figure 1. Current estimated food security conditions, July 2009

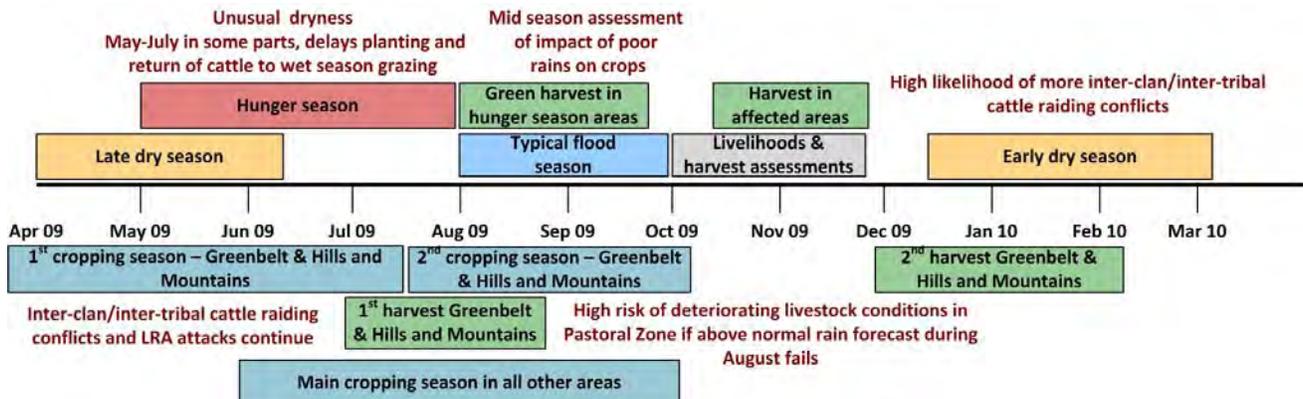


Source: FEWS NET

For more information on FEWS NET's Food Insecurity Severity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

- Of highest concern is the eastern half of southern Sudan, where conflict has escalated since March-April and caused population displacements. The conflict has also severely disrupted cultivation and traditional food exchange mechanisms as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Past conflicts, especially those involving Akobo, Luakpiny, Maiwut, Ulang, Wuror, and Nyirol counties, have been protracted and taken years to resolve. The Government of Southern Sudan is facilitating a peace commission to help with negotiations between warring groups.

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

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Current food security conditions

Food security has deteriorated over the last two months, partly due to increased inter-tribal/inter-ethnic conflicts and resulting displacements, as well as continued attacks by armed groups on settled populations. These conflicts have exacerbated typical food shortages often experienced during the May to August hunger season. In addition, dryness in June-August 2008, followed by floods and persistent cattle raiding conflicts, have led to food shortfalls across all wealth groups concentrated in almost all of the **Eastern Flood Plains Zone** (Figure 2). Other areas affected include the northern parts of the pastoral zone. Akobo County and the surrounding areas are most critical, as continued conflict has severely constrained humanitarian access.

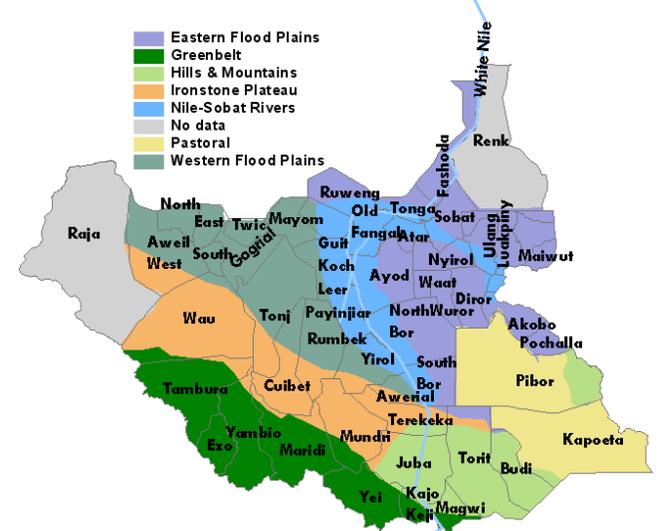
In the **Western Flood Plains Zone**, Northern Bahr El Gazal counties, particularly Aweil East, are highly food insecure due to the continued impact of last year's poor crop performance attributed to un-seasonal flooding. Flooding-induced crop shortfalls caused food insecurity in this area beginning in December among poor households with little or no livestock. A nutrition survey conducted by ACF in June 2009 found high malnutrition rates of 29.8 and 7.8 percent GAM (WHZ <-2SD and/or edema, WHO) and SAM (WHZ <-3SD and/or edema, WHO), respectively. Though these rates are much higher than last year, comparable GAM rates in the 24-30 percent range have been recorded since the 1980s in Aweil East, Aweil South, and Twic, most recently in 2001, 2004, and 2005. Malnutrition in Northern Bar El Gazal State and in many other parts of Southern Sudan is attributed to multiple chronic causes, such as poor sanitation, hygiene, and access to health interventions, as well as food insecurity. Short-term therapeutic nutrition and health interventions have been the typical remedy in the past years, but associated improvements are often short lived. Typical hunger season food shortages have reached a peak in parts of the **Ironstone Plateau Zone**, but will soon abate with the harvest of short-term crops in September. Rainfall conditions in this area have been better than in other locations.

The April-July cropping season, predominant in the **Greenbelt and Hills-Mountain zones**, has ended and harvests are ongoing (Figure 3). Informal reports from the Greenbelt area suggest that harvests are normal in areas that have not been affected by LRA insecurity. Official reports from Hills and Mountains indicate a failed to poor first season harvest, especially in the typical marginal producing unimodal areas. Some Hills and Mountain Zone areas with a second season might have some improvements if normal rains occur during August and September. In this area, households are relying on government-subsidized sorghum, whose stocks are anticipated to last until October.

Food security conditions are stable in the north and central parts of the Nile-Sobat River Zone, but very unstable along the eastern area extending towards Akobo, due to inter-clan conflict since April-June.

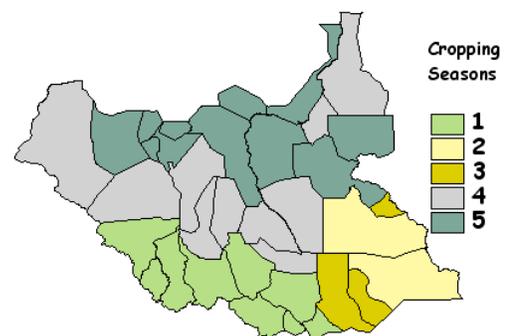
A potential worsening of food security is likely in the southern parts of the **Pastoral Zone** due to persistent severe dryness between May and July. This could severely compromise pasture-water availability and livestock conditions if rains do not improve in August. April-September is a critical time for this zone, as precipitation during the rainy season facilitates pasture and water replenishment. The most likely result of the poor

Figure 2. South Sudan livelihood zones and counties



Source: FEWS NET

Figure 3. Cropping seasons across Southern Sudan



1. April-July and September-December season (Unimodal rains with two cropping seasons)
2. April-September in (pastoral areas) – Limited single season especially in the more arid southern parts
3. Mixed seasons – Areas with two seasons in highlands and one season in lowlands
4. June-November/December – single season (Unimodal)
5. June-September – single season (Unimodal)

Source: FEWS NET

rains is earlier than normal movements of cattle that are near homesteads, as well as longer traveling distances for pasture and water, which increases the potential for traditional cattle-based conflicts with neighboring communities. The poor rains have already disrupted the return of a significant number of cattle to wet season homesteads, constraining the opportunity for households to process and store livestock products, especially locally made ghee that is a critical food source used when cattle move to long distant grazing later in the year.

Most likely food security conditions (July - December 2009)

Food insecure conditions during July–October (Figure 4) are based on the following assumptions:

- A month’s delay of the September/October harvest due to the impact of the May-July dryness on crops
- Persistent conflict, especially in the eastern half of Southern Sudan
- An extremely poor first season in Hills and Mountains
- Persistent above normal dry conditions during August-October in the Pastoral region of Kapoeta

Food insecure conditions during November–December (Figure 5) are based on the following assumptions:

- The delayed September harvest will slightly improve food security especially in the western half of Southern Sudan but not necessarily improve conditions in the eastern sector
- Persistent conflict, especially in the eastern half of Southern Sudan
- Pockets of chronic food insecurity will persist in Northern Bahr El Gazal in the immediate post-harvest period
- A poor second season in select Hills and Mountain areas
- Deteriorating pasture and water conditions in the pastoral areas of Kapoeta and possibly Pibor

Food insecurity is expected to persist in the Northern Bahr El Gazal counties of Aweil East, West, South and North, as well as in Warrap State counties of Twic and Gogrial, as the hunger season continues through August. Rainfall performance in these locations has not been significantly below normal compared to rainfall in the eastern sector. Conditions are expected to slightly improve around November, when crops are fully harvested.

Current conditions in Wau, Ruweng, and Mayom counties are more associated with typical hunger season shortages. These will improve when harvests are completed during October-November. However, there are chances that households in some areas of Mayom and Ruweng might have planted late.

Highly to extremely food insecure conditions are likely to persist in Akobo and the surrounding areas because of persistent internal (among themselves) and external conflicts with the two neighboring groups of Jikany and Murle, the continued negative impact of last year’s poor crop performance, continued cattle raiding activities, and potentially problematic humanitarian access. These conditions are now exacerbated by poor rainfall performance that has persisted since May. Maiwut, Luakping, Ulang, Waat, and Wuror are expected to be most affected by these conditions. Based on past experiences of similar conflicts, improvements are not guaranteed in the near future, as they are often complicated by long running negotiations that could run from one year to the next.

Figure 4. Most likely scenario, July-October 2009

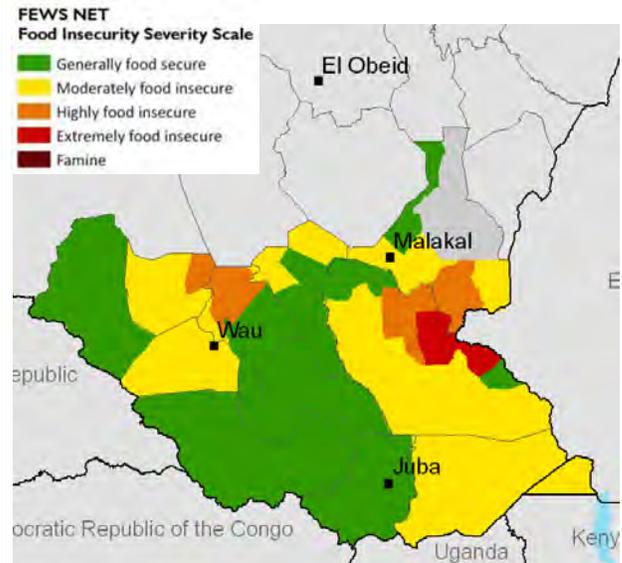
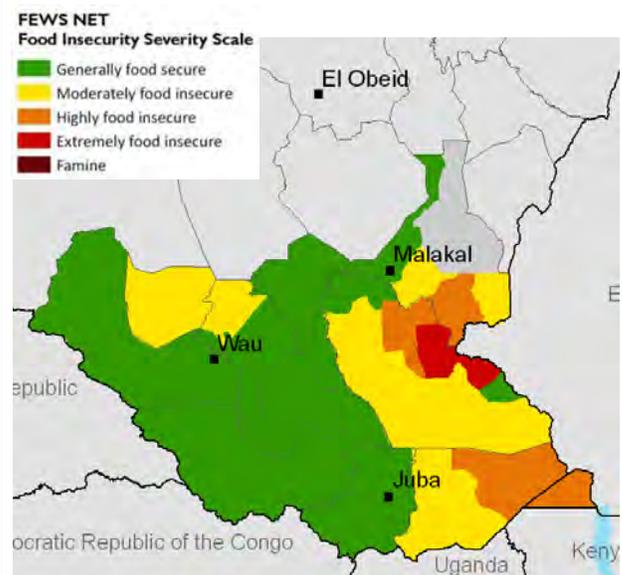


Figure 5. Most likely scenario, November-December 2009



Source: FEWS NET

The negative impact of cattle raiding conflicts between Murle of Pibor County and their neighbors in Bor and Akobo will also be sustained in Pibor County, because conflict continues to escalate. Below normal rains from May to July might reduce crop performance in Bor, and compromise livestock access to sufficient grazing and water in Pibor. The negative impact of below normal rains on grazing and water conditions is also expected to become evident in Kapoeta County if rains do not improve during August. Rains have been significantly below normal in this area since May. Conditions could worsen in November-December.

Conditions in Magwi, Torit, Budi, and Kajokeji are currently mixed with reports of a favorable harvest in some areas and a poor harvest in others. The areas most at risk of food insecurity are Magwi and pockets of Juba counties due to the potential for intertribal and livelihood conflicts between agro-pastoralists and agriculturalists.

Displacement conditions will be sustained if LRA attacks continue, and the likelihood of continued attacks is high, especially given reports of additional non-LRA groups (suspected Ambororo pastoralists) carrying out attacks. Chances of displaced households' cultivation for the second season to compensate for non cultivation during the first season remain pessimistic.

Table I: Events that could change the food security outlook

Geographic Focus Area	Possible events in the next 6 months that would change the most likely scenario in this area	Impacts on food security conditions	Likelihood of occurrence*	Key variables to monitor
Aweil East, West, North, South Twic, Gogrial	Flooding	Could improving fish and wild food access during November-February Improved nutrition status <u>Affected:</u> Households with few or no livestock; returnees with no assets	Unlikely	Rainfall patterns Food access Crop harvests Malnutrition levels
Magwi, Torit, and Budi	Improved second cropping season Reduced livelihood tensions	Improved food access in December <u>Affected:</u> Recent returnees; households in areas with a failed first season	Unlikely in many parts	Second crop season performance
Yambio, Maridi, Ezo, Nzara, Mundri, and Yei	Increased attacks by other groups	Displacement of local population, curtailing second season cultivation	Unlikely	Population movements Attacks and displacements Second season cultivation
Kapoeta	Improved rains	Improved pasture and water access for livestock <u>Affected:</u> Households with few cattle and no access to grain for purchase. However, pasture conditions can affect all groups.	Unlikely	Pasture and water access Livestock conditions Livestock: cereal terms of trade

* Probability levels	Description
Unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed moderately
Very unlikely	Could occur in the time period if conditions changed significantly



Monthly prices are supplied by the WFP VAM.

Southern Sudan: Sorghum and maize flour are important to all households in southern Sudan, while wheat flour and groundnuts are mostly purchased by urban households. Wau and Aweil are the main markets in and around chronically food insecure areas. Malakal is the main market of Renk, a key sorghum surplus producing area. Juba is the capital city market and is also a transshipment point between borderline food insecure and surplus areas. Kapoeta is located in a predominantly pastoral region representing the food security conditions in this area as well as the cross border trade between Sudan and Kenya.

NOTE: The units prices are now being collected in has changed from large bags (45 – 90 kg) to small bags (3.5 kg), meaning data is not exactly comparable between April and May 2009 when the change took effect. FEWS NET has converted all prices in per kilogram units for use in graphing.

