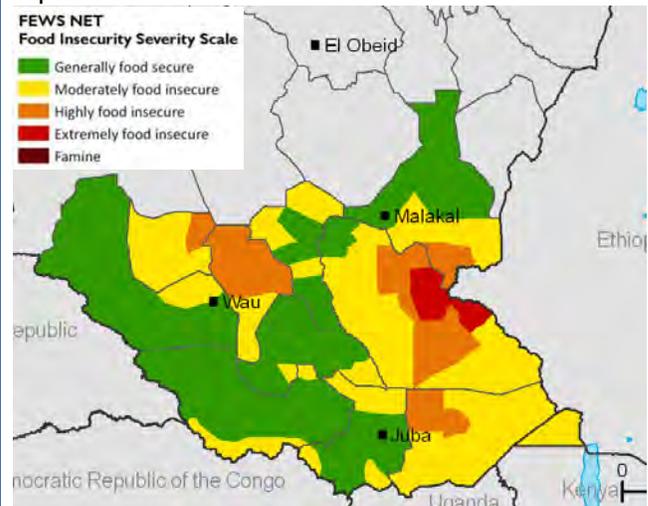


## SOUTH SUDAN Food Security Outlook

October 2009 to March 2010

- Food insecurity is showing signs of improvement as the consumption of green crops has been reported, signaling the arrival of the long delayed harvest of early maturing crops. The main harvest is likely from the end of October through the end of November. Up to 1.3 million people were food insecure by the end of September, mainly located in Northern Bahr El Gazal, Warrap and Jonglei States.
- Significant food security improvements are expected with the onset of the harvest at the end of October, especially in the western half of Southern Sudan. However, some of these improvements are only likely to last until December-January due to likely reduced crop harvests resulting from this year's prolonged dry spell. The extent and magnitude of the yield reduction will be established by the Southern Sudan-led Government Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) scheduled between October 26 and November 13.
- Of greatest concern during the October 2009 to March 2010 period are the persistence and increasing incidences of conflict. Whereas conflict has traditionally tended to occur over grazing and water resources during the dry season, conflicts have escalated this year and are a mix of inter-ethnic/tribal tensions, historical hostilities, revenge attacks, and cattle raiding practices. The most severe conflicts are those between the Nuer tribe in the Eastern Flood Plains and the Murle tribe in the Pastoral Zone, and the attacks by Ugandan rebels (Lords Resistance Army-LRA) in the Greenbelt Zone. This year, conflict alone has displaced over 250,000 people who currently comprise close to 20 percent of the total food insecure population in Southern Sudan.

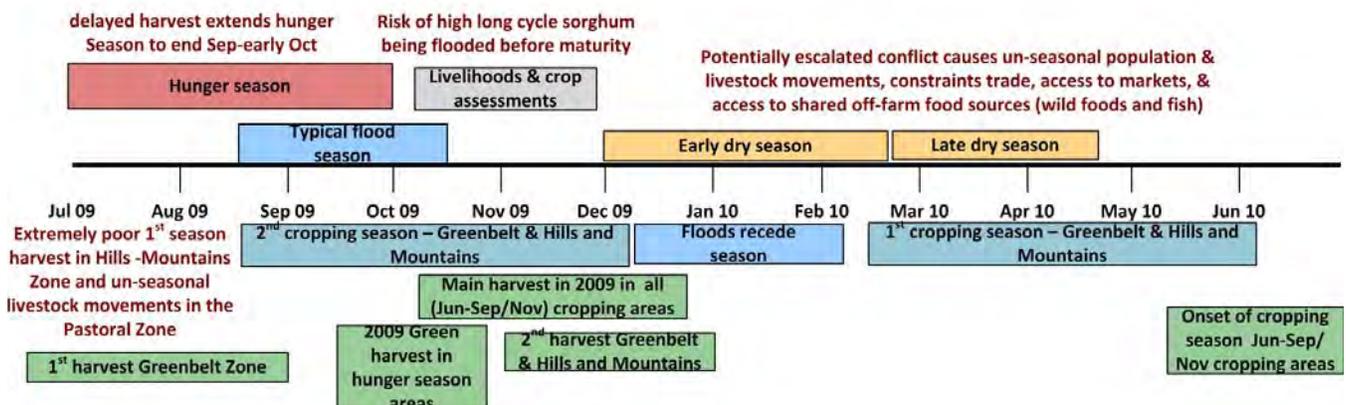
**Figure 1. Estimated food security conditions, September 2009**



Source: FEWS NET

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

### Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

**Current food security conditions**

Food security deteriorated during August and September due to increased inter-tribal/inter-ethnic conflicts and resulting displacements, as well as continued attacks by armed groups on settled populations. These conflicts exacerbated typical food shortages often experienced during the May to August hunger season, worsened by the negative impact of the prolonged May – July dry spell that stressed crops, leading to delayed consumption of early maturing crops and harvest.

These conditions are transitioning toward improvements in many parts as the delayed green harvest of short cycle crops of maize and sorghum has started being consumed, especially in the June-September/November growing areas that are mostly located in the northern half of Southern Sudan.

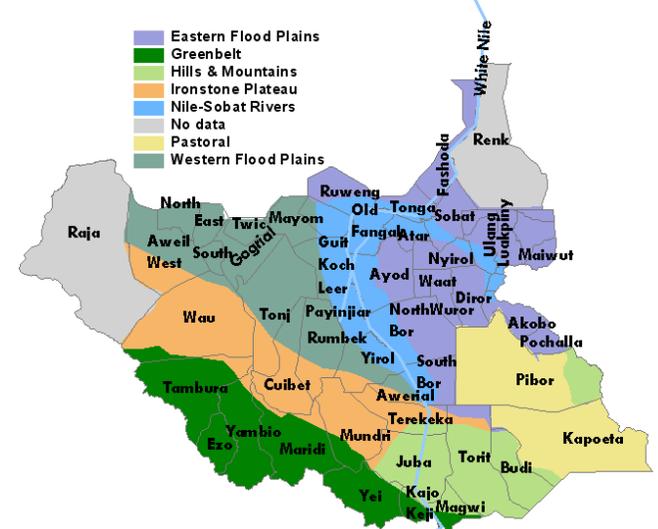
Despite the above improvements, food insecure conditions persist for households in the **Eastern Flood Plains Zone**. This is due to persistent tribal and cattle raiding conflict that has escalated beyond normal levels this year. The conflicts have displaced around 105,000 people and affected a similar number of people who are hosting or supporting the IDP population. Most IDPs stay within the same livelihood zones, but live with relatives from their own clans who are away from the conflict centers. With conflict and displacements in this zone throughout the year, normal seasonal movements critical to off-farm food sources such as fish and wild foods have been disrupted. Access to markets has also been severely constrained, and land put to cultivation has also reduced. About 25 percent (250-300,000 people) of the population in this zone is food insecure and relies on humanitarian assistance (food aid and non food items). The highest concentration is in Akobo County, which has 50,000 displaced people.

In the **Western Flood Plains Zone**, Northern Bahr El Gazal counties, particularly Aweil East, food insecurity is now improving as consumption of green maize and sorghum peaks. Significant improvements are expected to have occurred in lowland areas because they were less affected by the prolonged dry spell during May-July. These food insecure households comprise asset- and labor-poor returnees, and livestock- and labor-poor households that are chronically food insecure, and those displaced by persistent interethnic conflict in the southern parts, especially Warrap State, where 25,000 people had been displaced by August. These households are now increasingly relying on the incoming harvests, supplemented by food aid.

Extremely poor performance of the first season (April-July) cropping season caused by prolonged May-July dryness in the **Hills and Mountains** has resulted in increased food insecurity. Affected households are those in the more marginal agricultural areas of Torit and Budi that tend to have only one growing season. This also includes select parts of Juba and Lainya where households have been displaced by insecurity. About 10 percent (about 100-120,000) of the population in this zone is affected.

**In the Greenbelt**, first season crop performance and harvests were normal. Growing conditions for the ongoing second season are reportedly good. However, 80-90,000 people (including refugees from Congo) that have been displaced by LRA insecurity remain food insecure because they have missed cultivating for the two consecutive growing seasons. These households are relying on a similar number of hosts (an additional 80,000 people) as well as food aid and other non food interventions for survival. Considering additional LRA attacks throughout September, the total number of people affected by the LRA conflict (displaced and their hosts) could now be 150,000 to 200,000 people, representing an average of 15 percent of the zone’s population.

**Figure 2.** South Sudan livelihood zones and counties



Source: FEWS NET

Food security conditions in the **Nile-River Zone** remained stable until the peak of the hunger season in July. Increased insecurity began in September–October, especially in Malakal (Shilluk), Bentiu and Yirol-Terekeka areas, displacing a significant number of people. An estimated 6,000 people were displaced in the Tirol – Terekeka conflict alone during September. Though there have been no reports of onset of consumption of green crop, this is likely ongoing assuming that the fair crop conditions observed during the August rapid crop assessment have been sustained especially in Guit, Ruweng, Rubkona and Leer. FAO reports increased fish catches by households along the Nile River, suggesting improved conditions for most households.

In the **Ironstone Plateau**, food insecurity persists in parts of Aweil, Jur, Mvolo and Wullu counties. Conditions in Aweil Centre and Jur are due to last year’s poor production currently exacerbated by this year’s delayed green harvest. Conditions in Mvolo and Wullu are largely due to inter-tribal-livelihood conflicts that have displaced close to 20,000 people this year. Current food insecurity is affecting close to 120,000 people in this zone, which represents 15 percent of the population. Most of these are households that suffered from last year’s poor crop harvests, and have been affected by conflict. Crops in parts of Jur and Wau counties visited by rapid crop assessments teams were notably stressed around mid August. Other parts not assessed but could have experienced similar conditions are Terekeka, Mundri, and parts of Juba County.

Food insecure conditions in the **Pastoral Zone** are caused by a combination of conflict and persistent below-normal rains between May and September. In Kapoeta, livestock have stayed in non-traditional grazing areas due to lack of pasture and water caused by prolonged below-normal rains since the season began. This has significantly reduced access to livestock products such as milk and traditionally made ghee. In addition, sorghum that was planted during April-May failed. Conflict during May in Pibor with their agro-pastoral Nuer neighbours displaced close to 20,000 people and killed hundreds of people. Insecurity between the two groups has been above normal this year, seriously constraining food access due to displacement. Currently, an estimated 10 percent of the population (30,000 to 40,000 people) is food insecure.

### Most likely food security conditions (October 2009 – March 2010)

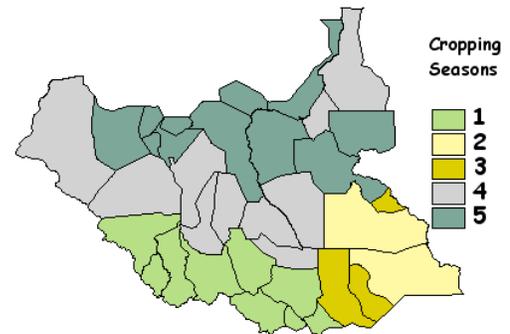
Food insecure conditions during October to December 2009 (Figure 4) are based on the following assumptions:

- Delayed harvest of early maturing sorghum and maize crops will take place between mid October and mid to end of November
- Conflict will persist in the eastern half of Southern Sudan, especially between Murle Pastoralists (Pibor County) and Nuer of Akobo, Wuror, Diror and Waat Counties)
- Based on the above assumption that conflict will persist, anticipated crop harvests might not necessarily mitigate food insecurity in the conflict areas in the Eastern Flood Plains

Food insecure conditions during January to March 2010 (Figure 5) are based on the following assumptions:

- Crop harvests in the June-September crop growing areas might last for 3-4 months instead of the typical 6 months due to reduced yields this year. Large pockets in the Eastern and Western flood plains will be affected by this.
- Persistent conflict, especially in the eastern half of Southern Sudan especially in Pibor, Bor, Akobo, Diror, Wurol and Nyirol counties
- A poor second season in select Hills and Mountain areas and potentially limited food imports from Uganda due to reportedly reduced production in parts of Uganda this year

**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

- Continued deteriorating pasture and water conditions in the pastoral areas of Kapoeta and Pibor with incidences of conflict
- Continued conflict in Warrap State located to the south of the Western Flood Plains

Food insecurity is expected to improve significantly in the **Western Flood Plains** (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 harvest peaks during the next four weeks (Figure 4). These improvements are likely to be sustained until the end of this year. However, food insecure conditions will likely persist in Tonj where conflict has persisted for the last six months. Households displaced by the conflict will continue being food insecure.

Some improvements are expected in the **Eastern Flood Plain Zone** area of Akobo and surrounding counties, due to likely small harvest pockets and improved delivery of food aid. However, the gains are not anticipated to mitigate current food insecurity in those locations, as conflict in these areas is expected to persist. People affected are from all socio-economic groups due to the non-selective nature of conflict, and the majority of those affected are in Akobo and surrounding areas.

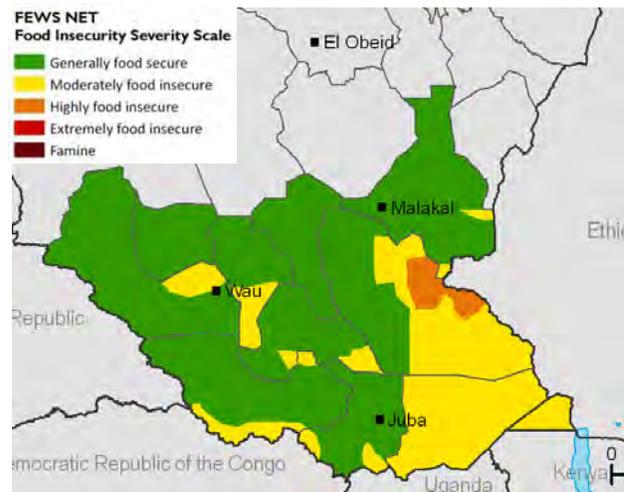
Significant improvements are anticipated in Luakpiny, Maiwut, Longuchok, and Ulang areas (Eastern Flood Plains) due to incoming harvests, but these are likely to last only until the end of the year, due to likely reductions caused by this year's below average rainfall. Mabaan area will remain highly food insecure due to two consecutive years of abnormal flooding that has destroyed homes and crops. In these areas, 45,000 to 65,000 people remain at risk.

Current food insecurity especially in the **Hills and Mountain zone areas** of Torit and Budi is likely to persist until next year's harvest in July. The same applies to many parts of Kajokeji and Magwi counties. This is because of near failure of the main first season crop. Prospects for the second cropping season are poor, and only occurs in select areas, especially in Torit and Budi counties. The current number of food insecure people is likely to increase, especially with exhaustion of government sorghum stocks around this time, and also if the second season performance from select areas is poor. There are low expectations that informal cross border food imports from neighboring Uganda could fill food gaps, following reports that production in northern parts of Uganda was below normal this year.

No significant improvements are expected in the food insecure parts of the **Ironstone Plateau** (Wau) until the long cycle sorghum harvest in December-January. Displaced households in Wullu and Mvolo areas will continue to experience food insecurity, as they have failed to cultivate due to conflict.

Unfavorable rainfall in the **Pastoral Zone** has compromised pasture-water availability, forcing livestock to stay in long distance grazing areas in non-traditional areas, which increases the potential for traditional cattle-based conflicts with host communities. Poor rainfall conditions since April imply that livestock will stay in long distance grazing areas until April-June next year when the next rains are expected. This prolonged stay implies potential for increased conflict with hosting

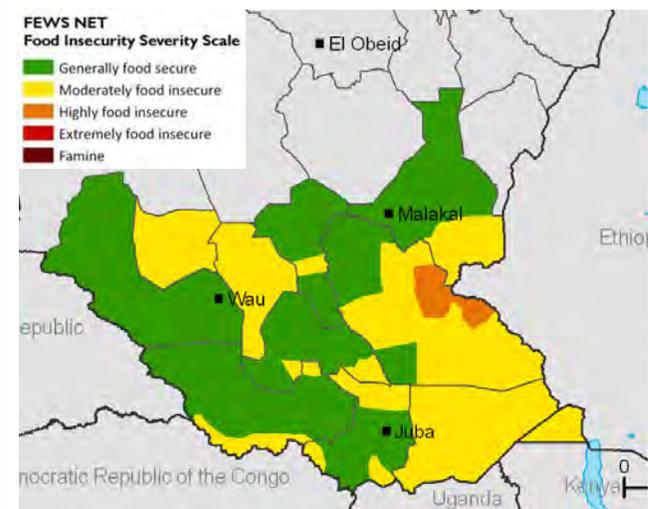
**Figure 4.** Most likely scenario, October – December, 2009



Source: FEWS NET

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

**Figure 5.** Most likely scenario, January – March, 2010



Source: FEWS NET

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

communities over livestock sustaining resources mainly pasture and water. The latest updates from this zone suggest that conflict has already begun between the Toposa of Kapoeta and the Buya of Budi counties. 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 distant grazing areas.

In the **Greenbelt Zone** areas of Yambio, Maridi, Ezo, Nzara, Mundri, and Yei, over 80,000 displaced people, including refugees from Congo, have missed cultivating the two cropping seasons this year. This already makes them vulnerable to food insecurity in the coming year. During most of this year, they have been relying on support from their hosts and food aid provided by humanitarian agencies especially WFP. Next year will be more difficult because host households might not have sufficient resources to sustain the displaced households, making them more reliant on food aid in areas typically known for surplus production. They are unlikely to resume productive livelihoods until the cessation of LRA insurgencies.

**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 improve 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 in these particular geographic areas	Rainfall patterns  Access to fish  Access to wild foods  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	Cessation of attacks by LRA	<u>Affected:</u> Displacement of local population and Congo refugees, curtailing second season cultivation	Unlikely	Population movements  Attacks and displacements  Second season progress
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 in Kapoeta	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.

