

Key nutrition challenges



1.3M children under 5 years were **wasted** in 2021
302 080 of them were severely **wasted**



675 550 pregnant and lactating women
were **acutely malnourished**

Source: HNO, February 2022.

Expected caseload for acutely malnourished children was at its highest in 2021 since the start of the conflict in December 2013, according to the IPC (IPC AMN, December 2020). National GAM prevalence increased from 11.6 percent in 2018 to 12.6 percent in 2019 (FSNMS, 2020).

According to the IPC AMN analysis, 53 counties (68 percent of the total) were classified in Serious or Critical (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above) from November 2020–March 2021 (IPC AMN, December 2020). Out of this, 29 counties were projected to be in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), 70 percent of them in Greater Upper Nile followed by Greater Bahr el Ghazal (18 percent). The nutrition situation was expected to deteriorate further during the lean season of April–August 2021 when 72 percent of counties were projected to be in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above) with Renk county projected to be in Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5).

South Sudan has made some progress towards reducing the prevalence of stunting, but 31.3 percent of children under 5 years of age are still affected (Global Nutrition Report, 2021). This prevalence is considered 'very high' by WHO thresholds.

Key drivers

Food security and access to healthy diets

Elevated levels of acute food insecurity and its key drivers – conflict, the acute economic crisis, erratic rains and flooding – in most counties contribute to acute malnutrition (IPC AMN, December 2020).

Health services and household environment

The cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict in tandem with flooding and the economic crisis have further weakened essential public services including water, sanitation, health and nutrition services.

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) conducted in July 2019, access to sanitation in the country remains low at 19 percent. Poor access to WASH services combined with high levels of food insecurity has a detrimental impact on the health of the most vulnerable, as seen through the high prevalence of malnutrition and water-borne diseases, with 74 percent of households reporting members affected by a water or vector-borne disease. Counties reporting high levels of wasting have been identified as having high WASH needs (FSNMS, July 2019).

COVID-19 related disruptions, as well as changes in SAM and MAM admission criteria for children further reduced access to services alongside other factors such as heightened inter-communal conflict and insecurity, the worsening economic crisis and flooding (IPC AMN, December 2020).

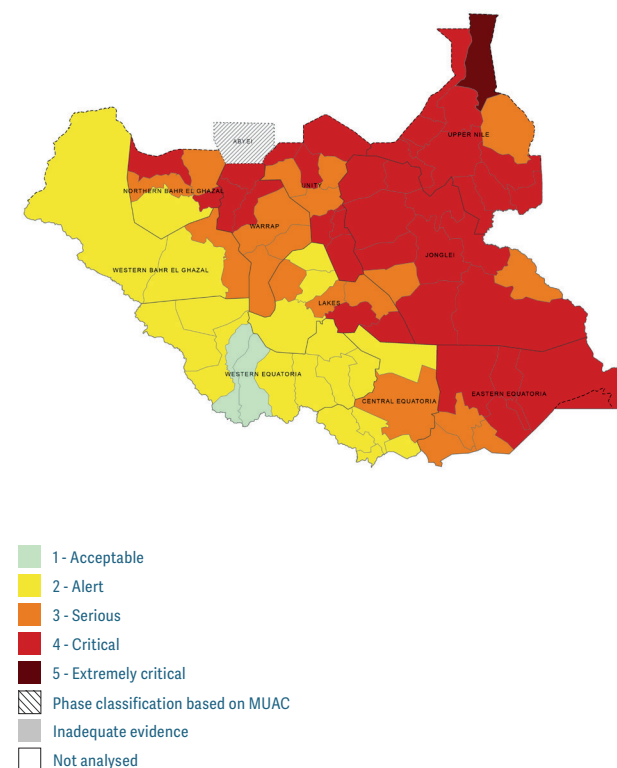
Caring and feeding practices

Based on the recent data, only 13 percent of children aged 6–23 months received the minimum dietary diversity, 23 percent of them received the minimum meal frequency, whereas only 7 percent of them received the minimum acceptable diet (IPC AMN, December 2020).

MAP 3.61

IPC acute malnutrition situation, April–July 2021

A total of 57 counties were expected to be in Serious or worse (IPC AMN Phase 3 or above), with 19 classified in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and 38 classified in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4). Renk County were projected to be in Extremely Critical (IPC AMN Phase 5).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: South Sudan IPC AMN Technical Working Group, December 2020.