

**SOUTH SUDAN
RAPID RESPONSE
CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE
2020**

20-RR-SSD-46432

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PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

29 September 2021

An after-action review did not take place however, a joint debriefing took place on 29th September 2021 coordinated by OCHA. Participants included CERF Consultant Louisa, WFP program team and in the absence of a Cash Working Group Coordinator, WFP Cash Focal points. The discussions were around the allocation, process and implementation of cash programming in South Sudan. The Key highlights from the discussions include; CERF allocation was critical in meeting the immediate food needs, Multipurpose cash provides flexibility for recipients to meet basic needs beyond food. The CERF funds were implemented in areas with functioning markets, allowing WFP to respond via in-kind assistance in the deep field and finally the timing of the review made it challenging to talk about outcomes and longer-term effects on the use of MPC and cash coordination.

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes No

The report on the use of cash was has not been discussed by the HC/HCT. However, the report on key achievement have been shared with the HCT in various dates during the project implementation.

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes No

The report was shared with the HC/HCT and CWG coordinator for review prior to CERF submission. The CWG cluster coordinator technical expertise on CASH supported the partner to strengthen the report.

1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

In 2020, South Sudan humanitarian situation remained worse as a result of multiple shocks including local and sub-national violence, flooding, inflation and increasing food prices, and the effects of COVID-19. The compounding effects of these shocks increased the level of vulnerabilities high. For example, the number of people in need of direct humanitarian assistance increased to 8.5 million people by the end of 2020 up from 7.5 million reported at the beginning of the year (HNO 2021).

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was timely in addressing the rising food insecurity. The US\$7 million allocated from the CERF rapid response window in October 2020 enabled fast delivery of assistance in response to the increasing food insecurity through cash and voucher programming. World Food Programme (WFP) and their partners provided multi-purpose and unrestricted cash transfers to 221,600 most vulnerable people in 35 counties¹ in South Sudan, and helping targeted beneficiaries meet their daily food needs. The CERF allocation complemented contributions from other sources, particularly the \$13 million allocated from the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) in December 2020.

Additionally, the multi-purpose cash modality helped strengthen local markets, encouraged small-holder farmers to be more productive even in time of crisis. CERF continues to be instrumental in addressing immediate needs and enables a critical scale up of response during emergencies as other resources are mobilised.

CERF's Added Value:

The allocation provided the much-needed resources to address increasing food insecurity and helped in providing life-saving assistance as additional funding was being mobilised. Through the funding, WFP reached 221,600 people in households through unrestricted cash.

Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes

Partially

No

CERF funds were used to distribute using unrestricted cash in envelope to vulnerable people in different vulnerable areas. The mechanism allowed WFP to respond quickly and timely to people. A typical workflow with funds like this allowed Cash to be disbursed within a week or the confirmed distribution plan regardless of case numbers or locations.

Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

The CERF allocation enabled WFP and their partner to provide timely assistance to the people in need. The fast disbursement from CERF and roll out of the cash transfers enable the initiation of response within two months from the date of submission of the project proposal.

Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

The allocation improved coordination among humanitarian partners through the initial coordination meetings at the Cash working Group (CWG) and the Inter-cluster Coordination Group which prioritized the locations for the project implementation. WFP also provided regular updates to the ICCG and the CWG on the project implementation progression and coordinated with other humanitarian actors providing in kind assistance to avoid duplication of services.

Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

Yes

Partially

No

While the exact amount of additional resources mobilized from other sources has not been reported, the allocation complemented the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund allocation of \$13 million in December 2020 to address increasing food insecurity in South Sudan.

¹ Central Equatoria (Juba, Kajo-keji, Lainya, Morobo, Terekeka, Yei), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (Aweil Centre, Aweil East, Aweil North, Aweil South, Aweil West), Upper Nile (Baliet, Fashoda, Longochuk, Luakpiny/Nasir, Maban, Maiwut, Malakal, Manyo, Melut, Panyikang, Renk, Ulang), Western Bahr el Ghazal (Jur River, Raja, Wau), Lakes (Awerial, Cueibet, Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East, Rumbek North, Wulu, Yirol East, Yirol West), Unity (Rubkona/Bentiu) States

Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas²:

While the allocation did not specifically target the four ERC underfunded priorities; a) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (b) programmes targeting disabled people; (c) education in protracted crises; and (d) other aspects of protection, the design and implementation of the project ensured that the priorities were mainstreamed in every aspect of the project cycle.

During the project design the 2019 Gender Situational Analysis was relied up to inform the implementation. The Gender situational analysis provided an understanding of the gender inequality, gendered needs and harmful social norms with recommendations on how food and nutrition activities can more intentionally promote gender equality whilst addressing harmful social norms. During the project implementation, regular GBV safety audits were conducted in collaboration with the GBV sub cluster to document and respond to GBV realities. The project also worked in partnership with UNFPA and UNWomen focusing on joint assessments and response for improved gender equality and GBV mitigation and response. The efforts to mainstream gender and protection lead to 125,033 women and girls benefitted from the monthly cash transfers; which translates into 56% of the total beneficiaries. This implies that women and girls were highly considered for support given their level of vulnerability as compared to the boys and men.

The project also ensured increased visibility and evidence on specific needs of persons with disabilities to inform food and nutrition response leading to participation of 646 Persons with Disability in the CBT intervention. Bi-lateral partnership with Humanity Inclusion were established focusing on joint assessments, risk identification and response, partnerships with Organizations of Disabled Peoples and innovations aimed at improved food assistance delivery to PWDs. The CBT which is a preferred modality of assistance by PWD's was reported to have reduced burdens on travel to and from distribution sites, including the burden of transporting heavy food items. Further Households headed by persons with disabilities were provided an option to register an Alternate person who could collect assistance on their behalf; this enhanced efficiency in CBT service delivery for PWDs.

Aspects of Conflict sensitivity and protection was integrated in all CBT activities including preparedness, tools design such market assessments tools. Protection and Gender assessments were undertaken regularly to document and respond to sensitive issues including GBV, child protection and SEA. The assessments captured the specific needs of the affected population, including child-headed households, persons with disabilities, female headed households and elderly persons. The discussion captured not only impediments to food and nutrition security faced by groups of high risk and vulnerability, but also their current coping mechanisms and their preferred methods for food and humanitarian response. During Registration and distribution child protection specialist and sub clusters were engaged to ensure child head households are well served and their holistic needs are well responded to. The Elderly Persons with a high dependence on other persons too were offered an option of an alternate person to collect their assistance; thus, reducing the burden of carrying and transporting heavy items.

Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)

Total amount required for the humanitarian response	919,000,000
CERF	7,000,000
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	49,464,233
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	0
Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)	56,464,233

Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
WFP	20-RR-WFP-054	Food Security - Food Assistance	7,000,000

² In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

Total	7,000,000
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Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)

Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods	6,596,631
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	403,369
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	0
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*	403,369
Total	7,000,000

* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

In 2020, people in South Sudan were faced with multiple shocks, local and sub-national violence, flooding, inflation and increased food prices. An estimated 7.5 million people, including 1.6 million IDPs, were projected to require humanitarian assistance (HNO 2020) at the beginning of the year. The widespread flooding witnessed in 2020 further affected more than 870,000 people, causing massive displacements, destruction of crops, disruption of trade routes and increasing the risk of water borne diseases.

According to food security projections released early 2020, some 6.5 million people were estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity during the lean season between May and July 2020. This included approximately 1.75 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity, many of them in Jonglei, an area that had been severely affected by sub-national violence and flooding. A multitude of other shocks, including COVID-19, food price hikes, and desert locusts, posed additional threats to people's food security status.

The CERF allocation provided the much-needed support for the most vulnerable people. The funds were used to support vulnerable families with unrestricted, unconditional multi-purpose cash to allow people choose how to address their needs. The allocation supported the most vulnerable people, especially women and girls, for example female -headed households, people with disabilities and older persons, who are affected by food insecurity. The support offered a crucial bridging that enabled the scaling up of response, as consultations with bilateral donors for additional contributions continued.

Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

This CERF allocation was used to support some of the most vulnerable families with unrestricted and unconditional cash to allow people to meet food needs or utilise it to contribute to other necessities. The allocation supported vulnerable people, especially women and girls - for example female -headed households - people with disabilities, and older persons who are affected by food insecurity.

The provision of this one grant of USD 7 million enabled WFP to reach 221,600 people up from 154,000 people targeted in 35 counties of South Sudan. Unrestricted and unconditional cash modality was more efficient and effective in meeting the basic needs for the targeted population while it will also foster greater flexibility and choice in ways that enable people to decide what to prioritize. The World Food Programme (WFP) implemented the activities, through partnership with NGOs, collaboration with Protection Cluster and gender technical experts, enabled by the Cash Working Group.

The funding offered crucial bridging mechanism which enabled the critical scaling up of response. The allocation was part of a larger \$80 million CERF allocation to support cash programming in response to increasing food insecurity in 6 countries.

People Directly Reached:

Through the CERF RR, WFP and its partners provided Cash Based Transfer assistance to 221,600 people, a 44% increase from the proposed target of 153,970 people. The difference between the UN and official exchange rates contributed to the increased beneficiary reach. Money was changed into SSP using the official exchange rate which gave significantly more amount of money as compared with what was budgeted for using the UN rate; thus more people could be reached with the same transfer value calculated in SSP. This was possible with the revision of the exchange rate – in April 2021 – thus allowing to reach more people with the same transfer value.

People Indirectly Reached:

Retailers, traders and commercial farmers benefited indirectly from this project as well as host community members. Access to cash transfers increased demand and high purchasing powers for basic items such as food, clothes and household items. The beneficiaries purchased from the local markets which translated into increased income for traders and local producers such as the commercial farmers. The increased demand for items also contributed to timeliness in goods sales; thus, boosting the economy of the communities at large.

Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster*

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Food Security - Food Assistance	51,769	32,846	35,105	34,250	153,970	74,508	47,273	50,525	49,294	221,600

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category*

Category	Planned	Reached
Refugees	0	0
Returnees	0	0
Internally displaced people	13,905	20,013
Host communities	140,065	201,587
Other affected people	0	0
Total	153,970	221,600

Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sex & Age	Planned	Reached	Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total	
			Planned	Reached
Women	51,769	74,508	221	318
Men	32,846	47,273	169	243
Girls	35,105	50,525	28	40
Boys	34,250	49,294	31	45
Total	153,970	221,600	449	646

3. LESSONS LEARNED

OBSERVATIONS FOR THE CERF SECRETARIAT

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/improvement
Flexibility for exchange rate fluctuation to extend the grant validity:	The rate that the UN applies to Cash-Based Transfers has seen an improvement against market rates. The way that WFP distributes cash within ICSP Activity 1 “Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance to crisis-affected populations” and Activity 2 “Provide food and nutrition assistance to refugees” means that beneficiaries are transferred a local food price equivalent in local currency. This is to ensure that beneficiaries can meet the intended food needs in their local markets. Changes to exchange rate have no effect on what the beneficiary receives in local currency, except that a stabilization of the market provides more confidence that food prices will not change after funds have been transferred. The effect on exchange rate changes is borne by WFP, and in this case have seen an improvement in efficiency.
Transfers to FSPs	In South Sudan WFP transfers post-factum to financial service providers, with no funds being transferred on instruction of transfer, or prior to transfer to beneficiaries. Payment, and therefore the expenditure of the grant, takes place only after confirmation reports are provided by service providers and cooperating partners, and reconciled with invoices and household level analysis. This process means that it can take time for the grant spending financial actuals to be reflected, after the transfer to the beneficiary has taken place. WFP has worked hard to narrow this timeframe, to show spending against grants sooner. This process is hard to explain to donors seeing only the reported grant expenditure, and questioning why

	beneficiaries have not received entitlements, when they often had, and it is simply the settlement process ongoing.
Reduced earmarking at the proposal and reporting levels for the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA):	The CO advocates for reduced earmarking on the CBT contributions to allow for more operational agility. The request to separate sub-activities (GFD, urban, POCs/IDPs) is too detailed and does not allow to adjust the funds to respond to new needs or redirecting available funds to programmes which experience a more critical shortfall than others. In South Sudan, similarly, grants that are restricted between cash and voucher programmes make it difficult for the operation to be agile. WFP cash voucher programmes in South Sudan tend to take place in locations that require market development and limiting grants to unrestricted cash can make it hard for WFP to deliver the necessary cash assistance to those that require it.

OBSERVATIONS FOR COUNTRY TEAMS

Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/ improvement	Responsible entity
Market functionality and market access is low in areas which are critically food insecure thus modality might not be fit for such locations.	Further Research should be done to determine the best modality for areas which are critically food insecure and with low market functionality	WFP and Cash working Group
The Cash transfer Modality seems very expensive for some locations due to the large difference in black market exchange rates; without proper analysis.	There is a need for engagement with the South Sudan government to create uniformity of exchange rates across the country.	WFP, South Sudan Government and Cash working Group
Cash transfer have made women and girls more susceptible to insecurity and other protection concerns.	Research should be conducted to further understand the impact of cash transfer on the protection and security concerns of women and girls.	WFP and Cash working Group

PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

4. PROJECT REPORTS

3.1 Project Report 20-RR-WFP-054

1. Project Information			
Agency:	WFP	Country:	South Sudan
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Food Assistance	CERF project code:	20-RR-WFP-054
Project title:	Cash assistance in response to rising food insecurity		
Start date:	12/01/2021	End date:	11/07/2021
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 7,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 0
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 7,000,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 403,369
	Government Partners		US\$ 0
	International NGOs		US\$ 403,369
	National NGOs		US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through the CERF RR, WFP and its partners provided Cash based assistance to 221,600 food insecure people, a 44% increase from the proposed target of 153,970 people. The delivery of CBT was carried out through several Financial Service Providers (FSPs), with the field support of cooperating partners, who provided assurances that the cash is being delivered to the right beneficiaries in an accurate and safe manner. Through CERF funding, four NGO partners were contracted to assist WFP in the process including Concern Worldwide, WHH, World Vision, and Plan International.

3. Changes and Amendments

The number of beneficiaries increased by 44% from the original proposal (from 153,970 to 221,600) due to efficiency gains from the new currency reference rate implemented by the government. This new rate meant that spending against the grant was slightly lower than originally planned. For these reasons a no-cost extension was requested, to allow WFP to make the most of the improved efficiency of the funds available within the same locations from the original. Market assessments were conducted in all areas where cash was to be distributed, which indicated that markets were functional to absorb the increased demand for commodities without creating inflation. For example, in Lakes state, the assessment confirmed that the increase in the number of beneficiaries and the cereal portion provided through CBT could be fully covered by the market. Further assessments took place in Aweil in the time of the project. Aweil market assessment highlighted functioning markets, with good ability to absorb full cash.

4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	4,609	2,817	3,302	3,177	13,905	6,729	4,269	4,563	4,452	20,013
Host communities	47,160	30,029	31,803	31,073	140,065	67,779	43,004	45,962	44,842	201,587
Other affected people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	51,769	32,846	35,105	34,250	153,970	74,508	47,273	50,525	49,294	221,600
People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total										
	221	169	28	31	449	318	243	40	45	646

* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

Retailers, traders and commercial farmers benefited indirectly from this project as well as host community members. Access to cash transfers increased demand and high purchasing powers for basic items such as food, clothes and household items. The beneficiaries purchased from the local markets which translated into increased income for traders and local producers such as the commercial farmers. The increased demand for items also contributed to timeliness in goods sales; thus, boosting the economy of the communities at large.

The local community members also benefitted from the programme because there was regular supply of commodities into the market as traders and retailers improved the supply of goods due to the cash injection. Communities therefore benefitted from more competitive markets and an improved supply of goods.

6. CERF Results Framework

Project objective	Food-insecure women, men and children in crisis-affected areas have access to safe and nutritious food			
Output 1	Crisis-affected populations receive nutrition-sensitive and unconditional general distributions in order to meet basic food needs			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	Women, men, boys and girls receiving monthly cash-based transfers assistance	153,969	221,600	WFP beneficiary report
Indicator 1.2	Total amount of cash transferred to targeted beneficiaries (USD)	5.1 million (approximately – actual is 5,2,405) 5,112,405	5,123,752	WFP beneficiary report
Indicator 1.3	Women, men, boys and girls receiving monthly cash-based transfers sensitization on entitlements	153,969	221,600	WFP beneficiary report
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		WFP estimated that 153,969 people would receive cash assistance. However, after the registration process was finalized, the number of beneficiaries increased by 44% from the original proposal (from 153,970 to 221,600). Figures included at proposal stage were estimates and were amended following the registration. Market assessments were conducted in all areas where cash was to be distributed, which indicated that markets were functional to absorb the increased demand for commodities without creating inflation. For example, in Lakes state, the assessment confirmed that the increase in the number of beneficiaries and the cereal portion provided through CBTs could be fully covered by the market.		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 1.1	Select and register beneficiaries	WFP/Cooperating Partners		
Activity 1.2	Provide cash transfer assistance to crisis-affected populations	WFP/Cooperating Partners		
Activity 1.3	Provide training to the targeted beneficiaries	Cooperating Partners		
Output 2	Partner organizations benefit from trainings and coaching on implementation of protection responsive Cash-based programmes.			
Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	Number of partners supported	3	4	WFP
Indicator 2.2	Number of people trained	15	20	WFP
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		WFP reached all the targets as per the agreed plan. Topics included four protection mainstreaming principles, referral pathways, communication with communities, protection monitoring and risk analysis.		
Activities	Description	Implemented by		
Activity 2.1	Cooperating partners are supported by WFP through refresher training	WFP		
Activity 2.2	Partner staff participated in training and coaching	WFP		

Output 3 Targeted population in the crisis affected areas are able to benefit from cash transfer assistance by WFP in a manner that promotes their safety, dignity, integrity, gender equality, and self-empowerment.

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes No

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 3.1	Targeted populations are able to safely access the service (travel to and from the distribution sites) and distribution sites. Not only physical access but also any situations where the access is manipulated and obstructed will be also captured.	90% (138,572)	90%	WFP
Indicator 3.2	Targeted populations experience the dignified treatment and/or conditions in connection with WFP assistance.	90% (138,572)	90%	WFP
Indicator 3.3	Gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population will be improved. The data will be disaggregated by women only , men only , jointly both men and women.	70% (107,778) women, 15% (23,015) men and 15% (23,095) Jointly	90%	WFP
Explanation of output and indicators variance:		<p>WFP conducts bi-annual post distribution monitoring to measure outcomes of food assistance activities. It is focused on assessing household food security status, nutrition performance, access, utilization, preference, and satisfaction, including gender, protection, and accountability issues.</p> <p>Monthly process monitoring adopted both remote and face-to-face approach to cover inaccessible areas and focused on assessing: (i) food/cash/other assistance activities are organized in a timely and orderly manner that ensures safe and dignified access to assistance for all targeted beneficiaries; (ii) verification of beneficiaries is appropriately conducted; (iii) entitlements received by beneficiaries (quantity and quality) are according to plan; and (iv) field level agreements are adhered to by cooperating partners (CPs). During the reporting period, 72%-(4,315) of all WFP activities were monitored in 54%-(2,819) ICSP locations. The monthly process monitoring findings are tracked in an online dashboard and resolution follow-up is done progressively.</p> <p>According to the latest post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey of 1,432 households, household food consumption patterns between 2020 and 2021</p>		

		<p>same season, show an increase in the percentage of households with poor consumption, implying deterioration of household's food security status. Crisis affected households reported an increase of households with poor food consumption score from 16% in June 2020 to 31% in June 2021. These trends correlate with patterns on food secure households as measured by Consolidated Approach of Reporting Food Security Indicator (CARI). Percentage of food secure households declined from 58% in June 2020 to 30% in June 2021. There is no significant difference in the food security status of households headed by males and females for crisis affected households.</p> <p>Output monitoring of food assistance activities was conducted by CPs supported by WFP. The CPs collected data and reported on output level indicators on monthly basis through COMET (WFP's web-based planning and reporting platform).</p>
Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 3.1	WFP and CPs will equip the safe and dignified distribution sites complying with guidance from WFP in the areas of layout of distribution sites, basic facilities such as latrines, shade, water, special attention to the vulnerable group, and crowd control.	WFP
Activity 3.2	Beneficiaries participate in sensitization sessions in gender	WFP
Activity 3.3	WFP and CP provide sensitisation session to beneficiaries in CFM and programme information	WFP

7. Effective Programming

a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)³:

Project Management Committees (PMC) are formed in all food distribution points (FDPs) where WFP operates. They are designed to encourage and strengthen two-way communication with affected populations. There are currently 1,500 volunteer PMCs supporting WFP distributions (SFP, GFD, FFA and Nutrition). Women make up at least 50 percent of the committee members. From experience this year, it was recognised that the PMC must work with the communities during the design, mobilisation and implementation of any activity to ensure broad and inclusive community ownership. The PMCs played a key role in ensuring that the various CFM channels (toll free number, help desk) are understood and actively used by the affected population.

WFP partnered with Internews Agency in hard-to-reach locations to support PMCs and CPs get relevant information to and from the communities. There is a monthly humanitarian meeting hosted by Internews, that WFP participates in, during which all field concerns that were collected during their monthly monitoring exercise are discussed.

b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

Informed by community preferences, WFP established a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism, comprised of Helpdesks, Toll-Free Helpline and Community Outreach across all activities and locations. Feedback from all the mechanisms was documented in a centralized client management database (Sugar CRM) that allowed WFP to rapidly analyse feedback, undertake necessary adjustments and close the feedback loop appropriately. WFP also established a three-way partnership between InterNews and the Food and Security Cluster to undertake an analysis of CFMs across the FSL sector with a view to better capacitate, streamline and coordinate feedback, with focus also on meeting the information and complaint needs of marginalized persons.

³ AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

All complaints received were treated with high level of confidentiality with few personnel designated to respond to the cases accordingly. PSEA concerns are only referred to WFP senior management and the focal points who can address the case.

c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

WFP has a Zero Tolerance Policy to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. This is implemented through regular awareness and prevention activities. The WFP SOP on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in South Sudan provided guidance to all staff (including partners) on their roles, responsibilities, accountabilities, and action to be taken should there be any identified / suspected issues. WFP Cooperating Partners and staff were regularly trained on SEA reporting. Internal and external reporting mechanisms were in place to direct communities, partners and staff on the various avenues they could report PSEA. Beneficiary education on what is PSEA and their rights were also incorporated into all key messages delivered by WFP and partners. WFP is also an active member of the South Sudan Interagency PSEA network.

WFPs CFM systems were also utilised as a way to ensure confidentiality for beneficiaries, with reporting on PSEA CFM systems to include only the relevant information from the SEA reports but not the full reports. CFM staff participated in general training on PSEA concerns.

d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:

WFP operated with the assumption that Gender Based Violence (GBV) is ongoing in all locations of assistance as a product of gender inequality and the social, political and economic environments in which it is operating. As such, WFP applied a Do No Harm approach through participation in interagency GBV Safety Audits and checklists to identify areas requiring attention and mitigation for GBV harm minimization. WFP increased its investment in researching, partnering and focus on conflict sensitive programming. WFP monitoring and data systems were also adjusted to include the Washington Group Questions to increase visibility and response to persons with disability.

While GBV protection was not a core component of this project, it was mainstreamed across all WFP activities. The project was informed by the 2019 Gender Situational Analysis undertaken by WFP which explored gender inequality, gendered needs and harmful social norms with recommendations on how food and nutrition activities can more intentionally promote gender equality whilst addressing harmful social norms. WFP regularly undertook GBV safety audits in collaboration with the GBV-Sub Cluster and WFP CPs to document and respond to GBV realities.

Finally, WFP has MoUs with UNFPA and UNWomen focussing on joint assessments and response for improved gender equality and GBV mitigation and response.

e. People with disabilities (PwD):

In 2019, WFP South Sudan integrated the Washington Group Questions into all MEAL systems to increase visibility and evidence on specific needs of persons with disabilities to inform food and nutrition response accordingly. WFP also had a bi-lateral partnership with Humanity Inclusion including joint assessments, risk identification and response, partnerships with Organisations of Disabled Peoples and innovation to improve delivery of food assistance to PwD (where needed).

CBT was communicated as a preferred modality of assistance by PwD's who said that it had reduced burdens on travel to and from distribution sites, including the burden of transporting heavy food items. As per Child Headed Households, Households headed by persons with disabilities were also given the option to register an Alternate who can collect assistance on their behalf – this was communicated as an option to be used only if the PwD household feels safe to do so.

f. Protection:

Conflict sensitivity and protection was integrated into all CBT preparedness and design tools including market assessments. Protection and Gender assessments were undertaken regularly to document and respond to sensitive issues (e.g., GBV, child protection and SEA). These assessments were preformed prior to CBT roll-out and replicated throughout project cycle for necessary adjustments. CFMs were also communicated to affected populations to ensure real-time feedback and response.

All WFP activities, including CBT, were informed by Protection and Gender Assessments. These assessments captured the specific needs of the affected population, including child-headed households, persons with disabilities, female headed households and elderly persons. The discussion captured not only impediments to food and nutrition security faced by groups of high risk and vulnerability, but also their current coping mechanisms and their preferred methods for WFP and humanitarian response. Specific adjustments that were made included:

- Child Head Households: Prior to registration and implementation, WFP and its partners notified the Child Protection Sub- Cluster and other specialist agencies of the activity for their specialist participation. This resulted in child -protection specialists attending

registrations and distributions to ensure that the holistic needs of child headed households were understood and responded to. In Juba operations for example, protection specialist agencies who oversaw the distribution of assistance, including CBT, attended all distributions to child headed households and supporting them to count their cash prior to departure. WFP's CFM system was also communicated to Child Headed Household and child protection agencies to ensure that feedback and issues (including any security issues) were raised immediately for WFP mitigation and response. Where possible, child headed households were supported to select and register an adult Alternate who could collect assistance on their behalf. This was been supported by child protection specialists, including the CP Sub-Cluster, and was only used when appropriate and safe for the household to do so.

- Elderly Persons: As above, Protection and Gender assessments indicated that CBT was a preferred modality for Elderly Headed Households who indicated greater independence to collect and use assistance without the burden of having to transport heavy food items. Similarly, Elderly Headed Households were provided with the option to register an alternate for collection of assistance if they felt safe and comfortable to do so.
- WFP continued to do protection and gender assessments to ensure the information above was accurate with adjustments made as and when necessary.

g. Education:

N/A

8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	Yes, CVA is the sole intervention in the CERF project	221,600

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

The CVA for this programme used cash transfers as the main modality to deliver unrestricted cash to beneficiaries through a financial service provider. WFP used SCOPE as beneficiary management system along with a card with fingerprint verification at the point of redemption. The CVA was based on cash transfers to meet food needs at various levels (50% or 70% according to the food insecurity levels of each locations). In places where WFP had established the need to support families with milling costs, a top up was provided for this purpose. The programming of the cash transfer was not directly linked to any social intervention programmes by government; however, it was linked to WFP's regular food assistance programme to enable continuity in the assistance beyond this project funds.

Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
General Food Distribution GFD to address high levels of food insecurity, particularly during lean season	133,679	US\$ 2,763,625	Food Security - Food Assistance	Unrestricted
Urban - GFD	87,909	US\$ 2,291,470	Food Security - Food Assistance	Unrestricted
Protection of civilians POCs/ Internally Displaced Persons IDPs	20,012	US\$ 58,609	Food Security - Food Assistance	Unrestricted

9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
	https://twitter.com/WFP_SouthSudan/status/1435128196987506689
	https://twitter.com/WFP_SouthSudan/status/1390192101623619590

ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	CERF Sector	Agency	Implementing Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner in USD
20-RR-WFP-054	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$163,146
20-RR-WFP-054	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$55,478
20-RR-WFP-054	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$68,738
20-RR-WFP-054	Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$116,007