

# Republic of South Sudan

Issue 12

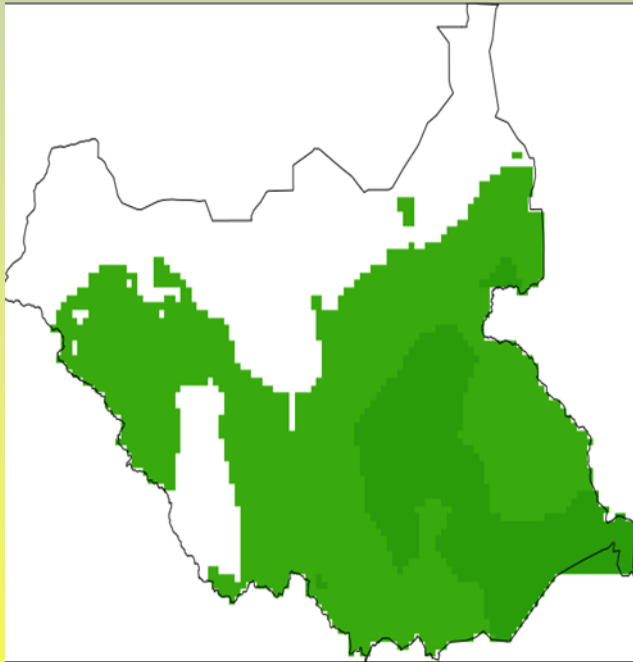
March to May 2024



## National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Bulletin

### Messages Description

This Bulletin provides an overview of the March, April, and May (MAM) 2024 Seasonal Forecast for South Sudan to help decision makers from the Government line ministries, agencies and partners to come with appropriate measures to save lives and destruction to properties and Livelihoods.



The seasonal forecasts released by South Sudan Meteorological Service (SSMS) for rainfall, point to a higher probability for wetter-than-usual rainfall during the March-May 2024 period.

As indicated on the map, the Dark green areas that covered the counties of Morobo, Lainya, greater Kapoeta, Ikotos, chukudum, Magwi, Torit counties, part of Lakes, Jonglei and Unity state shows precipitation that will exceeds than the usual long-term values, while Light green areas show area where precipitation is less

than usual amount received.



The moderate rainfall predicted across the Equatoria region will probably restore soil moisture reserves and lead to favorable conditions for early crop planting, and good pasture as well as water reserves.

## Greater Horn of African MAM Climate Outlook 2024

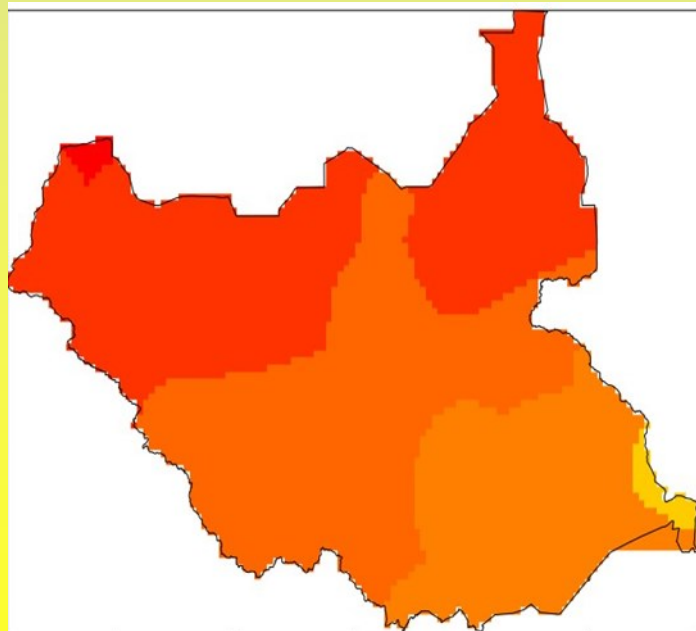
In terms of distribution, March is expected to receive lower rain consequently will have drier than normal condition. The rains will likely peak in April in the most areas and will continue to May over southeast Ethiopia, western Kenya, northern Uganda, and Equatorial region of South Sudan.

On the other hand, March to May rainfall season: Normal to Below normal rainfall conditions is expected in parts of Tambura, Raja, Pibor, Aweil North, Aweil East, Twic and Mayom counties.

Grey areas which consist of part of Raja, Aweil North, Aweil East, Twic, Abiemnhom, Mayom, Rubkona, Pariang, Fashoda, Manyo, and Renk counties are projected to experience drier conditions, however it of little significance as this period is largely out of season.

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The South Sudan Meteorology Services (SSMS) says the current heatwave the Country is experiencing is a result of a combination of three factors which include the movement of the sun from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere and human activities like destroying the environment. It expects counties marked with red color Raja, Wau, Jur, Northern Bhar el Ghazal greater Aweil, Twic, Abyei, Greater Tonj, Upper Nile Renk, Melut, Manyo, Ballet, Maban, Rubkona, Longochuk could be in for an even hotter weather with the maximum temperature projected at 41 degrees Celsius while for those counties marked with orange color Western Equatoria, Lakes, Part of unity, part of Jonglei temperatures could soar to 38 degrees lastly the light orange in Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and part of Jonglei expected receive temperature ranging from 30-36 degrees Celsius for the period spanning March to May 2024.

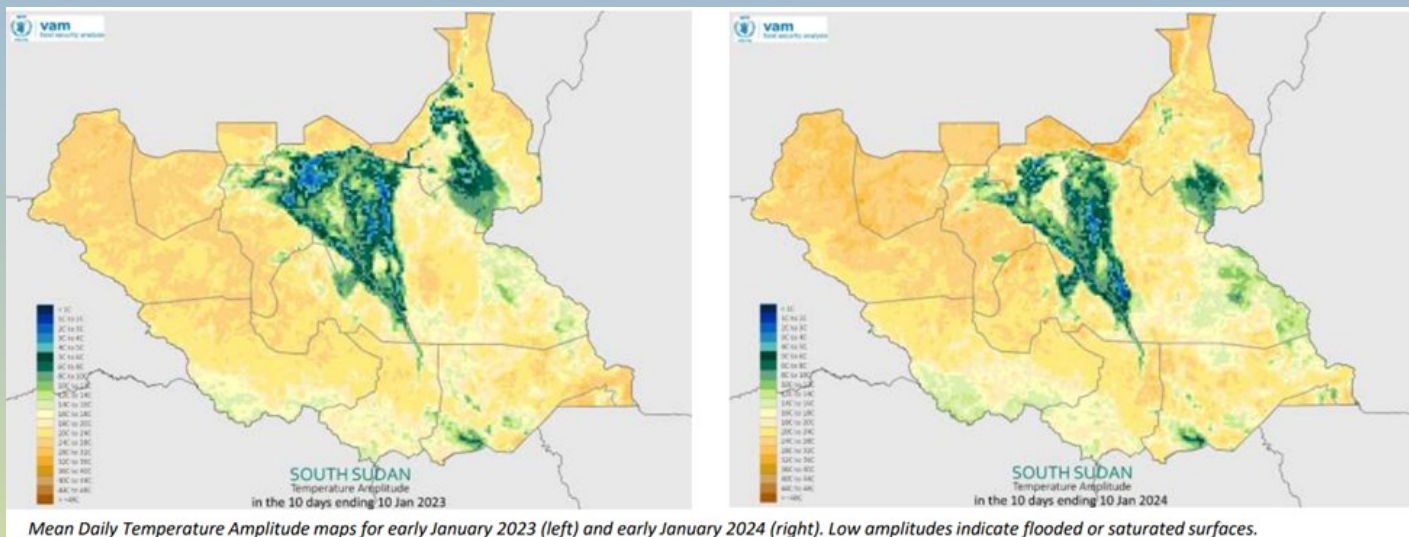


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The SSMD says people should hydrate enough and avoid walking under the direct sun to protect their bodies.

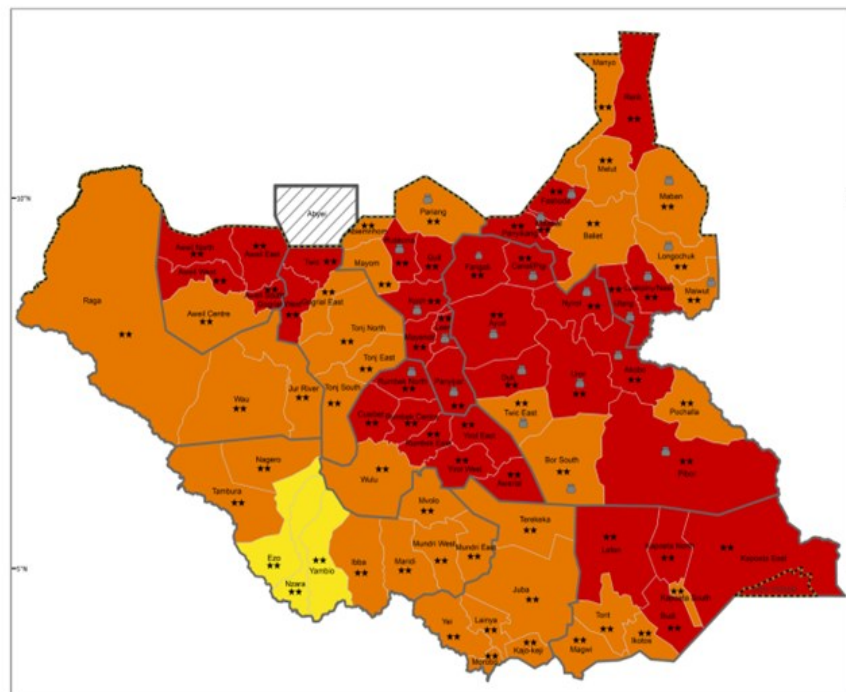
Based on the above considerations given by SSMS, the National Early Warning Technical Working Group (NEWTWG) has come up with detailed MAM seasonal rainfall outlook implications and advisories for different sectors.

The consensus climate outlook for MAM has both positive and negative implications to watch. On the positive side, areas receiving above normal rainfall (700-800mm) will have good performance of crops in most of the cropping areas like the green belt etc., vegetation, adequate pasture, availability of water for livestock and wildlife, and plenty of fish on downstream.



The maps above show likely flood extent (low daily temperature amplitudes) in South Sudan, comparing early January 2023 (left) with early January 2024 (right). They show clearly how the 2024 flood extent has decreased from the record levels of the 2022-23 flood season.

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SECOND PROJECTION SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL- JULY 2024)



### Key for the Map

#### IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

#### Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

#### Evidence Level

\*\* Medium

## **Above map is Household level Weather impacts**

The latest data shows that 5.83 million people (46 percent of the population) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity classified as IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse), with 1.64 million people including returnees are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity in 38 counties.

Counties are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, and 3 counties are classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) acute food insecurity.

An estimated 35,000 people are classified in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) in the Duk and Nyirol counties of Jonglei State and the Rubkona County in Unity State respectively.

### **Key Assumptions for the second projection:**

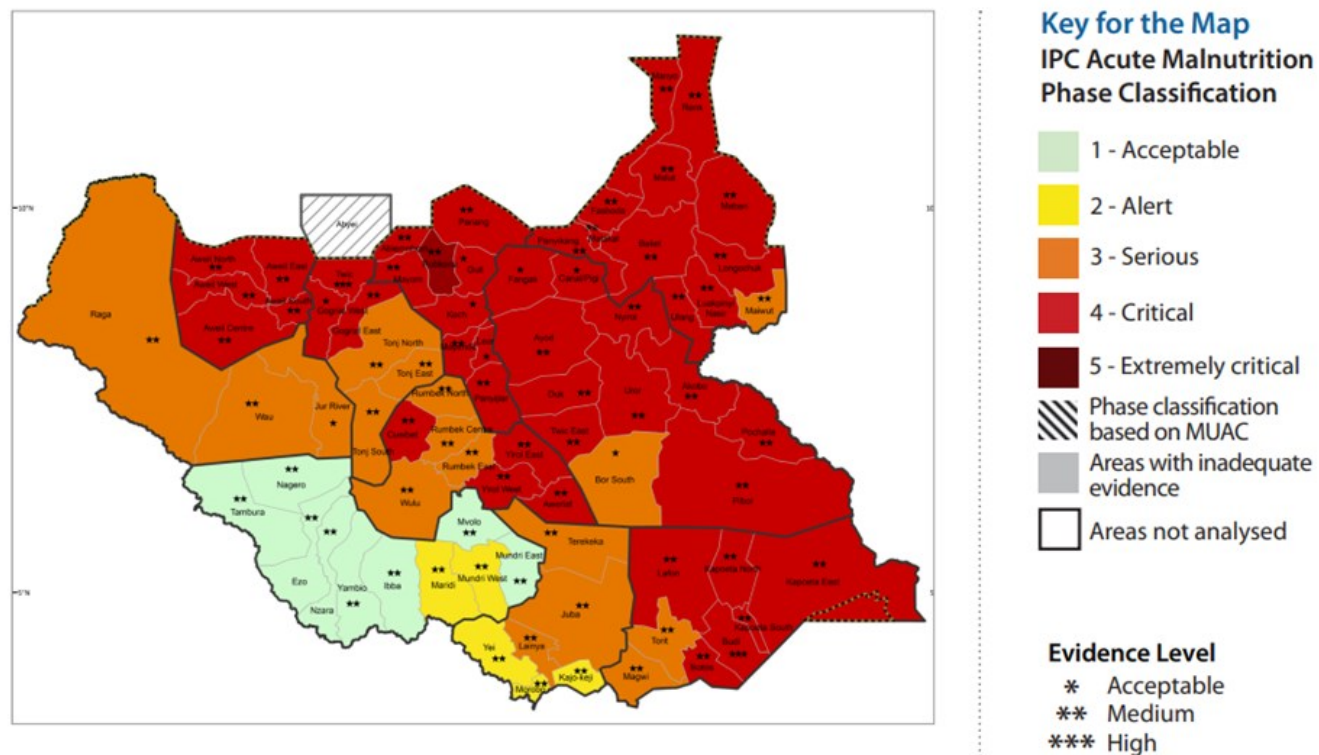
Assumptions for the second projection analysis period that are aggravating factors include the seasonal depletion of harvested food stocks by the majority of the households and increased reliance on markets that are characterized by high food prices, poor functionality of markets because of the degradation of road networks during the rainy season, the ongoing economic crisis and associated effects such as currency depreciation that is affecting the purchasing power of poor households, limited income earning opportunities, an increase in human and animal water-borne

diseases. The effect of the conflict in Sudan that induce influx of returnees and refugees was considered in addition to the disruption of supply chains for markets in the northern parts of the country, and the additional burden on already vulnerable host communities.





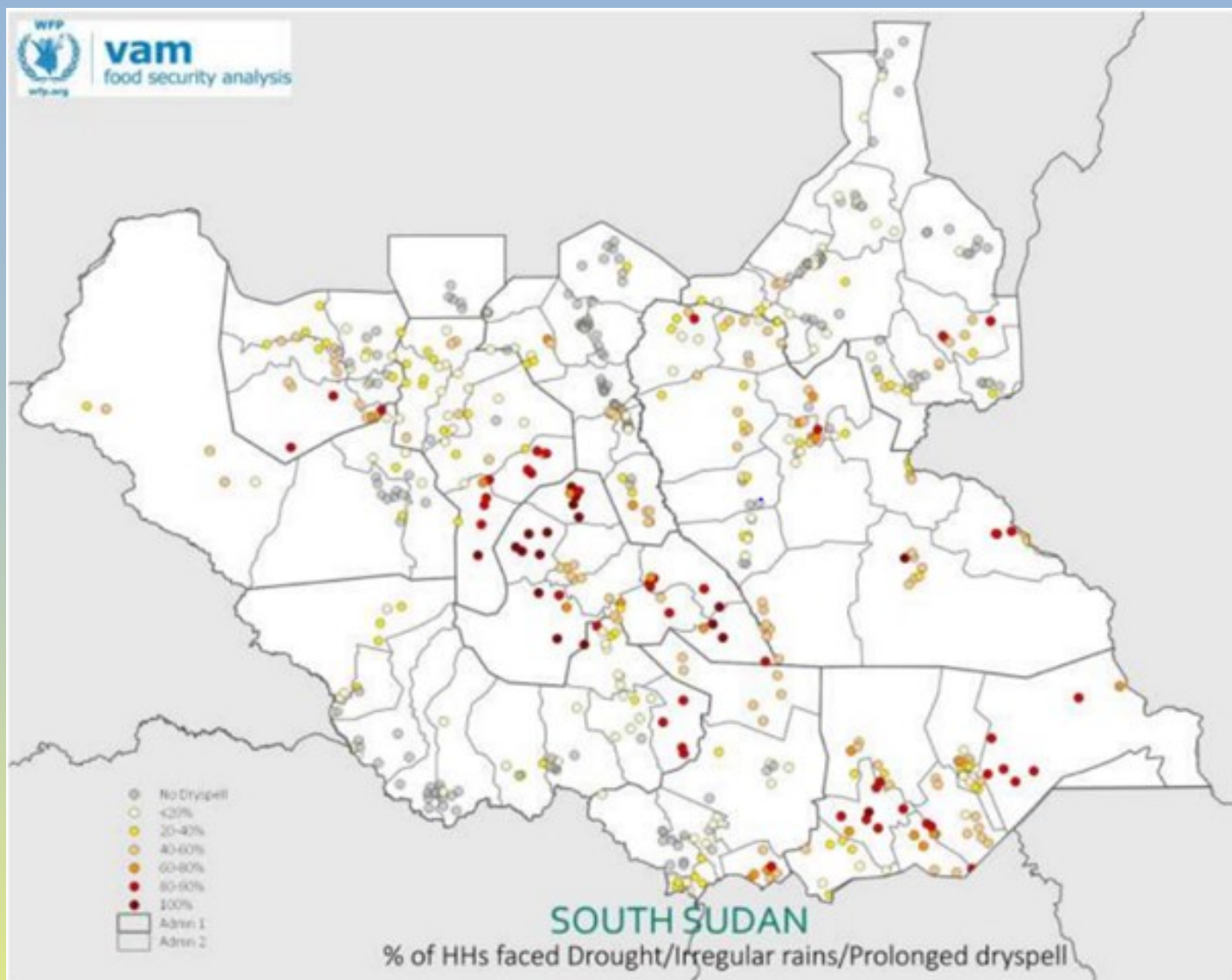
## ACUTE MALNUTRITION SECOND PROJECTION SITUATION MAP (APRIL - JUNE 2024)



Between April -June 2024, the acute malnutrition situation in the country is likely to worsen significantly. The situation is projected to deteriorate in 66 out of 80 counties and remain similar in 14 counties. The deterioration in the situation is expected to change the IPC AMN Classification in 13 counties during the projected period. The nutrition situation in Rubkona County of Unity State is expected to deteriorate significantly, resulting in the county being classified in IPC AMN Phase 5 (Extremely Critical).

According to 2023 IPC report, on household weather impact map on below 100% dry spell was experienced in some parts of the following counties Aweil Center, Longochuk, Pochalla, Greater Tonj, Wulu, Yirol Kapoeta East, Kajo-keji and Torit.

Based on current rainfall distribution outlook for MAM 2024, repeated scenario of prolong dry spell is likely to occur in some parts of green belt areas.



## Key Advisories for different sectors

### Water Sector

#### Implications of MAM2024 rainfall forecast

The normal to above normal MAM 2024 rainfall forecast will likely have the following implications

- Increased cases of flash floods in some major town such as Juba, Nimule and Kapoeta
- Enough water for hafirs especially in Jonglei, Lakes and Eastern Equatoria states
- Low to moderate cases of riverine floods as water levels are below flood marks

### Advisories

Stakeholders are advised to: -

- Clear garbage and solid waste from water ways (natural and artificial channels)
- Desilting of hafirs to increase their capacities
- Continuous monitoring and updates of river water levels and discharges

### **Environment and Forestry Sector**

• Moderate rainfall especially in equatorial region and part of Jonglei is likely to benefit forests and planted trees regeneration , Land management and soil conservation initiatives in most part of the country other benefits of MAM on environment includes.

- Green and clean environment
- Increase in the availability of non-forest timber products (NFTP)

Areas receiving below normal rainfall especially the northern parts of the country will experience long dry spells, forest fires, dust storms, air pollution and excessive heat.

### **Advisories**

- Need for timely unclogging of the drainage systems to allow steady flow of water to avoid blockages and lower risks of flooding.
- Awareness raising on the conservation of the environment
- Prepare fire lines to minimize forest fires from spreading randomly
- Mapping of biodiversity hot spots

## **Disaster Risk Management Sector**

Movement of livestock/cattle herders in search for pastures for their animals in the month of March and half of April as many areas are drier than usual which may trigger conflicts with farmers.

May rains could delay movement of people and goods from trigger increased run off leading to flooding (riverine and flash floods) in flood prone areas along Nile River. Uncontrolled waste disposal especially in Juba is common during rainy season.

### **Advisories**

The DRMCs should have flash flood or flood preparedness meetings in the flood prone areas.

- Disaster risk financing as a proactive tool /approach to reduce disaster risks and early detection of disaster risks and making financial resources available to take care of the needs of the affected communities during and after the disaster to be considered.
- Communities in high-risk flooding areas need to be informed in good time including preparations for any planned relocations through authorised institutions
- Decision-makers should be informed early enough to be able to allocate resources and provide prompt support.
- Train community/dyke management committee to monitor and rehabilitate the dykes
- Community awareness campaigns should be encouraged and emergency response team can be formed.



## **Health Sector**

Water-borne and vector-borne diseases are likely to increase because of the wet conditions. The availability of stagnant waters is of particular concern as it will act as breeding place for mosquitoes resulting to likely upsurge of malaria incidences, dysentery and cholera cases through contaminated water sources.

### **Advisories**

- Intensify malaria and schistosomiasis control interventions
- Ensure availability of clean water and treatment tabs to communities
- Intensify mosquito control interventions, including larviciding, environmental management
- Rehabilitate rain-water drainage to avoid flooding
- Sensitization of the community to seek treatment on time and Bed nets utilization
- Conduct continued Surveillance for Cholera in the cholera prone counties
- Conduct Health education and social behavior change communication to contribute preventing outbreaks
- Stock relevant (malaria and other water borne disease) drugs before the roads are damaged by water.

## **Livestock Sector**

On positive note, in pastoral and agropastoral areas, vegetation regeneration and water replenishment will avail grazing resources thereby supporting the improvement of livestock body condition and productivity, lower livestock mobility, minimize competition for resources, and above all allow households' access to milk for consumption.

Honey production expected to increase due to adequate flowers and water. Similarly, diseases associated with wet conditions are expected to increase in areas to receive higher than usual rainfall.

While the northern part of the country will remain dry before the next seasonal rains expected to start in June. Dry conditions will lead to deterioration of water and pasture resources for livestock, necessitating the need for livestock mobility, competition for available resources, as well as declining livestock production, productivity, and consumption of livestock products (and livestock market value) thereby impacting on food security conditions. Dry weather conditions may also increase heat stress in some of these areas. The climatic shocks will compound the effects of conflict, macroeconomics and other vulnerabilities being experienced in some of northern counties of the country.

**States of greatest concern that need an urgent mitigation measure include.**

**Upper Nile , Northern Bhar el Ghazal, Warrap, and Western Bhar el Ghazal**

#### **Advisories**

- Control vector-borne diseases, conduct deworming, vaccinations.
- Assess the current situation and the specific risk to the country regarding RVF and identify the actions to support the country to increase its preparedness to RVF outbreak.

#### **Agriculture and Food Security Advisory**

March to May (MAM) seasonal forecast constitutes a very important focus to central and southern parts of the country. This area has probability of Above normal rain fall.

Risk and Implication of above normal rain fall in agriculture and food security includes

- The risk of flash floods and water logging are likely to increase food insecurity through disrupting market functionality, loss of livelihoods and productive assets of the affected populations.
- Increase in water-borne diseases that will affect household labor availability.
- Waterlogging.
- Crops are expected to be washed away.
- Spread of plant diseases
- Low production

### **Advisory in areas expected to receive above normal rainfall**

- Facilitate timely availability of agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer and utensils) to farmers; and advocate for appropriate and climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Take early action to prepare land and increase acreage of farmland in order to have surplus for consumption and sell.
- Earlier dissemination of the seasonal forecast
- Farmers should be advised to plant crops on high grounds in flood prone areas.
- Farmers should plant fast maturing and flood-resistant crops varieties.
- Farmers should be trained on post-harvest technologies to minimize crop losses associated with the flooding.
- Train farmers on crop pest, management, and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices livelihoods adaptation to climate change to address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change.
- Provide humanitarian assistance Scale up food assistance to households classified in Crisis, IPC Phase 3 and above, within the most affected counties, aiming at reducing food gaps and protect livelihoods.
- with an emphasis on the most vulnerable communities including pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children.

### **Areas with probabilities of below normal rain fall.**

Risk and Implication in areas expected to receive below normal rainfall on agriculture includes, prolong dry spells, Low crop production.

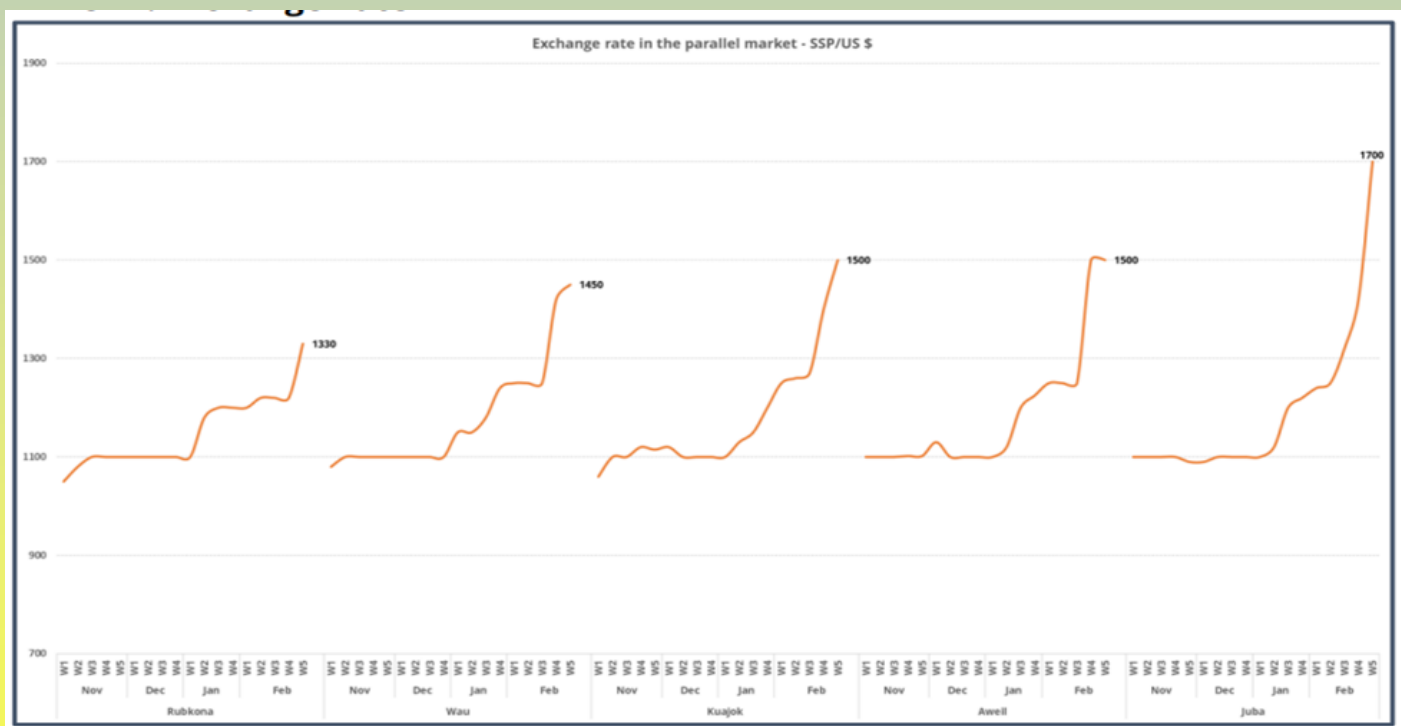
### **Advisory in areas expected to receive below normal on agriculture and food security.**

- Farmers to plant crops on low grounds for high water table
- Farmers should be trained on post-harvest technologies to minimize crop losses associated with the dry spells.

- Train farmers on crop pest, management, and Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices to address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change.
- Farmers need to be encouraged to grow crop diversification, incorporating drought/ flood tolerant and disease resistant varieties. e.g., cassava/sorghum/millet to take advantage of the excess/ drought/dry spells inundating their farmlands.

## Markets and Prices

The continued economic crisis and the depreciation of the South Sudanese against dollars will likely encourages traders to withhold stocks in anticipation of further price increases or to set higher selling prices. When this happened, the purchasing power of many households across the country especially the market dependent will most likely be affected negatively as prices of food items surge.



In Juba, one US dollar exchanged from SSP 1500 to 1750, a 14 percent depreciation in a week, while the reference exchange rate ranged between SSP 1388 and SSP 1470 per US dollar, a 7 percent depreciation. The spread between parallel and reference rate widened to 19 percent. This suggests the demand for hard currency is outstripping the supply, leading to high prices of goods in the market.

## Advisories Short term remedies

- Importation of more food items by selected contracted companies and sell at subsidized price to local people.
- Tax waiver for any food items import to lower prices.

**Conclusion:** The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), along with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, should continuously monitor the progress of MAM and provide forecasts regarding the expected impacts throughout the upcoming months as well as governments and humanitarian organizations to ensure that early warning information reaches all, and contingency planning is in place.

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