

WFP Video: WFP Trucks Cross Front Lines In South Sudan With Lifesaving Food Amid Fears Of Spike In Hunger

WFP News Video Locations: South Sudan: Jonglei State; Juba. Shot: 13/16 Feb16 TRT 1:52

Shotlist: :00 - :15 Yuai Shot: 13 Feb2016 Families waiting to receive food. Since December 2013, limitations on cross-line road transportation have restricted WFP's ability to deliver food assistance in the area

:15 - :27 Yuai SOT Nyahoth Tut (Nuer) Yuai Resident Shot: 13Feb2016 "Fighting in Dinka and Jikany is causing hunger. Now WFP has come and will assist people there will be peace and food."

:27 - :32 Yuai Shot: 13 Feb2016 Families waiting to receive food. Since December 2013, limitations on cross-line road transportation have restricted WFP's ability to deliver food assistance in the area

:32 - :56 Juba Shot: 15Feb2016 SOT (English) Joyce Luma, WFP South Sudan Country Director

"...recent analysis shows that 2.8 million face acute hunger post harvest this is just immediately after the harvest. What that means is that this year we are going to see the lean period start much much earlier and were going to see many more people facing acute hunger over time."

:56-1:11 Pieri Shot: 13 Feb2016

WFP food convoy arriving in Pieri, (Jonglei State) for the first time since the outbreak of conflict in South Sudan. The World Food Programme has successfully conducted a cross-line operation (movement from government-held to opposition-held areas) within Jonglei State – one of the hardest hit by fighting – in South Sudan.



Since December 2013, limitations on cross-line road transportation have restricted WFP's ability to deliver food assistance in the area, so for more than two years it could only be reached by air. On 5 February, WFP secured necessary clearances and sent out a test convoy carrying 100 mt of food from Bor (government-held), destined for Pieri (opposition-held) and crossing several battle lines. The trucks reached Pieri on 13 February.

1:11 -1:52 Yuai Shot: 13 Feb2016 WEP food distribution

WFP food distribution to almost 50,000 people by WFP Rapid Response Mechanism teams deployed to remote locations.

ENDS

- South Sudan is facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, as 2.8 million people – nearly 25 percent of the country's population – remain in urgent need of food assistance, and at least 40,000 people are on the brink of catastrophe, three UN agencies warned today.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World
 Food Programme (WFP) stressed that these numbers are
 particularly worrisome because they show an increase in hunger
 during the post-harvest period a time when the country is
 traditionally most food secure.
- WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to some 3 million people across South Sudan in the last year, working with 87 NGO partners and using every tool at its disposal, including airdrops, river barges, cash-based transfers, local food purchases and specialized nutritious foods.
- The number of food insecure people is expected to peak during the coming lean season traditionally worst between April and July when food availability is lowest.

A recent UN report projects that the lean season will start early this year, and the hunger period will be longer than in previous years. The dry season, which is now beginning, could bring additional hardship to people facing the most severe levels of hunger. People displaced in conflict-affected Unity State, who have been living on fish and water lilies to survive, are running out of their only remaining sources of food as the



floods recede. Livestock raiding has robbed many people of essential animal products like milk, which were their main means of survival during last year's lean season. Unless humanitarian assistance can reliably reach them during the dry season, they face catastrophe in the coming months.

UN agencies are calling for a speedy implementation of the peace agreement signed last year, and for unrestricted access to conflict areas to deliver much needed supplies to the most affected areas.

The overall prevalence of emergency levels of malnutrition as an issue of grave concern. Malnutrition in South Sudan is attributed mostly to inadequate food consumption, along with other factors such as disease, dietary habits, as well as constrained health and nutrition service delivery.

UNICEF has set a target of treating more than 165,000 children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2016. Last year the number of children treated for SAM surpassed 144,000, which was a 53 percent increase over 2014.

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