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UNICEF WFP News Video

STORY: CHILDREN IN SOUTH SUDAN CANNOT WAIT FOR FAMINE BEFORE WORLD ACTS

LOCATION: Malakal, South Sudan

Dateline: 23 – 25 July 2014

TRT 02.49

SHOTLIST

00:00-00:09 UN POC Camp Malakal

Children walking through water through the camp

00:09-00:50 MSF Clinic, UN POC Camp Malakal

MSF Clinic for children with cases of Sever Acute Malnutrition

Girl in MSF Clinic

Mother and baby

Scale in IMC nutrition feeding Centre

Wide of child being weighed

Upper- mid test for malnutrition

Baby being fed Plumpy Nut highly nutritious food for children

00:50-00:59 WFP and UNICEF warehouses Malakal, Shot 25 July 2014

Anthony Lake, Executive Director UNICEF and Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director WFP visiting the warehouse

00:59-01:43 SOT Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF, Malakal Shot 25 July 2014

“We have to address what is becoming a nutritional catastrophe and it s now a nutritional disaster for so many children. We need to address it not only when they are in a severe state, which UNICEF works on but it also means working on it in a slightly earlier stage while it is still moderate which WFP concentrates on. We have to bring in more health supplies, we have to somehow gets kids back into school we have to help find shelter for them, protection for children.”

“ This is happening off camera. The world is simply not paying enough attention to South Sudan – to people like this who are stuck.”

01:43-01:47 WFP and UNICEF warehouses Malakal

Wide of out patient feeding centre for malnourished children in Malakal UN POC Camp.

01:47-02:33 SOT Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, WFP

“Food alone does not meet the nutrition needs of a child, if there is poor sanitation, if there is no clean water, what you have is a child who has diarrhea. And we are seeing in those hospitals children who are afflicted with upper respiratory conditions as well as diarrhea. So if we are providing them with food but they don’t have the other support that they need because of the conditions that they are living in then you will find children who are malnourished. Food alone won’t do it. We must provide the food but we must also make sure that they live in conditions that have access to clean water and sanitary living spaces. We need to get the children out of the mud. “

02:33-02:49 UN POC Camp Malakal

Wide of Malakal UN POC Camp

Wide of puddle

ENDS

JUBA, 26 July 2014: The heads of UNICEF and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) today warned that children in South Sudan cannot wait any longer before the world takes action, as they met severely malnourished children and their mothers affected by the conflict in the world's newest country.

“The world should not wait for a famine to be announced while children here are dying each and every day,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, speaking after a visit to the devastated city of Malakal, where tens of thousands of people still take shelter on a UN base. “Today we spoke to mothers who have struggled through conflict, displacement and hunger to stop their children dying. We all have to do more, and quickly, to keep more children alive.”

The UN agency heads said they fear the world is allowing a repeat of what occurred in Somalia and the Horn of Africa just three years ago; when early warnings of extreme hunger and escalating malnutrition went largely unheeded until official famine levels were announced.

"WFP, UNICEF and our partners here on the ground have been working tirelessly to bring assistance to those suffering the consequences of this conflict and we are ready to do more and to reach more," said WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin. "But if we are to rapidly expand our operations and save more lives, then we need more resources, and the international community has to act now."

Nearly 1 million children under five years of age in South Sudan will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2014, according to UNICEF and WFP. If the world fails to provide the help needed right now to accelerate and scale up life-saving food and nutrition efforts, UNICEF estimates that 50,000 children could die from malnutrition in the course of this year.

Although the conflict is focused in three states of South Sudan, a staggering one in every three people throughout the country – some 3.9 million people - face dangerous levels of food insecurity, with many of them not knowing when and how their next meal is coming.

The unremitting cycle of violence in South Sudan, which has caused the displacement of more than a million people inside the country, over half of them children, has disrupted agricultural activities as well as provision of social services, trading, and the operation of markets, causing massive loss of livelihoods.

Additionally, the lack of access to health care and safe water and sanitation facilities is putting children at a dangerously high risk of acute malnutrition. The situation is compounded by the challenges faced by humanitarian workers in reaching children and families most in need due to the fighting, lack of infrastructure, limited partners and shortages of funding.

Attention broadcasters: Broadcast-quality video B-roll is available.

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