



World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

As Fighting and Hunger Escalates in South Sudan, WFP Urgently Pre-Positions Food to Help Prevent Famine

WFP NEWS VIDEO

Location: Ganyiel, Unity State, South Sudan

TRT 02:17

:00-:20

Shot: 10 March 2016

WFP plane (Ilyushin 76) airdrops vegetable oil.

WFP is testing airdrops of oil using parachutes.

:20-:28

Shot: 10 March 2016

WFP 's airdrop recovery team checking the status of the oil cans in the boxes.

:28-:40

Shot: 10 March 2016

Displaced people at the WFP food distribution site.

WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to more than 90,000 people in Ganyiel. Most of them fled from fighting in other parts of southern Unity State – Leer, Koch and Mayendit counties - in the past two years and sought refuge in Ganyiel.

:40-01:09

Shot: 15 March 2016, Juba

SOT (English) Shaun Hughes, WFP South Sudan

“At any one time, we have about 10 to 15 of our field teams out in the field doing mobile operations in areas... including in these areas in Unity where there has been concern that certain people are facing catastrophic food insecurity conditions and we are really managing to get the mobile teams into those places at the moment and if we can sustain and increase this access there is every chance that we'll be able to prevent a famine in South Sudan as the lean season approaches.”

01:09-01:19

Shot: 10 March 2016

Displaced women receiving split yellow peas

01:19-01:40

Shot: 10 March 2016

WFP helicopter arriving at Ganyiel, carrying fortified nutritional food.

The Mi-26 helicopter can move up to 12 tons of cargo.

People at WFP food distribution site

01:40-01:56

Shot: 10 March 2016

SOT (Nuer) Martha Nyalam, Displaced by conflict.

“We the women have been suffering since fighting erupted in the country. We have been separated from our husbands – some of them have been killed while defending our community. We have lost our livestock and belongings. We had nothing until you began to bring us food. We are only surviving on the food that you are giving us through the airdrops.”

01:56-02:12

Shot: 10 March 2016

People at WFP food distribution site

Women carrying WFP food

END

Hunger in South Sudan:

•It is estimated that 2.8 million people – nearly 25 percent of the country’s population – remain in urgent need of food assistance between January and March, which is the period just before the lean season. **This is 84 percent higher than the same period last year** and due to the combined effects of more than two years of fighting, a collapsing economy, high food prices and erratic rainfall.

•WFP is concerned that increasing tensions and violence are leading to deepening humanitarian needs in parts of the country that were not directly affected by fighting in the past two years, including Western Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Greater Pibor,.

- Recent outbreaks of fighting have occurred in areas along major routes used by WFP to transport food to the rest of the country. This may delay WFP's annual exercise to pre-position stocks in places that become impassable during the rainy season. Relief agencies need security on the ground so they can reach and assist people who are struggling to survive. Every year, WFP must make a massive pre-positioning effort so we can continue assisting people after roads become impassable during the rainy season. WFP plans to pre-position 100,000 metric tons of food in 2016, but disruption due to insecurity on major routes could affect this plan.

Unity State:

- Access to parts off Unity State has improved in recent months, allowing WFP and partners to reach tens of thousands of people who have been cut off from assistance due to fighting. But the level of hunger in those areas is still far too high, so it is vital that we continue to be able to provide that lifesaving support.
- Malnutrition has reached catastrophic proportions in parts of Unity State, with GAM rates in some places above 30 percent, and is consistently above the 15 percent emergency threshold across the conflict-affected states of Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity, as well as in non-conflict states of Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Food Prices:

- The costs of food and other basic necessities are rising, and at the same time food production and income have been dropping for the majority of urban dwellers. Devaluation of the South Sudanese pound in December accelerated price rises, since the country depends on imports. Currently, a day's wage barely buys a 3.5-kg tin of sorghum. This time last year, it bought almost 14 kg.

WFP Response:

- 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 means of transport at our disposal, including aircrafts, river barges, cash-based transfers, local food purchases and specialized nutritious foods.
- In 2016 WFP aims to assist more than 3 million people in South Sudan. This includes lifesaving emergency assistance for 1.6 million people directly affected by conflict and another 1.6 million people through our recovery operation.



About WFP

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries. Follow WFP on Twitter @wfp_media @wfp_africa

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