WFP News Video: Hunger in South Sudan Could Almost Double, Driving Tens of Thousands to Places Like Darfur

Shot: 5-8 May 2016
Northern Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan
TRT: 3:16

Shotlist:

:00-:14
At a WFP food distribution, WFP nutritionist, Felista Busi tests women and children for malnutrition. A reading showing red, under 12, on the band (Middle Upper Arm Circumference-MUAC) means they are severely malnourished. She tells Nyanjok Garang (woman in red) that 4 of her 5 children are severely malnourished and must go to the hospital. Nyanjok is a subsistence farmer but this year her crop has failed. Her husband is blind and can’t work.
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7 May 2016

:14-:19
SOT Felista Busi, WFP Nutritionist (English)
“This is a girl and she is two years old and she is also severely malnourished. The MUAC is reading 11”
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7 May 2016

:19-:30
More testing for severe malnutrition including a woman whose reading is less the 18. Severe malnutrition for women is under 21.
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7 May 2016

:30-:43
Aping Riang, a farmer, came to Aweng from Darfur hoping to participate in the building a new country. He, his pregnant wife and 5 children head off into the bush on a two week journey by foot back to Darfur.
Aweng, South Sudan
Shot: 8May2016

:43-:53
SOT Aping Riang, farmer (Dinka)
“I am leaving with anger and sadness because hunger is forcing me to leave my homeland. Your homeland is your homeland. If there was something to eat I would not even think of leaving.”
Aweng, South Sudan
Shot: 8May2016

:53-1:07
Aping Riang and his family said they would walk another 4 hours before they stopping to rest for the day.
Aweng, South Sudan
Shot: 8May2016

1:07-1:16
Villagers in Apada told us that since January 2016, 10,000 people-½ the population-have fled to Sudan. Originally from this area, they returned from Sudan in 2010 in the hopes of building a new country in their ancestral land. Now, according to UNHCR, so far, more than 50,000 returnees in South Sudan have gone back to Sudan.
Apada, South Sudan
Shot: 5May2016

1:16-1:28
Malang Gole hasn’t eaten in 2 days but will stay in Apada no matter what. She promised her dying husband that she would take their children home to their ancestral land. She hasn’t seen her son since he joined the SPLA (South Sudan Army) in 2011.
Apada, South Sudan
Shot: 5May2016

1:28-1:34
SOT Malang Gole (Dinka)
“My dead husband is from here. He made me promise not to take the children back to the north”
Apada, South Sudan
Shot: 5May2016

1:34-1:39
villagers from Apada
Apada, South Sudan
Shot: 5May2016

1:39-1:59
SOT George Fominyen, WFP Spokesperson(English):
“People are feeling the pinch of the bad weather conditions which led to failed harvest. They are feeling the pinch of the economic collapse in the country which means they don’t have enough money to buy food if they found it in the market and when they find the food in the market or anything they do need, its so expensive”
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7May2016

1:59-2:14
Farmers planting millet. Last year’s drought resulted in a failed harvest. Many have run out of food as they are planting... hoping for more rain this year.
Aweil South, South Sudan
Shot 6May2016

2:14-2:36
Market in Aweil, South Sudan
In the main market in the capital of Bahr el Ghazal, sorghum prices have doubled from 35 to 75 South Sudanese pounds since last year at this time.
Aweil, South Sudan
Shot: 7May2016

2:36-2:55
SOT George Fominyen, WFP Spokesperson(English):
“We are scaling up our response in this area so that we can be able to cater for this people. It is a process that we are beginning and needs allot of support and we are therefore calling on all our donor partners, who have supported us this far in the past two years of the conflict to come even more.”
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7May2016

2:55-3:16
WFP distribution of special fortified foods and oil.
Aroyo, South Sudan
Shot: 7May2016

ENDS

**WFP/South Sudan:**

- Around 5 million people – nearly half the population of South Sudan – could face acute hunger in the next three months during the lean season, when traditionally hunger worsens. Too many people are unable to meet their food needs because of the combined effects of more than two years of fighting, a collapsing economy, high food prices and erratic rainfall.

- WFP is concerned about the rapidly worsening food
situation in parts of the country that, for the most part, have not been directly affected by fighting, including Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, and Warrap states. The lean season has started early in those areas, deepening humanitarian needs. More people are fleeing across borders into neighbouring countries and many cite growing hunger as the main reason.

· The people of South Sudan need peace. We hope that the ongoing peace process will translate into improved security for the South Sudanese people, so markets can function better and people can resume their livelihoods. Relief agencies need security on the ground so they can reach and assist people who are struggling to survive.

· WFP urgently requires almost US$230 million to provide food and nutrition assistance over the next six months in South Sudan. This is a significant funding gap at a critical time of year: we need to scale up support during the lean season, and we need to pre-position lifesaving food in places that become inaccessible during the rainy season. The window of opportunity to reach those areas by road is closing rapidly, after which WFP will have to rely on costly air operations.

**IN NUMBERS**
People displaced inside South Sudan by conflict *(OCHA)*: **1.69 million**
People living in UN Protection of Civilians areas *(UNMISS, April)*: **186,600**
South Sudan refugees in neighbouring countries *(UNHCR, April)*: **711,766**
People WFP plans to assist in 2016 *(EMOP + PRRO)*: **3.2 million**
FOOD SECURITY:

- In the absence of an updated Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, WFP’s internal analysis indicates that more than 5 million people in South Sudan will be severely food insecure during the May to August lean season, compared to 4.6 million at the same time last year. New areas of concern are the non-conflict affected states of Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria. Additional resources will be required while stocks are called forward to expand food assistance through the lean season.

- Reports indicate an early and widespread onset of the lean season, driven by continued economic pressures, insecurity constricting markets, and dry spells.

- 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 has led to sharper increases in the prices of staple foods, since the country depends largely on imports. In addition, insecurity has disrupted markets. People who were previously able to purchase food from markets are no longer able to do so because the goods are few and prices have skyrocketed.

- Over 50,000 South Sudanese have crossed into Sudan since the beginning of 2016, surpassing the expected figure set for the entire year. Many are citing economic hardship and hunger as reasons for crossing into Sudan.
· Access to vulnerable people in parts of Unity State, one of the states hardest hit by conflict, has improved in recent months, allowing WFP and partners to reach tens of thousands of people who had been cut off from assistance due to fighting. But the level of hunger in those areas is still far too high, and it is vital that WFP is able to continue providing life-saving support.

· Violence and displacement disrupted the planting season, especially in the conflict-affected states of Greater Upper Nile (Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei). Combined with looting of livestock, this means communities have had little to rely on and markets are not functioning.

· Malnutrition has reached catastrophic proportions in parts of Unity State, with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates in some places above 30 percent. The GAM rate 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.

**OVERVIEW of WFP in SOUTH SUDAN**

· WFP has provided food and nutrition assistance to 2 million people in South Sudan since the start of the year. This includes lifesaving emergency assistance for 1.4 million people directly affected by conflict and more than 500,000 people through our recovery operation.

· WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to 3 million people across South Sudan in 2015, working with 87 non-government partners and using every means of transport at our disposal, including aircraft, river barges, cash-based transfers, and local food purchases.
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 75 countries.

Follow us on Twitter @wfp_media and @wfp_africa

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):
George Fominyen, WFP/Juba, Mob. +211 922 465 247
Challiss McDonough, WFP/Nairobi, Tel. +254 20 762 2179, Mob. +254 707 722 104
Jane Howard, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 06 6513 3854, Mob. +39 347 9450634
Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. +44 20 72409001, Mob. +44 7968 008474
Bettina Luescher, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41 22 917 8564, Mob. + 41-79-842-8057