

**WFP Video News Release
South Sudan Food Airdrop
TRT 2'39''**

STORYLINE

The Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Ertharin Cousin, has just completed a three-day visit to the Republic of South Sudan. As well as mounting airdrops to reach refugees in inaccessible areas, WFP is working with communities to build resilience and longer-term food security.

During her visit, Cousin met South Sudan's President Salva Kiir and other officials, WFP staff, representatives of donors and partner organizations and WFP beneficiaries.

On 15 August, WFP launched a series of airdrops of food for refugees in South Sudan. Cousin made the following statement from the capital city, Juba:

"Today I am pleased to announce that the United Nations World Food Programme has begun air drops of urgently needed food to refugees in South Sudan's Upper Nile State. I have been in South Sudan for the last two days, meeting mothers and children whom we assist in the world's newest nation.

"This afternoon, 32 metric tons of wheat - enough to feed more than 2,100 people for a month - was flown from Gambella in Ethiopia and dropped for the refugee settlements in Maban County. This is the first in a series of airdrops that aims to replenish rapidly diminishing food stocks for more than 100,000 people who have fled the fighting north of the border.

"Today I spoke with South Sudanese women whose first concern was the health of their babies, and building a brighter future for themselves and their families.

"WFP's goal is not just to meet the immediate needs of those we serve, but to work to ensure that these mothers can, in time, feed their own children. Building the resilience of the people is foremost in our minds as we work in partnership with the South Sudanese Government.

"We are working together in the quest not only to achieve a food secure nation, but also to help realise their agricultural potential to become the breadbasket of Africa."

SHOTLIST

00:00-00:32 Maban County, Upper Nile State, South Sudan Shot 15 August 2012
WFP food gets dropped from WFP chartered plane

00:32-00:55 Rome Italy Shot 17 August 2012
SOT Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director

"We are seeing more and more refugees moving into Maban which is where the airdrops occurred and we had to do airdrops because it is the rainy season which means that roads are inaccessible and the only way, the only way, we could get food to people who were seeking refuge and then came to a place where there was no food was by having an airdrop".

00:55-01:18 Gambella airport, Ethiopia Shot 14 August 2012
Loading of 32 tons of WFP wheat flour on WFP chartered plane, model Ilyushin 76

01:18-01:51 Rome Italy Shot 17 August 2012

SOT Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director

“South Sudan is celebrating its first year anniversary as our youngest nation in the global community and it’s also one of our poorest. It is a country where hundreds of thousands of people have returned home with nothing and what WFP is doing is providing them with food assistance as soon as they arrive. We are also supporting host families but more importantly we are creating resilience programs that will help ensure that families can feed their own children”.

01:51-02:39 Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan Shot 16 August 2012

WFP Food for Assets projects:

WFP is working with communities to build longer-term food security.

The people farm sorghum, sesame, groundnuts and maize on a 250-hectare site.

WFP is providing the community with food assistance as well as training to tend to their crops until the end of the year and the farms are expected to produce 540 metric tons of food.

Flooded fields

Various of women working on crops

WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin visiting the site and talking to Elisabeth Abuk, the community leader

Women farmers hoeing in a maize field