

Frontline *Action*

WCF provides life-saving food to starving children in South Sudan



*Helping Children in a
World of Need*

World Children's Fund is combatting the growing hunger crisis in South Sudan with a new programme that identifies and treats acute malnutrition in children under the age of five and women who are pregnant or breast-feeding. An estimated 1.5 million people are internally displaced within South Sudan, and 2.5 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA.) Since the programme to combat hunger was initiated last year, WCF has assisted with the creation and operational costs of two stabilization centres and seven outpatient treatment sites. The new facilities have been established in Jonglei, the largest state in South Sudan. Acutely malnourished children and mothers are now being screened and identified. Those with severe acute malnutrition, who do not have other medical problems are



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enrolled in a feeding programme at one of the outpatient treatment sites. Children and infants who no longer have an appetite and are suffering from both acute malnutrition as well as other medical complications begin receiving life-saving measures at a Stabilization Centre. Once they are no longer medically vulnerable, they transition to one of the outpatient sites where they continue to receive micronutrient supplementation, Vitamin A and deworming treatment. “The emergency levels of hunger and malnutrition in South Sudan are a grave concern,” said Doug Kendrick, World Children's Fund Programme director. “We are grateful for the opportunity to work together with our partners to deliver food assistance and relief.”

According to Dr. Martina Fuch's, WCF's liaison in South Sudan, unrest in South Sudan has created precarious security conditions for the local people struggling to survive, and those delivering and administering aid. The programme is achieving success, despite the challenges of management and delivery of supplies to the medical centres. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service



Levels Of Hunger And Malnutrition In South Sudan Are A Grave Concern

(UNHAS) is currently the only source available to transport the programme essentials into the area.

“This timely humanitarian partnership and effort in South Sudan is saving the lives of children under the age of five,” said Kendrick. “It is also preventing the further escalation of malnutrition for the suffering population affected by this emergency.” We are grateful for all WCF sponsors who give to support these life-saving programmes!”

Programme Achievements

- More than eleven thousand children have been screened for malnutrition
- Over sixteen hundred children have been referred to one of the Outpatient Treatment Centres
- More than fourteen hundred children have received deworming tablets and vitamin A supplementation
- Eighty-Five percent of the severely malnourished children enrolled in the programme since inception have fully recovered



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