



SOUTH SUDAN: HUNGER EMERGENCY

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Families are in desperate need of food, as conflict has forced many to abandon their farms and livestock, which were critical sources of food, nutrition and income



Deborah Atong Ajang, 35, and other beneficiaries wait to receive their monthly food rations in Bor County. *Photo by Ric Francis/CRS*

CONTEXT

Fighting between government and opposition forces in South Sudan has uprooted 3.6 million people in the region and placed millions of lives at risk. The internal conflict is largely recognized as a struggle between the country's two largest ethnic groups. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in clashes. Families are in desperate need of food, as many were forced to abandon their farms and livestock, which were critical sources of food, nutrition and income. Famine has been declared in three counties of Unity State, with 100,000 people facing starvation in Leer and Mayendit counties.

According to the United Nations, **7.5 million people (65 percent of the population) need humanitarian assistance**, and half of the population is expected to be affected by extreme hunger by July. An estimated 1 million children under the age of 5 are acutely malnourished. Stunting, caused by inadequate nutrition and repeated infection in early life, is largely irreversible and has long-term effects. Adding to people's vulnerability is the threat of cholera, given their extremely limited access to clean water. A cholera outbreak was declared by the government in July 2016—the third outbreak since 2014—with 5,856 cholera cases across nine states, and 144 deaths.

With this latest emergency, South Sudan has become the center of the largest refugee crisis in Africa, and the third largest in the world, after those of Syria and Afghanistan. As of April, an estimated 885,800 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda, with an average daily arrival of 2,150 people since July 2016. The vast majority of refugees—86 percent— are women and children.



In partnership with the UN World Food Program, CRS has airdropped 15,000 metric tons of food for 180,000 people into areas that are difficult to reach due to insecurity or lack of infrastructure. *Photo by CRS staff*

CRS RESPONSE

CRS is providing food aid to 514,660 people in the central part of the country, where levels of hunger and malnutrition are not far behind those of the areas where famine has been declared. CRS provides food in exchange for work on building community infrastructure such as dikes and roads, as well as by supplying direct food aid when violence prevents such work activities from taking place.

CRS' response to this crisis is an extension of programming taking place across South Sudan, which has included food, market support, agriculture, health, financial stability, and water, sanitation and hygiene. CRS continues to adapt its assistance to meet the evolving needs. Established financial and administrative management in the capital, Juba, are able to sustain strong systems for accountability and program quality.

514,660

PEOPLE RECEIVE FOOD AID FROM CRS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY, WHERE LEVELS OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION ARE NOT FAR BEHIND THOSE OF THE AREAS WHERE FAMINE HAS BEEN DECLARED

HOW TO HELP

- Donate online: donate.crs.org
- Donate by phone: 877-HELP-CRS
- Donate by check: "Africa Hunger Crisis", Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090 Baltimore, Maryland 21203-7090

ACTIVITIES

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- In partnership with the UN World Food Program, airdropped 15,000 metric tons of food for 180,000 people into areas that are difficult to reach due to insecurity or lack of infrastructure
- Through the USAID-funded Jonglei Food Security Program (JFSP), provided 2,010 MT of food to 116,740 people.
- The above assistance included 78 MT of supplementary food support to pregnant or breastfeeding women, and 14,500 children under five

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS

- Trained 4,000 farmers in post-harvest storage techniques and 200 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups with 4,120 members
- Through the USAID-funded Jonglei Food Security Program (JFSP), provided 12,630 MT of food to 217,810 people in exchange for work on building community infrastructure such as dikes and roads, and rehabilitating school classrooms.

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

- Since mid-2015, drilled seven new boreholes and rehabilitated 135 non-functional boreholes, expanding water access for 35,031 people
- Trained 130 community hygiene promoters, who then passed along hygiene messages to more than 33,000 beneficiaries
- Reached 78,000 people in Juba and Awerial with hygiene promotion, distribution of hygiene materials, and latrine construction to disrupt the transmission of cholera and prevent the spread of the disease

PEACEBUILDING

- In partnership with the South Sudan Council of Churches, nurtured relationships with government representatives, church leaders and community leaders, as stakeholder engagement is seen as critical to the success of the project
- Conducted the first phase of a Peace Dialogue for members of the South Sudan Liberation Movement in the city of Yambio, facilitated by the Interfaith Committee of Western Equatoria State

SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

In neighboring Uganda, CRS is working with partners, including Caritas Uganda, in Bidibidi camp—the world's largest refugee camp—to provide critical water, sanitation and hygiene assistance. This includes improving the water distribution network of a borehole serving 400 families; constructing 2,000 household latrines and decommissioning 500 unhygienic communal latrines; and conducting hygiene promotion activities with the distribution of supplies.

faith. action. results.