

A photograph of two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both smiling broadly. They are standing in front of a corrugated metal wall. The girl is wearing a blue dress with a striped collar and has several pink bangles on her right wrist. The boy is wearing a green and black striped tank top and dark shorts. They are both holding a large, white, woven sack. The sack has the word 'MUKRA' printed in red on its side. In the foreground, there is a white plastic jerrycan with a yellow cap. The background shows a rustic structure with corrugated metal siding and some hanging items.

RESPONDING TO A HUNGER CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN

ONE YEAR REPORT

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Reaching millions impacted by hunger

From April 2021 to March 2022, World Vision South Sudan reached:



2.15 MILLION

people in 21 counties received food and other lifesaving assistance in areas where food insecurity is at emergency or catastrophic levels¹



197 K vulnerable

people with cash programming



135 K school children

with hot meals



114 K people

in training to enhance food production



112 K children

under age 5 and their caregivers who took part in programmes to treat and prevent malnutrition



86 K children

under age 5 who were able to access health care staff at a supported primary health care facility



64 K children

who played and learned in our safe Child-Friendly Spaces



16 K families

with complimentary crop seeds, fishing equipment, and livestock support



12 K community

members who learned about child protection during awareness sessions



413 leaders

from faith and community organisations who learned about hunger-related issues during awareness sessions

Data sources:

¹ Food insecurity levels are defined by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Learn more about South Sudan's food insecurity conditions from IPC. (2022). South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Situation for March 2022 and Projections for April – July 2022. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155527/?iso3=SSD>

Where we work

FY21 World Vision South Sudan Programming Areas



World Vision programmes in:



Central Equatoria

- Cash Assistance
- Emergency Livelihood
- Food Assistance
- Health
- Nutrition
- Protection
- WASH



Upper Nile

- Cash assistance
- Food assistance
- Emergency Livelihoods
- Health
- Nutrition
- Protection
- WASH



Warrap

- Cash assistance
- Food assistance
- Emergency Livelihoods
- Health
- Nutrition
- Protection
- WASH



Northern Bahr el Ghazal

- Food Assistance
- Emergency Livelihoods
- Health
- Nutrition
- Protection

Understanding the context

In a mid-2021 South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot from UNOCHA, an estimated 8.3 million people needed humanitarian assistance, 1.4 million children and 483,000 women were malnourished, 1.7 million people were internally displaced, 380,000 people² had been affected by flooding in areas along the Nile, Sudd wetlands and the rivers Lol and Sobat. Seasonal rains caused rivers to overflow their dykes and banks, flooding vast areas and settlements. As of March 2021, when the current reporting period began, an estimated 7.24 million people (60 per cent of the country's population) were projected to be

facing a crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) levels of food insecurity in South Sudan from April to July 2021³.

On 06 September 2021, clashes in Tambura town (Western Equatoria state) killed 24 people and wounded 13. Since the conflict started in June 2021, nearly 80,000⁴ people have been displaced. They have needs across all sectors. There are significant humanitarian access challenges due to the conflict and disruption to road networks caused by the rainy season.

The hunger crisis in South Sudan continues to be aggravated by the compounding of disruptive events in various locations: inter-communal violence, sub-national conflicts, displacement, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, severe flooding, etc. This situation has considerably affected communities, weakening their traditional coping mechanisms and community-based structures, compromising their livelihoods and exacerbating their humanitarian needs.



See World Vision's RRM team in action.

Watch: Hidden Hero: Serving others with love and courage amid the COVID-19 pandemic

² The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2021, 31 August). South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot. <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-flooding-snapshot-31-august-2021>

³ ACAPS (2021, 01 December). Floods, South Sudan. <https://www.acaps.org/country/south-sudan/crisis/complex-crisis>

⁴ ACAPS. (2021, 21 September). Latest Development. <https://www.acaps.org/country/south-sudan/crisis/complex-crisis>



World Vision's emergency responders are South Sudan's famine busters

"Our farthest work location delivering food supplies to people in need is around three hours by helicopter ride. Some areas are difficult to reach with no cellular networks, passable roads, available markets, and medical facilities," says Benard Nyataya, the project coordinator of World Vision's Food Assistance Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) project.

Every month, World Vision's RRM project, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), supports 139,131 internally displaced people in the most remote counties of South Sudan, dropping off food assistance in 19 different locations.

The life-saving operations are being reached by the teams who spend two to three weeks in field locations and facilitate the transport via fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, watercraft, or trucks, in coordination with the United Nations.

Currently, four RRM teams are composed of 28 World Vision staff members. They are deployed on a 72-hour notice when activated for emergency response. Each team is composed of seven members.

The various delivery modes mean that the team must adapt to various volatile operating environments. Along with distributing food in flooded communities, Nyataya adds that insecurity, especially random clashes, poses a threat.

Sleeping in tents and makeshift areas open to bad weather conditions and various dangers and risks, the teams have to be aware of wild animal intrusions such as snakes, hyenas, scorpions, even prowling lions, and stray bullets.

Still, assisting people in South Sudan's hard-to-reach locations is a commitment World Vision's staff make daily.

"I am proud to be a part of a team that is committed to reaching out to the most hurting communities and suffering in extreme conditions where few would want to go to," Nyataya concludes.



Learn more about Benard Nyataya and his work in this Christianity Today article: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/better-samaritan/2021/october/when-your-job-is-delivering-food-to-one-of-worlds-most-dang.html>



Keeping food available for displaced families

"As long as my children have food to eat every day, I have no worries," says Gonyjack Elizabeth Benjamin, a 32-year-old mother of six. She adds, "I have lived at the UN Protection of Civilians (POC) Site 1 in Juba since 2013 when the conflict broke out. Finding food for my children and settling down in a tough environment was difficult."

Elizabeth says life became much better when World Vision started distributing food for the internally displaced in the POC. Elizabeth adds, "I receive cereals, pulses, and other supplies for my children. We are also provided cash monthly for milling. My children and I can have at least two meals per day with porridge for breakfast."

She says she is happy that her children are healthy and dreams of returning to her village.

The World Food Programme (WFP) supports World Vision's implementation of the Food Assistance Project, assisting 32,117 people in the PoC.

Emmanuel Ondoga, World Vision's Acting Project Manager, says, "Hunger is still a big threat in the country, and the most vulnerable are women and children. World Vision continues many life-saving activities in the POC because of our commitment to serve the people of South Sudan and ensure that children's urgent needs are addressed."



2,159,324 people
were provided food assistance
by World Vision's South
Sudan team during the year

Nutrition services crucial for children's survival

"I would have lost my child without the ready-to-use therapeutic food," shares Abbo Elizabeth, a mother of six.

Elizabeth lives in Gumbo, a suburb on the outskirts of South Sudan's capital Juba, and has faced crippling poverty in the past two years.

She adds further, "My child depends on Plumpy Nut and water. I have lost count of how many times he has relapsed from his condition. If we had sufficient food, things would be different."

Abbo's son Ocan is among the 424 children treated with Plumpy Nut, a nutrient-rich peanut paste designed to treat malnutrition. World Vision provides the Plumpy Nut to a Juba nutrition treatment site where health care staff distribute it to children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers diagnosed with malnutrition.

According to Abbo, her family can only afford to eat once a day if her husband can bring home some money. Often, the family goes to bed hungry. She adds, "Two weeks ago, my son moved from severe to moderate acute malnutrition. The plumpy nut is doing great work in his body. He was able to play with his friends."

Komakech Ronald Mandela, World Vision's Nutrition Manager, reports, "Having adequate stock in the nutrition centres improves the children's response to treatment and recovery. It minimises defaulting from the program. From January to May 2021, 86 per cent of the children discharged from outpatient therapy were cured of malnutrition."





Helping mothers create meals to stop malnutrition

“Every mother cooks, but not everyone knows how to cook nutritious meals for their children,” says 35-year-old Larach Patience, a mother of five.

During a cooking demonstration at Khor Romula Nutrition Center, 17 mothers learn how to prepare different kinds of healthy meals for their children. The activity is conducted monthly in all the nutrition centres that World Vision supports.

The nutrition education session includes learning how to identify nutritious and energy-dense vegetables, the importance of food groups to the body, and preparation techniques for vegetables, meat and others. Tidbits of information, such as adding peanut paste to food to strengthen its nutritional content, are shared.

The trained mother-to-mother support groups, along with the nutrition workers, lead the cooking session.

Hygiene awareness throughout the cooking process is emphasised.

“My neighbor left behind her two-year-old daughter Mariam, saying that she looks ugly and thin because of malnutrition. I decided to take care of the baby and brought her to the hospital for treatment using the peanut paste until she got better,” Perina says.

She adds, “More mothers should learn how to take care of their children even with the little resources they have. This cooking activity has been very helpful to us in preparing meals for our families.”





Supporting farmers with tools to grow more food

"I can proudly say things have improved more than before when we depended so much on handouts. Now we get the support but also feel a sense of ownership," says Atong Mayual Akot, a 40-year-old mother of seven.

The handouts were given to farmers in Jur River County, a part of South Sudan's Western Bahr-el-Ghazal state often increased farmers' dependency and distorted the market, discouraging local traders from operating viably.

A World Vision project supported 515 farmers in Marial Baai County to improve food production through increased use of climate-smart agricultural technology and advisory services. The project partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and AVSI Foundation, with funding from the European Union. The project introduced best practices to strengthen agriculture and local markets for the farmers' products and provided a 50 per cent cost-sharing arrangement between the project and farmer groups.

In just a year and a half after the market-based approach was initiated, the project participants purchased more than 450 ox-ploughs to cultivate more acreage and grow more food.

"The support made it easier for us to afford ox-ploughs. I am hopeful that food production will increase to fight hunger," shares Akuc Majok Majok, a 39-year-old mother of seven.



More than
16,000 families

were provided with support to increase agricultural production through seeds, fishing supplies, farming tools and livestock support



Sprouting hope for families in despair

“The joy of a mother is complete when she has seeds to plant”, says 49-year-old Achol Arop, a mother of seven and guardian of four grandchildren.

“The seeds of tomatoes, onions, eggplants, amaranthus, collards, juice mallows, pumpkins, and watermelons were distributed to us right in time for the planting season. When we receive these vegetable seeds for planting, we are able to produce food,” she explains.

WorldVision, in partnership with the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#), provided seeds and fishing kits to 10,211 households in Upper Nile State, including Achol’s family. The project supports the needs of families affected by hunger and malnutrition.

According to Achol, the vegetables she planted from the seeds distributed are nutritious, thus keeping her children from malnutrition and in good health. She said the juice mallow takes three weeks to harvest, while okra takes about 45 days.

“I was worried about where to get the seeds for the planting season as they are expensive in the market, but now, I am excited that I have them,” she adds.



Helping pastoralists build knowledge, strengthen agricultural activities

"We learned to preserve groundnut residue to feed the goats during the dry season. We dry them under the shade for three days, pack them in bags and keep them on hay racks to prevent ants from eating them," says 56-year-old Abuk Athuai, the leader of a group of farmers who received goats, seeds and training to support their agricultural activities.

More than 600 farmers and cattle keepers learned how to improve forage production and conserve resources thanks to World Vision's training in Kuac South and Man-Aloor in Gogrial West and Tonj North counties. The project builds pastoralists' capacity to use, preserve and store forage in their area to support livestock production.

"Goats are usually sold at SSP 20,000 (around 44 USD) in the community, but after feeding them well, we can sell them at double the price, helping boost income and livelihood. Our lives will never be the same again," Abuk says.

"After selling these goats, we will buy more and sell them after fattening them. We plan to open businesses to support the families of the group members, thus fighting hunger in the community," Abuk adds.



114,060 people were equipped with food security and livelihood knowledge and skills during World Vision training sessions





Serving children nutritious hot lunches at school

“My father stopped going to the farm because people got abducted. I joined school at seven and hated it because I would come home and find no food”, explains 13-year-old Elizabeth.

The ongoing conflict in parts of South Sudan continues to make access to farmland dangerous. Thus, hunger breaks in.

To address the hunger caused by a lack of access to agricultural areas and encourage children to stay in school, World Vision and the World Food Programme provide children in 47 schools with hot lunches made of maize, beans, salt and oil.

Elizabeth said the program is helping her learn and keeping other children focused.

“I know of classmates who depend on the school meals to survive, so they come every day to study and eat,” Elizabeth shares.

Juana John, a cook in the school, adds, “The smiles on the children’s faces whenever I serve them the meals gives me fulfilment as a mother. This food means a lot to them. We are grateful to World Vision and WFP for the support.”

Angelo Misa David, the head teacher of the primary school, adds, “Where there is hunger, there is always a high rate of school drop-outs and early child marriages. In South Sudan, girls are seen as a source of wealth for families. I hope peace will reign so that families can safely work on their farm.”

135,000 school children were provided regular hot meals, an effort to keep them in school despite worsening hunger conditions across the country



Cash assistance gives young mothers hope

"Most girls in my village do not complete their studies, not even primary school," says 22-year-old Akuac.

"Many girls are forced into marriage, and I knew that it would eventually become my fate. It did when I got pregnant. My parents called me a foolish girl and told me to forget about ever going to school again," Akuac shares.

Akuac married a man who could pay her parents a dowry and had a son. Still, she was determined to return to school, even without her parents' financial support.

Akuac planted a garden and sold the excess produce that she harvested, using the money to enrol again in Senior One of secondary school. "When conflict broke out, and schools were closed for some time, I had to use the money for our family's needs," Akuac sadly says.

Akuac became a part of World Vision's Cash Assistance Program for Young Mothers in 2021.

"I started receiving the cash support in July. It relieved me of a lot of stress. I used it to pay for my school fees, buy food, and milk for my son Ngor since we do not have cows," adds Akuac, who dreams of becoming a teacher.

Angelina Ariich, a 21-year-old mother of one, is studying in senior three. She shares, "Aside from catering for my fees and needs with the cash assistance; I support my two siblings in school and my son's needs."

James Ring Ring, the project manager of the Multi-Year Resilience Program, says 25 women currently benefit from the program.

"The support improves retention and completion of secondary education as young mothers are able to meet basic needs. There should be no more barriers to girls' education in South Sudan," he says.

197,801 people
(including **118,681 women**)
received cash assistance through
World Vision's programmes





Reaching thousands in remote communities with mobile health clinics

“This is the second time my child is receiving treatment from the mobile clinic. Having the clinic come to the community is a lifesaver as babies no longer go through the distance under the sun,” shares 19-year-old Khemisa.

In many parts of South Sudan, people endure extreme heat in the dry season and flooding during rainy seasons to get to the nearest health care facility.

For Khemisa’s community, the nearest clinic is 40km away. Long walks for health care are challenging without reliable transportation for mothers, the elderly, and children.

“Our health clinic was destroyed by both the conflict and then the floods. The condition here gets even worse during the rainy season as it becomes impossible for us to go anywhere. We can brace walking in the heat. We have no other choice,” Khemisa says.

World Vision’s mobile clinic visits nine sites weekly, reaching an average of 150 patients per day at locations in Upper Nile State’s Fashoda and Manyo Counties.

“The mobile health clinic aims at providing life-saving, primary healthcare response to children in hard-to-reach areas for 34,004 internally-displaced persons, 21,500 people in host communities, and the rest of the population,” says World Vision Isaiah Sei, a project manager for the Restoring Lives of Families in Emergency in South Sudan (R-LIFE II). The project is funded by the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).



86,530 children under age 5 were reached by World Vision supported primary health care facilities through curative consultations



Lessons learned

01

A well-coordinated response integrating and coordinating with ongoing programming

World Vision's approach to address the goal:

- Centralised management of the response by the new role (HEA/Cash Programs Manager), bridging coordination and collaboration through monthly meetings
- Integration with existing projects

Result:

- Improved response coordination and better integration of response activities into ongoing activities.

02

Determine and set targets to reach vulnerable people in areas with significant need

World Vision's approach to address the goal:

- Review and adjustment of response targets to reflect close to accurate reach, areas and categories of participants targeted
- Improved targeting numbers, people and geographical areas

Result:

- Increasing instances of community conflict resolution

03

Problem to address:

- Compounding long-term disasters with short-term disasters, exacerbating conflict in program areas

World Vision's approach to address the problem:

- Inclusion of peace-building interventions even in short-term programmes

Result:

- Increasing instances of community conflict resolution

04

Problem to address:

- Under funding due to continuous upcoming of both fast and slow-onset disasters

World Vision's approach to address the problem:

- Use of re-purposed funds for immediate and quick support to affected population
- Inclusion of crisis modifiers into the longer-term grants

Result:

- Provision of emergency response sooner than expected

05

Problem to address:

- Surge in number of staff required to implement response has high-cost implications

World Vision's approach to address the problem:

- Leveraging on existing project staff capacities and structures to deliver response

Results:

- Reduced overhead costs while optimising
- Staff response capacity enhancement through capacity building

The road ahead: Responding in the next six months

The laws are clear. No child should marry before the age of 18, not in South Sudan, not anywhere.



To date, World Vision South Sudan has reached **2,159,324** people, which is about 26 per cent above the intended response target of **1,706,704**.

Based on the re-declaration of the crisis, World Vision South Sudan will continue to mobilise resources externally to achieve the new targets but will also use every opportunity internally to re-programme funds to respond to the crisis.

The protracted and compounding nature of crises in a volatile context like South Sudan that experiences frequent changes demands thoughtful adaptive management. World Vision South Sudan will extend its activities towards a multi-sectoral approach and focus on strengthening collective action across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus (called the “triple nexus”).

World Vision South Sudan will continue strengthening its adaptive management approach that will provide the ability to shift from

meeting immediate humanitarian needs to addressing root causes of fragility to support transformative change whenever the opportunity arises. World Vision South Sudan will continue monitoring the context and doing detailed scenario planning based on in-depth context analysis, identifying root causes of fragility, and determining indicators and triggers that signal when contexts are changing, either moving towards fragility or stability. This planning will allow World Vision South Sudan teams to adapt programming and shift funding to address immediate needs or recovery/longer-term programs as the context changes. Ultimately, this approach will allow World Vision South Sudan to craft more appropriate responses and to have a more significant impact on the communities we serve.

We need to continue responding to South Sudan’s hunger crises because of children like 13-year-old Nyaduer



Funding



World Vision is grateful to the following donors for their support in addressing South Sudan's hunger crisis:



Acronyms

BHA:	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	INGO:	International Non-Government Organization
BMZ:	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	MIYCN:	Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition
CFS:	Child Friendly Space	NFI:	Non-Food Items
EAHER:	East Africa Hunger Emergency Response	PWD:	People with Disabilities
ECHO:	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department	RM:	Response Manager
FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization	SSHF:	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
FSL:	Food Security & Livelihoods	UN:	United Nations
GBeG:	Greater Bahr el Ghazal	UNICEF:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
GBV:	Gender Based Violence	UN OCHA:	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Aid
HPF:	Health Pooled Fund	UNHCR:	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IDP:	Internally Displaced Population	WASH:	Water Sanitation & Hygiene
IPC:	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	WFP:	World Food Programme





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