



South Sudan Emergency

March 31, 2018

ACT Alliance South Sudan work with local nongovernmental agencies to get supplies to people who have no food, shelter or safe water. CWS partner Maridi Service Agency is helping a steady stream of displaced single mothers seeking safety in the small city.

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Unity States where famine was declared last year, ACT Alliance South Sudan has distributed food, seeds, farming tools and fishing gear. They train people in small business and agricultural production. They are repairing and building latrines and water points where they can.

MSA has helped 80 women start tea, or fruit and vegetable stalls after one week's business training. Some received a start up grant of NZ\$130-\$200. Many of the women need extra support—they have experienced violence firsthand and have little education. With plants and seeds from MSA, 84 new arrivals have established small gardens in front of their homes or on land allocated by the local chief. Their first crops will be ready in September.



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Helping Families Restart

Maridi lies at a key crossroads on the main road from South Sudan's capital Juba and near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo and importantly Uganda. People have often found shelter there and the population continues to grow. For many years as part of its broader programme, CWS partner the **Maridi Service Agency** has helped some of these new arrivals recover from trauma and resettle. The focus is on improving the livelihoods of single mothers. They run a small training programme to set up women in small business or establish gardens. Decades of war mean many have missed out on schooling and have much to learn. Some of the donations to the South Sudan Appeal fund this aspect of their work.



ACT Alliance South Sudan is providing a range of assistance in many areas of the country. The South Sudan Appeal is assisting with food security and to establish livelihoods in two of the worst hit states. Before the rains begin at the end of April local groups are distributing tools, seeds and plants to reestablish gardens and high energy biscuits, tea and sugar for elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 5. These rations will supplement World Food Programme distributions in Unity State where there are no functioning markets or commodity vouchers in Northern Bahr el Ghazal where they can purchase goods.

Photo

Peace Needed to Address Humanitarian Crisis

Four years of conflict are making life in the world's newest country extremely difficult. Food and fuel prices have risen and the economy crippled. Harvests have been disrupted by constant fighting and both the armed forces and militia demand food. Many people are lucky if they get one meal a day even with humanitarian assistance. The South Sudan Council of Churches is one group advocating for peace at every level.



In February the IPC (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System) warned nearly two thirds of South Sudanese — 7.1 million people face severe food insecurity from May to July this year without support. This is 30% more than last year. Nearly 1 million people are in danger of reaching the highest level of hunger on the five point scale.

The IPC measures chronic and severe food insecurity against an international system involving the United Nations, governments and nongovernmental organisations. By January nearly half the population was already experiencing acute food insecurity.

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