

UNICEF South Sudan

An integrated Response to the Nutrition Crisis in South Sudan

Progress Report for the Government of Italy

June 2017 – April 2018



SM170308



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1. Programme Summary

Programme Name	An Integrated Response to the Nutrition Crisis in South Sudan
Country	South Sudan
Donor	Government of Italy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (Reference: Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Note N. 2455 of 9 June 2017)
Geographic focus area	Unity and Greater Equatoria States
Programme Objective	Respond to nutrition and health emergency through scale-up of nutrition and health interventions in the former Unity and Greater Equatoria states
Number of beneficiaries reached	• Nutrition: 1,833 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated; 41,300 pregnant and lactating women received counselling and messages on maternal, infant and young child feeding practices; 71 health and nutrition workers were trained on community management of acute malnutrition • Health: 75,997 children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated against polio and/or measles, 65,156 children under-5 were tested and treated for malaria, 837 pregnant women received delivery kits and 10,250 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus
UNICEF Grant Reference	SM170308
Total Contribution	EUR 1,000,000 (USD 1,180,637 USD) ¹
Programme Duration	18 Months
Report Type	Progress report
Reporting Period	June 2017 to April 2018
Programme Partners	Save the Children International, Catholic Medical Missions Board, World Vision International, Health Link, Afro-Canadian Evangelical Mission
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¹The USD value was determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of receipt of the EUR Contribution.

2. Executive Summary

The purpose of the project is to respond to the 2017 emergency and famine Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) levels in South Sudan and prevent further deterioration of the situation through the scale-up of essential nutrition and health interventions in former Unity state and Greater Equatoria states. These services include nutrition screening, treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), counselling on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN), immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and basic maternal health services.

During the reporting period (June 2017 – April 2018), UNICEF South Sudan **treated 1,833 children with SAM** (898 boys, 935 girls) against a target of 3,000 (61 per cent achievement). A total of **71 health and nutrition workers were trained on community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM)** in Western and Central Equatoria and Unity states, for improved service delivery. Additionally, **41,300 mothers and caregivers received counselling and messages on maternal infant and young child feeding practices**, against the initial target of 64,800 (64 per cent achievement) .

In addition, a total of **75,997 children aged 6 to 59 months were vaccinated against polio** (36,766) **and measles** (39,231), largely exceeding the initial target of 14,400. In addition, **65,156 children under five were tested and treated for malaria**, against a target of 61,370 (106 per cent achievement) and **837 pregnant women were provided with clean delivery kits** against planned 4,000 (20 per cent achievement). Moreover, **10,250 pregnant women were vaccinated against tetanus**. The high achievement in immunization delivery, is due to the pulling effect of food distribution, coupled with intensified community mobilization during Integrated Rapid Response Mechanism (IRRM) missions, which attracted a high turnout of people.

The programme faced several challenges throughout the reporting period, including transportation difficulties due to poor road infrastructure, particularly during the rainy season, necessitating dry season supply prepositioning to UNICEF warehouses, which ensured that supplies were available to implementing partners in project sites. Additionally, insecurity led to the engagement of organized force-protection convoys to ensure the safe delivery of supplies to implementing partners in target areas. The low capacity of some partners to manage supplies required UNICEF South Sudan staff to undertake additional field visits to ensure adherence to protocols for management of SAM and to provide necessary technical support. UNICEF South Sudan further strengthened its direct implementation modality through IRRMs, to deliver services in hard to reach areas.

To achieve the above results, UNICEF South Sudan established partnerships with the following implementing partners: Save the Children International, Catholic Medical Missions Board, World Vision International, Health Link and the Afro-Canadian Evangelical Mission. UNICEF South Sudan also collaborated closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Program (WFP) and the Ministry of Health (MoH).

Of the US\$ 1,180,637 received from the government of Italy, equivalent to EUR 1 million, US\$ 655,048 USD (55.4 per cent) has been utilized as of 30 April 2018. The remaining funds will be utilized in the coming months to continue strengthening nutrition and health interventions in targeted locations affected by the nutrition crisis.

3. Purpose of the project

South Sudan continues to face a critical food security and nutrition crisis. In February 2017, famine was declared and, to date, the situation remains critical in many parts of the country. In 2017, six million people (over 50 per cent of the population) were estimated to be severely food insecure and, as per the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview, over one million children under the age of five were estimated to be acutely malnourished and in need of life-saving services. Special areas of concern are Greater Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazel, Northern Bahr el Ghazel, Unity and Warrap states, which showed 'serious', 'critical' and 'very critical' nutrition situations, respectively.

In response to the famine, and to prevent a further escalation of the nutrition crisis, UNICEF South Sudan has scaled up activities using an integrated approach to tackle key factors contributing to high malnutrition rates in South Sudan. In 2017, the Italian government contributed EUR 1 million (equivalent to US\$ 1,180,637.54) to UNICEF South Sudan to support strengthening of nutrition and health interventions for women and children in South Sudan.

This project focuses on providing an integrated nutrition and health response and prevention through the provision of essential nutrition and health services to vulnerable populations in the former Unity state and Greater Equatoria states. These services include nutrition screening, treatment of children with SAM, counselling on MIYCN, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses (malaria, diarrhoea, acute respiratory diseases) and basic maternal health services, such as antenatal care, maternity, postnatal care, family planning and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

4. Results

During the reporting period, from June 2017 to April 2018, significant progress has been made against the planned results.

Result 1: 3,000 children aged six to 59 months with SAM have access to timely and quality lifesaving therapeutic treatment and 64,800 pregnant women and care givers have improved knowledge and skills on good IYCF practice.

- 1,833 children with SAM received treatment against a target of 3,000 (61 per cent achievement).
- 41,300 women and caregivers improved their knowledge and skills on IYCF against a target of 64,800 (64 per cent achievement).

UNICEF South Sudan, as the lead agency for nutrition, ensured effective coordination of nutrition activities in the project locations and partnered with national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency assistance, such as distribution of life-saving therapeutic supplies, to the most vulnerable populations. In remote and hard to reach areas, vulnerable communities were reached through IRRMs.

With the support of the Italian Government, UNICEF South Sudan procured 3,000 ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) cartons in one instalment. The funding also supported logistical and other operational costs; including freight, clearing and forwarding, insurance and inspection as well as handling and storage of the supplies purchased. As of April 2018, UNICEF South Sudan has distributed 1,833 RUTF cartons to treat 1,833 children with SAM (898 boys, 935 girls). This achievement is attributable to intensified community mobilization and mass screening campaigns for active case finding and identification of children with SAM. The Italian funds were also used to support the training of 74 health and nutrition workers on the new CMAM modules which enhanced the capacity of the participants to deliver quality treatment for children with SAM.

Additionally, a total of 41,300 mothers and caregivers received counselling and messages on IYCF practice, against a target of 64,800. The mothers and caregivers were reached through regular community social mobilization and sensitization activities delivered through UNICEF South Sudan implementing partners operating in Unity and Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria states.

Result 2: At least 118,750 children and women have access to basic health services, including access to treatment/ prevention against common diseases, vaccine preventable disease and malaria.

- A total of 75,997 children aged six to 59 months were vaccinated against polio (36,766) and measles (39,231) against a target of 14,440 (526 per cent achievement).
- 65,156 children under five were tested and treated for malaria per the national treatment guidelines against a target of 61,370 (106 per cent achievement).
- 837 pregnant women from internally displaced and host communities were provided with clean delivery kits for safe delivery against a target of 4,000 (20 per cent achievement).
- In addition, 10,250 pregnant women received tetanus vaccines

As part of the nutrition response, UNICEF South Sudan supported the MoH and health implementing partners to deliver integrated primary health care services, which include immunization services and curative consultations targeted at common disease conditions, such as malaria, for children and women.

The majority of essential services supported by Italian funds were delivered through IRRMs. The IRRM teams (comprised of members from various United Nations (UN) agencies, namely, UNICEF South Sudan, WFP and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), as well as implementing partners) delivered a wide range of services to the host communities through the integrated mechanism. During the reporting period, 15 IRRM missions were conducted in hard to reach areas in Yei County (Central Equatoria) and Leer and Mayendit counties (Unity state). The Italian funds were also used to procure polio and measles vaccines, which contributed to maintaining uninterrupted immunization services in the targeted locations.

As of the end of April 2018, UNICEF South Sudan reached 36,766 children aged six to 59 months (17,944 boys, 18,772 girls) with polio vaccine and 39,231 (19,175 boys, 20,056 girls) with measles vaccine, largely exceeding the target of 14,400. The number of people reached with immunization services was higher than anticipated due to the pulling effect of the food distribution, coupled with community mobilization, during IRRM missions. Whilst UNICEF South

Sudan provided essential health services (including immunization, mosquito net distribution and treatment of childhood diseases, such as malaria and diarrhoea), WFP distributed food items, such as rice and oil, to the host communities, which contributed to the high turnout of communities to receive these services.

In addition, 10,250 pregnant women received tetanus vaccines and 65,156 children under five (31,926 boys, 33,230 girls) were tested and treated for malaria against the target of 61,370. Furthermore, 837 pregnant women in internally displaced and host communities have been provided with clean delivery kits for safe delivery.

5. Challenges and corrective actions

The programme faced several challenges over the reporting period, including transportation difficulties, due to poor road infrastructure, particularly during the rainy season. To mitigate this challenge, UNICEF South Sudan ensured that supplies were prepositioned during the dry season to avoid stock outs. Low capacity of implementing partners to deliver essential nutrition services also hindered implementation of the project activities, especially in hard to reach areas and conflict affected states. UNICEF South Sudan strengthened its direct implementation of services through 15 IRRMs to overcome some of these implementation barriers.

Additionally, insecurity led to the engagement of organized force-protection convoys to ensure the safe delivery of supplies to implementing partners in target areas. The low capacity of some partners to manage supplies required UNICEF South Sudan staff to undertake additional field visits to ensure adherence to protocols for management of SAM and to provide additional support through on-the-job coaching in various technical areas; including management of SAM, supply management, MIYCF and nutrition information management for improved programme implementation.

6. Financial utilization

A total of EUR 1 million, equivalent to US\$ 1,180,637, was received from the government of Italy, of which 655,048 USD (55.4 per cent) has been utilized as of 30 April 2018, including a commitment of 78,411 USD. There is an unspent balance of 525,589 USD.

7. Future work plan

UNICEF South Sudan will use the remaining funds of this contribution to continue strengthening nutrition and health interventions in former Unity and Greater Equatoria states. More specifically, the funds will be utilized to support:

- Community mobilization, mass screening for active case finding and treatment of children with SAM.
- Counselling and sensitizing of mothers and caregivers on maternal infant and young child feeding.
- Training of nutrition workers on CMAM.
- Procurement of supplies and equipment for immunization, malaria testing and treatment and clean delivery kits.
- IRRM missions to reach children and women in hard to reach locations.

8. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF South Sudan would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for their generous financial contribution in support of UNICEF's response to the nutrition crisis in South Sudan. On behalf of the entire UNICEF South Sudan country office, we thank you for helping to advance our shared commitments to protecting the rights and improving the well-being of the most vulnerable children and women of South Sudan. The interventions highlighted above would not have been possible without the generous support from the Italian Government.

9. Annex: Donor recognition

Social media posts – Government of Italy – 2017/2018





UNICEF South Sudan

Published by Mercy Modong [?] · 31 May 2017 ·

Through UNICEF's support, over 101,000 individuals have been treated for malaria (49% are under five years) since the beginning of 2017.

@GovernmentofGermany [Italy](#) [Government Japan](#) [European Commission](#) - [Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations](#) - [ECHO](#) [DFID](#) - [UK Department for International Development](#)

Photos: UNICEF South Sudan/ Kate Holt





UNICEF South Sudan

Published by Mercy Modong [?] · 1 June 2017 ·

The rainy season is here, the roads will get worse than this but it will not stop us from reaching the most vulnerable in the hardest to reach areas
#SouthSudan #teamUNICEF. European Commission - Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations - ECHO USAID South Sudan Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance DFID - UK Department for International Development Japan - The Government of Japan @Government of Norway @Government of Germany [Italy](#)/Government





UNICEF South Sudan

Published by Tim Irwin [?] · 30 June 2017 · 🌐

As the rains intensify in South Sudan, the number of malaria cases is also on the rise. We work to treat malaria in children across the country, but we also work to prevent it through the use of bed nets. Thanks to the support of the Governments of Japan, Germany and [Italy](#), we provided more than 12,000 mosquito nets in June alone.



👤 2,376 people reached

Boost Post

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Donor Report Feedback Form

Country South Sudan
Project Title An integrated Response to the Nutrition Crisis in South Sudan
Grant Number SM170308
Duration June 2017 – April 2018

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report and return to UNICEF by email to:

Name and Title: Jennifer Banda, Resource Mobilization Manager
Email: jebanda@unicef.org

SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while 0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what could we do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what did we miss or what could we do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?
