

Child Nutrition in Emergency Contexts: The Case of South Sudan

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Outline of the Presentation

- ▶ Overview of global hunger and undernutrition
- ▶ The state of malnutrition in protracted crises
- ▶ The case of South Sudan
 - ❖ Current statistics on malnutrition (The State of Jonglei)
 - ❖ Causes of malnutrition
 - ❖ The approach to malnutrition

Severity of the problem of Hunger: An assertion by the WFP

Hunger kills more people every year
than **AIDS, malaria & tuberculosis** combined.



Overview of Global Undernutrition and Hunger

- ▶ One in nine people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy and active life (795 million)
- ▶ The vast majority of the world's hungry people live in developing countries
- ▶ 13.5% of the population of the developing countries is undernourished
- ▶ Asia alone has two thirds of this total

Overview of Global Unernutrition and Hunger

- ▶ Progress has been made in Southern Asia but the situation remains bleak in Western Asia (India, Indonesia, etc)
- ▶ Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest prevalence of hunger
- ▶ One in every four people is undernourished
- ▶ Poor nutrition contributes to nearly half (45%) of deaths in the under fives- 3.1 million children each year

Overview of Global Unernutrition and Hunger

- ▶ One out of six children- about 100 million children in developing countries is underweight
- ▶ One in four of the world's children is stunted
- ▶ In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three
- ▶ 66 million primary school age children attend classes hungry across the developing countries. Africa alone has 23 million of them. WFP estimates \$3.2 billion to be what is needed to reach the 66 million children

The state of Malnutrition in Protracted Crises

- ▶ Many countries in protracted crises are home to persistently high level of malnutrition
- ▶ The state of food insecurity in world (FAO, 2010) identified 22 countries in protracted crises with high levels of acute and chronic malnutrition
- ▶ In most of these countries, Global Acute Malnutrition is higher than 15%, the WHO cut off for a crisis level

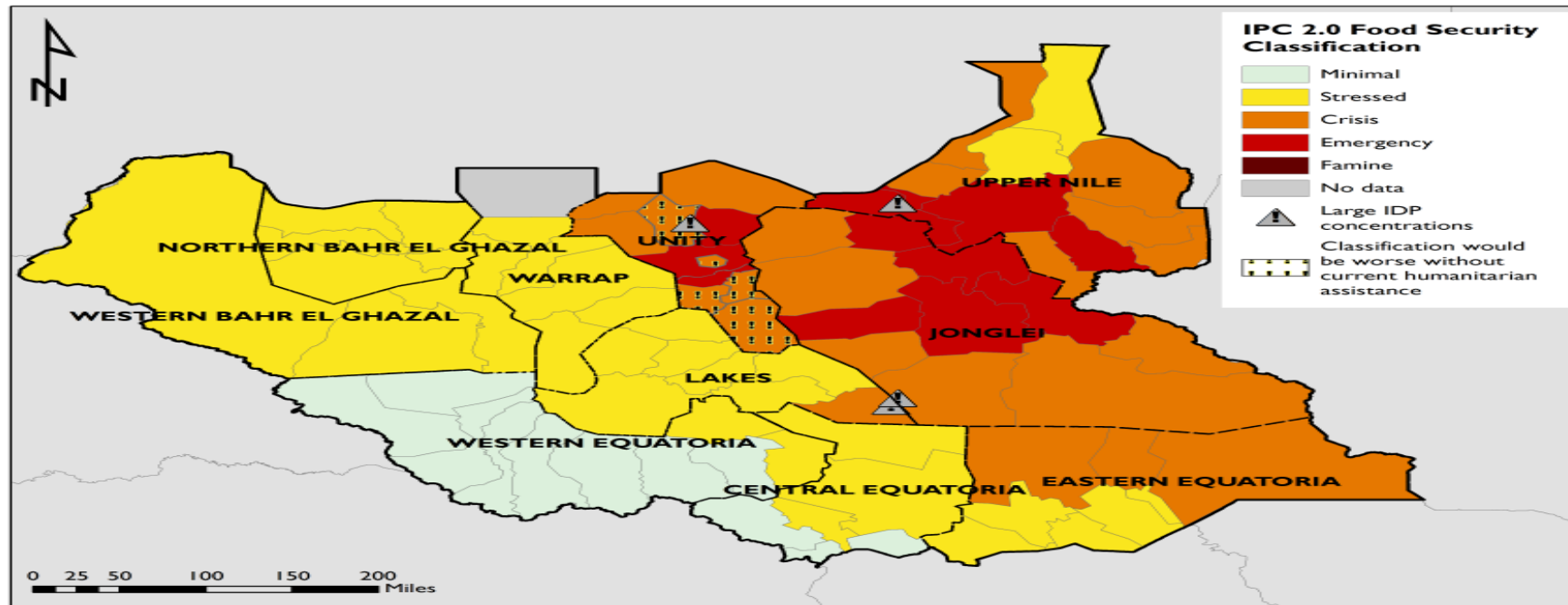
The State of Malnutrition in Protracted Crises

- ▶ In Afghanistan the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is as high as 59% and acute malnutrition as high as 9%
- ▶ In south Sudan the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is as high as 40% and acute malnutrition as high as 16%
- ▶ In Central African Republic the prevalence of chronic malnutrition is as high as 43% and acute malnutrition as high 12%

South Sudan as a Case Study

- ▶ South Sudan is the world's youngest nation which gained independence from Sudan on the 9th of July, 2011
- ▶ This former region of Sudan has witnessed some of the World's most horrific humanitarian catastrophes during its struggle for Independence for more than two decades
- ▶ In December 2013, a civil war broke out between fighters loyal to the incumbent president **Salva Kiir** and his former deputy **Riek Machar**

Malnutrition Situation in the various parts of South Sudan

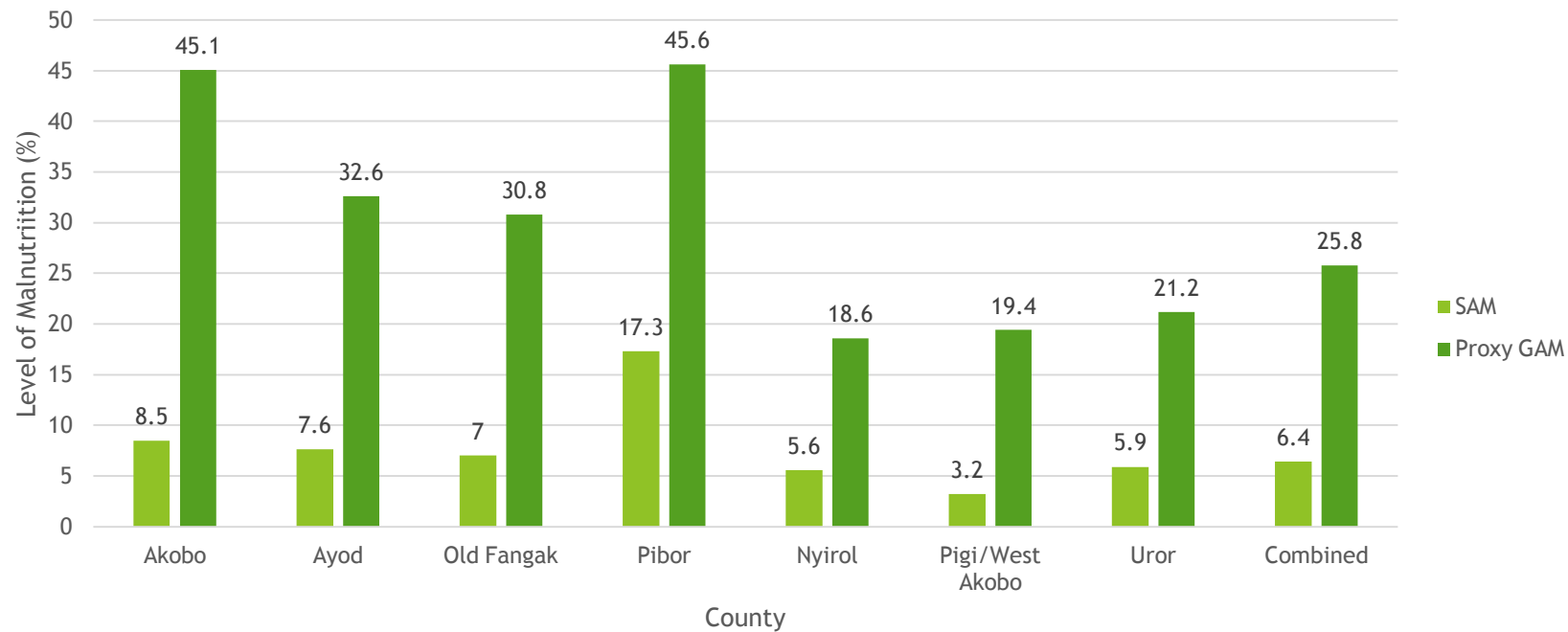


► Source: South Sudan IPC map for July- August 2014. Available at: <https://www.google.com/search?>

Documentary about the Malnutrition Situation in South Sudan

▶ <https://youtu.be/4PtusVCza8Y>

Current Situation of Malnutrition in South Sudan (Jonglei State)



- ▶ Adapted from the 2015 UNICEF Humanitarian Situation Report

Crisis Definition and types of Acute Malnutrition (under fives)- WHO

- ▶ Crisis definition
 - ❖ GAM \geq 15%
 - ❖ SAM 2- 3%

- ▶ Types of Acute Malnutrition- MUAC Threshold
 - ❖ MUAC < 115mm and/or bilateral pitting oedema- SAM with high risk of mortality
 - ❖ MUAC \geq 115mm and < 125mm- MAM with risk of mortality
 - ❖ MUAC \geq 125mm and < 135mm- Risk of malnutrition
 - ❖ MUAC \geq 135mm- Adequate nutritional status

Causes of Acute Malnutrition in South Sudan

▶ Immediate Causes

- ❖ Poor diets (low in quantity, quality, variety)
- ❖ Disease (particularly diarrhoea, respiratory tract or ear infections, measles, parasitic gut infections)

▶ Underlying causes

- ❖ Family food insecurity
- ❖ Inadequate care of vulnerable household members (unfair distribution of food)

Causes of Acute Malnutrition in South Sudan

- ❖ Unhygienic living conditions (poor water and poor sanitation)
- ❖ Inadequate health services
- ▶ Basic causes
 - ❖ The war
 - ❖ Poverty
 - ❖ Lack of information, political and economic insecurity
 - ❖ Lack of resources at all level, unequal status of women

The Approach to Malnutrition

- ▶ The approach to addressing malnutrition in South Sudan should be multisectoral and multifactorial (health, agriculture, cultural issues, political, etc)
- ▶ Endeavour to address the immediate, underlying and basic causes of malnutrition
- ▶ Nutrition Intervention (Community Therapeutic Care)
 - ❖ Community Mobilisation
 - ❖ Supplementary Feeding Programmes

The Approach to Malnutrition

- ❖ Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes
- ❖ Stabilisation Centres (Inpatient treatment centres)

My Opinion

- ▶ The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is a complex emergency
- ▶ In as much as efforts are being made, more should be done to address the situation
- ▶ It is disheartening to note a funding gap of more than 70% (UNICEF Situation Report 2015)

My opinion

- ▶ Nutrition programmes should be scaled up so as to reduce child crude mortality rate (malnutrition is an underlying cause of more 40% of child mortality in South Sudan)
- ▶ More should be done to end hostilities and warring factions should be held responsible for violations

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