



## FACING FAMINE IN SOUTH SUDAN

A combination of civil war, economic collapse and drought has led to extreme food shortages in South Sudan, with 40 percent of the population urgently in need of food (5.5 million people), and more than one million of those either experiencing famine conditions or on the brink.

The displacement of millions of people due to a civil war that has been fought since 2013 has exacerbated this major humanitarian catastrophe. The emergency has been compounded by the failure of the harvest last year and food costs skyrocketing in recent months, with many staples like maize and sorghum doubling or tripling in price. With stocks of grain long gone, in some areas people have been forced to forage for wild leaves and other bush food in the forest, but stocks of these are now dwindling.

Caritas has a long-term presence in South Sudan and is continuing to respond with emergency supplies across the country. Caritas' humanitarian aid includes providing food, shelter and essential household items, pursuing peace building activities, and distributing seeds and tools to enable those with access to land to grow crops for themselves and for sale.



*Left: Joseph Malis and his daughter in a refugee camp in northern Uganda. Malis fled his home in South Sudan after government soldiers burned it down.*

**5.5 MILLION**  
South Sudanese are in  
urgent need of food

**270,000**  
children in South Sudan  
are suffering acute  
malnutrition

**3.6 MILLION**  
people in South Sudan  
have fled from their  
homes because of  
violence, 1.7 million  
of these have left the  
country as refugees

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Rosa Lyo (75) lives just outside Juba, South Sudan's capital, and has to travel 1.5 hours each way to find bitter weeds to eat. They are very low in nutrition, but are now the main source of food for Rosa and her 90-year-old husband.

The journey to find sustenance is dangerous, due to armed gangs terrorising the local people. "We have to go because of hunger," says Rosa.



**Above:** Madeline Kidel and her daughter Sara at the Internally Displaced Persons' Camp in Gumbo, Juba.

**Below:** Liapwel Mabor (displaced by famine in Unity State) with a sack of sorghum from a Caritas distribution centre.



Communities in Lobonok displaced by conflict have been supported by Caritas with food and other emergency supplies.

Children in the village share a bowl of sorghum porridge.

Nurse Loki Martin Lokare is measuring this young child for malnutrition at Torit State Hospital.

The hospital provides supplementary feeding and treatment for severe cases of malnutrition.



*"The situation in South Sudan is getting worse, with more arms coming into the country. War has undoubtedly caused the famine in Unity State, in the north of the country, and the government has been limiting access to the areas most affected by the current food shortages, as these are rebel-held areas."*

- Mark Mitchell,  
Caritas Humanitarian  
Programmes Coordinator

## KENYA AND EAST AFRICA

Drought has also badly affected northern Kenya, and Somalia and Ethiopia are facing a major food crisis which the Caritas network is responding to.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has an historic relationship with communities in Turkana, northern Kenya, and we are responding to needs in the region, in collaboration with ChildFund New Zealand.

**Your regular commitment as a One World Partner enables us to continue saving lives in East Africa.**  
**Thank you for your ongoing support.**



The Catholic Agency for Justice,  
Peace & Development

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