

SUDAN

NUTRITION SECTOR FACT SHEET



Global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels for children under-five in Sudan stand at 16.4%, which is above the internationally accepted emergency “critical” threshold of 15%.

Number of functional feeding centers, both moderate and severe malnutrition (end 2012)

	Darfur	South Kordofan	Blue Nile	Eastern Sudan
MoH	95	25	25	254
NGOs	269	28	0	2
Total	364	53	25	256
Total number SAM children treated	48,952	8,119	4,413	24,208

WHAT?

- Over 750,000 children are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2013. Currently less than 15% of these children have access to treatment.
- One in three children in Sudan is stunted; over 2 million children are unlikely to ever reach their full potential in terms of physical and intellectual development.
- There is a need for an integrated approach to treatment of acute malnutrition incorporating WASH, health and nutrition to deliver a combined package of care for both moderate and severe malnutrition. There is also a need for innovative approaches to programming for prevention of malnutrition in order to have an impact on stunting and reducing the acute malnutrition caseload.
- There are a limited number of nutrition partners in Sudan due to operating restrictions and limited national and local capacity.

HUMANTARIAN FOCUS

- Contribute to improved access to quality management of acute malnutrition for people facing critical nutrition situations or living in conflict affected areas: 100,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treated and close to 400,000 cases of moderate malnutrition treated.
- Contribute to strengthening of the Ministry of Health and partners' capacity to identify, prepare for and mitigate nutrition problems in emergencies.
- Increase access to evidence based and high impact prevention nutrition services by empowering communities and finding durable solutions, reaching more than 40,000 women.
- Integrate programmes with emergency preventative nutrition activities/durable solutions in the community through increasing capacity in the communities for prevention activities. Support for improving the access/quality and knowledge about appropriate complimentary foods for under-fives.



FROM THE FIELD

February 2013. East Darfur:

For one year old Yasmine, having her weight recorded is becoming routine. Once returned to her mother's knee, she sits quietly while her progress is discussed.

When Yasmine first arrived 6 weeks ago, she was severely malnourished and weakened by diarrhea and vomiting. Left untreated, she would surely have died. "Now, she's improving and gaining weight," the feeding centre staff told us.

The key weapon in the battle against malnutrition is a therapeutic paste known as Plumpy-Nut – and Yasmine has plainly developed a fondness for it. Yasmin's mother says that "she eats two and a half packets a day and now she's much better."

Plumpy-Nut was used to treat more than 100,000 children across Sudan in 2012.

Typically, the number of malnourished children goes down during the winter (after the harvest and the rains when there is better availability of food at household level) and increases again in the summer.

As therapeutic feeding centres like the one Yasmine attends brace for busier times ahead, the involvement of ordinary community members to identify malnourished children is key to the programme's long-term success.

The intervention that saved Yasmine's life has huge potential. Expanding services to treat more children is crucial: with three quarters of a million Sudanese children standing to benefit, the stakes could hardly be higher.

(Photo: UNICEF)

SECTOR INFORMATION

Government lead: Ministry of Health (MoH)

Lead Agency: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Projects: 24

Beneficiaries: 2,472,231

Funds requested: \$48,576,455

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