

A young child with dark skin and short hair is sitting on the ground, eating from a spoon. The child is wearing a light blue t-shirt and a patterned skirt. In the background, there are other children and red bowls on the ground, suggesting a communal meal or a food distribution point. The overall scene is outdoors on a dirt surface.

JAM

HELPING AFRICA HELP ITSELF

2015

ANNUAL REPORT





WHO WE ARE

JAM is an organisation borne from the collision of tragedy and passion. The ten days of anguish our founder Peter Pretorius endured in impoverished Mozambique in 1984 ignited the passion that still drives JAM today. We care for the needy and have a vision for their future. This vision is exemplified in our slogan Helping Africa Help Itself and is a declaration of our heart to advancing sustainability in Africa.

We are driven to help in situations in which communities are devastated and need help. We cannot rest while children go to bed hungry. JAM is equipped to intervene in emergencies and we prioritise the need for our programmes to tackle sustainability at a community level. JAM also strives to implement sustainable elements in every area of our programming.

JAM's Agricultural Development Programme is an exciting area of grassroots development. Our programmes range from optimising subsistence farming to developing small commercial farmers. The JAM Sustainable Domestically Produced School Feeding Programme in Mozambique focuses on linking our programmes to local small-scale farming production and creates a sustainable market for small landholders.

SERVING AFRICA IS WHO WE ARE

Serving Africa is not what we do, but who we are. JAM is an African-founded and headquartered, Christian international humanitarian relief and development organisation. We implement and operate sustainable programmes targeting the most vulnerable people throughout the African continent. We are fully inclusive and do not discriminate in terms of race, religion, gender, or political persuasion.

VISION

Helping Africa Help Itself

MISSION

To empower Africans to create better lives for themselves

GOALS

- ▶ Save lives through providing nutritious food, water, and sanitation,
- ▶ Sustain lives through health and social programmes such as HIV/AIDS training, smallholder farmer assistance, basic skills development, nutrition and health education,
- ▶ Improve lives through education, technical training, and transitional finance, and
- ▶ Create better lives by providing links to sustainable commercial business development.



AFFILIATE OFFICES

The Affiliate Offices are JAM's face to the world. JAM is a global organisation that operates with a network of Affiliate Offices. Our offices are staffed by local, passionate individuals, committed to the strategic goals set by the headquarters in South Africa. Employees at our Affiliate Offices increase awareness of the JAM programmes within their countries. This network of qualified professionals is pivotal to forming and nurturing vital partnerships for the organisation.

JAM International has seven Affiliate Offices independently registered as charities in their countries. They are based in the USA, Canada, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom Office recently expanded to offices in both Glasgow and London.

IMPLEMENTATION COUNTRIES

The Implementation Countries are JAM's feet on the ground. Our commitments to our beneficiaries and donors need to be met, and all funds received need to be used effectively. We take great care to employ the most competent and driven implementation team members to spearhead our programmes effectively. JAM has a base of operations in five African countries: Angola, South Africa, South Sudan, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

Specialised teams are employed at the JAM Country Offices and team members play essential roles to ensure our programmes are successfully run. Each country of operation has a different landscape, providing us with the challenge of overcoming varied implementation challenges.





"I'm proud to tell you that if
Africa's youths are the future of
Africa, then Africa is the future of
the world."

D'Banj, Nigerian singer and songwriter

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FROM THE GROUP CEO

I would like to sincerely thank all who prayed for me as I survived a devastating, near-death experience in 2015. I thank God I am still here. I ask that you stand with me in the work that we do at JAM, so that we can make our world a much better place for so many who have so little.

I am proud to say that we achieved all the goals that we set for 2015! I thank my tremendous staff for their hard work and commitment to our purpose and vision.

A New Year is full of potential! I believe that 2016 is going to be a year in which we realise dreams that have been in our hearts for a long time. For me, and I believe my team share this dream, I want to continue to reach more and more hungry children with food and the opportunity for an education. We want to continue to expand all of our programmes so that we can see Africa uplifted. I remain passionate about agricultural development, providing access to clean water, safe water and providing opportunities to women.

Thank you for partnering with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pretorius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



SUMMARY OF ANGOLAN PROGRAMMES



Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa. Its economy relies largely on oil and the dramatic drop in the oil price internationally has pummeled the economy.

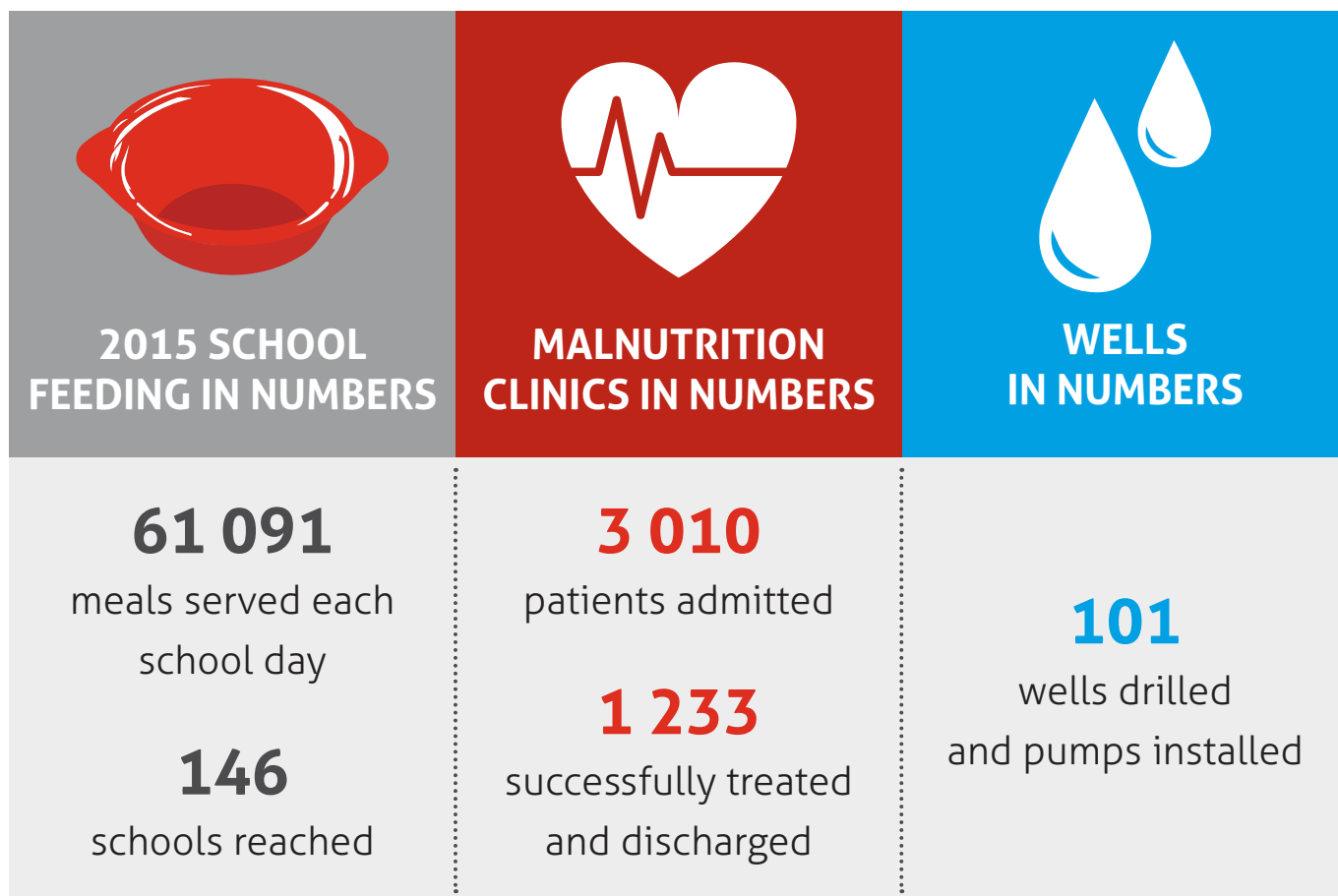
Angola is still rebuilding itself after a brutal 27-year civil war that destroyed infrastructure, which ended in 2002. El Niño brought devastating drought to Angola, which created some of the highest average temperatures recorded in decades. The drought caused crop failure and poor harvests for local farmers. The reduced national income, lower local food production, and commodity price increases have all resulted in more poor Angolans being malnourished.

Through our nutritional feeding programmes this year, 61 091 meals were served in 146 schools. The support from Life Outreach International (LOI) is vital to these programmes.

We continue to assist with therapeutic Formula 75 (F-75) and Formula 100 (F100) in six malnutrition clinics in 10 municipalities in the Benguela Province. JAM also runs out-patient malnutrition clinics in four municipalities. The children are given either F75 or F100, depending on their stage of malnutrition.

A total of 3 010 children were admitted to clinics suffering from acute malnutrition, 1 233 of whom were successfully treated and discharged. A total of 1 247 children are still in the clinics being treated. A total of 247 children were removed from treatment against medical advice and 64 children died.

The drilling team drilled a total of 101 wells and installed pumps.





ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

JAM's Founder and CEO Peter Pretorius met Arianga locals as our team drilled for water in their community. The two days spent drilling the well and installing the hand pump fascinated the locals. When the water-drilling rig was close to hitting water, Peter told the children standing nearby to move safety away from the rig. As it hit water, it sprayed about 20 metres into the air and landed on their heads and faces. This delighted the children and the community cheered and sang songs of joy and praise. Included in these celebrations was Monez, the Arianga community leader, his children and other family members. Monez expressed his gratitude by saying, "We thank JAM for this water. It will bring change to our community. Already, you can see the women preparing the land to plant vegetables. Our community has never managed to grow crops as we did not have water nearby. This clean water will change our lives."

JAM's crew installed an Afridev hand pump and the crew handed over a set of tools to Theodora, a community member who was recently trained in the basic maintenance of this well.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS JAM

Parents are confronted with the difficult choice of either allowing their children attend school, or keeping them at home to help with the farming and to forage for food. Along with the reality of drought and limited resources, most families choose to keep their children at home. These parents do value education, but are barely surviving, so their choices are determined by this basic need.

Armondo Aurelio is the acting Director of Education in the Bocoï Municipality. JAM's Country office staff met him at Calosongo Primary School when he visited to measure JAM's impact on the school and community. He believes the benefits of our programmes are clear. "It is wonderful to see so many children going to school. The Red Bowls of porridge motivate and empower these children, and the parents are very happy to see their children go to school."

He encouraged us to expand the school-feeding programmes to reach more children in need. "With so much hunger and poverty, I believe together we can do more for these little ones," he said. JAM shares Armondo's optimism and collaboration with forward-thinking municipalities will help us to reach more children in need.





SUMMARY OF MOZAMBIKAN PROGRAMMES

Although independence was achieved in 1975, drought and civil war have hampered Mozambique's development. In Mozambique the focus shifted from feeding to food production

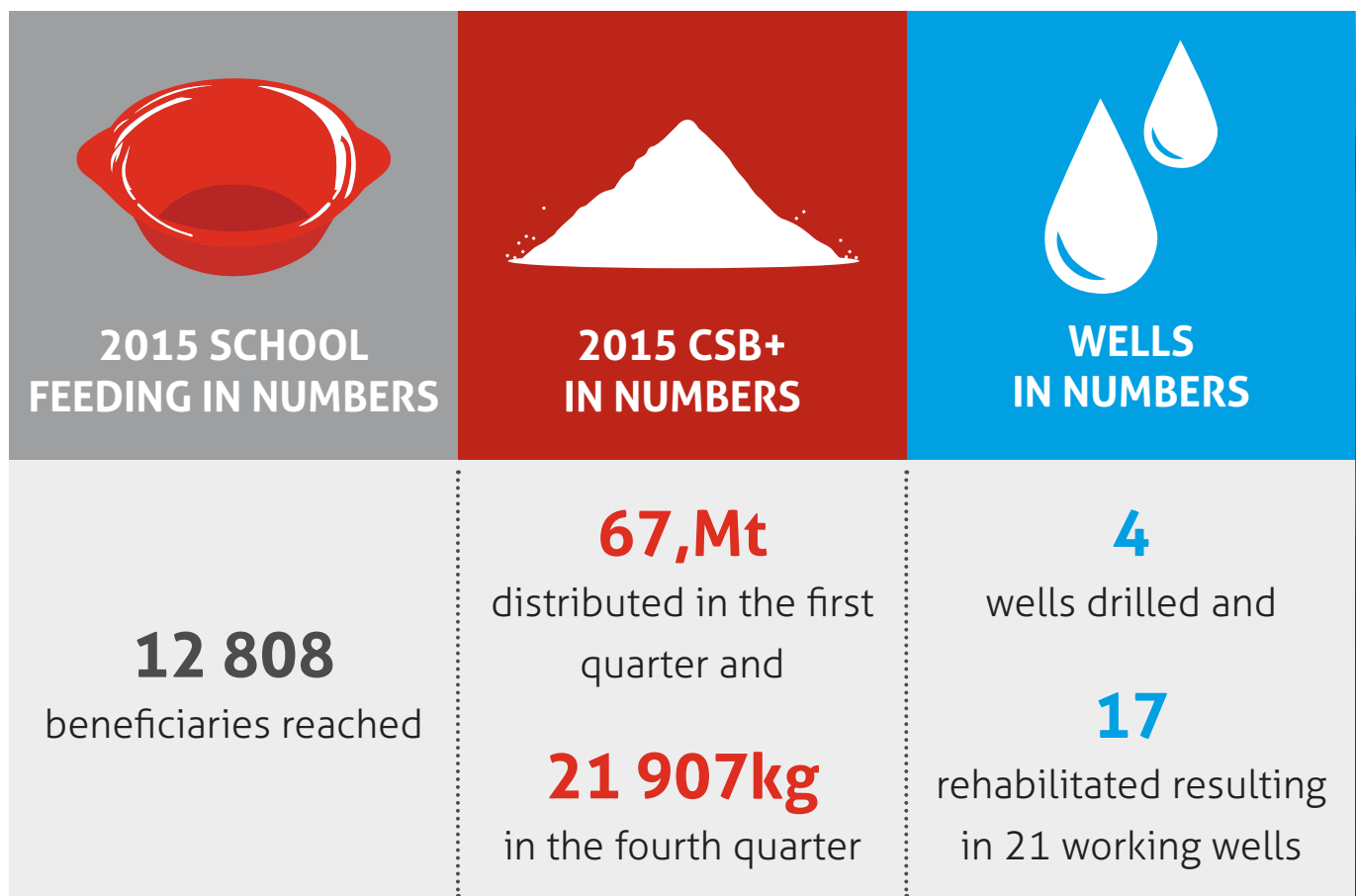
JAM distributed a total of 67,Mt in the first quarter and in the last quarter distributed 21 907kg of CSB+ to the Inhambane and Safala regions, reaching 12 808 beneficiaries. The factory delivered 7 600kg of CSB+ to the Nema foundation in Pemba. As we entered 2016 we had 62 725kg of CSB in the JAM warehouse. A total of 16Mt of maize was received from PLC farm and 45Mt of CSB was delivered to Angola. A total volume of 101Mt of CSB was produced and 67.5Mt of CSB was distributed.

Four water wells were drilled and 17 were rehabilitated across the Vilankulo, Govuro and Massing districts. We also revitalised 14 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) committees, in partnership with the District Service for Planning and Infrastructure of Inhassoro, Massinga and Vilankulo.

Towards the end of 2015, 34 smallholder farms were established in partnership with the German Embassy in Mozambique. These 34 farmers were trained in multiple aspects of commercial farming, through our agricultural development programme. This training includes a modern, scientific approach to agriculture and an understanding of the accounting of income and expenditure, and how to maximise profits. A total of 238 individuals benefit from our small commercial farm programme.

The School Gardens Programme is a new project that was implemented at selected schools in which JAM operates, and has been running well. This programme is integrated into the school's curriculum. JAM assists these schools with seeds and technical advice with the aim of teaching the pupils how to grow and maintain a food-producing garden.

The development of sustainable agriculture in Africa is a crucial element of JAM's vision to Help Africa Help Itself. Through the implementation and operation of Sustainable Domestically Produced School Feeding Programmes in Mozambique, JAM is



focused on creating synergy between our school feeding programmes and local small-scale farming production with a “seed to spoon” holistic philosophy. With 23 years’ of farming experience in the Inhambane Province of Mozambique, JAM is well equipped to support a localised, agriculture-based economy.

Contracts are entered into with local smallholder farmers or outgrowers, in which JAM purchases the commodities they produce at market-related prices. The crops are transported to the JAM factory in Beira where they are processed into the Corn Soya Blend porridge. This system eliminates the need for farmers to bring their crop to market, doing away with the logistical cost and guarantees sale of the produce. The food produced at the factory is then distributed as part of our Nutritional School Feeding Programmes. Through this model JAM has created an effective operational cycle.

The success and expansion of this programme has been made possible by JAM’s long-term partnerships with local government leaders and development funding partners in Europe and North America.

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JAM SUPPORTS PIONEERING FARMER

Samuel Gundane knows farming is far from simple, especially in southern Mozambique. Farmers here often face flooding, cyclones, drought, and a shortage of financing. All of these elements make large-scale agriculture a formidable challenge. Yet some farmers are able to rise above this. Samuel, a former cattle herder, discovered a fertile piece of land while grazing his cattle several years ago. He decided to farm the area and sold one of his cows to purchase water tanks to irrigate a vegetable garden. He discovered he had a natural talent for agriculture and his farm thrived.



In 2012, on a visit to his children's school at EPC Machengue where his wife volunteers to prepare JAM's porridge, Samuel approached the school principal about improving the school's vegetable garden. He provided seeds and seedlings, and JAM provided him with expertise to improve his own farm. This led to the government sponsoring irrigation equipment, including 114-lengths of pipe and 36 sprinklers, to upgrade the infrastructure on Samuel's farm.

Samuel faced a major setback when his entire farm was flooded by heavy rains. He was at risk of losing everything, and appealed to JAM for help. The team sprang to action as soon as the floodwaters subsided. The damage done to Samuel's farm was devastating, yet we knew the property was salvageable. We used our heavy duty machinery to clear the land of the flood deluge and to plough the damaged fields and plant new seeds. JAM also helped Samuel to reinstall the irrigation equipment and to upgrade the water management system. By June, the farm had almost completely recovered, and his cabbages, green peppers, tomatoes, beans and potatoes were growing well. By then, Samuel was in the process of completing his third bean harvest since the devastating floods.

Samuel has proved resilient in the face of his losses and plans to expand his farm and continue to help schools agriculture and neighbouring farmers. He has become a member of a disaster and calamity emergency organisation to help better prepare for future floods caused by the almost annual cyclones. Since then Samuel's three-hectare farm has grown to six hectares, and he aims to expand further. Samuel is one of several emerging African farmers that JAM is helping from the base of operations at the Pambarra Life Centre Farm.



SCHOOL FEEDING CHANGES A LIFE

Manuel Chemba, from the district of Inhassoro, Mozambique excels at school. Although he has a huge smile, he wasn't always a happy and diligent pupil. In many ways he was the opposite. Though teachers considered him capable, they thought him to be a "troublemaker" and a "nuisance".

After his family moved to a new village for better opportunities, Manuel enrolled in a JAM-supported school near Maimelane village. His family observed a profound transformation in him since he joined the school and his mother Fernanda investigated his turnaround. She wondered whether it was the teachers, new classmates, better facilities or their new village that had resulted in her son's change. She found that the pupils received a nutritious meal each school day from JAM. This was the first time any of her children had received a meal at school. She asked the teachers about the difference the meals make and they told her that the meals help to improve enrolment and attendance, and help the children to concentrate better as they are not constantly hungry.

JAM's assistance at these schools is pivotal to enabling them to receive government support as the Mozambican Education Department provides additional funding, infrastructure and teachers to better-run schools.



SUMMARY OF SOUTH SUDANESE PROGRAMMES



Although South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, it struggles with good governance and conflict between government and opposing forces.

Since 2013, it has been caught up in factional violence between ethnic groups fighting for government control, which has led to a massive humanitarian crisis. Though the two sides signed a peace agreement in August 2015, the country is ravaged by continuing war and conflict and the scale of the crisis here is staggering.

About 11,6 million people live in South Sudan and the population comprises a disproportionately large number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs). JAM assists these victims of civil conflict daily. About 1,6 million IDPs inhabit the country, of whom more than 900 000 are children. The states most affected by the conflict are Unity (541 395 IDPs), Upper Nile (299 084 IDPs), Jonglei (502 209 IDPs) and Lakes (129 964 IDPs). Movement of IDPs has also been registered in Warrap, Central and Eastern Equatoria.

JAM is committed to working in South Sudan and we have become a trusted and strategic partner for developing infrastructure, improving school attendance, enhancing food security and saving lives. Our operations began in Boma, Jonglei State, an area accessible only by air for six months of the year. Our logistics department does a great deal of planning and travel on poor roads to set up a base of operations and to be able to transport commodities.

JAM's work in South Sudan has led to us partnering with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in 2009. JAM's vision of Helping Africa Help Itself, along with our resilience and fearlessness about working in tough conditions has brought us to the forefront of relief and anti-hunger operations here. JAM is now the WFP's second largest co-operating partner in South Sudan.

Many IDPs arrive at the camps with only the clothes they are wearing, having walked for days to reach a place of safety. They are usually physically and emotionally drained. During the days and weeks of travelling they eat what little can be foraged for,



which is mainly roots, bark, dandelions and tree leaves. Working within this state of emergency has led JAM to continuously expand its operational capacity, to ensure that those who arrive in the IDP camp are safe and can be given food quickly. Recently, we invested in specialised trucking equipment for the commodities to be transported efficiently.

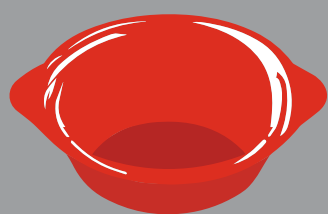
Operations take place in South Sudan via the following four programmes:

- ▶ Children receive meals every school day through the Food for Education programme.
- ▶ Food parcels are distributed to households, specifically IDPs and those households struggling with food insecurity via the General Food Distribution programme.
- ▶ JAM aims to reduce acute malnutrition among children aged six to 35 months and works with Community Nutrition Volunteers who receive food rations for 12 working days to incentivise them to help to deliver food via the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.
- ▶ JAM focuses on the rehabilitation of children under five identified as acutely malnourished during nutritional screenings in selected states via the Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programme.

JAM's effectiveness in the humanitarian sector in the country was recognised when we signed agreements with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation and the UN Development Network - Common Humanitarian Fund. We also started our malnutrition prevention programme in Jonglei state, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In the first phase of the UNICEF programme, JAM distributed more than 1 400 cartons of Plumpy'Nut, a peanut-based malnutrition formula, and materials to build eight Outpatient Therapeutic Programme Centres in the counties in Jonglei State.

JAM's food for Assets programme helped build much needed infrastructure in several countries in three states. Successes included the cultivation of several hundred acres of new farmland, several new vegetable gardens, 30km of new roads and the construction of a 3km flood prevention dyke.



2015 FEEDING IN NUMBERS

404 089
meals served in all
of JAM's South
Sudan programmes

FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY STATE

JAM reached **25 664** beneficiaries in **Lakes state** via the **Food for Education programme**.

We reached **7 983** beneficiaries in **Warrap**, also via the **Food for Education programme**.

JAM fed **1 061** via the **Food for Education programme** and **7 696** via the **General Food Distribution Programme**, totalling **8 757** in **Twic state**.

In **Jonglei state**, JAM fed **109 016** beneficiaries, via the **General Food Distribution Programme** and **26 384** via the **Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme**, **34 605** via the **Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programme**.

In **Abyei state**, **78 760** beneficiaries were reached via the **General Food Programme**. In **Unity**, **112 920** JAM reached via the **General Food Programme**, totalling **404 089** beneficiaries in South Sudan.

ROBERTA FINDS HER SON

"We walked for 27 days from Torit Village to Bor, the capital of Jonglei State, after the fighting came to our home," Roberta Ajuk told JAM's CEO and Founder Peter Pretorius. The distressing story of her journey with her two young sons is filled with tragedy and heartbreak. Eating leaves and roots to survive, she and her companions tried desperately to avoid the fighting. "We were walking along and then suddenly we were ambushed," she says tearfully. Many of those travelling with her were killed, including her five-year-old son.

After almost four weeks, the survivors arrived in Bor at the Protection of Civilians camp, traumatised, exhausted, yet grateful to be safe. She told Peter that during their journey, seven children and five adults starved to death. Sadly, the safety they felt at the camp was short lived, as the camp was attacked. According to news reports, 61 people died and more than 273 were wounded. One of those injured was Roberta's only remaining son. After the attack she could not find him and feared that he had been killed. But he had been flown to South Sudan's capital Juba for medical treatment after he had been shot in the leg. Roberta travelled to Juba and was reunited with him, where he was recovering.



JAM continues to operate in Bor and distributes hundreds of tonnes of food each month to our beneficiaries living in the camp. Roberta and her son continue to shelter here, where they plan to stay until peace is achieved in South Sudan.

MARY'S LIFE TORN APART BY WAR

Mary Akoch was living in Uganda, and after South Sudan's independence in 2011, she returned home to start a new life in Bor, Jonglei State, and to help to rebuild her country. Mary speaks English fluently and hoped to find work with an NGO or as a translator. As with many former refugees, or "returnees" Mary risked everything she had return to her home.

Sadly, Mary's choice almost cost her life when civil war erupted in December 2013. "There was heavy fighting and my brother-in-law was killed. Our house was destroyed. We ran back to Uganda." She and her family struggled to survive, as little aid reached them there, and many refugees suffered from disease. As soon as a relative peace was reached, Mary and her family again returned to Bor. They now live in a temporary shelter outside Bor and depend on JAM and other relief organisations to survive.







SUMMARY OF SOUTH AFRICAN PROGRAMMES

Since 1994, South Africa has since struggled to deal with apartheid-era imbalances in decent housing, education, and health care. South Africa is filled with contradictions and has its affluent and poor living right alongside one another.

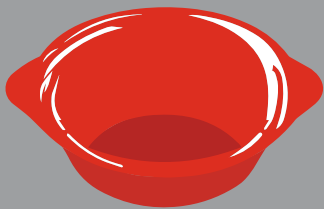
South Africa has also faced one of the most severe droughts to hit the region in 30 years. With this, food production suffered and and prices soared. Five of the nine provinces were declared drought disaster areas for agriculture in 2015. According to the Global Nutrition Report 2015, one in five children are stunted because of malnutrition. Two million children under the age of six go to bed hungry each night. JAM'S vision is to one day feed every one of them, and to ensure each has the opportunity to receive a good education and have a productive life.

Poor communities in South Africa, such as those in the informal settlements, have limited access to nutritious food, yet food of a lower nutritional value is abundant. Studies show that too low an intake of fresh vegetables and animal protein and a diet comprising mainly maize, wheat and bread, results in micronutrient deficiencies. This lack of nutritious food results in lower cognitive and physical capacity.

A spate of xenophobic attacks, specifically in KwaZulu-Natal made news headlines around the world and led to the displacement of about 3 000 people in a camp near Durban. JAM provided much-needed porridge to the refugees.

The rapid expansion of JAM South Africa documented in 2014 continued into the new year and expanded operations to include six provinces in 2015. This resulted in a total of 84 644 children being fed in 2015.

JAM also focused efforts on more than provision of nutrition and trained more than 16 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre practitioners. JAM completed 24 Makeovers in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, which ranged from mini to extreme and



2015 FEEDING IN NUMBERS

84 644
beneficiaries
reached





benefited more than 1 000 children. The objective of our Makeover Projects is to improve the infrastructure and overall learning experience at JAM-supported childcare centres to create a safe and stimulating environment.

JAM SA also trains ECD centre practitioners to plant and grow food gardens so they can use the fresh produce to add nutritional value to the meals they give to children. A part of this involves installing water harvesting tanks to be used to maintain the gardens. Six water-harvesting installations were completed. Vegetable garden training took place at 139 ECD centres throughout South Africa.

BREAKTHROUGH FOR ECD MAKEOVERS

In 2015, JAM South Africa marked a breakthrough when City of Johannesburg officially recognised our Makeovers as compliant with City regulations. A municipal inspector with whom we had built a good relationship arranged a meeting with officials and stakeholders. It was well attended by JAM SA management, municipal officials (building, health, fire and safety, and municipal inspectors) and owners of ECD centres which JAM has upgraded.

The municipality announced that it would approve the buildings JAM constructs, on receiving plans showing relevant information. "This is a giant step towards the registration of the ECD centres and we are grateful for the assistance and cooperation of the City of Johannesburg and the officials," said David Brown, Managing Director of JAM SA.

In the past, registration was a major obstacle to ECD centre owners, as standards are high and in many cases are simply unattainable for those in townships and informal settlements with limited resources. Registration of an ECD centre means the owners may apply for a financial subsidy from the government. Registration, independence and self-sustainability of the centres are among JAM's ultimate aims.



LIMPOPO SURVEY REVEALS LESS STUNTING

JAM SA assessed children in Thohoyandou and the "Northern Dry side", in villages such as Folovhodwe and Muswodi, in March and again in October 2015. A total of 351 children were assessed both times to compare the effectiveness of our intervention. The results showed a substantial decrease in stunting from 14,8% to 9,7%. The occurrence of a child being underweight decreased from 7,8% to 2,5% and wasting from 2,2% to 0,4%. This is a marked improvement in the condition of the children participating in our programmes. In addition to these first-rate results, when the re-measurements were taken no cases of oedema, kwashiorkor or marasmus were reported. These figures reinforce the importance of field assessments.





SUMMARY OF RWANDAN PROGRAMMES



Rwanda is a small landlocked country between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is still trying to recover from the years of ethnic hostility that culminated in the 1994 genocide when between 800 000 and a million people were killed.

The Fred Nkunda Life Centre was originally built to care for 800 orphans of the genocide that left many children without parents or guardians. As time has gone by, Rwanda has rebuilt itself and the children have grown up, with 25 beneficiaries still living at the centre.

As the orphans grew up we became aware of the need for life skills training to enable the future development of the youth. To further serve the JAM-based orphans, as well as the community, JAM transformed the Fred Nkunda Life Centre orphanage into the Rwanda Skills Training Centre in January 2014.

Young adults receive the education and training to equip them with the tools to improve their lives here. The centre is a physical expression of JAM's vision of Helping Africa Help Itself, as well as our belief that without education there can be no development.

Rwanda Skills Training Centre applicants who have not completed high school diploma may enrol in a one-year certificate course, and those who have high school certificates may enrol in a three-year diploma course. The centre offers training in welding, tailoring, motor vehicle mechanics, hairdressing, culinary arts, masonry and carpentry. Female students are also enrolled in traditionally male-dominated trades. All students are also taught French, English, mathematics, entrepreneurship and computer literacy. The centre has been running for two years and continues to attract more students from across Rwanda and even neighbouring countries. In 2015, 182 students were enrolled with 104 men and 78 women students.



**2015 STUDENT
ENROLLMENT**

182

students enrolled at
JAM's Rwanda Skills
Training Centre





CONSTRUCTEUR SINGER
Détachée aux Établissements du Moulin
de l'Industrie de la Machine à Coudre
ANNÉE DE FABRICATION 1996
SINGER
Modèle 1000
1000 1000
CE
1000

ARTIST EMERGES FROM HOPELESSNESS

More than 12 000 orphans found have been taken care of at the Fred Nkunda Life Centre orphanage since the 1994 genocide. Because of the instability that ensued after the genocide, it took a few years for the authorities to place Emmanuel Nsengato at the centre. He was finally taken in at the orphanage when he was just six.

"I was very young when I came here and I cried for many days," says Emanuel, remembering his first days at the centre. "I missed my family. I had survived by running into the bush." Yet by coming here, he found a home with people who loved and cared for him. He says he is thankful for the opportunities that have been given to him since.

Eighteen years' later Emmanuel is determined to become a recognised artist, specialising in drawings and sculpture. His dream is shared by centre manager Doreen Nkunda, who has watched him progress and has played a pivotal role in supporting his talent. "He's an exceptional artist, and I think he has the talent to speak about the genocide through his art," says Doreen.



'OLD BOY' GIVES BACK

Esmond Munezero, aged 24, had been studying in Kigali, but struggled to afford living there and gave up his scholarship. He approached Doreen about working at the newly established Rwanda Skills Training Centre. Doreen needed someone with his passion for teaching, which she had seen in him since he was younger, as he is a Fred Nkunda Life Centre "old boy". She hired him. Although the centre specialises in technical and vocational education, a key part of the programme is proficiency in English, Computer Literacy and Business Studies. Esmond is a General Studies teacher and applies his skills to improving students' language, grammar and level of computer literacy.

Esmond is also furthering his own education and studies part-time at a local university. His job enables him to give back to the centre and orphanage in which he was raised. "He has come a long way from the young orphaned child who arrived here shortly after the genocide," says Doreen.

Some children spend a short time at the orphanage before being fostered by families, while others spend their childhood there, until they reach adulthood. But for some like Esmond, the impact that the centre made on their lives inspires them to return with a heart to give back to the next generation of Rwandans.



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