



JOINT AID MANAGEMENT SOUTH SUDAN 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Joint Aid Management (JAM) International is a relief and development organization working to save lives, overcome poverty and create sustainable living for communities living in Africa. JAM serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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About Us

Founded in 1984 in South Africa, Joint Aid Management (JAM) is an international faith-based, non-governmental organization working to save lives, overcome poverty and create sustainable living for communities. We work exclusively in Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan and Uganda), implementing programs in food security, health, livelihoods, nutrition, WASH and economic recovery. JAM is supported by affiliate offices in Canada, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In South Sudan, JAM began operations in 2002. Today, its programs span across five states: Central Equatoria, Jongeli, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Unity and Warrap. JAM's integrated programs focus on three pillars: (1) saving lives (2) promoting early recovery and (3) promoting community resilience. In keeping with our organizational core values, we ensure that even when responding to short-term emergencies, our investment in building individuals' adaptive capacities and our commitment to community ownership enables a successful transition towards long-term recovery and resilience.

Our Vision

An Africa that thrives

Our Purpose

To eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition in Africa

Our Mission

To provide food security, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene to vulnerable children, their families and communities in Africa in dignified and sustainable ways.

Our Core values

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Delivery | We do what we say we do. |
| Efficiency | We maximize service, we minimize cost. |
| Leadership | We are credible, trustworthy, competent, inspiring and forward-looking. |
| Trust | We have confidence in our ability and accountable action. |
| Alignment | Together, we all pursue the JAM purpose. |

2020 Snapshot



357,960

Individuals supported with livelihood restoration and economic empowerment



187,385

Individuals supported with in-kind food assistance



149,876

Individuals reached with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services



64,449

Primary-school students received nutritious food



63,622

Individuals supported with conditional and unconditional cash, and voucher assistance



50,534

Children supported with vitamin A supplements and deworming treatment



13,780

children and mothers treated for acute malnutrition



811,532

Individuals reached by JAM in five states with lifesaving humanitarian and development assistance

A Message from our Country Director

Dear Friends,

Amel is a mother of nine children and a member of the JAM-supported vegetable producers' group in Aweil South. She confided in me about her growing resolve to overcome poverty and create a better future for her family.

"I harvest my vegetables weekly, use most of what I grow and take some to the market once in a while when I need money for additional food or supplies," Amel told me during our conversation early in 2020. "I have gathered sufficient knowledge about farming over the past year so that I can now stand on my own two feet. It helps that my children also enjoy watering vegetables."

Conversations such as this give me immense joy. I see the impact of the tireless work of our staff, partners, volunteers and community members in communities across South Sudan. It gives me hope that a better, more resilient future for South Sudan is within our grasp as long as we continue to patiently persevere, investing our energy and resources wisely.

2020 was an extremely challenging year for communities in South Sudan, as well as for JAM and the entire humanitarian sector. After years of fighting across the country, 2020 provided a path toward a fragile peace that was tested repeatedly by yearly cycles of death and displacement due to sub-national violence and flooding. It was further strained by the new health, social and economic challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, reduced oil exports and the corresponding shortage of goods resulted in inflation rates as high as 40%. The average cost of local food basket rose by 42%, significantly increasing the vulnerability of already crisis-stricken individuals and families.

Against this backdrop, our outstanding team of 365 staff and volunteers based in eight centers across country provided quality lifesaving and life-sustaining support to almost 1 million South Sudanese people in five states.

Our teams navigated flooded plains to deliver food and non-food items to displaced people. They trained families in food-insecure areas how to increase their fish stock and preserve it for the lean season. They treated children suffering from acute malnutrition who live in remote locations with limited road access. Our staff and volunteers accomplished all of this while extensively reorienting our programs to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. I am immensely grateful for their commitment and continued dedication to the people of South Sudan.

At the same time, the entire JAM family remains thankful to our generous public and private partners, including the United Nations and the Government of South Sudan, whose administrative, operational and financial support makes our important work possible. In 2020 alone, your support enabled us to open a new stabilization center in Boma to begin treating children suffering from acute malnutrition with medical complications. It also allowed us to expand our food security and livelihood programs in Bor, and to begin new operations in Twic East. Support from our JAM affiliate offices also enabled us, for the first time, to directly impact the lives of the elderly, disabled and single mothers living in Juba by providing unconditional voucher and food support to them during the debilitating COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for your support and we hope to continue to strengthen our partnerships over the coming months and years.

As we embark on our twentieth year of service in South Sudan, we remain ever more steadfast in our commitment to empower South Sudanese people to overcome poverty and chart their own future. Please join us on this journey toward a safer, more resilient, prosperous and inclusive South Sudan.

Abeba Amene
Country Director

Intervention Area

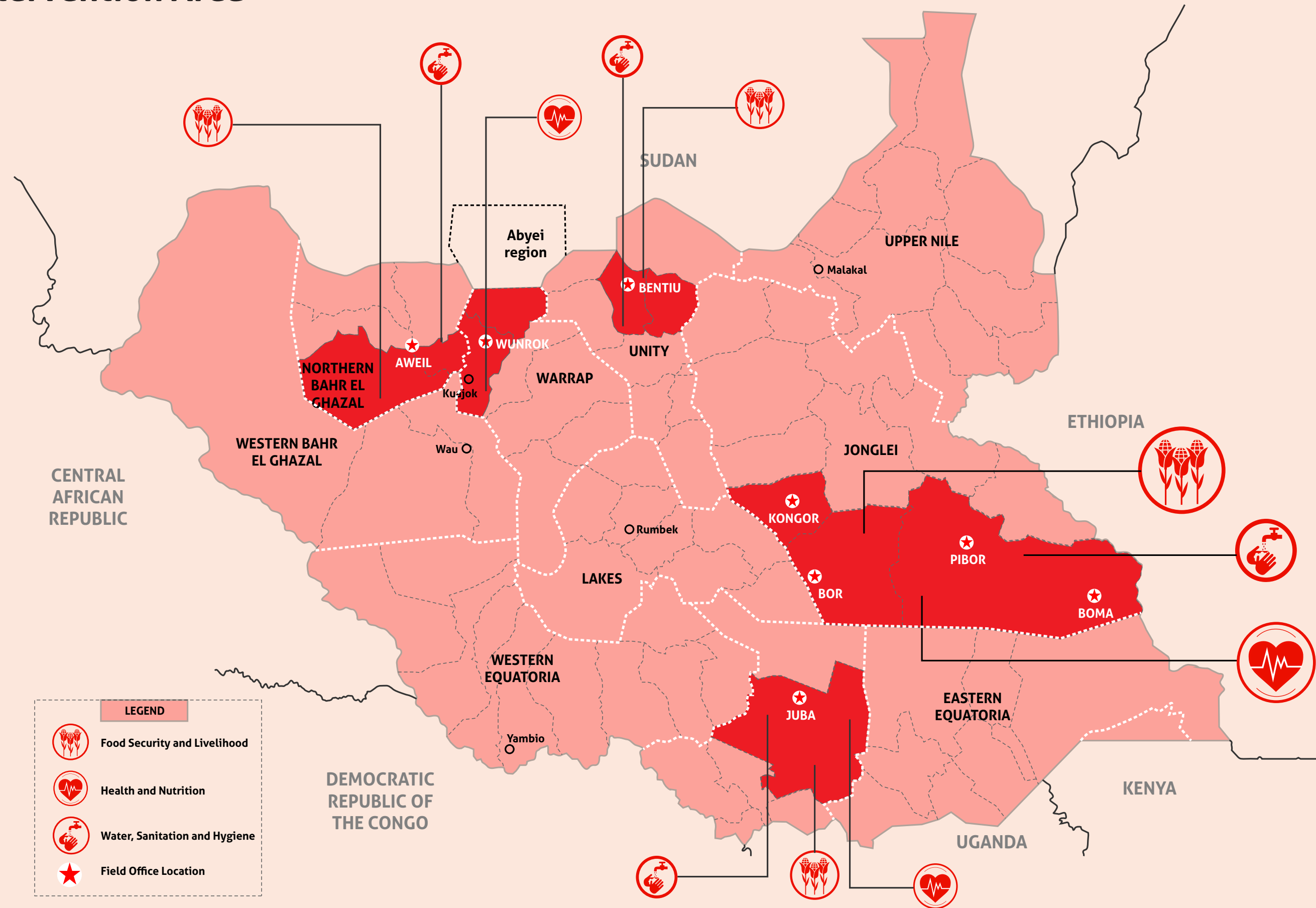




Photo © Joseph Basoga
A woman in Bentiu learns ways to make dietary diverse food for her child.



Food Security and Livelihoods

Innovative empowerment approaches complement our lifesaving food assistance

Acute food insecurity, compounded by multiple, often intersecting man-made and natural shocks, is an ongoing fact of life for millions of South Sudanese. During the 2020 lean season, the number of people in crisis [Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 3] or worse levels of food insecurity rose to 6.5 million people. This, compared to 6.35 million in 2019. Large pockets of people in Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states faced emergency (IPC 4) and catastrophic (IPC 5) levels. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, South Sudanese communities already faced the risk of death and disease due to conflict and natural disasters, as well as economic and environmental shocks. The pandemic compounded the severity of crisis across all these pre-existing fronts.

In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization, UNOCHA/South Sudan Humanitarian Fund and Humedica, JAM provided food security and livelihood assistance to 548,296 individuals in 2020 across nine counties in five states.

Throughout the year, JAM provided direct, lifesaving monthly food assistance (sorghum, maize, beans, yellow peas, salt and vegetable oil) to 190,336 individuals in Bentiu, Bor South, Twic and Twic East counties. In response to the exacerbated needs of already-vulnerable families coping with the economic impact of COVID-19, we identified 100 families with

high-protection needs in Juba city, including the elderly and disabled, and provided unconditional food voucher assistance in the amount of \$40 per month for six months.

Concurrently, JAM also supported 357,960 individuals with livelihood restoration activities through cash-for-asset and emergency livelihood initiatives. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap states, 63,522 individuals participated in a wide range of community asset-creation activities in exchange for conditional cash, including block farming, the construction of access roads, shallow wells and multipurpose ponds, as well as other resource-management and climate-adaptation activities. In these same areas, as well as in Jonglei state, 287,238 food-insecure families also participated in livelihood training programs. They received vegetable-and-crop production kits, including farming tools, as well as fishing kits, to increase their food security through agriculture over the long term.

Where market access allowed, JAM hosted seed fairs with local vendors and provided participating families with vouchers so they could purchase seeds of their choice. As a result of the pandemic, this cash-for-seed approach was adapted so participants could receive direct cash assistance that enabled them to purchase seeds and other farming materials from traders independently.

Achievements

287,238

Individuals supported with agricultural and livelihoods inputs, and capacity building

190,336

Individuals reached with emergency food assistance

63,622

Individuals provided with conditional and unconditional cash



Food Security and Livelihoods

Manching's dream: a fishing canoe on the Nile



After training, Manching utilizes the sun drying technique to preserve his most recent catch.

Photo © Joseph Basoga

Manching, 36, has fished the Nile since his childhood. Born into a family of fishermen, he fondly recalls his grandfather teaching him how to cast a net.

"My grandfather always came home with four types of fish—*yalnom*, *riel*, *pet* and *luoth*," recalls Manching. "He taught us the value of fishing because he accumulated his wealth from it."

Today, times have changed for Manching and many fishermen in South Sudan. In 2020, the country-wide 40% inflation rate pushed fishermen and other already-vulnerable households further toward food insecurity. Fishing costs have risen sharply, threatening the livelihood of fishing communities along the Nile River in Guit county and across the country. One good fishing net now costs 5,000 South Sudanese pounds (SSP) or about US\$18—more than Manching's entire income during some months. Fishermen resort to using poor quality nets, which reduces their catch, their income and their food security.

"I want to buy a canoe so I can increase my catch. That's the reason I decided to attend this training."

To empower Manching and 640 other fishing families in 16 *payams* (administrative divisions) across Rubkona and Guit counties, JAM launched an emergency livelihood support program. We provided fishing nets, hooks and monofilament fishing gear to help improve the quality and quantity of fish production, as well as capacity strengthening and skills trainings to further boost income.

Through JAM's training program, Manching is adding to his generational knowledge with newfound skills in fish preservation, enabling him to conserve stocks for the dry season. He has learned four fish preservation methods: salting, sun drying, smoking and pickling.

"During the rainy season, most youth here resort to fishing [when] fish stocks in the river

increase," says Manching. "This increases the quantity of fish available in the markets. What cannot be sold fresh is usually thrown away."

By learning to preserve fish, Manching is strengthening his household's immediate food security status during the dry season. With his new skills and improved fishing equipment, he can also boost his income by selling preserved fish alongside his fresh catch during the dry

season when the price of fish increases to much as 5,000 SSP per kilo.

"Dry season can be a good period for business. Sometimes it is possible to earn up to 20,000 SSP on a single day," says Manching. "I want to save and buy a canoe so I can increase my catch. That's the reason I decided to attend this training. I want to improve my skills to further my business."



Manching learns how to make fishing nets during a training session in Bentiu.

Photo © Joseph Basoga



JAM trainee, Manching fishes along the Nile river.

Photo © Joseph Basoga



JAM Nutrition volunteers conduct screening for acute malnutrition at hard to reach areas in Pibor. Photo © Joseph Basoga



Health and Nutrition

Lifesaving nutrition for children and mothers

When 2020 began, an estimated 1.3 million children aged 6–59 months and 350,000 pregnant and lactating women across country were projected to be at risk of acute malnutrition during the course of the year. In Jonglei state, the majority of counties were classified as critical (IPC Phase 4) for acute malnutrition, with the risk of an 82% global acute malnutrition rate absent a large-scale humanitarian intervention.

In response, we partnered with UNICEF, World Food Programme and Life Outreach International to provide critical nutrition assistance to 250,521 girls, boys and women within the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in Jonglei state in 2020.

Using the community-based management of acute malnutrition approach, we treated 5,738 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition through 16 static and seven mobile outpatient therapeutic feeding program (OTP) clinics across eight *payams*. For children with medical complications, we also provided in-patient services at our newly established stabilization center in Boma. We further enrolled 4,166 children under the age of five, and 3,876 pregnant and lactating women suffering from moderate acute malnutrition in our targeted supplementary feeding program, which is integrated within our OTP sites. Patients received necessary micronutrients and other rations to address their immediate nutritional deficiency, as well as routine follow-

up and monitoring, nutrition information and other health supplementation, as necessary.

Through the preventative approach known as “Mother, Infant and Young Child Nutrition” (MIYCN), we provided individual and group counseling to caregivers, and established mother-to-mother peer support groups. We also conducted cooking demonstrations and hygiene awareness sessions, and helped establish kitchen gardens, where possible, to ensure sufficient nutritional intake and healthy growth for mothers and children.

JAM understands that responsive interventions focused on treating acute malnutrition alone is insufficient to reduce its prevalence in South Sudan. For this reason, we mainstream nutrition activities throughout our multi-sectoral programming. Our nutrition-sensitive activities seek to address the root causes of malnutrition across the health, WASH and food security sectors for mothers and children. These comprise of the 64,449 children enrolled in school feeding program operated in Bor South, Twic, and Twic East, in addition to *Manna Pack* packages distributed to children in Juba affected by school closures due to COVID-19; a blanket supplementary feeding program for households with pregnant and lactating women, and children under the age of five; distribution of mosquito nets to prevent malaria; health referrals for immunization; and distribution of soap and other sanitary materials to households with children.

Achievements

97,502

mothers, fathers and other caregivers reached through prevention activities

9,904 & 3876

Children and mothers treated for acute malnutrition

23 OTP

clinics and one stabilization center operated within Greater Pibor Administrative Area

90%

cases of acute malnutrition cured



Health and Nutrition

Judith and Yai's journey to health



A JAM nutrition staff conducts weekly follow-up for the severely acute malnourished child in Pibor.
Photo © Kushagra Pokhrel

Carrying her frail 10-month-old daughter in her arms, Judith arrived at JAM's child nutrition center in Leukangole just in the nick of time.

"Life has been so unbearable that we sometimes only survive on water and wild fruits," Judith told the JAM health workers as they weighed and measured Yai, assessing the emaciated child for severe acute malnutrition.

Yai is among the more than 1 million South Sudanese children who are at risk of acute malnutrition every year. In the first three months of 2021 alone, humanitarian partners treated approximately 50,865 children for severe acute malnutrition across the country.

Like most families in Pibor county, Judith struggles to find enough food for her child. A confluence of inter-communal violence, excessive flooding and limited access to markets disrupts food production and severely limits its availability in this area annually. As a result, communities often endure famine-like conditions during the lean season between harvests.

"What we go through on a daily basis cannot be described with words."

After floods swept away her vegetable garden, Judith, a single mother, was forced to sell her cow—one of her few material possessions. Proceeds from the sale gave her family temporary relief, but within a few weeks the cycle of hunger began again. Yai soon became acutely malnourished and she was at risk of developing serious illness and even death.

"What we go through on a daily basis cannot be described with words," Judith said tearfully, as Yai was enrolled in one of the 23 JAM-operated outpatient therapeutic feeding programs in Pibor. "It is indescribable suffering, especially for our toddlers, as they cannot communicate their pain."

To address root causes of malnutrition, JAM provides direct support to acutely malnourished children and their mothers, like Yai and Judith. We also engage caregivers to create conditions that facilitate healthy growth for both. Our initiatives include

strengthening household food security by establishing vegetable gardens, conducting cooking demonstrations and linking with food distribution programs to help mothers and children meet their daily caloric requirements. We also establish health and WASH linkages, disseminate nutrition information and develop caregiver support groups to help identify early signs of malnutrition and take steps to reverse the trend.

Following a month of treatment and close follow-up by the JAM team, Yai was on the road to recovery. She received take-home, ready-to-use therapeutic food, as well as vitamin A supplements and deworming medicine. Our team breathed a collective sigh of relief when Yai passed the appetite test—a good indication that she did not require in-patient services. A year later, Yai is a different child, smiling and playing with other children in her neighborhood.

Once Yai recovered, Judith enrolled in JAM's prevention program to learn how to ensure her daughter's healthy future growth and development. Through our integrated food security and livelihood program, she participated in gardening training and received tools to grow her own nutrient-rich vegetables. Judith now counsels fellow caregivers in support groups on critical activities such as child feeding techniques, proper handwashing and how to use mosquito nets at night to protect sleeping children from malaria.

Judith is uncertain what the future holds given that another potentially catastrophic level of food insecurity is predicted for the 2021 lean season. But she is committed to helping other mothers in similarly difficult situations.

"I remember how helpless I felt seeing Yai get worse and being unable to do anything to make it better," said Judith. "I hope this is something no mother has to face alone."



Photo © Kushagra Pokhrel





Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Protecting communities from COVID-19



JAM's staff integrates COVID-19 risk communication into routine activity to increase dietary diversity.

Photo © Joseph Basoga

With the onset of COVID-19 in April, 2020, we quickly adapted and aligned our programs according to World Health Organization guidelines. Social distancing, disease-risk communication, and sanitation and hygiene formed core components of every activity.

In doing so, we engaged all 811,532 participants in our programs, helping increase their awareness and understanding about COVID-19 transmission and prevention, and how to seek help in the case of suspected infection. These community sessions also

focused on dispelling common myths and reducing potential stigma associated with the disease.

Complementing our risk-communication activities, to help reduce transmission we reached 149,876 individuals with direct support, including personal protective equipment, such as face masks, and critical WASH supplies, such as soap and hand sanitizer. We installed 250 handwashing devices across our program sites and within communities, and also provided household water purifiers.

Achievements

526

frontline staff and volunteers provided with personal protective equipment

326,388

people supported with sanitation and hygiene materials

250

handwashing devices installed across communities



Mother of an acutely malnourished child establishes a kitchen garden in Boma. Photo © Joseph Basoga

Top Picture: Schoolchildren enjoy hot lunches as part of JAM's school feeding program Bottom Picture: JAM staff inspects end of season Sorghum harvest in Aweil" Photo © Joseph Basoga





Accountability

Our commitment to our communities, partners and donors

The people of South Sudan are at the center of all we do across this country. The communities with whom we work have faced decades of conflict, displacement, hunger and other terrible man-made and environmental disasters. These multi-pronged shocks have significantly reduced their coping capacity, with an estimated 66 percent of population being in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021 alone.

Under these conditions, accountability to affected populations remains foundational to JAM's work in South Sudan. In alignment with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), JAM maintains a robust accountability system, with mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with all nine CHS commitments on quality and accountability.

We actively consult with community members prior to the design and development of our joint programs to ensure that they are relevant and appropriate. During implementation, we deliver programs in a timely, effective manner

with adequate planning and risk mitigation, with community participation and feedback incorporated throughout the program cycle. We transparently share information verbally and visually with participants in their local dialects. Complaints and feedback are recorded, categorized into sensitive and non-sensitive labels based on the nature of the complaint, and responded to in an appropriate, timely and effective manner.

To strengthen local capacity and avoid unintentional negative effects on participants as a result of participation in our activities, we incorporate conflict sensitivity into our core programming. Routine "do no harm" assessments are done throughout the program cycle and we recruit local community members whenever possible to achieve outcomes affecting their lives and communities.

Importantly, we coordinate all our activities across humanitarian inter-agency platforms, with learning embedded into the project cycle in a routine and deliberate manner.



Photo © Joseph Basoga

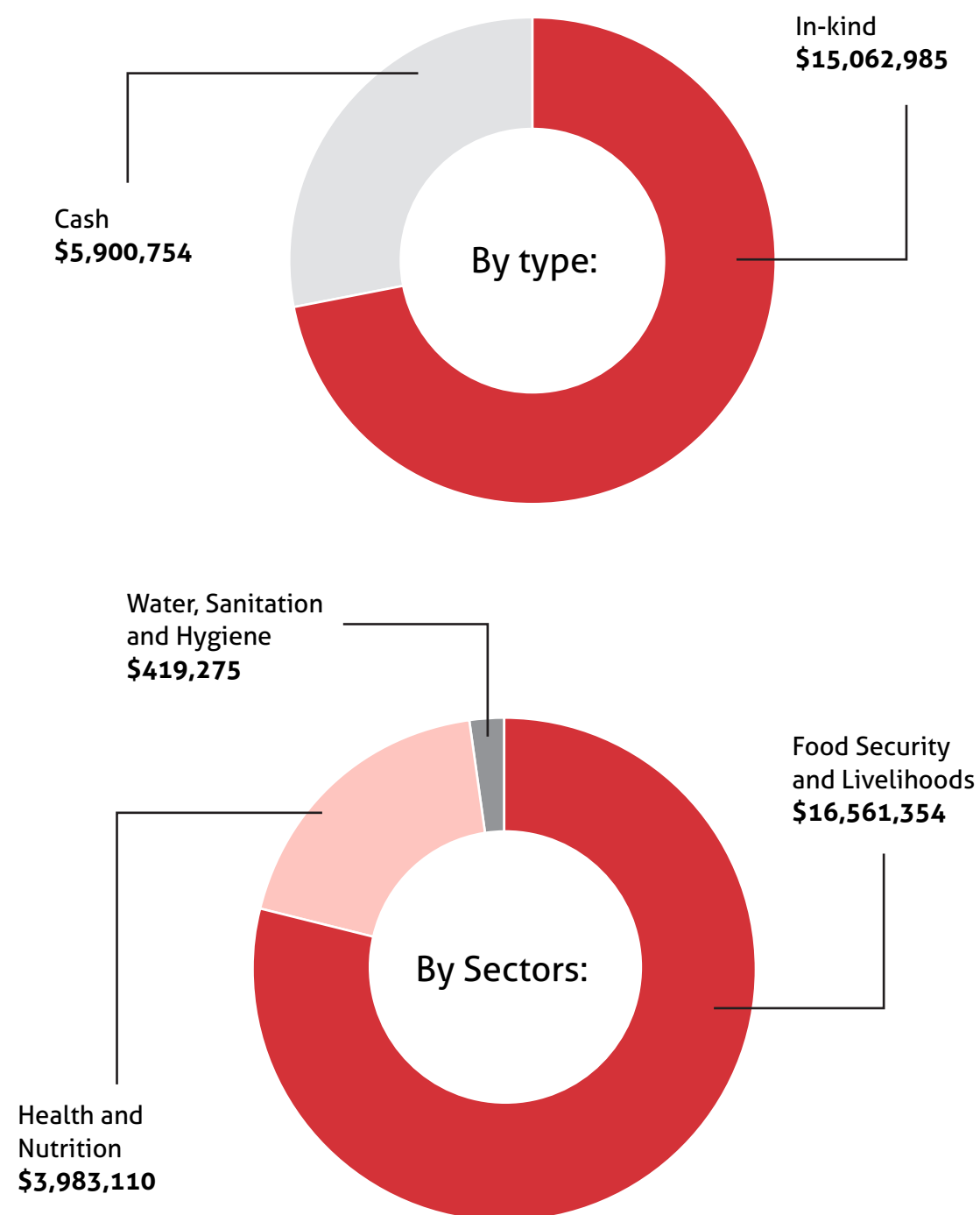


Communities in Bor South construct flood dyke to mitigate against the impact of extreme flooding. Photo © Joseph Basoga



Finance Snapshot

Funding Portfolio 2020



Looking Ahead

The road ahead is difficult. More than 8.3 million people are anticipated to require some form of humanitarian assistance in the coming year. Extreme food insecurity and malnutrition persists; effects of the covid-19 pandemic continue to be felt across both physical and economic areas of life; and pockets of insecurity remains a key disruptor of developmental gains made over the preceding years.

Addressing these challenges requires investment. Not only financial investment, but one of time and energy. It requires patience and commitment. It also requires rigorous adherence to the principle that the children, men and women of South Sudan deserve the same right to a life of dignity, security and economic empowerment that enables them to reach their fullest potential.

It is why, going forward, JAM will continue to invest in communities to support their transition towards recovery and transformational development. In 2021, we intend to expand our programming sectors, areas of interventions, as well as the numbers of people we reach.

For example, we aim to strengthen and expand the reach of our food security and nutrition programs in the Jonglei state – highly affected over the preceding years with cyclical

violence and flooding – with a goal to reach communities living along the peripheries through critical life-saving interventions.

To that end, we have already begun increasing the number of nutrition sites across Pibor county, enabling us to treat children with acute malnutrition in every hard-to-reach village. We will also concurrently expand training and access to agriculture and fishing to ensure root causes food insecurity and malnutrition are addressed simultaneously, paving the pathway towards long-term food security and resilience. We will promote economic empowerment initiatives and broaden our investment in education.

As different parts of the world begin to turn the corner of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will seek to make sure communities in South Sudan are shielded from its worst effects through steady emphasis on prevention and support. To solidify peace over the long term within the communities we serve, we will continue to integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding across all of our areas of work.

As always, JAM will prioritize the most vulnerable individuals, groups and communities within South Sudan to support them in charting their own future, and pave the way towards a resilient, more prosperous and inclusive future!



Acknowledgements

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