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IMA WORLD HEALTH



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PROJECT OVERVIEW

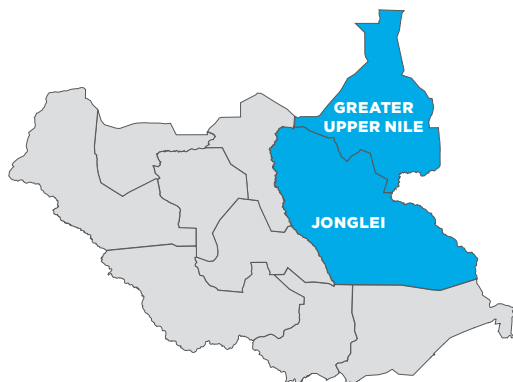
IDP EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE RESPONSE

Project Period: November 2014 – October 2020

Project Area: Greater Upper Nile and Jonglei regions, South Sudan

Funder: United States Agency for International Development – Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance¹

Local Partners: Christian Mission for Development, John Dau Foundation, Nile Hope



PROJECT SUMMARY

The overall vision of this project was to provide a comprehensive and holistic set of services to address the urgent needs of the population. The project achieved this goal by fulfilling the following objectives:

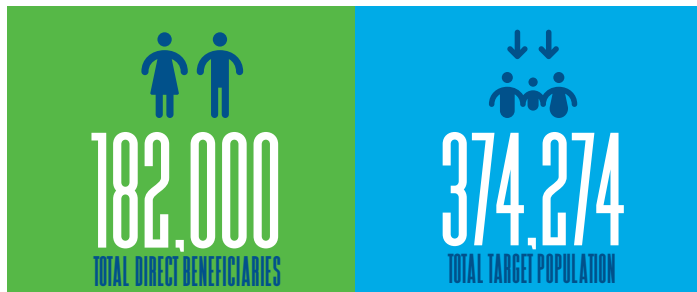
- Provide vital primary health care services to internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnee populations through nine mobile clinics and outreach sites.
- Improve nutritional status of vulnerable populations through prevention and treatment of malnutrition.

In addition to providing services such as disability and trauma referral, screening for gender-based violence and psychosocial needs, and immediate primary health care, IMA also provided nutrition services focusing on children under 5 years of age, pregnant or lactating women and other vulnerable persons through prevention, screening, and treatment of acute malnutrition to reduce morbidity and mortality. IMA also conducted behavior change communication through community outreach and at its nutrition centers in order to reach the population with key health messages. To strengthen local capacity and

¹ In 2020, the USAID Offices of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Food For Peace (FFP) merged to become the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

ensure continuation of care after project close, IMA worked in coordination with local partners Christian Mission for Development, Nile Hope, and the John Dau Foundation as well as the South Sudan Ministry of Health, county health departments, and the leadership of Malakal, Fashoda, Manyo, Pigi, Fangak, Ayod, and Duk counties.

KEY RESULTS



As of project close in October 2020, the project:

- **SCREENED 144,536 CHILDREN** for malnutrition,
- **OPENED 26 MALNUTRITION SITES**,
- **CONDUCTED 89,921 OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS**,
- **TRAINED 77 HEALTH CARE STAFF** and **55 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS**, and
- **REACHED 45,467 COMMUNITY MEMBERS** with health education messaging.



NYAKUOTH'S NUTRITION STORY

In 2013, violence erupted throughout South Sudan, forcing many to flee their homes and settle in remote areas of the country where they could escape the fighting. For IDPs like 4-year-old Nyakuoth and her family, one of the many difficulties of starting over in remote villages has been the lack of access to quality health care. When Nyakuoth began experiencing regular vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and a poor appetite for several weeks, her mother was afraid but didn't know where to turn for help.

Five kilometers away from Nyakuoth's village of Guadit in Bajack town center, Jonglei, IMA has run an Outpatient Treatment Center (OPT) through the IDP Emergency Medical

Care Response project. During one of the project's weekly outreach visits to nearby villages in the nutrition catchment area, a nutrition officer screened Nyakuoth, as well as many other children in the village, for malnutrition. Project staff used MUAC tapes, which measure upper-arm circumference to indicate the nutritional status of a child or adult. Nyakuoth's MUAC measurement was 95 millimeters, and she weighed only 11 pounds, putting her in the zone for severe acute malnutrition. Project staff brought her to the OPT center in Bajack for examination, where they discovered that the malnutrition was causing other medical complications. Nyakuoth also had edema, anemia, a respiratory tract infection, and a fever of 102 degrees Fahrenheit (38.9 degrees Celsius).

Nyakuoth and her mother were admitted to the Stabilization Center run by IMA's partner, Christian Mission for Development (CMD), in Padek. During their time at the Stabilization Center, Nyakuoth's mother received training on hygiene, sanitation, proper breastfeeding techniques, nutrition, and gardening. The family also received therapeutic dietary supplements including enriched flour, pulses, and sorghum, to nurse the child back to health.

After three weeks, Nyakuoth weighed 21 pounds and her MUAC measurement increased to 114 millimeters. In addition, all the medical complications that the child had been experiencing from her malnutrition had resolved drastically. The family was able to be discharged.

"I couldn't believe that my 4-year-old daughter could come back to life. This is unbelievable, but now I am convinced that there is nothing more important than the treatment in the facility which resulted in alleviating the suffering of my daughter from malnutrition," Nyakuoth's mother said, expressing her happiness to have her daughter restored to health.

Nyakuoth's father also expressed his gratitude for the project, saying "I am indebted to this project for saving the life of my daughter. Without these health and nutrition services in Bajack, I would have lost my daughter's life. I have now realized that I will be a health and nutrition messenger to my fellow community members."



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