



World Food Programme
Programme Alimentaire Mondial
Programa Mundial de Alimentos
برنامج الأغذية العالمي

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP News Video: CORONAVIRUS THREATENS GLOBAL SURGE IN MALNUTRITION

Shot: Jan/Apr/May 2020

Guinea, South Sudan, Italy, Afghanistan

TRT: 2:52

SHOTLIST:

:00-:17

Koulaboi Health Centre

Various shots of women in line and washing their hands before entrance to the distribution room in Koulaboi Health Centre, in accordance with Covid-19 preventative measures, including wearing masks and social distancing.

Kolabouï Health Centre regularly receives nearly 1,200 child patients and 500 pregnant and breast-feeding women per month. This attendance is currently declining because of COVID-19.

WFP helps treat moderate acute malnutrition by providing special fortified foods.

Koulaboi Health Centre, Boké Region

Guinea

Shot: 20Apr2020

:17-:33

Women waiting in the distribution room to receive ration of CSB++ nutritious cereal

Koulaboi Health Centre, Boké Region

Guinea

Shot: 20Apr2020

:33-1:01

SOT Lauren Landis, WFP Director of Nutrition (English)

"COVID-19 and malnutrition are a deadly combination. The virus can have a devastating effect on small bodies already weak from poor nutrition. During the



pandemic, we see families struggling to provide nutritious foods to their children due to loss of income and disruptions in food markets. This could result in millions more children being pushed into a downward spiral of malnutrition and disease.”

**Rome,
Italy**

Shot: 19May2020

1:01-1:21

Children being tested for malnutrition and receiving nutritious food at Provincial Hospital in Ghazni.

**Provincial Hospital, Ghazni
Afghanistan**

Shot: 11/13May2020

1:21-1:51

SOT Lauren Landis, WFP Director of Nutrition (English)

“Where malnutrition threatens the world’s most vulnerable children WFP remains at the forefront to prevent malnutrition, and to treat it. During the COVID-19 outbreak WFP starts by prepositioning stocks of specialized nutritious foods. Then we adapt the nutrition programmes to ensure better disease control as well as getting communication out to mothers and caregivers on good nutrition and hygiene practices.”

**Rome,
Italy**

Shot: 19May2020

1:51-2:30

Severely malnourished children with their mothers

Children being tested and treated for severe malnutrition

**Al Sabah Hospital, Juba
South Sudan**



Shot: 17Jan2020

2:30-2:39

SOT Sarah Nyak (Nuar)

"If my children survive, I want them to go to school and learn to take care of themselves."

Al Sabah Hospital, Juba

South Sudan

Shot: 17Jan2020

2:39-2:52

22 yrs old Sarah Nyak with 2.5 yrs Nyamer (in "Best Wishes" blanket) and 2-month-old Nyakur. Both of her 2 children are severely malnourished. Sarah first came to Juba from Khartoum 12 years ago. She fled to Kukuma Refugee Camp in Kenya when the fighting escalated and met her husband there. A snake bit her husband and his leg was amputated. When a relative in Juba became ill she returned alone pregnant leaving her husband behind. She occasionally works in a restaurant in Juba but now wants to go back to Khartoum where her mother lives.

Al Sabah Hospital, Juba

South Sudan

Shot: 17Jan2020

ENDS



EMBARGOED UNTIL 1100 CEST, WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

WFP News Release

20 May 2020

CORONAVIRUS THREATENS GLOBAL SURGE IN MALNUTRITION, JEOPARDIZING FUTURE OF AN EXTRA 10 MILLION CHILDREN

ROME – Coronavirus may push an additional 10 million of the world’s children into acute malnutrition. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that the number of young children suffering from this life-threatening form of undernutrition could increase by 20 percent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

The virus can have a devastating effect on small bodies already weak from poor nutrition. At the same time, the pandemic is having a ruinous effect on vulnerable families relying on a daily wage or a remittance. COVID-related lockdowns and movement restrictions are severely undermining livelihoods, exacerbating existing threats like conflict and weak health systems, making it especially hard for families in poorer nations to afford a nutritious diet.

If we fail to act now, we’ll face devastating loss of life, health and productivity in future generations. Getting nutrition right today will determine whether the consequences of COVID-19 for children will be felt for months, years or even decades to come, says Lauren Landis, WFP’s Director of Nutrition.

This year’s [Global Nutrition Report](#) highlights the inequalities inherent in nutrition, with [stunting and wasting](#) being most prevalent amongst the poorest communities. Malnourished children, especially those under five years of age, are at risk of being among the primary victims of the pandemic and its socio-economic fallout.

Twenty-two million children under the age of five and pregnant and nursing mothers rely on WFP to provide them with specialised food and micronutrients for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. WFP is working with governments to monitor populations vulnerable to COVID-19, adapting nutrition support where required. WFP is also working to



ensure production of specialized nutritious foods is not disrupted by trade restrictions and is using its deep-field presence to pass information on COVID-19 to communities beyond the reach of fragile health systems.

WFP is ready to scale up its response to prevent and treat acute malnutrition and improve nutritious diets of children but urgently needs US\$300 million to do so.

Acute malnutrition is caused by inadequate food consumption or illness, or both, resulting in sudden weight loss that, if untreated, can lead to death.

For an interview with WFP's Director of Nutrition, email Ljubica:
ljubica.vujadinovic@wfp.org

Nutrition-related content available:

- [Photographs](#)
- [Special feature on nutrition on WFP's website](#)
- [WFP and UNICEF's partnership on wasting](#)

* WFP projections indicate acute malnutrition in children under five could rise by 20% due to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on food security. This number is a result of food insecurity alone. Impacts from the closure of health facilities will increase the rates even further.

#

The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies, building prosperity and supporting a sustainable future for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.

Follow us on Twitter @wfp_media

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Isheeta Sumra, WFP/ Rome, Tel. +39 347 1814398
Bettina Luescher WFP/ Berlin, Mob. +49 160. 9926 1730
Elisabeth Byrs, WFP/ Geneva, Mob. +41 79 842 8057
Jane Howard, WFP/ London, Mob. +44 (0)796 8008 474
Shaza Moghraby, WFP/New York, Mob. + 1 929 289 9867



Steve Taravella, WFP/ Washington, Mob. +1 202 770 5993