



NEWS
RELEASE

WITH THE HUNGER SEASON FAST APPROACHING, SOUTH SUDAN NEEDS PEACE

Global organization Mercy Corps calls on all parties to recommit to peace efforts

February 7, 2018

ABOUT MERCY CORPS

- Leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible
- Empowering people to survive through crisis, build better lives and transform their communities for good
- Meeting the urgent needs of today through emergency response and disaster preparedness
- Building a stronger tomorrow by connecting people to the resources they need to strengthen their community from within
- About 5,000 team members reaching nearly 22 million people
- \$436.6 million total operating revenue in FY2017; 87% channeled directly into programs in more than 40 countries

MEDIA CONTACT

Amy Fairbairn
Head of Media and
Communications
afairbairn@mercy Corps.org
Tel: +44 (0) 7876402811
Skype:
amyfairbairn_mercycorps

mercy Corps.org

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN – With the hunger season in South Sudan expected to begin three months earlier than usual, the global organization [Mercy Corps](http://mercy Corps.org) is warning that households are already running out of food, threatening starvation and even death.

Four years of conflict has left just under half the population of South Sudan - [4.8 million people](#) – severely food insecure. The number of people categorized in “Level 4”, the phase before famine, has doubled year over year; more than one million children face acute malnourishment.

As the second phase of the South Sudanese peace talks resumes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, this week, Mercy Corps urges all parties to the conflict to work together to prevent further devastation.

“In March, the hunger season will bring starvation to more families than ever before, and we could see famine return to South Sudan,” says Francesco Lanino, Acting Country Director for Mercy Corps in South Sudan. “The parties to the conflict must commit to peace in order to help us reach those most affected and end suffering in the country.”

Mercy Corps’ response to the crisis in South Sudan encompasses water provision and hygiene support to stave off disease, emergency education and school feeding for children, and the distribution of seeds, tools and fishing supplies as part of its famine response.

The organization also addresses the root causes of violence and conflict through the social and economic reintegration of young boys and girls, including those formerly associated with armed groups.

In addition to sparking life-threatening food insecurity across the country, violent conflict has forced more than [two million people](#) to flee to neighboring countries.

“We know that the South Sudanese people want peace. We now need the leaders to show they are also committed to a peaceful South Sudan,” says Lanino.

Join us and [support Mercy Corps’ work](#) in South Sudan and elsewhere in the world.