



Treatment and Prevention of Acute Malnutrition in Jonglei & Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Republic of South Sudan

Date: February 7, 2017	Prepared by: Dr. Taban Martin Vitale
I. Demographic Information	
1. City & State Bor, Jonglei State, and Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Republic of South Sudan	
2. Organization: Real Medicine Foundation, South Sudan (www.realmedicinefoundation.org)	
3. Project Title: Treatment and Prevention of Acute Malnutrition	
4. Reporting Period: October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	
5. Project Location (region & city/town/village): Ayod County of Jonglei State and Boma County of Greater Pibor Administrative Area	
6. Target Population: Direct project beneficiaries for the year 2016 include approximately 4,548 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 16,267 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 7,569 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in the two counties assigned to RMF. Direct project beneficiaries are approximately 140,517 people living in the payams assigned to RMF, and indirect beneficiaries include the whole population of the two counties, estimated to be 340,661 projected from the 2008 South Sudan Population and Housing Census. The nutrition service centers also receive beneficiaries from neighboring counties and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from various areas of Jonglei and neighboring states.	
II. Project Information	
7. Project Goals: The overall goal of this project is to reduce the global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate to an acceptable level of less than 15% in each of the payams assigned to RMF. This will be in line with standards set by the South Sudan National Nutrition Program.	
8. Project Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide lifesaving nutrition services for acutely malnourished children (boys and girls) under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). • To prevent malnutrition in early childhood through promotion of improved infant and young child feeding, caregiving, and care seeking practices at the facility, community, and family level. • To prevent and treat micronutrient deficiency disorders in children through provision of multiple micronutrient supplementation, vitamin A, and deworming campaigns in the assigned areas. • To strengthen the capacity of the County Health Department (CHD) and provide appropriate resources for the initiation and integration of nutrition services into existing primary health care, as well as linking nutrition interventions in the health system in the targeted counties. 	
9. Summary of RMF-sponsored activities carried out during the reporting period under each project objective (note any changes from original plans): Implemented activities in line with RMF-sponsored activities and project objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procured and provided additional scholastic materials for the OTP/SC/TSFP sites in Ayod and Boma. • Supported the routine running of OTP/SC/TSFP activities in Ayod and Boma. 	

- Coordinated and delivered an adequate amount of nutrition supplies to all RMF sites in Ayod and Boma through the logistic cluster and regular UNHAS flights.
- Continued to procure and provide basic items (soaps, salt, and sitting mats) for the infant and young child feeding (IYCF) mother-to-mother support groups.
- Facilitated M&E visit to Boma and mentored all nutrition staff.
- Continued to support satellite phone services through payment of monthly subscription fees, as this is the only means of communication in those hard to reach areas where RMF works and where routine phone services are not available.
- Procured and delivered an adequate amount of essential foodstuffs for our teams working in the OTP/SC/TSFP sites where basic commodities are not available.
- Facilitated in-country travel of nutrition staff between Juba and different nutrition centers with UNHAS flights.
- Continued facilitation of our team to participate in all coordination activities at national and state levels.
- Continued support of high-speed WIFI internet service in the Juba office to enable easy coordination.

10. Results and/or accomplishments achieved during this reporting period:

- **5 OTPs/TSFPs and 2 SCs in Ayod and 3 OTPs/TSFPs in Boma** were maintained and continued to provide quality CMAM/IYCF services.
- **14,163 and 6,635 children under 5** were screened for signs of acute malnutrition during this quarter in Ayod and Boma counties, respectively.
- **363 and 338 severely acute malnourished (SAM) children** were identified and referred to outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) in Ayod and Boma, respectively, for management during the reporting period.
- **1,380 and 816 moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children** in Ayod and Boma counties, respectively, were enrolled in a supplementary feeding program during this quarter.
- **305 and 289 children under 5** in Ayod and Boma, respectively, received deworming tablets during the reporting quarter.
- **683 and 1,080 eligible children** in Ayod and Boma, respectively, received vitamin A supplementation according to South Sudan guidelines during the reporting quarter.
- **86% of the admitted SAM cases fully recovered**, which is a good indicator, as the proportion of recovered children was above the 75% recommended by South Sudan's MOH and international protocols.
- **5,980 and 1,065 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)** were screened for signs of acute malnutrition in Ayod and Boma counties, respectively.
- **943 and 289 pregnant and lactating women** were enrolled in a supplementary feeding program in Ayod and Boma counties, respectively, during the reporting quarter.
- **36 community mobilization sessions** were conducted in Boma during the reporting quarter.
- **2 mass screening sessions** were conducted in Ayod during the reporting quarter.
- **4,679 and 2,221 mothers and caregivers** in Ayod and Boma, respectively, received appropriate messages on IYCF, strengthening malnutrition prevention measures.
- **10 and 6 IYCF mother-to-mother support groups** in Ayod and Boma, respectively, were supported and continued to deliver IYCF services.
- Existing nutrition staff members were supported, mentored, and refreshed on CMAM/IYCF through continued on-site supervision conducted by the nutrition program managers.
- Continued provision of essential foodstuffs to all our TFP sites, since all our areas of intervention are hard to reach, and getting basic foodstuffs there is not possible.
- The RMF Juba-based team, visiting nutrition staff from the various field locations, and JTH staff continued benefiting from the high-speed WIFI internet service installed in RMF's office.
- Monthly payment of Thuraya (satellite phone) subscription fees enabled effective communication and coordination without interruptions.
- Continued replenishment of nutrition supplies in all of our OTP and SC sites through chartered commercial and UNHAS operated aircrafts.
- Our nutrition field based teams continued to have clean, safe drinking water through usage of the provided water purifying equipment.
- Coordinated RMF nutrition activities with UNICEF, UN agencies, the nutrition cluster, and other nutrition partners, both at the national and state levels.

- Prepared and submitted nutrition PCA to UNICEF to ensure continuity of services after the expiration of our PCA on November 30, 2016.

11. Impact this project has on the community (who is benefiting and how):

- The communities in Boma and Ayod in particular are delighted with our services. During the reporting quarter, a total of **701 SAM** and **2,196 MAM children**, as well as **1,232 PLW** were enrolled in our feeding program. **594** and **1,763 children** received albendazole and vitamin A supplementation, respectively, hence improving quality of life for children and pregnant and lactating women.
- The populations in our catchment areas are benefiting from regular educational information on nutrition, health, and sanitation.
- The capacity of the County Health Departments (CHDs) and the staff recruited in Ayod and Boma are continuously built through training and mentorship.
- The limited resources of the State Ministry of Health and County Health Departments of the selected counties are now channeled to cover other areas, since RMF is providing nutrition services in these hard to reach payams.
- The nutrition project offers employment opportunities for South Sudanese nationals at national, state, county, and village levels.
- The high-speed WIFI internet access enables easy coordination for RMF's Juba team and visiting nutrition teams from various field locations.

12. Number served/number of direct project beneficiaries:

- Direct project beneficiaries are approximately 140,517 people living in the payams assigned to RMF, projected from the 2008 South Sudan Population and Housing Census.
- The project aims to provide treatment and multi-micronutrients to about **4,548 SAM** children, **16,267 MAM** children, and **7,569 PLW**.

13. Number of indirect project beneficiaries (geographic coverage):

- The project indirectly targets the whole population of the two counties, estimated to be **340,661**, projected from the 2008 South Sudan Population and Housing Census.
- The **1,721,036** people living in Jonglei State and Greater Pibor also benefit from the project indirectly, as there is frequent movement of people across counties.
- The nutrition service centers also receive beneficiaries from neighboring counties, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) from various areas of Jonglei State and other states in South Sudan.

14. If applicable, please list the medical services provided:

RMF is filling some of the gaps of medical services in the area, and recently signed a partnership agreement with UNICEF's health section for the implementation of Maternal Child Health Care (MCH) services in Gorwai and Pibor PHCCs.

15. Please list the most common health problems treated through this project.

This project mainly targets the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). However, some of the children and adults come to our units due to health-related problems, since there are no healthcare services in our areas of operation.

Some of the conditions our team sees:

- Malaria
- Respiratory Tract Infections
- Diarrheal Diseases
- Intestinal Worm Infestation
- Skin Infections
- Gunshot Wounds
- Enteric Fever

16. Notable project challenges and obstacles:

- All of our areas of operation in Ayod are controlled by the opposition forces, and the security situation further deteriorated following the July 2016 incidence. The population continues to be fluid, as people keep moving from one location to another in search of safety.
- Irregular UNHAS flights to our areas of operation make it challenging to deliver essential items for the nutrition teams and conduct routine M&E activities.
- Katdalok continued to be out of the UNAHS flight schedule, making movement of supplies from Juba to this site very difficult.
- There is basically no infrastructure in these areas; previously existing infrastructure was destroyed during the fighting. This makes the cost of running the OTPs and SCs expensive, as we are to procure tents for storage, clinics, and accommodation.
- The depreciation South Sudanese Pounds (SSPs): There is significant devaluation of South Sudan currency against USD, hence the prices of basic commodities have increased more than tenfold, making operation very challenging.
- Deteriorating economic situation in the country: Commercial banks are not able to provide adequate amounts of USD to their clients, making it difficult for RMF staff to get their salaries and also affecting the procurement of basic commodities, as most suppliers prefer cash payment to checks.
- Lack of healthcare services in our areas of operation make it very challenging to help patients of all age groups who come to our clinics with medical conditions. It is unethical that health partners that have resources from donors are only providing services in the big centers and neglecting communities at the village level.
- The slow, bureaucratic financial management system of WFP delayed the disbursement of funds, making continuity of services very challenging.

17. If applicable, plans for next reporting period:

- Follow up with UNICEF on the renewal of our partnership agreement to ensure continuity of services without interruptions.
- Improve the infrastructure at the OTP/TSFP sites in Ayod and Boma.
- Procure and install staff tents in Jiech, Pagil, and Gorwai.
- Continue providing quality comprehensive nutrition packages in all our sites in Ayod and Boma.
- Continue to implement our activities based on our quarterly plan.
- Solicit more financial resources to cover the gaps, since operational costs have become very expensive due the depreciation of South Sudanese currency and the country's economic crisis.
- Follow up with the MOH, IMA, and WHO about healthcare implementation in Ayod and Boma.

18. If applicable, summary of RMF-sponsored medical supply distribution and use:

RMF procures basic medical supplies to take into our areas of operation.

19. Success story(s) highlighting project impact:

Please review photo Annex.

III. Financial Information

20. Detailed summary of expenditures within each budget category as presented in your funded proposal (file attachment is fine). Please note any changes from plans.

Detailed financial report sent separately on a monthly basis.

Project Photos



Food items procured to be transported to the nutrition centers in Ayod and Boma for RMF nutrition staff



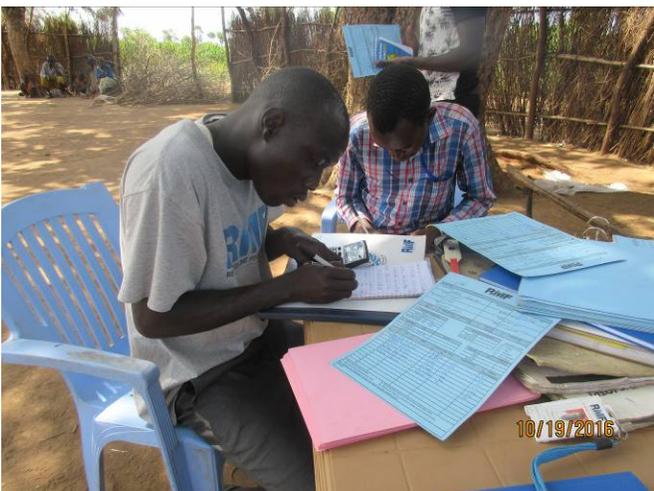
Food items procured to be transported to the nutrition centers in Ayod and Boma for RMF nutrition staff



Geoffrey, RMF nutrition program manager, mentoring RMF nutrition staff members in Boma during an M&E visit



RMF nutrition staff weighing a child during assessment of children for signs of acute malnutrition



RMF nutrition team in Boma preparing a report at the end of a distribution day



Boma OTP/TSFP screening center



Geoffrey, RMF nutrition program manager, conducting refresher training for IYCF mother-to-mother support groups in Boma



IYCF mother-to-mother support groups attending refresher training on IYCF activities



Beneficiaries at the RMF OTP/TSFP center in Naoyapura



Beneficiaries at Boma OTP/TSFP on distribution day



Beneficiaries at the RMF OTP/TSFP center at Boma Hospital



Beneficiaries at the RMF OTP/TSFP center in Boma Hospital



UNICEF nutrition specialist (right) checking RMF OTP register in Boma during a joint UNICEF/WFP M&E visit



UNICEF/WFP team together with RMF's nutrition team discussing IYCF mother-to-mother support



Twins enrolled in the therapeutic feeding program in Boma



RMF's team conducting a severe malnutrition screening in Mogok



RMF's team conducting a severe malnutrition screening in Mogok



RMF's team conducting a severe malnutrition screening in Mogok



RMF's team conducting health/nutrition education before a malnutrition screening



RMF's team providing IYCF messages



WFP nutrition specialist (right) mentoring RMF's team in Mogok during an M&E visit



WFP nutrition specialist (right) mentoring RMF's team in Mogok during an M&E visit



WFP nutrition specialist (right) mentoring RMF's team in Mogok during an M&E visit



Beneficiaries attending health/nutrition education