



Food Security Programmes' Impact on Beneficiary Communities in South Sudan: An Evaluation of WFP Feeding Initiatives Over Two Years

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Abstract

Food security is a critical issue in South Sudan, where chronic food shortages persist due to recurrent conflicts and environmental challenges. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been implementing feeding initiatives aimed at improving nutritional status and reducing malnutrition among vulnerable communities. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from household surveys with qualitative insights from focus group discussions and interviews. Data was collected from beneficiaries in five selected counties across South Sudan. The sample size included approximately 150 households per county, ensuring representation of diverse community types. Nutritional improvements were observed among children aged 6-36 months, with a significant increase in their height-for-age z-scores (HAZ) by 20% compared to baseline measurements. Community engagement increased through local partnerships and communication activities, leading to higher acceptance rates of food distributions. The WFP feeding programme demonstrated positive impacts on beneficiary communities' nutrition status and community participation, although challenges such as seasonal fluctuations in food availability remained significant. Recommendations include diversifying the types of food distributed and enhancing long-term sustainability measures. Implementing a more diverse food basket to meet changing nutritional needs throughout the year should be prioritised. Additionally, fostering stronger local partnerships could enhance programme effectiveness by reducing dependency on external funding sources. World Food Programme (WFP), feeding initiatives, South Sudan, nutrition impact assessment, mixed-methods evaluation

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