



**PRESS RELEASE: NGO FORUM (WITH OVER 300 MEMBERS) CALLS FOR URGENT FUNDING TO AVERT CRISIS**

**Juba 14 March 2018:** The humanitarian crisis has continued to deepen and spread across South Sudan and there are now **7 million** people in the country in need of humanitarian assistance. Conflict has triggered the displacement of 4 million people internally and across South Sudan's borders to neighbouring countries. Economic crisis is driving high rates of food insecurity and malnutrition, with 48% of the population now estimated to be in crisis or worse levels of food security.

In 2017, after the declaration of famine in Southern Leich state a large-scale humanitarian response helped to prevent its spread and mitigate worsening food insecurity for populations at particular risk<sup>1</sup>. However, the rates of food insecurity have remained high and the long-term impact of conflict and an economic crisis are engulfing previously productive regions. A staggering 1.1 million children under the age of 5 are estimated to be acutely malnourished and in need of life-saving services.

In the absence of humanitarian assistance, during the lean season months of May-July 2018, an estimated 7.1 million (63% of the population) will face severe food insecurity, out of which 155,000 would be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) and 2.3 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

If the current drivers of food insecurity persist and worsen through the end of 2018, there is a heightened risk of Famine in areas where large populations are already experiencing severe food insecurity.

**NGOs are appealing to donors to continue to assist those most affected by the crisis in South Sudan in 2018 including vulnerable women, children and elderly people. Please support our effort to save lives and alleviate human suffering in the world's youngest nation. NGOs also call on all parties to the conflict to bring an end to the fighting and support the peace talks.**

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<sup>1</sup> Counties and sub-areas include Greater Baggari, Mayom, Rubkona, Guit, Mayendit, Leer, Panyijiar, Ayod, Fangak, Canal/Pigi, Fashoda, Melut, Ulang, Akobo, Twic East, Bor South and Awerial.