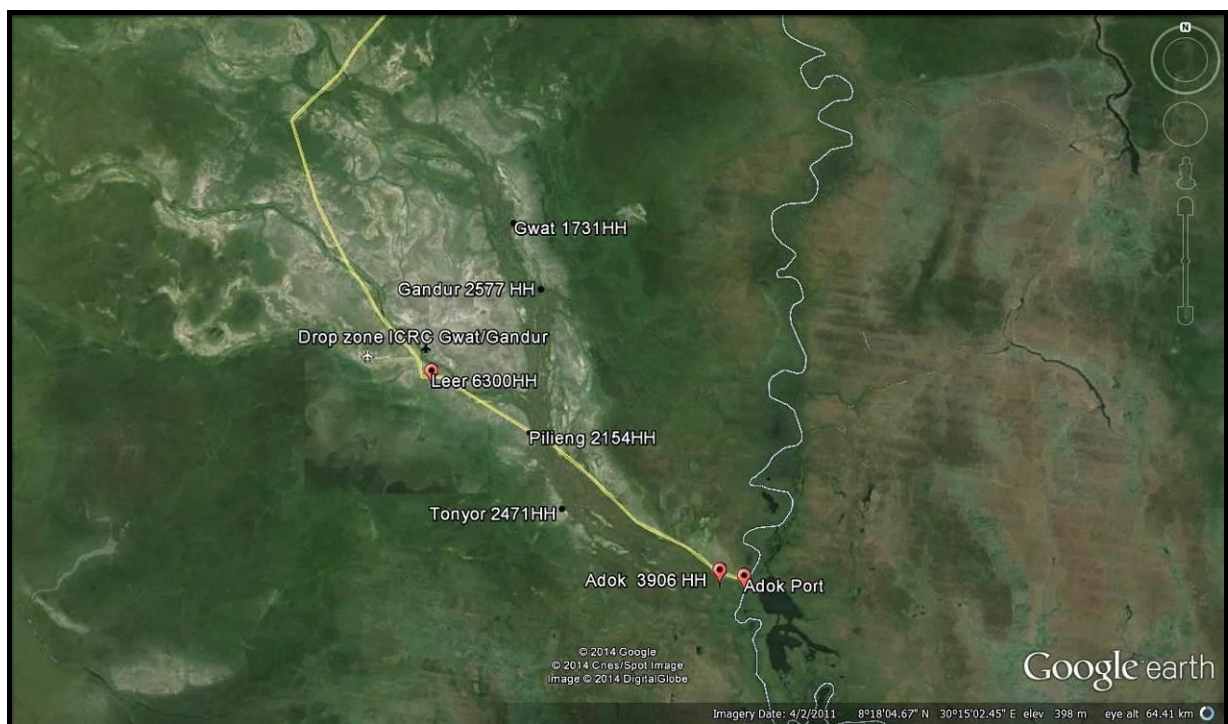




Rapid Monitoring and Assessment Exercise in Leer County 7-11 July, 2014



Leer County, Unity State - Payams Registered by ICRC

From 5th – 26th June 2014, Intersos, IOM, UNHCR and NRC conducted an assessment and distributed more than 6600 NFI kits to the population of Leer Town, in Leer County, Unity State, Republic of South Sudan.

From 7th – 11th July, Intersos, UNHCR and NRC conducted a follow up mission with the aims of:

- conducting a Rapid Monitoring Exercise of the NFI kits distributed in Leer town to establish coverage;
- continuing the identification of IDPs in Leer town as well as in the payams in Leer county;
- identifying the shelter needs of IDPs whose houses were damaged or destroyed during the conflict (such IDPs are predominantly from Leer and Rubkona counties in Unity State as well as from Jonglei and Upper Nile States).

- preparing for the next round of NFI distribution in Leer county – where possibly 19,000HH are in need – by assessing outlying areas.

During the mission, the team visited Leer town and the payams of Adok, Gandor, Pilling, and Thonyor; the payam of Guat was not accessible due to the rainy season.

The team met with the local authorities, the local chiefs, MSF-H and ICRC representatives and assessed the situation house by house in the different payams.

In Leer town, the team met with the Deputy Commissioner, the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency (formerly known as SSRRA), the Deputy Commissioner, representatives from the community leadership of the IDPs from Bentiu, representatives from MSF-H and ICRC, a representative of civil society, and visited 160 houses as part of the Rapid Monitoring Exercise.

In Adok payam, the team met with the Chief and visited 15 houses and the port.

In Gandor payam, the team met with the Chief and the Administrator, and visited ten houses.



Meeting with the Payam chief in Gandor

In Thonyor payam, the team met with the deputy chief, visited 12 houses, and the dam that is under construction to avoid further flooding (the ongoing lack of food is an obstacle to the construction of the dam).



Family and cattle of the Deputy Payam Chief in Thonyor

In Pilling payam, the team met with the Executive Director of 6 Payams, the Deputy Executive Director, the Office Manager for the Executive Director and the Chief of the Thonyor Payam, and visited ten houses.

The team also participated in the weekly coordination meeting organised by SSRRA.

Findings

1. Rapid monitoring of the NFI distribution done in Leer Town



View of Leer Town



A house with an IOM/EU Plastic Sheetting

In a one-day exercise, four teams were dispatched to Leer town to interview 160 HH at random (as per the form in Annex 1).

The NFI distribution was conducted based on the ICRC food distribution list.

Out of 160 HHs, 42 HHs are IDPs with the vast majority is coming from Bentiu. Half of the interviewed IDPs received an NFI kit and were registered by ICRC.

118 HH interviewed are residents of Leer town; 100% of them were displaced in the bush during the war during 3 to 4 months; 75% of the interviewed residents received an NFI and were registered by ICRC.

Some families missed the registration because:

- they were not in town during the registration period (most of them were in Mayom or Mayendit to benefit from the food distributions);
- they hadn't been informed;
- they were still displaced outside of Leer town;
- they are IDPs and the registration information didn't reach them (highlighting the need to support IDP community leader self-management structures).

In order to try to increase the quality of registration, ICRC conducted its next registration exercise via a house by house methodology in the payams outside Leer town – Adok, Thonyor, Gwat, Piling, Gandor.

The priority needs are:

1. Food
2. NFI
3. Education
4. Seeds and tools

The priority needs in term of NFI are:

1. Cooking sets
2. Mosquito nets
3. Plastic Sheeting
4. Soap

Buckets, sleeping mats, fishing equipment and blankets are also priorities according to the interviewed HHs.

100% of the families kept the entire kit that they were provided.

Interviewed beneficiaries would like the humanitarian community to include a bucket and fishing equipment in the NFI kit. They underlined that the distributed soap is nearly over and that there is no soap available in town. On top of that most of the interviewed beneficiaries consider that mosquito nets are extremely important particularly during the rainy season.

2. Visit to the payams outside of Leer Town – Next NFI Distribution

Nearly 100% of Leer county's population fled to the bush when the JEM and the army arrived in the county (from late January to late April/early May 2014).

All houses were systematically looted and vandalized (NFI, electricity network, generator, water network, etc).

Almost all vehicles were looted or destroyed.

There is no phone network in the county and the rest of Unity State.

Small livestock such as goats were looted while the population were able to secure most of the cattle as they fled to the bush.

During the lean period (the current period), famers (the vast majority of the population) sell small livestock to trade for NFIs.

The post-conflict market remains largely non-functional throughout the county leaving HHs unable to refurnish themselves with NFIs.

Administrative buildings, schools, hospital have been looted and destroyed and are often occupied by IDPs.

The following town/villages were heavily destroyed: Leer town; Padea village (in Gandor payam); Kuos, Nyagih and Nyaot villages (in Adok Payam); Geer and Buau villages (in Pilling payam).

Food remains the primary priority until the harvest of October/November as granaries are empty.



Empty granaries

Due to the scarcity of food, it is likely that the population will be forced to conduct an early harvest before crop maturity which will result in the extension of the next lean period.

NFI needs are similar throughout the county. HHs need plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets, soap and buckets.

The population also expressed the need for fishing equipment, agricultural tools and seeds. Plastic sheeting is used to cover the grass on the top of *tukuls* or as a plastic mat or to dry seeds. The roofs of the *tukuls* are maintained yearly. The harvesting period for the grass is from December to March. Due to the conflict, the population has not been in the position to maintain their roofs.

The Shelter/NFI team agreed in conjunction with community leaders that the NFI distribution will be conducted according to the ICRC registration lists as the alternative of conducting an NFI-specific registration would be too time consuming in light of the current destitution of the local populations.

Most schools in the county are closed except in Leer Town where 2 schools have recently reopened. A response in the sector of education should be developed.

3. IDP registration/population registration

According to ICRC there are around 19,000HHs in Leer County; according to the local authorities there are around 25,000HH. Comprehensive data on IDPs does not exist.

IDPs come mainly from Bentiu town and few are coming from Upper Nile and Jonglei States. According to local authorities, between two and four families arrive daily in Leer county.

An IDP tracking team should be set up in Leer County and the possibility of carrying out a biometric registration should be explored.

4. Shelter Response

An in-depth assessment will be carried out in Leer town in the coming days by NRC. NRC will develop and propose to the NFI/Shelter cluster a shelter response for Leer town.

Regarding the six heavily destroyed villages, the team suggests distributing two plastic sheets to each HH from these villages. These villages are extremely difficult to access during rainy season and further assessment will be carried out when access opens.

5. Recommendations

NFI:

- to distribute one NFI kit (1 plastic sheeting, 1 blanket, 1 bucket, 1 mosquito net, soap and ½ cooking set) to the population from Gandor 2577HH, Gwat 1731HH, Thonyor 2471HH, Pilling 2154HH and Adok 3906HH.
Therefore a total of 12839 NFI kits have to be distributed as soon as possible.

Shelter:

- to conduct an assessment on the destruction in Leer town and develop a shelter response;
- to distribute two plastic sheets to each HH from Padea village (in Gandor payam); Kuos, Nyagih and Nyaot villages (in Adok Payam); Geer and Buau villages (in Pilling payam).

Education:

- an assessment on the education sector need to be carried out ASAP

IDP/Population Registration:

- an IDP tracking team should be set up in Leer County;
- the possibility of carrying out a biometric registration should be explored ASAP.