

Mission to Awerial County, location Mingkaman and surrounding area

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Mission dates: 13 – 15 January 2014.

Summary

Observations

- Severe overcrowding with lack of basic infrastructures, water and latrines
- Settlement is 'organic' and unplanned
- Most people are sheltering under trees with no shelter (some tents, some informal shelters with sheets and sticks)
- Gaps in registration and identification of extremely vulnerable people
- Community engagement and participation is lacking, particularly for women
- Land allocation for a humanitarian hub and warehousing is difficult and needs coordination from OCHA. Once land is allocated (for humanitarian hub and warehousing), clearing of land will need to be done by inhabitants and local community. Discussions with County Commissioner and RRC have indicated that staffing by utilizing local inhabitants (both host population and IDPs) may be contentious.

Actions

- Site planning advice is needed in order to decongest site and ensure maximum dignity and safety
- NFIs, and shelter materials are needed
- Implement camp management and coordination of activities
- Implement contingency planning for protracted displacement, into the rainy season and for continuous arrivals
- Humanitarian hub is needed as soon as possible to provide a space for the humanitarians
- Urgent shelter assistance for extremely vulnerable people, particularly women with newborns
- Urgent support from OCHA regarding land allocation for humanitarian hub and warehousing space needs to be conducted. Mediation between County Commissioner, host community, and IDPs needs to take place with regards to the helicopter landing site.
- Logistics Cluster could provide camp materials for the setup of the humanitarian hubs; however as agreed, CCCM will be responsible for management.

Background

The aim of the mission was to undertake mission to the IDP settlement in Awerial County, with the vast majority in and around Mingkaman town, on the Nile River, approximately 20.5 km from Bor as the crow flies. An estimated 146,613 IDPs (source: RRC as of 14/01/2014) have settled in the town and riverside areas to both north and south. This report is primarily focused on:

- Shelter, site density, infrastructure and facilities
- Camp coordination and camp management response
- Logistics support needs

Description of sites currently housing displaced people:

The IDP population is spread out along the river and highly concentrated in the area around **Mingkaman**.

Coordinates (Mingkaman Port) 6° 3'8.00"N, 31°30'58.26"E.

Mingkaman Town has a thriving market on the main Bor road, and smaller market near the port. There are also informal stall holders scattered. There is a police post, first Magistrate court, and an army base for SPLA. The town has one primary school, a number of churches and subsidiary buildings. There is a Ministry of Health clinic that is now supported by CCM and MSF.

Humanitarian presence has increased since the initial influx in December. There are currently:

- Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM) (Health)
- Christian Children's Aid (Protection)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (WASH, NFIs, Food)
- GUAM (Health)
- ICRC (NFIs, Food)
- MSF (Health, Water)
- Non-Violent Peaceforce (NP) (Protection)
- Oxfam (WASH)
- Save the Children (SC) (Protection)

The current area of spontaneous settlement within **Mingkaman** has a density of approximately 10m² per person (pre-conflict this was around 100m² per person) within and around the town, and conditions in no way meet humanitarian standards. It was observed that the density increased over the time of the mission, with every tree and piece of shade coveted by more than one family. The density reduces further away from the town. The wider area was not surveyed in detail due to the short mission duration and extensive area that has been settled. However, the feedback from partners who undertake regular missions indicate that there are pockets of displacement north and south along the river for over 20 km.

WASH services being implemented by Oxfam and MSF with bladders and latrines. Solid waste management is currently undertaken with ad-hoc burning of trash, but this is very limited. Environmental management regarding the forest harvesting of firewood is not being undertaken. While the authorities have indicated that there is no shortage of wood, and this was observed during the mission, the scale of the need for fuel and shelter framing materials is increasing at a rapid pace, and the impact on the forest will soon be evident.

Families are sheltering under trees, with all their belongings piled against the base of the trunk and mats laid out in the shade, moving around with the sun. At night, they lie under nets which are hung from the branches. MSF reported that there are increased chest infections from the cold nights, and many young children are suffering from the heat and dehydration. On average there are about 4 families under the large trees within Mingkaman, agencies are using a standard of 25 people per tree. Spacing is irregular. IDPs are not settling according to their clan or Boma. Space is such a premium, they are taking any available space under trees. IDP leaders suggested that mixing the bomas placing in the settlements will avoid conflict.

There is road and vehicle access in and around Mingkaman, but further into the surrounding areas the road access reduces with pedestrian access the only option. Annual flooding in Mingkaman and surrounding area occurs regularly from May into December. Usually this is caused by heavy rains and poor drainage, but also some flooding occurs when the river swells. The areas that do not flood are reportedly **Kalthok, Bunagok, Mariek, Magok Payam and Abuyung Payam**. Road access to Juba along the main

murram road is reportedly accessible all year round, although it should be advised that maintenance is sorely needed. Many of the subsidiary roads also flood. The soil in and around Mingkaman is black cotton, and sandy soil. Surrounding area to the south was observed to have a sandy soil, which is less of a hazard during the rains. The area is very flat, gps survey along the river-front road to **Kalthok** (south 22km) indicated a level rise of approximate average 4m.

Other sites surveyed: Humanitarian Hub in Kalthok:

Kalthok town is 22 km south of Mingkaman, along the murram road to Juba. There is currently a WFP compound with 3 rubb halls, containing emergency food stock for flood emergency (See Logistics cluster section). The town has a small market, 5 boreholes, Police post (25 officers), military barracks (approx. 50 soldiers), primary school, Qatar foundation guinea worm centre, health post (community managed). Kalthok does not appear to flood, confirmed by the WFP partner who managed the rubb halls. A site was visited opposite the Qatar foundation and adjacent to the school, which is approximately 100m x 100m. This has been offered as a site for humanitarian hub.

RRC reports 12,000 IDPs in the area, within a 10 km radius further south. IDPs in this area originated from Koyan (22,000), Ayenday (15,000) and Maguish (18,000), estimated by RRC. They expressed interest to move to Kalthok as it is directly opposite their location of origin on the opposite side of the river.

Kalthok has also been covered in the Acted report, reference Field Assessment Report, CCCM Cluster, 10 – 13 January 2014.

New Sites for displaced:

The current rate of influx and pressure on the existing settled area in Mingkaman cannot continue. There is a need to provide equitable services and support to those who may decide to move / decongest the existing sites within the near vicinity of Mingkaman (D1 below). Access to displaced people along the riverbank is also very challenging, in some cases the bush is very dense with little or no access or visibility.

The local government presented the option of a formal camp and in this identified site, D1, behind the market. Furthermore, Mingkaman is prone to flooding. As a contingency measure the team visited 2 other areas for suitability, D2 and D3.

The mission explained the following:

Setting up a planned camp is the last resort for any humanitarian interventions as IDPs should be assisted where they chose to settle. It is the role of CCCM cluster to improve the living conditions and prevent hazard within spontaneous settlements, and hence the intervention recommended is to maintain freedom of movement while providing basic standards. Further to this explanation, the approach now adopted by the local government is in agreement with the policy and will avoid the establishment of planned camps.

New IDP settlement site 1: WEST of the market, Mingkaman (D1)

The new site identified west of the market is reportedly a flood area for 6 months of the year. Any recommendations for new-comers to settle there should take into account the temporary nature of the site. The purpose of any relocation to this site would be to alleviate the pressure on the private lands within Mingkaman currently hosting families, and also to apply minimum standards in terms of space, separation and density to mitigate tensions between neighbors. This will ensure that safety measures such as fire breaks, can be applied and that the distance to services of water and latrines is easier for the humanitarians to cover in an equitable way.

Any movement to new sites, or recommendations to provide alternative sites for new arrivals should engage the community of both host and IDP to ensure they are in agreement.

New IDP settlement site 2: Kalthok (D2)

Acted was shown an area for settlement in Kalthok. The tri-cluster mission were shown only locations for Humanitarian hubs. Please refer to Acted mission report for information on this site.

New IDP settlement site 3: Mariek (D3)

Mariek is 6 km south of Mingkaman. It is an area for cattle grazing and is sparsely occupied. There are many trees and dense forest. IDP families were observed in the area, but due to limitations in time, no interviews were held. Local knowledge indicated that the area does not flood, only small rise in river levels to the east. RRC indicated that the bulk of this area could be made available. The soil type is compact sandy. More information is needed about this area, how large it is, ownership and whether IDPs will be willing to settle here.

Shelter:

Most people are living out in the open under trees. They have erected sticks and hung material for privacy and shade. RRC have distributed 150 (out of 200 supply) canvas family tents, targeting mothers with newborn babies and unaccompanied minors. There are also a number of blue family tents observed, which were distributed in Bor last year during the last flood response.

10,000 plastic sheets from ICRC were distributed in the first week of January with another 5,000 NFI kits are expected this week. However, very few people have been observed actively erecting shelters with the plastic. IDPs who have the sheet, but do not use it for shelter responded that they need more tools and construction materials (poles, hoe, panga, axe, rope). Some people who were asked responded that if they were given plastic and poles they would like to build their own shelter (see more on this in the Acted assessment).

Others also indicated a willingness to move on to other locations, and hence would take the plastic with them. They have also heard rumors that they will be moved and are waiting to hear what will happen.

Intentions of the IDPs appear to be split between returning home after the conflict ends, remaining in Mingkaman and moving away to other family, or places that would better suit them. However some families from Bor responded that they are intending to return home to Bor immediately after the conflict as their homes are destroyed and it will take time to rebuild them.

Investigations into materials sourcing is required to inform programming.

Observations of humanitarian space:

At the time of the mission, there was a curfew of 6.00pm for movement in the town, although this is loosely observed due to the fact that people are living out in the open.

Staff accommodation and site infrastructure: There are 3 sites currently being used for humanitarian accommodation

1. MSF Clinic: Located next to the helicopter landing and Episcopalian church, this houses all MSF staff, the MSF clinic and their logistics base.
2. RRC compound 1: RRC Awerial county coordinator John Parach has opened his compound to the humanitarians. This currently houses SC, ICRC, Oxfam, NP and visiting missions. There are 2 latrines, 4 showers and an informal kitchen. There were approximately 32 dome tents and 2 large communal tents in the compound at the time of this mission. It is estimated that there were around 50+ people sharing this space.

3. RRC compound 2: A different site arranged by RRC, currently housing CRS. This site was not surveyed on this mission.

A compound for humanitarian accommodation and storage is urgently required to facilitate adequate response. At present, the options listed above are far from ideal. Agencies are doing their best but efficient action is being hampered by the poor working conditions.

A site in Kalthok was visited. This was mentioned in the Acted report. Initial observations were favorable, with the site altitude approximately 4m above the Mingkaman area. This area needs further investigation to determine boundaries, flood risk, ownership and also suitability within the local area.

The large-scale immediate needs in the area also dictate the need for a humanitarian hub to be established rapidly within Mingkaman, with the knowledge that this will likely be relocated in a few months when the rains flood the area.

Camp Management:

Data collection and registration: There is a high need for registration of the population as the current structure in place by local administration and government leaders is inadvertently excluding many people, vulnerable, restricting their access to any services. It was reported that, in some cases, there were families who had registered, but they were omitted from distributions.

Community mobilization and self-management: There were democratically elected leadership structures. Currently IDP s are being represented by their boma leaders who fled with them from the areas of origin, and are the de-facto leadership structure. RRC are working with the boma leaders to identify those who came from their areas. Women are not represented in the leadership structure and many expressed frustration at not being a part of the decision making process. It was observed that the large percentage of the population is females and children. It was observed that the WASH partners have initiated community participation in raising awareness of health and sanitation issues. No other community structures have been set up to manage the displaced population.

Gender related issues: Priority needs of the women have been covered in the Acted assessment. However, to add to this, the women interviewed also requested tools to build shelters (panga, hoe, axe) and kitchen sets to cook. There is also a shortage of local grain mills. Two community mills are located in Mingkaman, and a number of stone hand mills. These are shared traditionally within the host community (approx. 4 HH per stone). This is becoming a source of tension as the IDPs are also requesting to share these. These are not available to buy in the local market. Firewood is available in the area, but women were complaining they have to walk far. The men have also expressed a desire for tools and materials for constructing shelters. There are no jobs, causing frustration as they cannot provide for the family as the traditional role of provider.

Children: A child friendly space is being set up behind the school by SC. There are currently being used for helicopter pad was also commandeered as a football field during the mission.

Impact on the Host Community: IDPs are settling on private land, or land belonging to relatives. There are few fences or demarcation so spontaneous settlement is continuous long the river and west towards the road. Concerns about land have been raised in the Acted report, and also expressed by the County Commissioner, RRC County Coordinator and SC.

Coordination:

OCHA has one emergency coordinator in the area. Inter-sector coordination meetings are held Tuesdays and Fridays at 16h30, chaired by RRC.

CCCM cluster: The Camp coordination camp management (CCCM) cluster was activated during this missions to Awerial as part of the humanitarian cluster response. SC have agreed to undertake the camp management coordination of the Mingkaman settlement until Acted can be deployed to the area. CCCM meetings have been planned every Wednesday from 9 - 10 am. Priority activities include agreed common data sets and harmonized area identification of the areas of settlements.

Health cluster: Monday 09h00

Protection cluster: Sunday 16h30

WASH cluster: Tuesday 14h30

Shelter / NFIs focal point ICRC.

Education:

The mission also investigated Education, as was requested by the education cluster. There is one primary school in Mingkaman and a two observed in the area to the south. Schools are currently closed, however, the current facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of the IDPs and Host community. It is estimated that the number of children in need of education have quadrupled and infrastructure will be needed to cope with the influx.

The school year in Mingkaman will reopen in February, the same as in Bor. Both boys and girls interviewed were very concerned about continuing their education. At the time the conflict began in Bor, the primary 8 exams had been taken, but the results have been destroyed in the conflict. The children are concerned that they will not continue their education without these certificates. There are no education structures in place in the area of displacement at the time of the mission.

Education facilities could potentially be provided in the decongestion area (D1), to the west of the Juba road.

Logistics:

Although the road from Juba to Mingkaman is not cleared for UN staff movements, commercial transporters were present in the market bringing NGO supplies as well as items to be sold in the market, such as bottled water. During discussions with transporters, they noted that they had not received issues with the road Juba-Mingkaman and were planning on continuing commercial business unless insecurity becomes a problem. Due to the availability of commercial transport, the Logistics Cluster does not recommend airlifting of humanitarian cargo at the present time. Should the security situation along the road change, the Logistics Cluster will reassess.

River transport is currently not available. The port at Mingkaman is overcrowded with incoming IDPs as well as cattle from Jonglei. Additionally, security along the River Nile from Juba is not conducive to commercial transport movements by river. Incoming pipeline items should be shipped by road unless the situation changes.

Current storage capacity inside Mingkaman town is lacking. The local secondary school is currently being used by RRC as storage for food commodities. The Logistics Cluster has received a request from one partner for a load of one Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) to be placed inside their compound and is currently working to deploy the MSU for use by the partner on loan. Other actors inside Mingkaman were consulted regarding storage needs and currently they have not requested any additional support. However, upon inspection of the WFP MSUs in Kalthok, there is land available for interagency storage should the need arise (highly anticipated). Security for a common warehouse inside Mingkaman town may pose a problem as well as potential flooding during the rainy season, however as the MSU space in Kalthok is located nearby (30 min by road), transport for relief items from Kalthok to Mingkaman should not pose a problem

when supplies are dispatched for distribution. The Logistics Cluster is currently discussing with WFP regarding allocation of additional space for interagency warehousing in this location.

The current helicopter landing site is unacceptable. Upon approach to Mingkaman the helicopter has been forced to hover and wait for large crowds of IDPs and host population to disperse before the helicopter can land (there are disputes over the land use between the host population and the IDPs; the land is currently being demarcated to be a football pitch). On multiple occasions, once the helicopter has landed large crowds immediately surround the helicopter and have been seen grabbing onto the rear propellers, cargo doors, and other areas of the helicopter which can cause damage to the helicopter. An UNHAS representative was present in Mingkaman on 15 January and discussed with the County Commissioner the issue of landing space and it is currently being addressed.

Recommendations: (in addition to the recommendations in the Acted report)

- **Coordination** within humanitarian activities should be integrated with local government. Working relationship, shared responsibilities and capacity building is recommended to ensure that there will be no compromise on humanitarian standards. To effectively reach out to the scattered population, the establishment of a **community centre** will also be ideal.
- Agencies on the ground are contributing immensely to the humanitarian response. However, the scale of this IDP situation dictates a **proportional increase of activities**, agencies and staffing to cope with the demand.
- **Humanitarian hub** (live, work, store, etc.) is required urgently, including ICT (to be coordinated with CCCM, Logistics Cluster and ETC). CCCM and OCHA should take the lead to identify the suitable site and establish the need.
- **Land survey, site identification and risk assessment** of all potential settlement sites in order to inform programming and mitigate negative impact, including minimum density standards, distance and access to services etc.
- **Settlement planning** and recommendations applied to all sites for positioning of services (water, latrines, waste pits, roads etc.)
- Immediate **registration** to clarify figure, inform program and ensure equitable distribution
- A comprehensive **shelter strategy** is required to ensure adequate shelter for the displaced people. This should take into account the local vernacular and available materials, while also planning for the possibility of protracted displacement into the rainy season. The local market of readily available materials should be encouraged with advocacy for the provision shelter construction and a robust environmental management campaign to protect the areas resources.
- Investigations into **materials sourcing** is required to inform programming.
- **Education:** The local school in Mingkaman will not cope with the caseload of IDP children. An investigation is needed to assess the capacity of the local area and what schools are available for overflow. The teachers in the IDP population number 531 (67 women), however many are thought to have travelled onward to other locations such as Nimule.
- Most of the **host community** are in IDP-like situation with few resources and what they have, they have shared. Programming should include support to the host community which will reduce tension and maintain peaceful coexistence. It will also help those who have taken in extended family. This community has been affected repeatedly by flooding. Support should consider household items, food for work programs, seeds and tools, targeting the most vulnerable.
- The site will take on standing water during the rainy season. **Contingency planning** for prolonged displacement should include drainage channels dug, raised internal floor levels in the shelters and raised levels around latrines. Resurfacing of the access roads with murrum should also be investigated.

- Key **household items** are urgently needed, including bedding, blankets and nets. The temperature was noted to drop severely at night and a ferocious population of mosquitos were observed, increasing malarial risk.
- **Land allocation** is a high priority. Helicopter landing site, potential warehousing, and humanitarian hub compounds need to be established ASAP to alleviate the pressure on humanitarian actors.
- The Logistics Cluster recommends that **warehousing** be erected in Kalthok vs. Mingkaman due to potential security risks (confirmation needed by ICWG).
- OCHA to discuss with County Commissioner and RRC regarding employment of national staff in Mingkaman as it was a contentious issue during initial discussions and will impact all partners.

Annex 1: Contact list (mobile coverage is interrupted due to fighting in Bor. VIVACEL)

Authorities and IDP leadership

Awerial County Commissioner	Andilew Ayia Korodit	0956384285
RRC Awerial County Coordinator	John Parach	0955063334
RRC Awerial County Coordinator	John Parach	0955063334
RRC Bor Coordinator	James Jok	0955029599
RRC (Juba)	Francis Matau	0956086028
RRC (Juba)	Moses Bul	0956431415
IDP Community leader, former county education officer in Bor.	John Majar	0955858681
IDP community leader, former executive director Bor Payam	Daniel Choul	
IDP community leader, Teacher	James Kul	0955372856
Kalthoch Executive Director	Peter Majok	

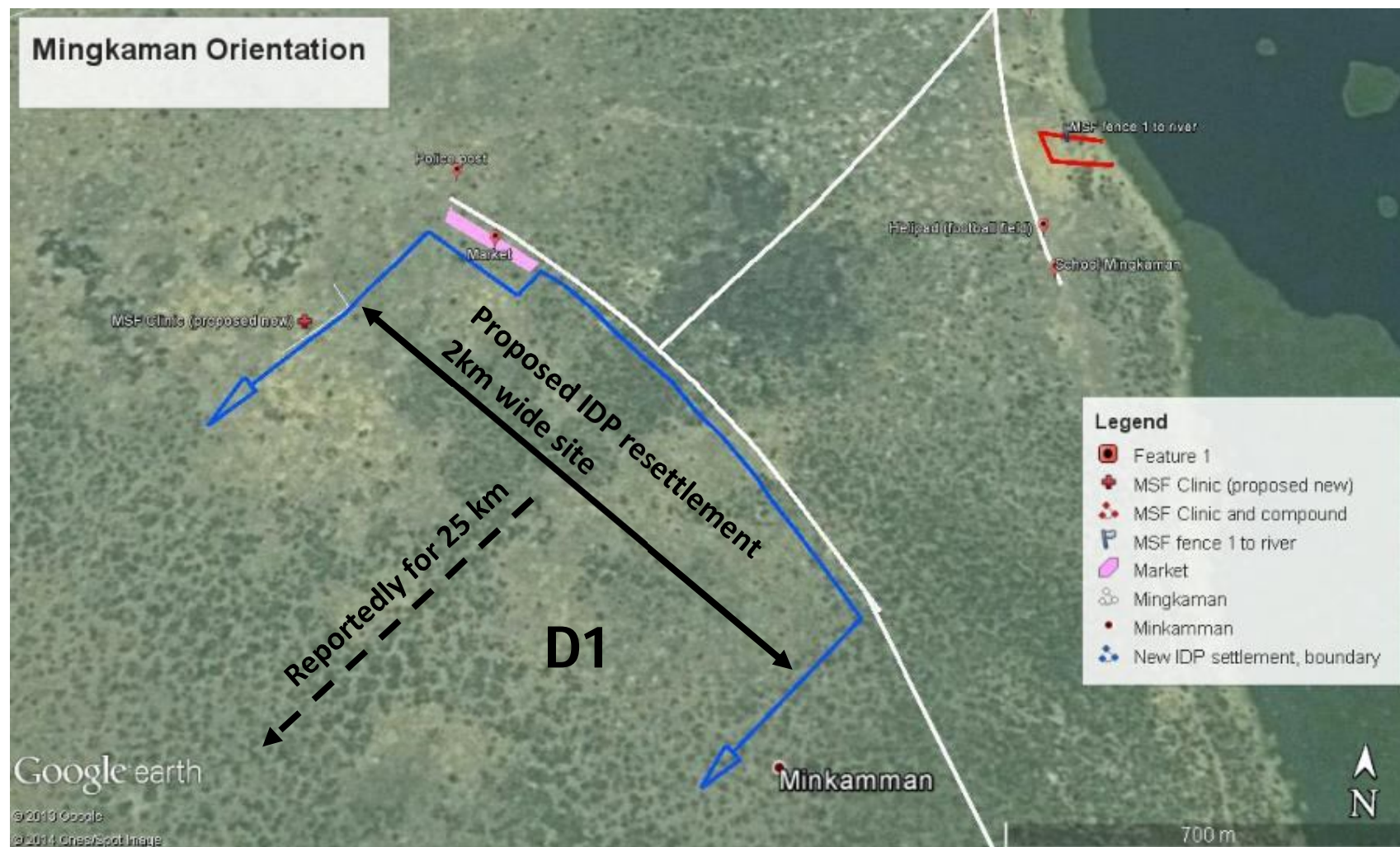
Key Agency Contacts

Save the Children	Jeremiah Kariuki	+447424944551	j.kariuki@savethechildren.org.uk
Associate Country Director Intermón Oxfam	Ferran Puig Abós	+8821667490938 (Thuraya); +211 (0) 912942116 / 922202469	fpuig@Oxfamintermon.org
CRS	Elizabeth Mose	0955219288	Elizabeth.mose@crs.org
ICRC			
MSF			Msf_awerial_fieldco@geneva.msf.org

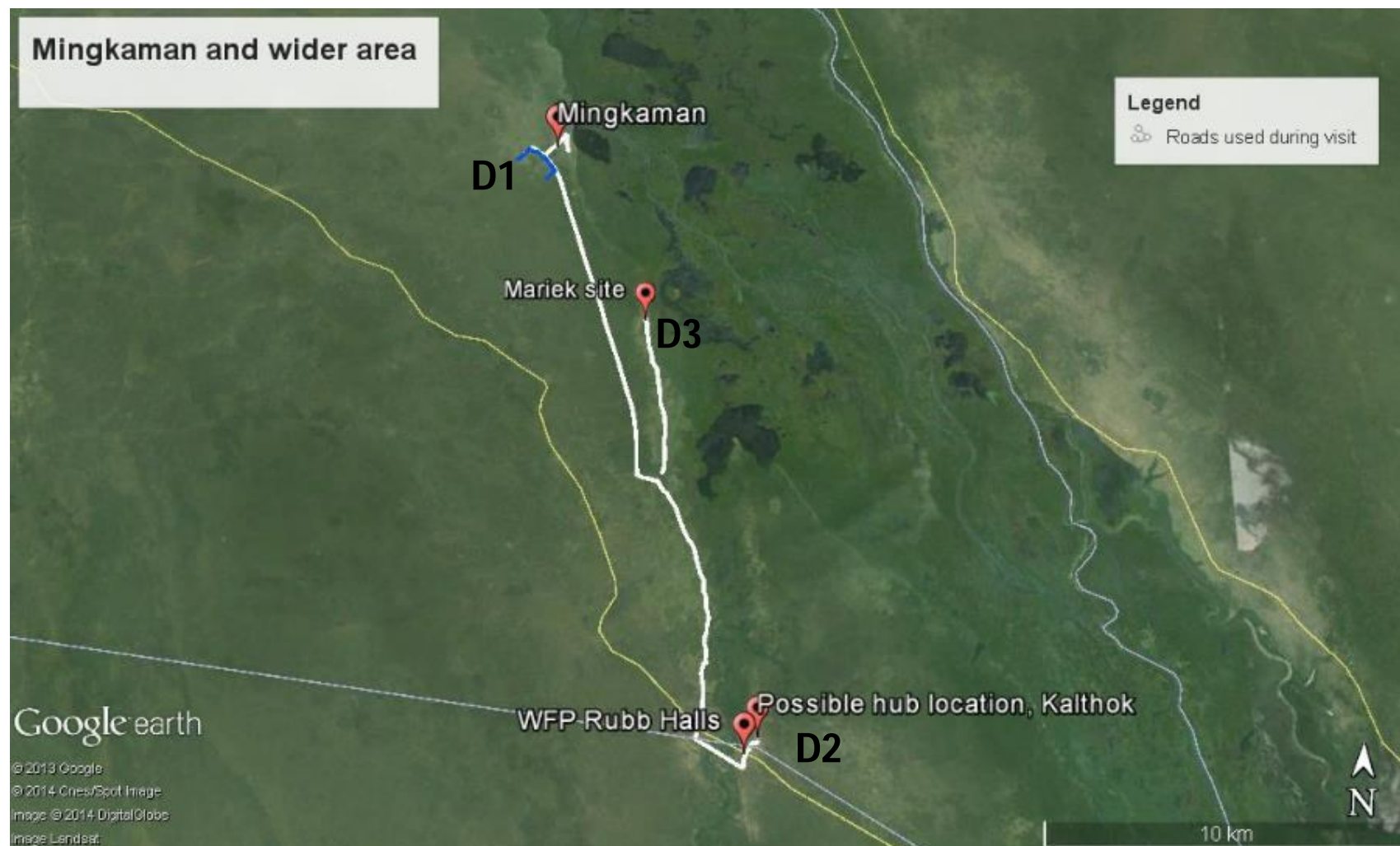
Annex 2: Payam list

Payam	Headquarters	Boma
Puluk	Kalthoch	Guiol-Yar
		Akot-Thalam
		Pal Awar
		Kalthok
		Yol-Akot
Dor	Awerial Center	Dor
		Chuei-Diing
		Mabor-Jiel
		Atorok
Bunagir	Bunagok	Riaga
		Hoor
		Aguar-Kuoth
		Marial
Abuyung	Abuyung Center	Makur
		Abuot-baat
		Wunapnette
		Ram-chol
Alel	Thantoch	Jarweng
		Thantoch
		Liem-ke-thiei
		Tieker
Nile	Wun-thou	Wua-thou
		Tieker
		Nyin-lel
		Pakuac
Magok	Manjur	Manjur
		Mayom
		Magok

Annex 3: Maps and Photos with key services mapped



Wider area view to Kalthok





MSF water treatment from the river. MSF and Oxfam are providing 600,000 liters of water per day.



Some people travelled with plastic sheeting. The children in this photo crossed the river in this plastic, a man swam over with them.



ICRC NFI distribution of 10,000 NFI kits included plastic sheet. Some shelters have been built using the local bush stick, but for the most part, people have not been constructing shelters.



Grain milling is done mostly by hand using a much-coveted grinding stone. The family belongings are stacked against the tree behind.



Few shelters are being constructed. Seen here is a basic stick frame clad in bedding sheets. The baby pictured here is 1 day old and was born under a tree.



The area is very densely settled with many families sharing the shade of one tree. Some NFI items from previous flood disasters are visible, such as the blue tent (RRC distribution in Bor 2012) and IOM tarpaulin seen in the foreground.



Other shelters observed: RRC canvas tents have been distributed, and local structure of mud daubing and grass thatch.



Arrivals at the port include cattle. People wash here, do laundry and take drinking water



New site for settlement (NE corner), both for arrivals and to decongest the town, seen on left with MSF demarcated area on the right.



WFP rubble halls in Kalthok



New site for settlement (SE corner) adjacent to Juba road. Black cotton soil and evidence of flooding and standing water observed.



Potential location for Humanitarian hub in Kalthok