

Mini Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Exercise - Don Bosco, Rajab East Payam, Juba County, Central Equatoria

Introduction

After fighting erupted on December 15th in Juba and neighbouring areas, families sought refuge within UN bases and number of sites across the city. The Don Bosco school and parish in Gumbo was one such site, where families – comprising only women and children, sought refuge. 120 households were staying in a secondary school which was on semester break at the time and they had to leave the school premises, when the school was to be opened on January 26th. Father David, the Parish Priest of the church requested Medair to assist these households with shelter materials so that they could have a shelter to stay when they move out from the school. Accordingly, from the 25th until the 5th of February Medair, together with volunteers from CCC and World Vision International (WVI) staff erected a total of 45 acute emergency shelters - in order to demonstrate how the shelters could be constructed, and handed over shelter materials enough for constructing 75 more acute emergency shelters so that the church together with the beneficiaries could set up the shelters later. The composition of the shelter kits and the design was discussed and agreed by the Technical Working Group (TWiG) of the Emergency Shelter-NFI cluster, and modified based on input received from community members. The kit comprised 7 bamboo poles, two plastic sheets and two plastic sheets. The original light emergency shelter kit consists of 2 plastic sheets, 30m of nylon rope, 6 pegs and 1 hoe per 10 households.

Father David has agreed to allow the IDPs to stay up to end of December 2014 as most of them are unable to return to their home villages due to insecurity and lack of money for transportation.

The intervention was based on two assessment visits by several cluster partners, on 11 and 14 January and a response was planned together with the parish administration.

The purpose of this Mini-Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise is to systematically assess the appropriateness, timeliness, adequacy and utilization of the shelter materials distributed, make recommendations for any follow up actions necessary and draw relevant lessons that inform similar interventions in the future.

Methodology

This PDM exercise adopted participatory methods such as focus group discussions, key informant interview and individual interviews. One focus group discussion with women representatives, key informant interviews with (number) community representatives and a total of ten individual interviews conducted with semi structured questionnaires. A team consisting of 6 members (carried out the planning and data collection of this PDM exercise. The PDM exercise included a desk review of the distribution report and the assessment briefs. For primary data collection the following methods were used: ten structured household interviews, three key informant interviews¹ and one (female) beneficiary focus group discussion². This data was collected by the PDM team on 18th June 2014 by a team consisted of 6 Medair staff members none of whom had participated in the intervention).

Findings and recommendations

Appropriateness

Findings

- Around the 25th of January 45 shelters were erected by Medair. For these shelters two plastic sheets, seven bamboos and some rubber ropes were used.

¹ a) Interview with Father David, 18th June 2014; b) Interview with 1 Female, 1 Community leader, 18th June 2014; c) interview with woman representative, 18th June 2014.

² Participants were of mixed ages and selected by the discussion group leader and the community leader.

- All 120 households lived for some time in those 45 shelters (2/3 families per shelter) until the remaining plastic sheets were handed out by Father David.
- One plastic sheet was handed out to each of the 75 households in the second week of February to erect their own shelter.³ (There was enough stock, however, to hand out two sheets to every household. Why these were not handed out, needs to be verified with the Parish administration.)
- All of those 75 households used bamboos and poles collected locally to erect shelter. They used old mosquito nets and leftover materials from host community as ropes. The locally collected materials were used to improve the design and to adapt it to personal preferences.
- The women who received shelter materials from Father David were able to observe the building process (demonstration) of the shelters so they could see how to erect shelter.
- The women considered the plastic sheets as the most important shelter item because the other items they were able to get from the surrounding bushes; however the women said that the local materials (poles) destroy the plastic sheeting more easily than the bamboo poles.
- Improvements that the women made: changing the position of the door to protect from rain, putting soil around the tukul to make it stronger, putting mud between the poles to protect from rain, putting grass on top of the plastic sheets to protect from strong sun (see photos below).
- One of the shelters was improved with mud walls, but Father David doesn't allow this as the shelters are all meant to be temporary and he doesn't want them to take on a permanent character.
- Not all women had the resources to close the front and back entrance of their shelter. This was mentioned in the key informant interviews and household questionnaires. Also the team observed some shelters which were not rain proof.
- Although not every household received the same amount of items, people were satisfied and happy about the distribution. It is not clear why the households that constructed their own shelter, only received one plastic sheet.
- 7 out of 10 households approached with a questionnaire said the shelter was too small.
- At the time of PDM, 5 months after distribution, some of the plastic sheets were torn and not water proof anymore. Father David and some of the households requested an extra plastic sheet to prevent rain from coming into the shelters.
- In the key informant interviews it was mentioned that the community leader ordered younger women to find items for the elderly and erect their shelters.

Recommendations

- While IDPs did not complain, the PDM team would recommend a Medair representative to be present at distributions conducted by third parties, to ensure equal distribution. This could prevent disputes and conflicts within the IDP community.
- There are some households who could clearly use extra plastic sheets to keep their shelter dry during the coming months of the rainy season. Medair could consider handing out a second plastic sheet to the households that received only one.
- To prolong the lifespan of the plastic sheets, it is recommended to sensitize beneficiaries on how to best use the sheets (tensioning, protecting from sharp edges and sun, etc.).



Some of the shelters are improved with items found in the host community.



Mud and stones are used for better stability during rain.

³ According to the household questionnaires: 6 out of 10 households received one plastic sheet, 3 out of ten used one of the shelters erected by Medair, and one household didn't receive any items. The numbers used are confirmed by all sources..



Some shelters are improved with grass on the roof to protect from heavy sun



One of the shelters was improved with mud walls.

Effectiveness

Findings

- Registration was done by Father David. He has been handing out tokens to households and whenever there is a distribution he uses distribution lists with names of the IDPs.
- Part of the distribution was also done by Father David (Medair handed shelter materials to him) and the women are satisfied with the care of Father David. The team could not verify if this level of satisfaction was because of the small size of the groups, the (church) setting of the plot or the composition of the group.
- Women were not informed about distributions, they only found out when Father David showed up with materials.
- Women were satisfied about the distribution and there were no problems caused by the distribution reported to the PDM team.
- Later in early March re-registration of 21 women took place by Father David and some days later those households were also handed one plastic sheet and some other NFI items. These plastic sheets were blue instead of white (with IOM logo).
- The women said that the quality of the materials was good however in all the interview methods people highlighted that the plastic sheets given in February are starting to tear and therefore are not waterproof anymore.
- Most people mentioned one plastic sheet was not sufficient to keep the shelter rainproof, it was also observed by the PDM team that some households were not able to cover all exits with plastic sheets.
- From observation household questionnaires it was noted that small families and big families were given the same materials to build a shelter, this resulted in large families using very small shelters.
- There is willingness to share, for example people who had arrived only recently (13 people) were living with a family

Recommendations

- For larger households more plastic sheets should be given to build a larger shelter.
- Two plastic sheets seem to be the bare minimum required to build a shelter. If supplies and logistics allow, 3 sheets for a household are preferable.

Coverage

Findings

- From the focus group discussions and the key informant interviews nobody mentioned people who were left out of the distribution or could not access the materials. From the household questionnaires one woman was found who was not registered and didn't receive any items. She lived in the shelter of her grandmother.

Recommendations

No recommendations regarding coverage.