

Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster Meeting Republic of South Sudan

Thursday, 30 January 2014
13.00-14.30, OCHA Juba Conference Room

DRAFT MINUTES

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1. Welcome brief and review of previous minutes

The previous minutes were endorsed.

Briefing from Cluster Coordinator:

- Valerie Amos, Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, visited Juba and Malakal. The HCT emphasized unprecedented need, access constraints, ever more complicated relations with institutions in the country, difficulties in scaling-up, and challenges around the upcoming rains. In addition to the HCT, Amos met with the president and key ministers, and advocated for humanitarian principles.
- Concerns have been noted about the presentation of information on displacement and response in IM products.

One is that it is difficult to judge the accuracy of their numbers. Two, presenting the numbers themselves does not sufficiently communicate access constraints or why it may be that a response isn't happening in areas of great need. A discussion is ongoing in the ICWG to figure out how to overcome these issues and send the right messages to donors, HQs, etc.

- *General issues regarding the pipeline.* UNHCR is now contributing stock to the pipeline but all requests still need to go through the pipeline manager as normal. Additionally, all requests for movement of NFI/shelter assets by air should be coordinated with the cluster. This is to ensure that we avoid delays in distributions and other activities caused by an imbalance of items on the ground. The cluster will soon host a session on how to utilize the pipeline in case anyone is interested.
- *Access issues.* Please report issues related to access with OCHA. Contact information: Nicki Bennett, bennett5@un.org.
- *Assessments.* Please report any assessment plans to Herbert at OCHA. Contact information: Herbert Tatham, Tatham@un.org.
- *UNHAS flights to Bentiu, Malakal and Bor.* Bookings for these locations are being streamlined through OCHA so that number of people on the ground is being controlled for 'criticality'. One small clarification on security: while UNMISS has said that it can't guarantee evacuation of NGOs from Bor, UNHAS has made clear that covering the evacuation of NGOs is in their mandate. All NGOs should make sure that the NGO security focal point knows their travel plans.
- *UNMAS is sending an EOD team to Bor.* If anyone has premises that they want checked, they should notify UNMAS.
- *State-level coordination.* The cluster is seeking a state focal point for Lakes state and is currently in discussion with a couple of partners. If any other agency has interest, they should notify the cluster coordinators ASAP.

2. Crisis Response Plan

- *Differentiation with the Consolidated Appeals Process.* The CAP process that was conducted at the end of 2013 and consisted of three separate pillars has now been frozen. The Crisis Response Plan, only focuses on pillar one of the CAP (emergency response) and covers Jan – June 2014 for frontline activities; 12 months for pipeline. A full CAP review is likely to be conducted in May/June.
- *The first phase of the CRP process, which was an estimation of what our cluster ask would be, has been completed.* The cluster put together 65 million USD ask but has been requested to reduce this number by 20 million USD, most of which will come from the pipeline (leaving 13 million USD for frontline). While the reduction is being made, the cluster will make clear to donors that:
 - We are taking out contingency. This budget will only cover the actual response for 6 months
 - We will have to cut significantly the shelter target and overall number of beneficiaries that we can reach.
 - We are taking out the potential to respond to returns. This will only be acute emergency response.
- *The next stage will be to finalize the partners in the CRP and the amounts that those partners will have reflected in the plan.* For those already in the CAP, the cluster needs the final budget numbers. For those not yet in the CAP, it needs project sheets. SAG will meet to review the submissions, edit and put them into the system this weekend. While the SAG may need to change some of the numbers, partners will have the opportunity to review and revisit the issue through a more inclusive process in June.

3. TWiG Update

- *Acute emergency shelter kits.* The team visited Don Bosco today where Medir has piloted the acute emergency shelter model. The IDPs at the site provided some improvements to the model that the team is reviewing. The new proposed version has up to 7 bamboos which can help prolong the life of the shelter and ensure that it stands for the intended 6 months. Also looking at sandbags as an option.
- *All partners are encouraged to participate in the TWiG* so that the cluster can achieve the most practical design. The first concrete product will be a set of guidelines for partners on what acute emergency shelter might look like, followed by what phase two might look like (i.e. the reinforcements provided to prepare for the rainy season).
- *Clothesline design for Malakal.* DRC in Malakal is using the clothesline approach which may be transferrable though would require more technical support in terms of construction. Here some adaptation can be done with 2x4 structures and braided rope.

4. REACH Update

- REACH is currently doing an assessment of the POC areas in Juba. They have completed the field work for Juba 3 and are now doing the analysis. Tongping has been a bit more of a challenge due to security issues (i.e. using the advanced technology within the POC area) though the assessment has now begun. Thus far, have found that a lot of people in these areas are expressing a desire to leave the country.
- REACH is also doing an assessment of Juba outside the POC areas. Last weekend, they went to Jebel Market, Jebel checkpoint, etc. At the Jebel the damage does not appear too extensive though the locations are fairly empty and have been looted. Both the Jebel and the area south of SPLA HQ have challenging because of restrictions on movement.
- REACH is next planning on going to Bentiu but still needs to liaise on security issues, etc. It was recommended that people on the ground try to gather GPS points that can clearly indicate the areas to which people are returning.
- REACH made an attempt to get satellite imagery of Malakal but don't know the status of that now.

5. Emergency Response

Central Equatoria State

- **Juba 3:** Tom Dobbin from Concern is the focal point.
 - Finished the initial phase of NFI/ES distribution and the new arrivals for extension 2. Distributed just under 2,100 kits. Have now streamlined and stabilized the population.
 - New policy in Juba 3: One kit per plot with minimum of 4 people. Verification planned for Monday to fill the gaps.
 - Now preparing kits for next incoming on the 5th – 1,000 kits to be ready.
 - Frames in the extension areas are a struggle – the kit is not sufficient for emergency shelter. Want to consider doing bamboos and rope.
 - ACTED looking at issue of abandoned plots. Moving people into the plots once others have left.
- **Tongping:** Taka Nakahara from Intersos is focal point.
 - Distribution has been based on registration, the first round of which finished by January 2.
 - The second round was started up in the past two weeks. Last week it had to be stopped because massive movements of people/crowd control issues.
 - Now NFIs are being distributed on the basis of referral from the protection cluster in order to make sure that people who still have significant NFI needs will receive. Registration of the most vulnerable is still ongoing as well. Five teams are going out together for this purpose.
 - Cases of people not yet registered by IOM have been found, but they seem to have at least a minimum level of shading.
- **Katigiri:** Assessment done by Medair.
 - IDPs from Juba, Yei and Malakal have gone back to their areas of origin, thus doubling the population in the area, according to the RRC. The host community is stretched but there don't seem to be immediate life-threatening needs. Population is about 15,000 people spread over 6 bomas (according to RRC); NFI team was only able to visit 3 bomas.
 - Not highest priority, But might be nice to help host community to support the new comers. Many are living in abandoned tukuls and can't use the grass from the area because it's been burned. Might consider giving plastic sheets.
 - Road was safe when mission was conducted but lately there are have been armed robberies on the road between Juba and Mundri.
- **Juba-Yei road:** An assessment is being conducted; ACROSS and DCA are planning to respond to villages in the area.
- **Lologo:** Medair led a distribution.
- **Don Bosco:** Medair initiated an emergency shelter distribution. They assisted in setting up some of the shelters while the rest were built by the communities themselves.
- **Mahad School:**
 - Registration done by PIN but Medair is not sure if the figures are representative – it seems like more people might have come in for registration than are staying there. While PIN's numbers suggest that around 640HHs are without shelter, Medair, based on looking at the site, is guessing that the number is a lot lower – potentially as low as 40HHs.
 - Currently, they are trying to figure out which families are staying outside and which with host families.

Haven't gotten clearance yet though to go early in the morning to see who's there.

- Additionally, there are multiple tribal groups over there and tensions are high. If only distribute to those staying at the site (all of whom are from the same tribe) this could create more problems. WFP did a food distribution but not enough food so community leaders did not distribute for fear of causing more problems.
- *Juba Way Station:*
 - ACROSS received 800 people at Juba way station and 800 more are expected. Registration should start today at 2pm. If NFI need, Medair follow-up?
 - These are mainly people who are from other states but were working in Unity and now want to be returned.
 - RRC CEQ said it's working with IOM for people to transit but don't know how long people will be there. Better to provide assistance at final destination, but don't know if they have one.
- *Follow-up:* Mahad, way station, Katigiri. CEQ state level coordination meeting at Medair tomorrow.

Jonglei

- *Lankien:* The RRC is claiming 16,000 IDPs which is hard to verify but could be credible.
 - IDPs have requested blankets, kangas and kitchen sets.
 - Pah proposing to organize a distribution there. Perhaps it would be best to identify the most vulnerable and start with them.
 - SCI also planning to go to Lankien as soon as security assurances are received. Then look at potential first wave and stock in Waat. MSF-Holland also there.
- *Pibor:* Assessment to Pibor conducted this week. There are a lot of people around in the villages but there is not a real emergency at the moment. The rubhall is still standing and has not been raided. No need to take action now.
- *Bor:* Intersos is planning to go to Bor next week.
 - Movement of stock underway. IOM has its own plane doing the movement.
 - Requested rubhalls from UNHCR so that we can store at UNMISS base.
 - LWF has been on ground in Bor town and noted that there appears to be movement from Awerial during the day to assess damage, collect items, etc., but people are still returning to Awerial at night. Looting still happening at night.
- *Twic East and Duk:* LWF has noted that the area is completely inaccessible.
- *Fangak:* An assessment has been conducted there.
 - Larger issue: As humanitarians start responding to sites outside in POC areas, will find that communities are dispersed and mixed with host communities. **
 - In Old Fangak, 6,000 displaced? Borrowing items from host families.

**Need to agree on common approach on how to target where populations are dispersed as we won't have the resources to distribute to everyone. How will we deal with rural areas? How will we target? It was noted that the cluster already has vulnerability criteria. Currently, protection cluster partners are saying that we can assume around 15% of EVI within any IDP population.

Lakes State

- *Awerial*
 - NRC requested supplies for 10,000 HHs and is ready to go once the ok is received from the pipeline. Need to follow-up re: the rubhall issue, however.
 - In regards to transport, NRC is ready to pay for commercial trucks but will need HCR approval to sign off on the use of the road as DSS has put restrictions on the movement of UN assets.
 - ICRC distributed 15,000 NFI kits together with food. They will coordinate with NRC and complement with a few things, but their distribution is done.
 - CRS intends to distribute 4,000 shelter kits and NFIs in Awerial area.
 - Use community leaders to identify most vulnerable?
 - Deliberation about how to reinsert humanitarian operation, agreement is that life-saving activities can go back in.
- *National NGO has approached the cluster on adding them as a partner to go into other areas such as Guothon and Wunthuon.*

Unity State

- *Bentiu:* POC areas covered by recent distribution. People continue to move out of the POC areas. There is still

massive looting going on.

- *Rubkona*: Now looking at influx of returnees staying in the vicinity of town (though not inside town). Humanitarian partners have agreed to attempt to get out to the actual sites where they are staying to assess the needs of these people. Generally partners are trying to avoid pulling people into town where
- *Abiemnom and Mayom*: Mercy Corps conducting assessments in those locations.
- *Leer?* Any activity? First wave of distribution there?

Upper Nile

- *Malakal*: Stock currently being sent.
 - 4,000 HHs covered. WVI and IOM will begin distribution soon at the base.
 - Storage and logistics remain a challenge. Completely reliant on UNMISS for storage space and transport of stock to the base. There is currently very little space as the base is so completely populated with IDPs.
 - HCR sending planes with additional cargo.
- *Wau Shilluk*: 20km E/NE along river from Malakal. People from Malakal fled there via boat.
 - Numbers vary but it is estimated that there are 3,000 people on the ground.
 - The site needs an urgent response. Partners recommend a complete NFI kit to be given to the displaced plus a small number of host community members.
 - Some women are going back, though men are not.
- *Melut*: Assessment being done today. IOM is looking at moving assets from Maban to support initiation of response there.

Other

- Response ongoing in Twic as IDPs continue to arrive. Partners include NRC, NCA, IOM for NFI/ES
- WVI has NFIs from OFDA that it is contributing to the pipeline.
- Plan International is completing a distribution to IDPs in Yei.
- MSF completing small distribution to 9,000 families in Nimule. Discussing with Plan whether to continue with targeted distribution to vulnerable.

6. AOB

None noted.

Next meeting TBD based on conference room availability.