

Draft - FSL cluster coordinator mission report to Aweil (former NBEG): 29 – 31st August 2017

Mission purpose to visit, connect, build relations and fact finding to be able to provide a more informed support from Juba to FSL actors in the field – Aweil, NBEG

Objectives:

- to understand the food security & child malnutrition situation on the ground in Aweil
- to meet FSL partners on the ground and present at their August 30th meeting
- to visit FAO/ WFP BRACED II activities & partners in the field (looking at joint UN collaboration)
- to visit Concern Worldwide BRACE resilience project;

Tuesday 29th August

- Arrival & orientation including security briefing;
- Conduct a **contextual analysis** and mapping exercise with FSL Aweil key informants (WFP (x3) / FAO (x1) / RRC (x1))

Wednesday 30th August:

- Conduct exercise on integration & transition by NNGO & INGO partners;
- Attend meeting & make FSL CC presentation;
- Visit to joint FAO/ WFP BRACED II sites with partner JAM in and around Aweil town;

Thursday 31st August

- Visit to CW BRACE/ resilience program sites in Nyamlell (Aweil West) – cancelled due to Eid vacation and UNHAS no fly on September 1st;
- Report writing & wrap up
- Return to Juba;

Context mapping

Broader context (see IFANSCA study summary report):

1. **Pre CPA era:** formerly resilient agro pastoral/ piscatorial/ gatherer communities sustained through civil war through wide range of Naturally Occurring Uncultivated Foods (NOUFs) + fishing + labouring (including migration), petty trade, access to milk & kinship support. #1 role of cattle in resilience & kinship ties = social safety net. Limited market activity & low levels of cash circulating (mainly in-kind & barter: grain for cattle or labour);
2. **Early independence era:** 2005 - 2011 dramatic change: 'relative prosperity' stable/ low grain prices & wealth accumulation → invest in cattle & wives (Dinka society); poor worked for food or cash v own production;
3. **Sudden economic downturn:** 2014 onwards → rapid inflation & devaluation of SSP; spikes in commodity prices and declining trade & market activity; conflict in other areas (1) blocked supply routes from the south; and (2) north/ south border restrictions hampered supply routes from the north; men enlisted in army → significant labour constraint & increased the already high number of FHHs;

Review participatory mapping exercise (see annex 1 for participatory mapping):

- Northern most counties almost exclusively Dinka agro pastoral communities + urban;
- Most southerly county (Aweil Centre) largely Luo (agricultural producers like the Fertit in WBEG) with some Dinka agro pastoralists to the east;

Returnees from Sudan:

- Between 2005 – 2012 approx. 500,000 returned (out of a population of 1.4 million NBEG): generally a highly vulnerable group comprising high % of the WFP GFD caseload of 530,000;
- Proportional piling of the distribution of returnees in and around the county towns and other market centers:
 - Aweil East: 28% (across 3 centres)
 - Aweil town: 23%
 - Aweil North: 21% (across 4 centres)
 - Aweil West: 17% (across 3 centres)
 - Aweil South: 10% (county town only)
- Since 2015 economic crisis lead to out migration of 50 to 60,000 returnees back to Sudan;

Why IPC 4 in the last analysis? :

- **Labour constraint:** youth absence joining the army with no remittance & residual FHHs;
- **High % vulnerable** returnees (approx. 35% population)
- **Natural shocks:**
 - Flooding along the R. Lol floodplain especially in Aweil South;
 - Highland locations north and south of the R. Lol susceptible to prolonged dry spell e.g. month of June;
 - Pests & diseases: grasshoppers & FAW (small %);
- **Man-made shocks:**
 - Disruption of supply chain & movement of people & goods due to conflict in other parts of the country;
 - 2016: split 10 states into 28 and now 34; Aweil North & West to be part of Raga → movement of civil servants & traders to Raja; but after conflict in WBEG they then returned with:
 - 5,000 IDPs from Raga to Aweil West & 681 to Barmayen & later to Aweil town; and
 - 2,000 IDPs from Wau to Aweil town (2016) and further 982 (2017);
- **Economic crisis:**
 - lead to reduction in casual labour options on farms of better off leading to out migration to Darfur & South Khordufan;
 - Disruption of trade routes especially from Juba & East Africa (Wau to Aweil remains active);
 - Active trade (4 identified routes including via Abyei) through porous border/ buffer zone with Sudan BUT high transaction costs due to smuggling; rent seeking by officials on both sides; misseryia militia
 - Devaluation of SSP & return to barter trading system:
 - In: sorghum, rice, (food items in general), constrictor materials, clothes etc;
 - Out: in exchange especially cattle/ beef (Saudi Arabia), groundnuts & sesame;
 - Seasonal disruption in the rain season due to poor road network;

Opportunities:

- Border with Sudan & Darfurian traders; farms in South Khordofan for labourers;
- Value chain addition for Gum Arabic & beef market in the Middle East
- Good soils; shift to greater crop – livestock interaction (still a source of conflict) use of livestock inputs: manure & draft power for ox ploughing! E.g. JAM field in Bar Mayen payam: ridging, row planting, inter cropping with gam gam beans; rain water harvesting trenches v broadcasting;
- Active markets with availability of produce from Sudan but at high cost & therefore limited access to high % of vulnerable population (including those returnees)

Milk economy in NBEG agro pastoral societies:

- Dry season – restricted to cattle camps when children resident at the homestead (loss of milk v reduced risk & potentially better access to services near highland homestead)
- Wet season – more available for those with cattle & those with purchasing power (available on the Aweil market but at high price);
- FAO & indigenous milk marketing associations enabling milk to be more available to urban consumers (value of livestock support: vaccination & treatment);
- Main diseases: FMD, anthrax, CBPP, PPR (small ruminants) & rabies (dogs in Aweil Centre);

Access to cattle/ milk: spatial coverage (% piling exercise):

<p>North & West Aweil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 – 50% population accessing milk in wet season; • Cattle herds hit by earlier 2 decades of warfare & raiding from Muralin; 	<p>East & South Aweil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated 50 – 70% of the population with cattle accessing milk in the wet season;
<p>Aweil Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luo: no history of livestock rearing; agricultural & uncultivated food gathering background; • Estimated only 1 – 3 % accessing milk; 	

Effects of economic crisis on milk access:

Wealth group	Characteristics
Better off 13%	Salary/ NGO employee; large fields 50 – 100 fedans; last 2 – 3 years numbers reduced; less able to employ the more vulnerable for casual work; generally large numbers of cattle;
Middle 28%	Business people; NGO & salary; large farms 10 – 30 fedans; with cattle 10 – 30 animals;
Vulnerable 59%	No cattle; lack assets; poor diet; many returnees: small farms 1 – 2 fedans; many with no farms at all; petty trade; few goats (maybe); unskilled labour; reliance on gathering wild foods; work for better off: house construction; begging; depend on kinship support; and WFP support! Very limited numbers access milk (own production or market/ neighbour purchase);

Humanitarian response foot prints in NBEG:

1. WFP & partners:

Partners:	GFD	Nutrition	FFA	FFE
CWW	X	X	X	
WV	X		X	X
JAM	X		X	X
SP	X			
WHH	X			
SAADO	X			
DARD				X
APAD			X	
FLDA			X	
ACF		X		
IRC		X		
MEDAIR		X		
PU		X		
AAA		X		

- FFA transition: 2012 in kind → FFA; 2013 BRACE I cash →; 2016 BRACE II cash + FAO complementary livelihood support;

- Targeting: vulnerability (returnees) + 10% rule for host population;

2. FAO & partners:

- ELRP: Seeds & tools (MSR): WHH & KUCD
- ELRP: fish & veg kits (DSR): WV; fishing option only possible October to March;
- Resilience: BRACE II including ITF for crops: JAM, CWW & ACF
- Livestock: vaccination & treatment – VSFS, HeRY & MACHAWA (with network of CAHWs)

3. UNICEF & partners: CWW, ACF, MEDAIR & IRC

- Malaria consortium: Centre Emergency Development Services (CEDS)
- WASH
- Education (linked to WFP's FFE)

FSL partner mapping in NBEG on a 2 x 2 matrix:

		→ Moving along the Integration continuum →	
↑ Moving along the transition continuum ↑	<p>Emergency response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO ELRP: crops & tools (via ITF modality), fish, vegetable kits (direct) • HeRY (kits & ITF) • SPEDP: CBT • VSFS: livestock & DSR (fish & veg kits) • WFP: GFD with WV, JAM, WHH <p>Importance of cash & vouchers increasing!</p>	<p>Emergency response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some integration with other WASH, HT & Nut actors: • KUCDA: FSL & WASH; • IRC: FSL, Nut & Protection; • JAM: FSL & Nut • WV: FSL, ED & protection • SPEDP: FSL, WASH & Education • WHH: FSL (CAHWS), WASH, Nut & ED • CWW (OFDA): FSL, WASH, Nut & HT 	
	<p>Early recovery WFP/ FFA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2012 In kind → Cash 2. 2013 BRACE I Cash & CFA 3. 2016 BRACE II + FAO livelihood/ ITF <p>Resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPEDP: FSL & CBT • JAM: BRACE II: CFA & kits/ ITF + DRR (dykes) & Ag extension services • SCI: FSL? (details) • WV: FSL? (details) 	<p>Early Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWW (Irish Aid): FSL (DRR: flood dykes/ dry spells via CFA) & NRM (trees), WASH, HT; • JAM- Household food security-restocking, kitchen gardens Aweil South – FAO/World Bank – DRR • WHH: FSL, ED (schools) & Nut education; • SCI: WASH & FSL through livestock <p>Resilience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWW (DFID) BRACE: WASH, NRM/ DRR, Education, FSL (FFS) • WHH: FSL, DRR/ NRM & fuel efficient stoves & dykes; Education & Water supply 	

Feedback from the FSL meeting on August 30th:

- **Crop production** review: effects of Fall Army Worm (FAW) considered to be mild to average; and effect 21 day dry spell especially in Aweil North; effect of dry season resulted in rapid breeding of major pests: grasshoppers, locust & maize stem borers (KUCDA); and the localized flooding/ poor drainage especially in North & West (CWW);
- **FAW** not considered outbreak (at this stage); no pesticides available so FAO suggest that for now training & awareness raising on IPM will be sufficient here in NBEG;
- State cluster & partners request for greater technical support from experts on the ground (FAO) and the TWGs mentioned (Cash, Livestock & Fisheries and Agriculture);

- Cluster structure & lead/ focal points in NBEG: the most comprehensive coverage supported by the geography of the distribution of counties in NBEG: 1 state cluster & 5 sub state cluster/ coordination forums:

Aweil North: CWW	Aweil West: WHH	Aweil East: WV	Aweil South: IRC/ JAM
NBEG state in Aweil: FAO lead with WFP alternate		Aweil Centre: JAM	

- Request from new authorities for cluster in the three new states: Lol, Aweil & Aweil East; likely then that the existing State cluster will rotate location on a monthly basis to include meetings each quarter in: Aweil town, Nyamllell & Malualkon;
- Request for greater representation in IPC and HNO/ HRP formulation: NBEG representatives to join IPC Sept 5 – 15th in Juba; and ALL NGOs are actively encouraged to send representatives either from sub clusters or from their representatives based in Juba;
- Due to the nature of the food insecurity/ famine and malnutrition we agreed the importance of having greater representation of other key sectors: Nut/ WASH/ HT
- We will circulate a PDF version of the FSL CC Powerpoint presentation which we hope assists both the State and sub state cluster actors & focal persons;

Conclusions & recommendations:

- A very **active and effective FSL cluster** that meets regularly; well supported by FAO (lead) and WFP (co lead); additionally there is a sub state cluster structure in existence with NGOs leading county level FSL coordination forums – the national cluster is unaware of any such comprehensive cluster anywhere else in the country;
- There appears to be great scope and potential for greater **transitional programming** away from in kind, unconditional & blanket support towards more cash based, conditional and targeted support;
- The addition of FAO to the BRACE II programme is an example of good **inter UN agency collaboration** supporting both main FSL cluster objectives in the 2017 HRP: with WFP & partners contributing towards continued and regular access to food for the most vulnerable (objective 1); and now being complemented by FAO & partners towards protecting livelihoods and promoting livelihood based coping capacities of the most vulnerable population at risk of hunger and malnutrition (objective 2);
- Regional Stabilization Programme:** did not get to meet with UNDP but informed that so far there are only discussions around improved coordination (WFP/ FAO/ UNICEF/ UNDP); this is vital to extend partnership & collaboration – see points 7 & 8 below;
- The big challenge is ensuring that the **most vulnerable** (potentially up to 50% of the population in NBEG) including a significant number of returnees (approx. 500,000 returned before 2012 less approx.. 50,000 who left again after the 2013 crisis) are able to withstand the consequences (increasing prices of essential commodities) of the deteriorating economic

situation. In this sense the FSL partners are providing an essential social safety net or social welfare component where traditional coping mechanisms have become threadbare and in some instances non-existent;

6. There is a need to ensure the **delivery of a dual approach** that: (1) ensures the most vulnerable receive essential food, nutrition, livelihood support and other essential services; whilst (2) transitioning support and delivery mechanisms through cash, vouchers (ITF) etc. that incentivize sustainable livelihoods and individual/ community agency away from dependency that appears to be part of the current livelihood strategy prevailing in this protracted complex emergency;
7. The FSL cluster would like to commend and further encourage and support the movement by a number of NGO partners towards much more multi sector resilience programming that addresses both immediate and underlying causes of poverty and food insecurity/ malnutrition in NBEG; and additionally to ensure that **women are at the heart of programme design**: addressing their risks (GBV, access to WASH, Health & Nutrition services), their structural inequality (decision making and control over resource use within the family and wider society); and their importance as both care givers (IYCF etc.) and food security & livelihood providers in both the rural (farm/ livestock) and urban (petty trade etc.) context;
8. And finally to **sow the seed of a vision** that brings together multiple actors (already happening) and systematic multi annual support & funding (happening in some places) for scaled up multi sector programmes in each of the five former counties/ three new states.

Alistair (2/9/2017)

Photo selection from the mission:



JAM BRACE II demonstration site showing: sorghum planted on ridges between hollows for dry spell water harvesting; and intercropped with legumes;



JAM CFA beneficiaries in GROUP FARM are ALL physically active & able and both male & female; over the past 10 years men appear to have become more active in farming practices and there appears to be greater interaction between the complementarity of crop & livestock systems through the use of manure/ fertilizer but no shift yet towards stall feeding and the production of compost; Wor thou- NYoc away Aweil South County- - 82 pieces of Plots 60 by 70 m plots – 84 households

Annex 1: participatory mapping exercise of NBEQ (five former counties) with FSL partners: WFP (3), FAO (1), HeRY (2), FAO (1), RRC (1) key informants:

