

FSL cluster coordinator mission report to Bentui (Rubkona & Guit): 14 – 16th June 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;

1. Arrival & orientation including security briefing (Wednesday am);
2. Conduct an initial recent **contextual analysis** and mapping exercise with UNOCHA & WFP key Informants on historical shocks & displacement patterns across Northern Unity (Wednesday pm)
3. Conduct **actor mapping** exercise with UNOCHA & WFP key informants across an integration and project transition matrix 4 x 4 (Wednesday pm);
4. Visit to the **Protection of Civilian (POC)** facility with WFP guide comparing the situation in 2014 with the situation now: five Nuer clan sectors; service provision; drainage channels; support services from the Humanitarian Hub – logistics/ warehousing and personnel (Wednesday PM);
5. Present and participate at the **June 15th FSL cluster meeting**: WFP, GHANBATT veterinarians (x3), CARE (x3), NPA, WHH, VSFS, MC, JAM, Cordaid, Hope for Restoration (15 persons) – see meeting minutes & contact details (Thursday am);
6. **Field visit** with Mercy Corps to Rubkona market (x 3 grant recipient traders); DingDing ‘Beyond Bentui’ site: Health (IRC), Care (Nutrition), Mercy Corps (WASH, Education & FSL including x2 CBT beneficiaries); Bentui town: Mercy Corps x 2 beneficiaries of their irrigated vegetable production plots; & Concern Worldwide: peri urban re-settlement site for 56 persons with special needs (PSN) households (Thursday pm);
7. Collate data, photos and write up **mission report** with additional key informant information from Ali (UNHCR), Thomas (WHH), Fiona (CW), Francis (WFP), Robert & Ben (Mercy Corps) – (Daily update)
8. Departure, wrap up and report writing (Friday am);

Key persons met & FSL contacts:

WFP:

Francis SARPONG-KUMANKUMA francis.sarpong-kumankuma@wfp.org Tel: +211 (0)915 097 910;
Head of Program Christopher Radio christopher.radio@wfp.org Tel: 0911 220 199;
VAM officer lazarus.nhial@wfp.org (Not available)

FAO: Yohanis Juch Yohanis.juch@fao.org Tel: 0915 617 127 (not available)

UNOCHA: Mathew Mpitapita mpitapita@un.org Tel: 0912 165 432;

See Bentui FSL cluster minutes & contact details from June 1st and June 15th – to also be included in the National FSL cluster mailing list;

For this position we were quite specific in our requirements. From the large amount of applicants several candidates seemed to have a better match for this position.

Photo selection from the mission:



POC circa 2014



POC circa 2017



One of 20 traders supported in Rubkona market to strengthen the supply chain: with sugar, wheat flour & oil



Users waiting outside the OTP/ TSFP/IYCF nutrition centre in Dingding



Basic education services resumed

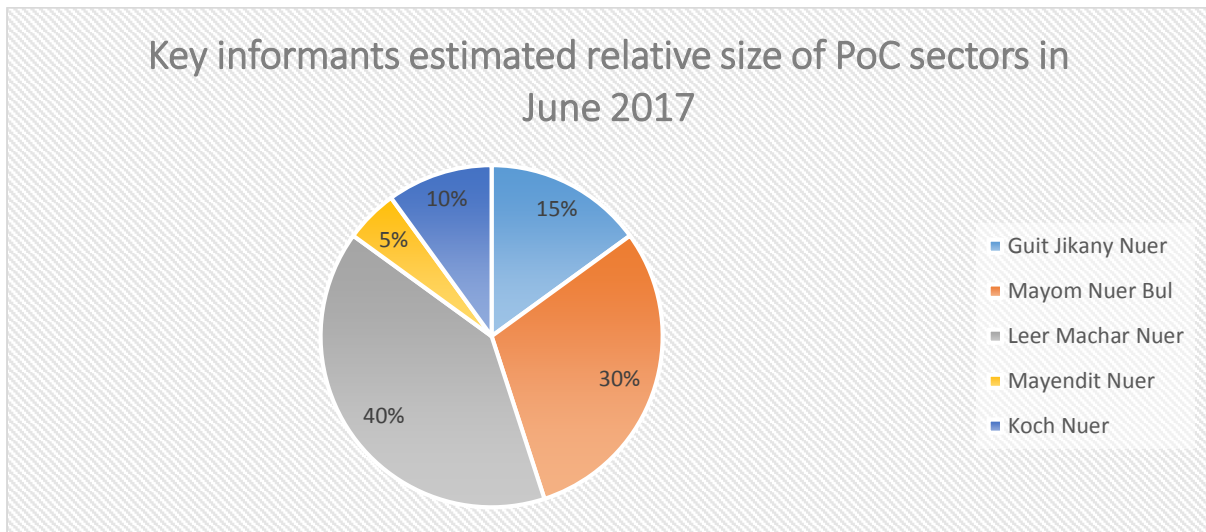
Irrigated vegetable farm (okra) in peri urban Bentui

Context mapping (see annex 1 for participatory mapping):

PoC population growth:	Historic events & shocks:
1. December 2013 2,000	I. Conflict breaks out in Juba: market traders, multi-ethnic, multi-national including Dinka flee to UNMISS
2. July 2014 25,000	II. April – June: SPLA & JEM (Darfur) pillage & loot (with Land Cruisers across Northern Unity)
3. June 2016 85,000	III. April – May 2015: Pastoralists revenge for Machar looting in 1990s (SPLA & Nuer Bul raid on massive scale)
4. July 2016 122,000	IV. July 2016: Conflict breaks out in Juba again: fear & rumour of conflict from Juba results in more mass movement
	V. Late 2016 flooding & poor harvest in Mayom (approx.. 11,000 IDPs to PoC)
5. June 2017 117,000	VI. November 2016 Taban Deng iO ₂ Nuer ‘v’ Machar iO ₁ Nuer with Machar & Leer population retreating to swamps
	VII. Small net movement out of POC of returnees ‘Beyond Bentui’: dynamic risk reduction strategy ‘to and fro’.

- The recent history has been brutal and bloody most notably the time in 2014 when the SPLA joined forces with the Darfuri Justice & Equality Movement (JEM) using Land Cruisers to create mayhem across the region; and again in 2015 during the ‘Pastoralist Revenge’ when the Nuer Bul exacted revenge on Riek Machar’s forces (back in the 1990s) and the local population south of Mayom;
- During this time Pariang, Abiemnom & Mayom appear to have remained stable throughout recent events;
- In the past 12 months Rubkona & Guit remain stable and by 2017 the ‘Beyond Bentui’ line of stability has extended from the northern border of Koch (2016) and now shifted south to approximately the border of Koch & Leer;

- People are slowly returning to their former homes in Guit & Rubkona but a real risk remains, especially for young men, both aid workers and especially local residents being co-opted, conscripted into the various militia & armed groups or even just detained¹.



The POC:

- Five **Nuer clan sector divisions** within the PoC each in their separate blocks (social cohesion) and to minimize the inter and intra clan divisions and conflicts mirroring the situation across northern Unity;
- Range of **social activities** within the POC on a week day evening: soccer, swing ball, swimming, spectators (in large numbers), daily household chores: washing, collection of firewood, general maintenance of residence etc.
- Lack of any **vegetation** (trees) and shade: suggested planting of Moringa (nutritional benefits), Neem (organic insecticide & mosquito repellent), papaya trees (fruit) and many others to add beauty & greenery in a dusty/ muddy barren landscape!
- There appears to be significant **economic interaction** between the POC (generating urban demand) and the wider trading and production hinterland. Buying power from approx. 1,000 national staff salaries (estimated by one country director to be approx. \$300,000 per month) plus substantial informal remittance provided by the Sudanese diaspora and familial linkages (+ mobile phone). Within the POC vibrant markets selling a range of foodstuff, clothing, shoes & soaps etc. and 'beyond' stimulating production of charcoal & firewood and anticipated to extend to fresh vegetables and milk (see below 'Beyond Bentui')

Other collective centres in Bentui:

- Observed the devastation in nearby Bentui town and returnees rehabilitation of new make shift compounds;
- A number of collective centres supported by WFP including the peri urban 'new settlement' supported by Concern Worldwide for 56 PSN households;

The Humanitarian Hub – an example of aid worker security & enhanced collaboration and coordination

¹ Issues for Human Rights Watch and tabled at HCT;

- Significant improvement in the conditions of UNMISS and humanitarian aid worker living conditions from 2014 to 2016 (mirrors the improvements in the POC);
- Close proximity enhances OCHA lead coordination amongst the cluster (see references to integration); as well as excellent coordination amongst the FSL cluster e.g. the gap analysis ensured no duplication with Mercy Corps' Cash interventions allocated to Rubkona and Bentui and DRC to Guit; an example of simple but effective coordination based on local knowledge, regular communication amongst actors and WFP leadership;

Intervention integration and transition matrix:

- There is a considerable degree of programmatic / cluster integration both within the POC and in the 'Beyond Bentui response' e.g. the case of sector coordination around food distributions:

WFP & partners: food assistance as a fulcrum & pull factor	WFP daily ration:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 day ration for 30 days to reflect scarcity of resources across the country • Monthly distributions across 7 locations: POC, Bentui & 5 rural communities; • GFD distributions also supported by protection, nutrition, health (NID) and WASH (hygiene promotion & soap distribution) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cereal: 500g sorghum, maize, wheat/ flour • Pulses 50g • Oil 30g • CSB++ (BSFP) for all under 5 kids

- There is also a significant transition towards more early recovery and resilience programming especially outside of the POC lead by the NGOs
- WFP observing² the ambitions of the NGOs in Rubkona & Guit with possible plans (being considered) to transition in 2018 towards more early recovery through institutional feeding, Food For Education (FFE) and Food For Assets (FFA);

Intervention integration and transition matrix:

		Increasing degree of integration →
Emergency response	<p>2014 PoC under flood water →</p> <p>WFP support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 161,000 residents & non-residents in POC • 38,000 persons in Bentui town; and • 60,000 IDPs in 5 main communities • Static GFD/ BSFP (biometric) by WFP/ WHH/ NPA <p>Beyond Bentui Response dry season: Jan - June 2016 & 2017</p>	<p>Addressing acute response:</p> <p>2016 POC new lay out & drainage: with schools, hospitals & food assistance but lacks livelihoods: IGA/ CBT (focus on short term response only)</p> <p>Actors: IOM (CCCM), WFP/ NPA/ WHH (food), MC (WASH), CW (shelter), MSF (hospital), Care & CW (nutrition), IRC (GBV), WR (health & nutrition) & Interserve (schools)</p> <p>Growing economic market interactions between POC (urban) and Rural: charcoal/ fish/ wild food/ wood etc.</p> <p>Vocational training in POC by VISTAS/ AECOM</p>
Early recovery	<p>Some returnees now accessing POC only for food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds & tools with livestock vaccinations: FAO kits: JAM, 	<p>Addressing chronic response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH by CW & MC

² The July 2016 emergency put back plans for early recovery in 2017;

Resilience building	<p>VSF, MC, DRC, NPA, CARE & WHH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MC in Bentui & Rubkona ○ DRC in Guit • UNHCR 'durable solutions' pro self-reliance & renovation of damaged permanent structures with community contributions & participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education by WR, MC & other smaller CBOs (from POC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNICEF CB & training + financial support ○ DRC CB & training on protection • Health by IRC • Nutrition by CARE (combined OTP/ TSFP/ IYCF) • Vocational training by MC and need to find alternatives for youth beyond raiding and looting by the gun! <p>More support required for agricultural development for the market/ EWS/ CBDM</p>
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Beyond Bentui:

The cluster minutes of the meeting (June 15th attached) aptly document the feedback & discussions of the range of activities being undertaken by the cluster partners. Together with feedback on my accompanied field mission to Rubkona market, Dingding rural community, Bentui town and peri urban farming and re-settlement sites with Mercy Corps, find the following observations:

Mercy Corps integrated resilience program 'Beyond Bentui'

DFID funded unconditional CBT targeting vulnerable persons: widow/ widower, elderly, child HH, single HH & separated parent HH: Bentui town 1,500 beneficiaries; Rubkona 621; and DingDing 377 = total 2,500 (cash transfer of not more than \$16 equivalent in SSP per month for an 8 month period). Additionally traders also supported with cash grants during this time to ensure stock and supply availability for essential commodities: sugar, wheat flour, oil etc.

Complementary and integrated livelihood components include: (1) Agricultural production – irrigated vegetable production for own consumption and sale (POC/ Bentui/ Rubkona market etc.); (2) Fishing for market surplus: wet season rivers & dry season fish ponds (farming); (3) Market determined vocational training for youth: carpentry, tailoring, farming etc. and (4) Women's program providing start up grants for income generating activities.

- NGOs clearly leading on the transition³ towards more early recovery and resilience programming:
 - Recognizing the safety & security of especially women and the need for the fuel efficient stove strategy;
 - Recognizing the low voluntary return rates when cash income is more difficult to achieve in the villages as compared to the POC;
 - Recognizing the importance of skill training & innovative livelihood support for gardening, agriculture, tree planting and improved stoves;
- In Dingding the Mercy Corps CBT programme was exceptionally well integrated with nutrition (Care), health (IRC), and WASH and Education also by Mercy Corps; main season agricultural & livelihood production by JAM, CARE & HRSS supported by the FAO livelihood input pipeline; and cluster coordinated livestock treatment & vaccination provided by both VSFS and GHANBATT veterinary team;

³ See WHH papers on: POC: improving security & stimulating voluntary return through livelihood approaches (April 2017); & Preparing sustainable return from POC to villages & towns

- Small number of persons returning to Dingding as there is fear of a return to conflict and in an environment of detentions and forced conscription of especially young men;
- Early signs of recovery include: charcoal, firewood, vegetable production and milk for sale to traders from POC, Rubkona & Bentui; and indigenous restocking of cattle herds that were lost in the crisis: income invested in small ruminants (sheep & goats) later exchanged for cattle to re-build herds; herds relocated in safe 'toic' locations;

Beneficiary expenditure of April Cash Transfer (\$16 SSP equivalent)	Income sources in Dingding before the crisis	Income sources in Dingding's early recovery phase
Meat, onions, dried fish, dried okra, salt, magi, soap, shoes, underwear;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle • Milk • Cultivation • Tea shop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash Transfer 69% • Charcoal & firewood 31%⁴

- Extend and range of the Beyond Bentui is limited by access (rain season) & security (conflict) with service delivery limited to the dry season window of January – June 2016 and again in 2017

Bentui FSL cluster main season 'gap' analysis (based on documentation of HH targeted and supplies received – June 2017)

County	FAO partners	Main logistic delays in 2017 allocation	Items received & currently being distributed
Guit*	JAM	Maize, Cow pea & farming tools	Sorghum, Vegetables & fish kits
Rubkona*	CARE, HRSS, JAM	Maize & sorghum & farming tools	Vegetable & fish kits; Surplus quantities of Cowpea recorded (could this be for use in Guit I suspect so?)
Koch Famine affected status	WRSS & DRC	All delivered as for IPC 4 priority response	All items delivered: Maize, Sorghum, Cow pea, Veg & Fish kits;
Mayom	RCDI	Maize, Cow pea & farming tools	Fish kits; small quantities of veg & sorghum

*Small % of HH targeted as many reside in the POC

Main points of concern from the FSL cluster partners on main season input supply:

- **Koch:** Appreciation of the timely delivery of seeds & tools – 100% completed;
- **Mayom:** Questioning the rationale for only 5 out of 15 payams being targeted (suggested due to scarcity of resources)
- **Rubkona:** JAM targeted 1,500 HHs in Nhialdiu with dry season response (vegetable & fishing kits) and will target 1,165 HHs for maize, cowpea, fishing kits and tools this week;
- **Guit:** Important for the cluster to ensure that all FAO partners have a valid LOA before registering farmers to avoid the mix up with CORDAID in 2017;

⁴ % generated by proportional piling exercise;

- With the last convoy from Juba – Rumbek – Aweil – Bentui earlier in June there is a risk that those livelihood inputs not yet delivered may arrive too late; instruction from FAO was clearly to liaise with your LOA manager;
- Support to expansion of **agricultural development** ‘Beyond Bentui’ limited by availability of farming inputs (from FAO/ NGO and private suppliers) so consideration for future investment into seed production to avoid reliance on external input supply;
- Sub cluster would like to see greater **FAO presence** for (1) technical & extension support; and (2) leadership of the FSL cluster; and
- Sub cluster would also like to see greater engagement and input into the **TWG products** – it was noted that some of their Juba based technical experts were on the Agriculture, Livestock & fisheries and Cash & market TWGs

Other interesting initiatives by the FSL cluster:

- Sourcing bilateral donor funding for both additional emergency response and more resilience type interventions ‘Beyond Bentui’; and
- Establishment of their own sub cluster TWGs to report back to the Bentui cluster and hopefully liaise with & review any relevant products from the national TWGs in due course.

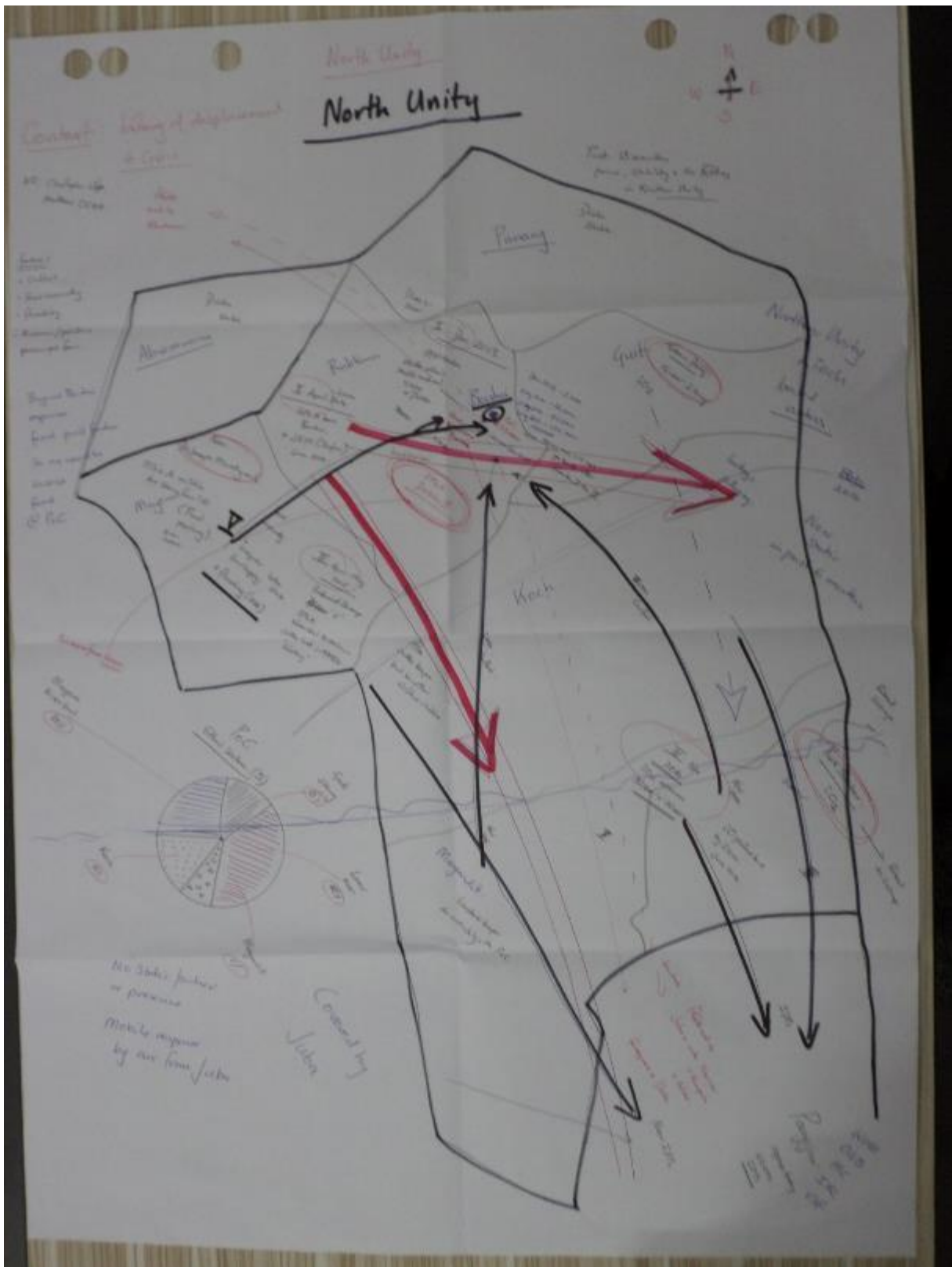
Conclusions & recommendations:

1. Bentui FSL sub cluster is our model cluster with excellent knowledge of their partners’ working & coverage on the ground (5Ws submitted each month), the most consistent sub cluster submitting regular cluster minutes; and sharing well their local contextual knowledge and experience to ensure appropriate and relevant interventions are taking place,
2. They play an exemplary coordination role pro-actively avoiding duplication of similar interventions assigning Bentui town and Rubkoma County to Mercy Corps and Guit County to DRC for the implementation of very similar CBT interventions;
3. With NGOs taking the lead the cluster has overseen the transition from emergency response to more early recovery and resilience type interventions especially in the ‘Beyond Bentui’ locations;
4. In close collaboration with UNOCHA the cluster has supported the requirement for greater integration across the other clusters;
5. The immediate challenge is to ensure that the FAO livelihood support partners receive their full complement of inputs to ensure the timely implementation of the main season response plan across northern Unity;

Alistair (21/6/2017)

DRAFT

Annex 1: Context: conflict & displacement mapping⁵ across northern Unity 2013 - 2017



⁵ Data generated from two humanitarian worker key informants from OCHA & WFP - June 2017;