Northern Cueibet Rapid Assessment Findings

November 2021, January 2022
Northern Cueibet assessment rationale, methodology and objectives

Research objectives
i) Gaining a snapshot of current humanitarian needs and gaps,
ii) Identifying variations in needs between different geographic areas and population groups,
iii) Understanding the impacts of years of cumulative shocks on the ability of households to engage in traditional livelihood activities, and
iv) Understanding the effect of shocks on the ability of communities support and protect the most vulnerable.

Northern Cueibet Assessment Locations

Methodology
- Qualitative assessment that took place between 15th and 23rd of November
- Areas assessed include Abyei Chok, Mayath, Bahr Gel, Langdit, Malou Pech
- Data collection on populations recently displaced from Pagor, Tiap Tiap and Citcok (northern Cueibet)
Insecurity has reportedly pushed populations from remote areas, particularly those along the borders with the neighbouring counties towards larger, populated settlements, such as Pagor and Tiap Tiap.

Often, vulnerable groups, particularly older persons, female headed households, and disabled persons, were less likely to displace due to insecurity, limiting access to key, lifesaving humanitarian services.
Cultivation and Livestock

- Years of persistent insecurity have reportedly limited the ability of households to access extended plots of land.
- These barriers have been further compounded by three consecutive years of atypical seasonal rainfall.
- Harvested food stocks in Northern Cueibet have reportedly already been exhausted (December 2021).
- FGD participants commonly reported themselves or people in their communities not having access to cattle.
- Findings suggest that the cattle camp demographics have changed, with vulnerable groups largely unable to access camps.

Coping capacity and wild food access

- There has been an atypically early introduction of wild foods into the diet, with a particularly high reliance on lalup and tamarind.
- Vulnerable groups will likely be relying on wild foods for an extended period of time until the next harvest period in August/September 2022.
- The consumption of wild foods that are known to make people sick is indicative of a collapse of alternate livelihoods.
Markets and financial access to food

- Physical and financial market access appears to be atypically low.

- There has been an increased sale of cattle which has reportedly reduced cattle prices.

- Insecurity and flooding have limited the movement of cattle keepers from Tiap Tiap and Pagor towards marketplaces. However, despite these barriers, there has been a reported increase in the number of cattle being brought for sale.

- In the near term, increased cattle sales are likely to continue to drive livestock prices down.
Humanitarian Service Access

Humanitarian food assistance (HFA)
- Distributions ended in September.
- Beneficiaries have faced continuous barriers to accessing HFA throughout the year.
- Provision of, and improved access to, HFA throughout the ‘harvest’ season, would play a crucial role in reducing severe food consumption gaps for vulnerable populations.

Nutrition service provision
- Insecurity and flooding have reportedly limited the ability of humanitarian service providers to transport health and nutrition supplies.
- Insecurity has also had a negative effect on health seeking behaviour. Health seeking behaviour has improved, however, flooding has continued to limit access.
Violent conflict between June 2021-November 2021 has led to massive displacement, destruction of resources, lack of access to remaining resources and high humanitarian needs.

This manifested in high levels of food insecurity, as shown by the FSL Cluster Sectoral Analysis Classification for the HNO: Tambura classified as a county of Extreme Concern.

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Methodology
- Qualitative assessment that took place between 3rd and 10th of February
- Areas assessed include IDP sites in St Mary, Ministerial complex, Hayat, Military barracks and UNMISS
- Data collection on populations recently displaced from across Tambura County
Food availability and access

- Large decrease in the aggregate food supply
  - Displacement prior to the harvest has limited access to harvested food stocks
  - Destruction of crops, granaries and homesteads
  - IDPs making dangerous journeys to access crops/food
  - Lack of access to livestock
  - High reliance on wild foods during displacement
  - Lack of access to livelihoods and foods in displacement location
  - Unequal access to humanitarian assistance depending on location of displacement
- IDPs are unlikely to return to their land prior to the start of the 2022 cultivation cycle, calling into question longer term food security
- Market access has decreased substantially
  - Displacement of traders
  - Lack of supply internally and externally
  - High prices
  - Mobility barriers
• Widespread displacement started in June 2021, people still arriving to the camps in Tambura Town
• Those unable to make displacement journeys are in the bush
• Mobility restrictions impact people’s access to resources and services
• As coping capacity reduces, households are forced to make difficult decisions between resource access and physical security
• Those unable to move: vulnerable community members, e.g. elderly, PWD

*Map from September 2021 REACH assessment. Similar displacement patterns seen in February 2022 assessment.
Thank you!