Food Security Outlook with special focus on Jonglei State

Presentation to the FSL cluster SAG, Juba, South Sudan

Friday 16th October 2020
Pre-existing vulnerabilities: chronic poverty increased from 51% to 82% over the past decade

Mapping the meso level changes in poverty over time and space 2009 – 2016:
- 6-7 years of conflict, displacement, and protracted & increasing vulnerabilities
- Unprecedented floods in 2019
- Peace process uncertain; outlook of increased violence

Spread of population in different phases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>IPC (JANUARY 2020)</th>
<th>ACUTE MALNUTRITION JANUARY - DECEMBER 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 5</td>
<td>40,000 people in Catastrophe</td>
<td>Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>1.11 million people in Emergency</td>
<td>Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)</td>
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- 5.29 million
- 6.01 million
- 6.48 million
FOOD INSECURITY
DRIVING FACTORS

- FLOODS
- ORGANISED VIOLENCE
- ECONOMIC CRISIS
- COVID-19

On top of deep vulnerability and poverty now protracted and compounding shock
FLOODS 2020

Needs/ Affected Populations:
- >800,000 individuals
- >130,000 households
- 37 counties
  
  Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, & CES most severely affected

Large numbers flood affected locations in counties already affected by accumulation of hunger, conflict and displacement since 2013 crisis

DATA: OCHA, as of 21 September 2020
ECONOMIC CRISIS

- **Shortage of hard currency** impacting on the economy, **plummeting exchange rate** in the parallel market (67% depreciation compared to September 2019; 30% just in September 2020), negatively impacting on purchasing power.

- **13% increase in fuel prices** and rise in basic commodity prices and cost of living.

- **Rise in cost of food basket** (in Juba 42% increase between August to mid-September 2020), and consequently a **rise in share of food expenditure**, leaving little to none to cover the non-food needs.
Majority Jonglei declared IPC “Emergency” (P4) with pockets of “Catastrophe” (P5) in January 2020 IPC

- Pockets of Phase 5: Duk, Akobo and Ayod

Compounding shocks (flooding, organised violence, COVID-19 & macro-economic crisis) affected locations still recovering from 2019 flooding

Limited movement are restricting humanitarian access and coping strategies, especially for the most vulnerable – food assistance deliveries delayed!

Impact on crops

- 45% of total cereal damaged
- 26,892 Ha of cereal farms affected
- 11,915 Tons of estimated cereal loss
  (25% of the produce of the state)

Impact on livestock

- An estimated 711,400 animals affected
  (72% of total livestock)
- 47,555 animals dead

DATA: FAO, as of 30 September 2020
SHOCKS

Flooding

Insecurity and violence

Disease outbreak

Market and supply route disruptions

Limited humanitarian access

“Fear of the threat of violence results in self limiting behaviors”
Conflict sensitivity expert

12 month timeline

- Mid to late 2019: heavy flooding + sub national violence
- January/February 2020: food stocks exhausted in many locations, lean season brought forward: persistent Murle raids throughout Jonglei
- February - March: Most coordinated and large-scale offensive into lowland Pibor by Lou Nuer and Dinka forces since 2012
- March: COVID-19, prices begin to increase
- May: attack in Pieri (Uror) by Murle forces: 510 casualties; 3 aid workers killed
- June – August: Highly coordinated offensive into lowland Pibor by Dinka/Gawaar Nuer and Lou Nuer forces
  - Flooding in Bor, Twic, Duk, Ayod
  - Cattle migration route changes, away from settlements
  - Multiple attacks on and occupation of key wet season pastures
- July: insecurity limiting market supply routes, flooding intensifies
- August/September: currency depreciation, flooding further limiting movement and affecting market supply, persistent rumours of Murle mobilization for counterattack
IPC PHASE 5 LOCATIONS

3 pockets of famine conditions from last Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in February 2020: striking similarity to the 1993 central Jonglei Hunger Triangle

Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution, and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)
EFFECTS OF COMPOUNDING SHOCKS

Access to agriculture
- Insecurity prevented planting & disrupts farming cycle
- Crops severely affected by flooding, expect reduced harvest
- Large-scale displacement & access constraints further limit to harvest: current harvest period may not lead to significant food access

Access to cattle
- Comparatively low levels cattle possession due to cumulative effects of shocks (out migration/ spoils of war/ disease/ starvation etc.)
- Disrupted cattle migration routes → reduced access livestock products (milk & cash reserve)
- 2019 & 2020 reports livestock disease (reduced morbidity/ productivity) and mortality (starvation)

Access to wild foods limited due to insecurity and flooding

Access to food and livestock markets
- Supply routes impacted especially in-land
- Household access to markets reduced
- COVID, devaluation of the SSP
- Access to livestock markets constrained by flooding and COVID-19
EFFECTS OF COMPOUNDING SHOCKS

Access to humanitarian aid
• Disruption to humanitarian aid & services even in IPC phase 5 pockets!
• Additionally, the barriers to accessing other sources of food may have resulted in any food received being shared across a larger group of people than usual

Access to labor market constrained by restricted movement due to floods & insecurity impact on paid casual work (essential for those without animals)

Effect on coping capacity
• Limited ability to engage in coping strategies which require leaving the settlement due to insecurity and flooding, e.g. wild food collection; firewood/charcoal collection; cutting poles for construction; hunting
• Most vulnerable households are most severely affected
• ‘Normal’ coping strategies becoming extreme

Displacement
• Large scale displacement to Lakes (Mingkaman), Equatorias and within Jonglei
• Those who remain, likely include the most vulnerable
• In other contexts, large scale displacement has been a sign of very severe food security outcomes
THANK YOU