



Returnees from Sudan in Renk, Sep 2023

FSL Cluster Meeting

21st September 2023

Venue: Virtual (MS Teams)

Time: 11:00am – 12:30pm

MEETING AGENDA:



Chair: Mat Gai, Co-Coordinator (FSLC)

- 1. Assessment findings from Renk** – Alexander Riley (FSLC), 15 min
- 2. IPC Timeline** – Alexander Riley, 5min
- 3. Preparation for HRP 2024 – brief orientation** – FSLC Team
 - a. Preparing HRP 2024 Project Sheet – step-by-step guidance
 - b. FSLC Targeting – covering population gaps CO1 & CO2
 - c. Crosscutting Themes

AOB:


- **FSL Cluster Members (if any)** – 5min


Sudan Crisis Response: Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessments





Onward Movement





 Transportation between Joda and Renk has remained operational despite IOM funding issues

 Grants from CERF and HQ expected to keep onward transportation moving until the end of the year

 Onward transportation from Renk to Malakal has resumed at a lower capacity to prevent a build-up of people in Malakal.

 Boats will depart Renk three times a week, transporting a total of 2100 people, meaning that there is likely to be a continued build-up of returnees in Renk.

 This potential build-up comes with associated risks, namely, increased pressure on already limited services, heightening of tensions between communities, increased pressure on Renk market.

 Returnees from Unity State have reportedly faced the most significant delays in onwards movement from Renk and Malakal due to Unity State Government refusing to accept further returnees given that many have been left stranded and unable to return to their location of chosen settlement.

FSL response



- To decongest the transit centre, i) onward transportation needs to be scaled up, ii) messaging around assistance levels to returnees needs to be improved, iii) assistance in areas of chosen settlement needs to be strengthened to incentivise onward movement.
- WFP has a high probability for additional funding from BHA that will facilitate a large-scale roll-out of the Phase II
- Phase 2 assistance to returnees choosing to reside in Renk also needs to be carefully considered as this will lead to a pull factor to remain in Renk, before then potentially moving on to another location to receive assistance again.
- Limited incentive to move onwards from Renk as the harvest season has either come to an end, in addition, communication between returnees that have already reached their location of chosen settlement is reportedly disincentivising onward movement, given the low level of services.
- Observations in Joda and in Renk Market suggest that a substantial amount of WFP food that has been distributed in Sudan is flowing across the border and is being sold.

Response upon arrival



Humanitarian response		
Location	Response	Challenges/recommendations
Upon arrival	At the border point, returnees are registered by IOM.	<p>Many returnees were observed crossing the border without being registered, despite the presence of border monitors at the entry point.</p> <p>Better signage, and staff waiting along the roadside to direct returnee.</p>
	<p>Children and PLWs are screened for malnutrition and children are provided with vaccinations.</p> <p>Cases of malnutrition are referred to clinics in the transit centre. U5s receive A weeks' worth of preventative ration (BP5), however, there is no preventative care for PLWs.</p>	PLWs should also be provided with preventative care in Joda.
	No food is provided to returnees upon arrival.	Returnees should be provided with 3 packs of HEB or BP5 to provide immediate access to food, as many returnees reported spending a night in Joda before being moved on.

Response in TC



Humanitarian response	
Response	Challenges/recommendations
Returnees are transported from Joda to the TC.	Host community members are accessing assistance by travelling up to Joda in the evening, once border monitors have finished working. Improved flow monitoring and supervision of the border point through the night is recommended.
One-week non-renewable cash assistance (12,600SSP) is provided to returnees. Refugees are assisted with the same amount of cash assistance; however, this is renewable each week.	Levels of assistance between refugees and returnees should be standardised. Due to limited food assistance in the TC, and a focus on Phase 2, advocacy effort should be made to ensure that onward transportation is scaled up.
Nutrition services are provided at the TC. Cases of SAM with complications are referred to Renk hospital. WFP provides food assistance to carers while the child remains in the facility.	Access to stabilisation centres is limited by the distance from the transit centre and carers competing responsibilities. Food, health, and nutrition partners should work closely to ensure that a stabilisation centre is established at the transit centre, or that shelter is provided at the hospital for carers. In addition, messaging to carers regarding onward movement options should be improved to reduce defaults.

Response during onward movement



Humanitarian response		
Location	Response	Challenges/recommendations
At the port	Access to water and WASH NFIs (notably buckets and jerry cans) is limited. No water was available at the port, and access to WASH NFIs was limited.	It is recommended that access to WASH NFIs be improved for returnees and that water be provided prior to departure or water purification tablets be provided.
	There is currently no nutrition screening before embarkation to onwards transportation.	Nutrition screening upon embarkation of boats and planes to destination should be initiated, and for those too malnourished to travel, transportation at a later date should be availed, along with food and nutrition support until the malnourished child, PLW is able to travel.
Onward boat movement	All returnees over 6 months of age are provided with 6 packs of HEB when they depart towards Malakal. Each pack is 100g and 3 packs are provided per day.	The amount of HEB provided to returnees should depend on the average number of days it takes for the boats to reach Malakal, and some contingency should be provided.