Labarab Rapid Assessment

VAM, March 2021
Objectives

I. Provide a snapshot of the current humanitarian needs and gaps in the area;

II. Understand the effect of Humanitarian Food Assistance on the food security of the households in this area

Methodology:

**Qualitative Data:** Focus group discussions disaggregated by gender, key informant interviews with community leaders

**Assessment locations:** Labarab

**Data collection timeframe:** 22\(^{th}\) – 25\(^{th}\) January
Population movement during the crisis February to August 2020

The population is estimated at 35,000 by the local authorities with about 8,000 IDPs from Gumuruk, Pibor and Likuangole.

Famine Review Committee analysis

- Risk of Famine in Kiziongara and Marow Payams: There is a reasonable chance that Famine may happen in the next six months among the conflict affected populations (displaced and host populations) in the eastern-central parts of Pibor (especially Labarab in Kiziongara payam and the Maruwa Hills in the Marow payam) if conflict reaches levels similar to those seen in June and July of 2020.
Main SHOCKS

Livestock losses: over 80 percent of the livestock in Labarab due to the attack in July.

Crop destruction: during the attack, crops were deliberately destroyed and when they return, nothing to harvest.

Presence of IDPs – additional pressure on scarce natural resources

Markets too far resulting in inadequate access to food, hence reliance on wild foods.

Livelihoods

Significant disruption - over 80% of the cattle reported lost during the attacks;

Field crops reported destroyed by the attackers leaving nothing to harvest for the local population when they return.
Food Security

Food Consumption

Current consumption consists of wild foods (olot- rice-like wild seeds collected around River Lazech, cassava, lalop, fish and game meat). Most participants reported eating once a day, while they used to consume two meals per day in normal period.

Current food sources:

- Wild foods. These include wild rice -like plant (Olot), lalop (balanite) seeds and tamarinds.
- Game meat: Currently available however expected to reduce as the dry season progresses
- Cultivation: cassava leaves around the homesteads. The cassava tube is available, though the gardens so small that will soon get depleted.

Coping strategies

Increased consumption of Wild foods. They are currently surviving on wild foods and vegetables as well as wild rice (olot). These are seasonal, for example Wild rice (Olot) is plenty in September-October and dries up in January and February.
### Access and availability of local food stuffs and potential exhaustion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food sources</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Most likely period of exhaustion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassava</td>
<td>Grown around the homestead in small quantities. Leaves and tubers eaten</td>
<td>Likely to get exhausted by end of January 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olot (wild rice)</td>
<td>This is found a lot river Lazech which is an hour walk from Labarab, preparation after collection, involves drying the seeds, pounding, winnowing to remove the husks and grinding to get the flour</td>
<td>Started harvesting from September and likely to get exhausted by end of January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish</td>
<td>Fishing is done in river Lezach, the river is permanent, and fishing can be throughout the year. However only some households with fishing tools can fish</td>
<td>Throughout the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lulu (shea butter oil)</td>
<td>Currently very limited</td>
<td>Start harvest from April to October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush meat</td>
<td>Currently available</td>
<td>Availability reduces during the rain season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nutrition

- **Lack of dietary diversity**
  - Cases of malnutrition likely to increase due to the lack of milk for the children and dependency on wild foods.
  - Lack of access to clean water

- Scarce (if any) provision of health services
- Poor sanitation and hygiene practices - lack of pit latrines

*The table shows children <5yrs screened at the OTP on 13th January 2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Total screened</th>
<th>MUAC (Green)</th>
<th>MUAC (Yellow)</th>
<th>MUAC (Red)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Recommendations**

**Food assistance:**

WFP/RRM: IDPs and Host: the population of the host community not known, though approximated to 7000. It was reported that 8000 IPDs from Pibor, Likuangole and Gumuruk are in Labarab. Need for a head count to establish the caseload.

**Livelihoods:**
Provision of Seeds and tools especially towards the beginning of the agricultural season in March 2021. Fishing gears to some households that access and interest to fish in R. Lezach.

**Nutrition**
Prepositioning of nutritional food for supplementary feeding Program in the existing Centre.

**NFI/WASH**
Urgent need for NFI’s in the area. The households lack cooking utensils, soap, water containers, and mosquito nets.

**Any assistance should be preceded by a population verification exercise.**