Leer & Mayendit mission findings June 4th – 14th 2021 to FSLC, NAWG, Protection WG & ICCG

“The crisis is better now but there is still a crisis”
Aims: understand context of livelihoods. Change over time & service delivery; provide the narrative to accompany the FSNMS/ IPC data;

• Team of three: using qualitative: PRA tools, KI & FGD tools

Background food security metrics and historical trends:

• Leer IPC 3 with 70% IPC 3+ (53,000) from current population* estimated to be approx. 75,000;
• Mayendit IPC 4 with 75% IPC 3+ (52,000) from current population estimated to be approx. 69,000;
• GAP analysis suggests both counties have unmet needs against the PiN (from November 2020 IPC); not receiving food assistance 10 – 13,000 persons; and not receiving livelihood support 30 – 39,000 persons

* Determined by NBS and the Population TWG that feeds into the IPC; pre crisis population know to be far higher than current due to those killed/ died in the crisis and the large proportion who were displaced and have NOT returned;

Alert: Population stripped of assets & with a very large proportion ‘vulnerable’ or extreme poor with potential third successive year of flooding expected!
1. Consequences of conflict: the importance of the past today

• Amnesty International report: ‘Anything that was breathing was killed’

• **Successive waves** of attacks 2014 – 2018, systematic sexual violence; no humanitarian access; active war zone:
  • Burning homes, destroying livelihoods
    • Looting of businesses
    • Livestock raiding
  • Hunger operationalized by conflict actors
  • **Large scale displacement**: internal to swamps; external to POCs, Sudan, Uganda & Kenya
2. Context mapping over time & space

- River safe haven
- Armed groups
- **Historical livestock trade**
- Presence of other armed actors
- Leer market & cattle auction #2 in Unity pre crisis
- Extent of flooding especially Mayendit
- **Atypical wet season livestock movements**
- Importance of Adok port: swamp reed fencing materials
3. Comparing hunger today with the past

• **2011 & 2012:** most had 3 meals a day 10/10

• **1988** – the worst famine **0/10** ‘naquajok’ leaves

• **1997** Conflict between rival commanders 6/10

• **2014/2015** 1st wave **1/10** kidnapping and livestock raiding; deaths: killed/ hunger/ disease

• **2016/2017** famine declaration 2/10 with UN food

• **2018** Subsequent wave: **1/10** ‘kill anything that breaths’; deaths: killed/ hunger/ disease

• **Today 4 or 5/10;**
4. Reversal in the social dynamic of wealth groups

Comparing pre crisis; height of crisis 2015 – 2018; and today (‘crisis continues’)

Livestock;
- Reversal of livestock ownership
- Pre crisis: 90% with livestock
- Crisis: 95% without
- Today indigenous restocking 70 – 80% without animals;
- Daughters in the POC marrying

- Only those **with resources could leave**; many killed; all lost their property, wealth & assets
- **Dynamic business / employer class lost**
- Lost ability for the community to **provide social safety nets** e.g. hunger courts
5. Local institutions & vacuum of chiefs authority – loss of the redistributive power of chiefs

Structural shift in community power dynamics
- Pre-war shift in the role of chiefs in humanitarian food assistance and the lack of ‘something extra’
- Mass influx of arms during the 2013 - 2020
- Power has shifted away from chiefs towards youth groups with no redistributive tendencies
- Chiefs are unable to enforce community level asset redistribution due to fear of retribution
- Displacement dynamics and have impacted current chief court functionality

Widespread livelihood collapse and a lack of community assets to redistribute
- No access to land to farm, cattle raided during war, sick or far from settlement
- Hunger courts reportedly active in Adok (Leer) and Dablual (Mayendit), but are minimally functional
- Sharing no longer mediated by chiefs and is increasingly down family lines, leaving the most vulnerable, without family ties, at severe risk
6. Pressure: household asset losses; reduction in UN food (cycle reduced 45 – 60 days) with significant returns & IDPs sharing with those who stayed

- Returnees from Khartoum, POC & Uganda etc.
- Fragmented families
- Returnees post Oct 2019 not registered with UN;
- Flood IDPs since Autumn of 2020
- Poor extreme families with more than 50% members unregistered

Displacement: – Labour shortage & lost population
- Internal to islands or bush;
- External outside the county’ mainly the top two social groups

Builds pressure on hunger & ability of poor/ extreme poor HHs to access food sources
7. Micro economic consequences of the macro economic crisis

1. Agro pastoral societies historically cereal deficit exchanging (barter more recently market) livestock for grains;
2. 2015 / 2016 – 2021 **devaluation and inflation** levels = economic crisis across the whole country
3. Price of **sorghum too high** for many poor households lacking livestock to afford: 1,600 - 2,000 SSP per Malwa
4. **Low return on labor**: too many sellers of firewood & poles at the market; lack of demand for fencing & house/ luak reconstruction by higher social group;

**Pre crisis**: many three meals per day (not all especially in the lean season); more milk; livestock; better off HHs hiring labor with larger farms;

**Crisis**: famine like conditions

**Today**: deep hunger; most one meal per day; high reliance on wild foods; 2 month ration used in less than 10 days; use of food based coping: reduced portions; skip meals; reliance on neighbor & friends who also ‘**have little**’
Lawlessness & slavery 1820 – 1920s

- **Subsistence**: agro pastoral/ fishing/ cultivation/ wild foods & especially livestock (GBEG & GUN)

- **Perennial food insecurity/ famine** (work of Douglas Johnson):

- **Main drivers & causes**: context of lawlessness & slavery (labour shortage/ fear):

- **Natural shocks as proximate causes but often preceded by extended periods of asset loss – today conflict & economic!**
  - Drought
  - Flooding
  - Rinderpest (eradicated early 2000s by OLS network of CAHWs)
8. Unprecedented flooding in 2019 & 2020

1. 2020 unprecedented 60 year high flood;
2. Mayendit especially: 2019 40% of normal harvest; 2020 zero harvest;
3. Standing water in 2021 expected to reduce cultivatable land by 80%
4. Dyke rehabilitation neglected over the past years of the crisis
5. Significant effect on livestock mortality & morbidity (disease/feeding/migration → no milk in the homesteads)
9. Vulnerability: labor shortage; gender dynamics;

- Deep hunger; resilience; reliance on wild foods; high dependence ratio (young children/ elderly/ disabled/ returnees &/ or IDPs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source:</th>
<th>With UN food (Dabluai returnee)</th>
<th>Without UN food (Dabluai returnee)</th>
<th>Vulnerable HH Gangyang</th>
<th>Comments Gangyang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN food</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Zero</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Very small for 10 persons 6 registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>People not buying the firewood over supply at market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild foods</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Each day collecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative &amp; friends</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Immense reliance on external support with sorghum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest 2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Flood affected</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Conducted in Mayendit</td>
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</tbody>
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- **Culture of male dominance** over women; workload (reason women prioritize hunger & water as their #1 challenge;  
- **Time poverty** due to shortage of labor & workload (labor profiles)  
- *The inspirational role played by neighbors & friends*; who do not have much;  
- Local women estimate approx. 65% *children experiencing hunger* as compared to 35% before the crisis; (IPC past three years of growing malnutrition)  
- Sub set of the 65% children from HH (35%) without anyone ‘working’; friends & relatives *who also do not have much* – extreme poor & vulnerable;
10. Focus on Youth

Where are the youth?:

- 20% cattle camps (more food secure than homesteads: children/ elderly)
- 30% displaced: never returned or killed;
- 50% within Payam: cultivating & mending dykes (30%) & with or without jobs in market (20%);

Many with guns & mobile phones – guns on increase over past 20 years but especially before & during crisis;

Women in Leer ranking problems: #1 Hunger & Water – 10/10; #2 Proliferation of guns – 8/10: pregnancies/ criminality/ cattle raiding – perpetuated & intensified localized violence; and Health, flooding & food prices ranked far lower (Leer);

Men in Mayendit: (1) Flooding; (2) hunger; (3) food prices; (4) insecurity & cattle raiding;

Shared vision: Men/ Woman/ Youths: peace (togetherness) & education → paid jobs!

See RVI report June 2021: South Sudan: Youth Violence & Livelihoods (posted on FSLC website);
11. Functionality of services across two counties

**FSL**: mission established for the first time a **FSL sub cluster in Leer** to minimize duplication in three locations; food assistance in Leer supports 40,000 persons & Mayendit 18,500 persons on a 60 day cycle;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leer County</th>
<th>Mayendit County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSR NH 2,000 HH – approx.. 12,000</td>
<td>DSR CH 3,000 HH approx.. 18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSR NH 3,092 HH – approx.. 18,500</td>
<td>MSR CH 4,333 HH approx.. 26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSR ICRC 2,500 HH – approx.. 15,000</td>
<td>MSR ICRC 1,200 HH approx. 7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSR total: 33,500</td>
<td>MSR total: 33,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Coverage but GAPs especially unregistered returnees & IDPs unable to collect rations in place of arrival

**WASH** – where no conflict or flooding hunger & water are women’s #1 problem
- High reliance on **river and swamp water**, and a lack of **time to collect** borehole water
- Almost no access to latrines, open defecation contaminating drinking water, compounding vulnerabilities → effects **food utilization → nutrition; health**
11. Functionality of services across two counties

Health and nutrition

• Most facilities are functional but severe lack of drugs, staff and referrals which has resulted in an increased reliance on traditional medication and vulnerable households travelling longer distances to access services
• Widespread rape but no capacity to respond to physical or mental trauma
• IDPs sleeping outside with no mosquito nets and a seasonal spike in malaria is expected, this will likely be exacerbated by widespread sitting floodwater
• Community perceptions of malnutrition worse this year than last
• Hunger deaths reported on two separate occasions
• Attacks against humanitarians expected to limit the delivery of lifesaving services even further
12. Recommendations

High level:
• Peace, rule of law, disarmament & leadership around unity – Nothing else required!

Immediate:
• Registration of those unregistered & IDPs to collect rations in place of arrival;
• Main season response coordination resolved through mapping & communication;
• Quarterly replenishment of vaccines & treatment supplies #1 to address FMD

Longer term: resilience & multi annual community development based on in depth contextual analysis of shocks, vulnerabilities & risks;

• Self help group concept including VSLAs
• Youth skills training & education (it’s what they want)
• Adaptive livelihoods – why so few people fishing?
• Support DRR measures e.g. dyke rehabilitation through FFA/ FFW/ CFW etc.
Thank you