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Rapid Needs Assessment Mangalla

Juba County, Central Equatoria State



World Food
Programme

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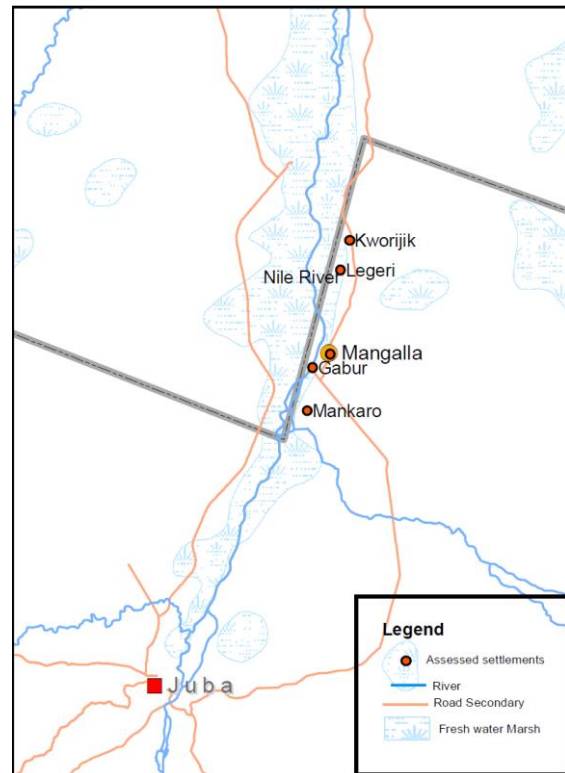
Contents

	Page
1. Background	3
2. Objectives	4
3. Methodology	4
4. Limitations	4
5. Key Findings	5
5.1. Demographics	5
5.2. Displacement pattern	5
5.3. Relationship with the Host Community	7
5.4. IDPs future intentions	7
5.5. Prerequisites for return to place of origin	8
5.6. Food Security Situation	8
5.7. Households' Livelihoods	10
5.8. Access to markets	12
5.9. Shocks experienced by households	12
5.10. Households Coping Strategies	12
5.11. Security.	14
5.12. Conclusion	14
6. Recommendations	15

Rapid Needs Assessment Mangalla

1. Background

Floods and inter-communal conflicts are some of key shocks that drive population displacement in many states and counties across South Sudan. Heavier than normal rainfall during the 2020 rainy season caused riverbanks to overflow, resulting in the flooding of settlements in several counties in Jonglei, Central Equatoria and Lakes States. Consequently, an estimated 240,000 people were displaced in Jonglei State leading to the influx of the affected people to safer grounds in nearby counties and states. An assessment conducted by WFP and other agencies in August 2020 estimated a total of 11,354 IDPs made up of 4,227 households in Mangalla were displaced from Jonglei. By the 20th of October 2020, a total of 13,000 IDPs, mainly from Jonglei and Shirakat had been registered. Accordingly, this culminated in the provision of one-month General Food Distribution to all the affected households while other agencies provided for the WASH and nutrition needs of the affected population.



The influx of flood-affected population into Mangalla along with the arrival of other individuals from neighbouring Juba has raised concerns about the possible exacerbation of existing tensions between the residents of Mangalla over control of land and other commercially significant resources. Additionally, there are concerns that humanitarian assistance could incentivize IDPs to remain in Mangalla even after the flooding has receded, and the potential for the situation in Mangalla to become intertwined with political and intercommunal conflicts in neighbouring areas.

Given the prevailing situation in Mangalla, it is critical for humanitarian partners, including WFP to understand how its operations could impact the underlying conflict dynamics in the longer-term and institute humanitarian response approach that would mitigate any harm whether in terms of targeting or resource allocation for different groups. Additionally, it would be extremely critical to understand the displacement patterns of these populations, the livelihood opportunities they left behind and, if possible, the current livelihood opportunities in their location of displacement as well as the challenges faced.

In view of the urgent need to provide guidance to Juba Field Office and overall WFP management on the continuation of the response to the flood-affected IDPs in Mangalla as well as to the host community households, an assessment is being planned for December 2020 to evaluate the feasibility and duration of food assistance to be provided as well as the criteria to be used in targeting and the selection of beneficiaries.



2. Objectives

The goal of this assessment is to provide guidance to the Juba Field Office and WFP management on the prospects and implications of continuing the provision of food assistance to flood affected IDPs in Mangalla as well as host community households.

The specific objectives are:

- To evaluate the level of food assistance needs and whether the current GFD should be maintained by WFP and for how long (i.e. whether this level of need necessitates assistance in the form of GFDs, and how long this assistance will be needed for?);
- Establish the scale and magnitude of food insecurity among IDP and host community households and recommend mechanisms for beneficiary targeting
- Investigate the type of livelihood opportunities left behind in the place of origin and the current livelihood opportunities undertaken in their location of displacement as well as the challenges faced.
- Explore the intention of the IDPs to return to their area of origin and the basis for
- Explore the positive and/or negative impacts WFP's decision on the continuation of GFD in Mangalla could have on the local context (and especially community relations / tensions).

3. Methodology

The assessment was conducted using a combination of key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and household surveys to collect primary information. Four Focus Group Discussions were held with IDPs and host community households and disaggregated by gender.

A stratified sampling approach was used to collect food security related information in Mangalla. In each stratum (host communities and IDPs), a total

of 120 households were randomly selected for structured interviews on key food security indicators. A total of 350 households were interviewed in 4 days by 21 trained enumerators. The enumerators were recruited from within the communities.

Host Community (Mundari)	110
Host Community (Bari)	120
IDPs	120
Total	350

4. Limitations

There was no major limitation that impacted on the assessment. The security situation was calm despite tensions that exists between the communities. As a result, the enumerators had access to the selected samples without impediment. Since enumerators from one community would not be accepted by the other, enumerators selected from each community administered the questionnaire in sample clusters within their own community. However, capacity among the Mundari enumerators were comparatively low, and their work required much guidance and revisions.

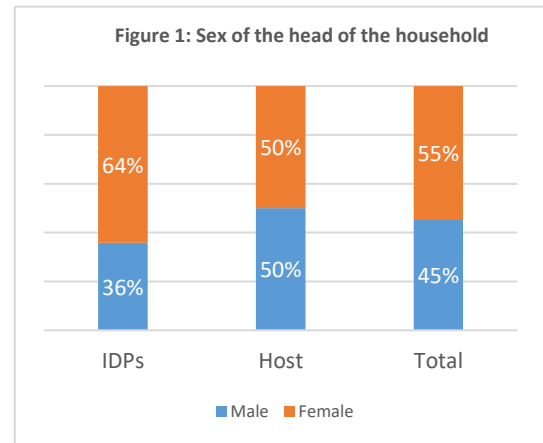
5. Key Findings

5.1. Demographics

Overall, 54.9 percent of the households surveyed were headed by female while the remaining 45.1 percent were male-headed households (Figure 1).

For IDPs 64.2 percent were female headed households while the host community had 50% female headed households.

Overall 86.9 percent of the household head were married, 8.3 percent separated/divorced and 4.3 percent single. Comparing marital status of the heads of households among the IDPs and the host communities, 91.7 percent of the host communities were married compared to 77.5 percent of the IDPs. 17.5 Percent of the IDPs heads of households were widowed compared to 3.5 percent of the host communities



The average household size for the three communities is 9.44. The IDPs have more people living in the households with an average household size of 12.37 compared to 7.73 among the host community. Overall an average of about 2.66 boys and girls under 5 years, 2.82 boys and girls between 5 and 17 years of age, 2.69 of men and women from 18 to 60 years of age and 1.27 of men and women above 60 years of age live in the households.

5.2. Displacement pattern

5.2.1 Time of Arrival of the IDPs

The Majority of the IDPs arrived in Mangalla between July and November 2020. However, there are others who reported to have arrived Mangalla in August of 2019. By month of arrival, 2.5% arrived in July, 35.3% arrived in August, 46.2 percent arrived in September, 6.7 percent arrived in October and 3.7 percent arrived in November. It took the IDPs more than one day to arrive Mangalla. Majority of the IDPS were from Jonglei, with 70.8 percent from Twic East, 10.8 percent from Duk.

According to the focus group discussions (FGDs), the movement from Payams of origin to Mangalla varied depending on distances and the time the flood water reached their place of residence but the experience on the course of the movement is similar across the IDPs. All of them travelled to Mangalla by river using boats and others used bundled reeds and plastic sheets to float to Mangalla.

There are some IDPs who first travelled to Juba but later came to Mangalla when the area was designated as an IDP site by the government.

The days taken by the IDPs to reach Mangalla varied from 2 to 7 days depending on distance between of the place of origin and Mangalla. Some households spent some days in Bor before travelling to Mangalla. Whole household move when flood came, however there were some households who did not leave but decided to remain in the place of origin.



Rapid Needs Assessment Mangalla

The host communities were also internally displaced. The Islands and the areas along the River Nile in Mangalla were all flooded and by the time of the assessment Islands were still under water and the hosts communities still displaced to higher grounds within Mangalla.

5.2.2 County of Origin

The IDPs were from Jonglei state and from different counties, mainly Bor South, Twic East, Duk and some from Uror.

County of Origin									
County	Ayod	Bor South	Duk	Fangak	Twic East	Uror	Mayom	Baliet	Total
Number of HH	1	12	13	1	85	5	1	1	119
Percentage	0.8	10.0	10.8	0.8	70.8	4.2	0.8	0.8	100.0

According to the FGD conducted with the IDPs, flood was the major reason for leaving area of origin. Nearly all the IDPs (99.2 percent) reported flood as the reason of displacement. There was flood in 2019 and much more 2020 that destroyed crops and livestock. Houses/tukuls collapsed and some lives were lost.

The reasons for the choice of Mangalla as destination include: peace and security prevailing in the area (44.5 percent), better economic opportunities (0.8 percent), percent access to agriculture land (7.6 percent) and 47.1 percent of the households mentioned other reasons including Mangalla being at a high ground, search for agriculture lands, food assistance, and proximity to Jonglei state.

5.2.3 Challenges encountered during the movement

Travelling to Mangalla was with a lot of challenges to many IDPs, first the entire village was flooded and one need plastic sheet to improvise as means to reach the main river port to get a boat to come down to Bor and then Mangalla. It was costly to move the family as one had to raise money to pay the fees for the boat. Bad weather (rain and cold) and mosquitoes affected them as they travel to Mangalla.

For most of the IDPs, the decision to come Mangalla was based on telephone calls from those who were already in Mangalla and from neighbours who had gotten the information that Mangalla is a high ground and safe for them. There were those who had gone to Juba but came to Mangalla when they heard that it was officially declared by the government as an IDP site.

5.2.4 Challenges faced in Mangalla by the IDPs

- Shortage of water for drinking. The water points are few, no new bore holes were drilled, and they have to share with the host community. Though there were water tanks placed along the road, the IDPs mentioned that they were not enough and made some household to shift closer to the river.
- Lack of jobs as many lost their jobs by moving to Mangalla.
- Lack of food and depend on assistance.



- Lack of child friendly space
- Inadequate shelters

5.3. Relationship with the Host Community

The IDP noted that they have no issues with host communities and their relationship is good. They share water points, markets and available natural resources with the host. They get poles, firewood and wild foods from the nearby forests and there is so far not much issues. However, there are few incidents when some of their livestock (goats) went missing and they suspected the Mundari people to be responsible as they also keep livestock. IDPs also mentioned that some host community members were complaining and want to restrict them from cutting trees for poles and firewood.

The host communities noted that at the start they welcomed the IDPs and gave them access to and shared with them the common resources and services, including water, market spaces and natural resources. The main issue with both the Mundari and the Bari against the IDPs is that some of the IDPs have moved from an area designated to them to settle anywhere without consulting the host. Some of the IDPs have moved out deep into the woodlands and have started bush clearance and erecting structures. The IDPs also cut trees indiscriminately including those not supposed to be cut down by the host. Currently the host community have not openly expressed their concerns to the IDPs regarding relocating to other land, constructing tukuls and cutting trees; but already they are getting suspicious about the motive of the IDPs of staying longer in Mangalla and not returning to their land of origin when the flood water recedes.

5.4. IDPs future intentions

According to the IDPs, the flood displaced them to Mangalla and will return to their counties of origin once the water recedes, without giving specific period during the FGD. However, according to the HH survey, only 5% reported that they will stay in the current location between 4 to 6 months, the majority 71.4 percent prefer not to answer the question on their intention to return and 21 percent intend to stay between 1 to 2 years.

How long to you intend to stay in the current location?						
No. of months	4-6 months	7-12 months	1-2 years	3-4 years	Over 5 years	Prefer not to answer
Proportion of IDP	5.0%	0.8%	1.7%	21.0%	0.0%	71.4%

5.5. Prerequisites for return to place of origin

During the FGD, the participants mentioned that they will return if the flood waters recedes. However, during the HH survey only 20 percent of the assessed household indicated access to HFA as a prerequisite for return to place of origin. Access to livelihoods and access to shelter were also mentioned by 0.8 percent as a prerequisite for return to place of origin.

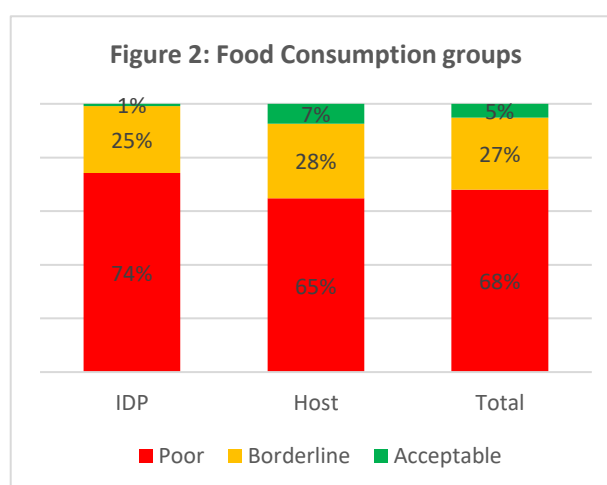
Prerequisites for IDP to return	
Flood waters recedes	76.5%
Access to HFA	20.2%
Other	3.2%

5.6. Food Security Situation

The food security situation is poor among the hosts and the IDPs. Crops were affected by the flood waters and the yield were greatly reduced with complete crop loss in some places. The islands around Mangalla were all flooded, perennial crops including bananas and mangoes were so much affected. Some of the mango trees drying due to excessive water. The IDPs reported losing most of their assets in the floods including livestock as they made their way to Mangalla. According to the FGD with the host communities, they were so much concern because as mangoes and bananas constitute an essential source of income for them. Currently, the communities both IDPs and host rely more on wild foods, humanitarian food assistance and market purchases. The food security situation in Mangalla is blamed on the floods and conflicts that affected livelihoods and displaced communities. It should be noted that both the hosts and the IDPs were displaced. It should also be noted that the IDPs are coming from state that is characterized by structurally chronic food insecurity.

5.6.1 Food Consumption

Food Consumption Score (FCS) based on seven-day recall period prior to the assessment shows that 95 percent of the households have inadequate food consumption with 68 percent of households having poor food consumption while the other 27 percent have borderline food consumption score. Meals of the households with poor food consumption comprise mainly of cereals and vegetables. As the lean season progresses, households with borderline food consumption are likely to fall into poor food consumption category. The IDPs and the host communities all have poor food consumption situation (Figure 2).



5.6.2 Household Dietary Diversity

The results reveal low dietary diversity in all communities assessed. Overall, 73 percent of the households had low dietary diversity, 11 percent had medium and 16 percent had high dietary

diversity. Comparing the host community to the IDPs, the IDPs has 82 percent low dietary diversity and the 68 percent, the host have 23 percent high dietary diversity and the IDPs have 3 percent. While households reported consumption of cereals for 3.8 days on average, vegetables 1.1 days on average, foods rich in protein (meat, fish, and eggs) were only consumed 0.58 days of the seven days preceding the survey. Dairy products were consumed 0.2 days, pulses 1.2 days and fruits 0.8 days out of the seven days prior to the survey. The low dietary diversity could explain the poor food consumption among most of the households.

Table 1: Average number of days household consumed food type

	Staples	Legumes	Milk	Meat, Fish, Egg	Vegetables	Fruits	Oil and Fats	Sugar
IDP	4.36	1.27	0.23	0.33	0.85	0.38	0.60	1.03
Host	3.53	1.15	0.31	0.71	1.33	1.02	0.73	0.97
Total	3.81	1.19	0.29	0.58	1.17	0.80	1.03	0.99

5.6.3 Food Sources

Humanitarian food assistance and markets are the main sources of food especially for the IDPs. The main sources of cereals consumed during the seven days prior to the assessment include food assistance (50 percent), Market purchase (32.2 percent), own production (10.6 percent), hunting/gathering (17 percent), and gifts from neighbours/ relatives (2.5 percent). Very few households (1.6 percent) reported exchange of food for labour and another 1.9 percent bartering as their major source of food for cereals.

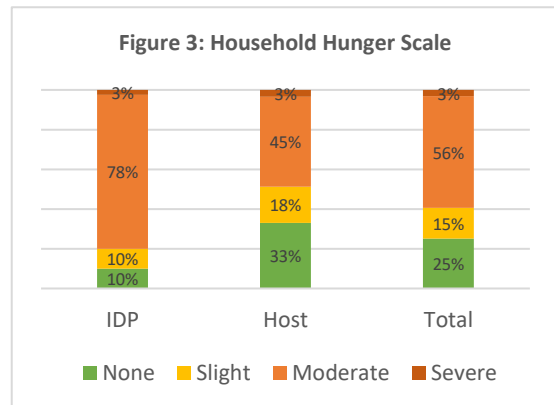
In the settlement of Mankaro, Legeri and Mangokolong, the team observed increased collection of water lilies and Lalop. The water lilies are dried and made into flour in the absence of Sorghum. This coping mechanism is usually adapted in times of severe food shortage.

Comparing the IDPs and the host communities, the main source of cereals in the last seven days prior to the assessment for the IDPs is food assistance 84.7 percent while that of the of the host community is Market purchase.

The main source of the cereals and grains eaten in the household in the last 7 days							
	Own production	Market Purchase	Food assistance	Borrowing/debts	Kinship support	Exchange of food for labour	Bartering
Host	16.8%	46.5%	29.7%	1.0%	0.5%	2.5%	3.0%
IDP	0.0%	7.6%	84.7%	1.7%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	10.6%	32.2%	50.0%	1.3%	2.5%	1.6%	1.9%

5.6.4 Household Hunger Scale

More than half of the households experienced moderate to severe hunger. Overall, 59 percent of households were found to be facing moderate to severe hunger. Among them, 56 percent face moderate hunger and 3 percent face severe hunger (Figure 3). The IDPs showed moderate to severe levels of hunger (81 percent) compared to Host (48 percent). Among the host, the Bari (66 percent) showed moderate to severe hunger compared to the Mundari (30 percent) that reported lower levels of hunger. The main livelihood of the Mundari is cultivation and rearing of cattle while those of Bari is only cultivation. The presence of livestock among the Mundari community could probably made them slightly better than the other community.



5.7. Households' Livelihoods

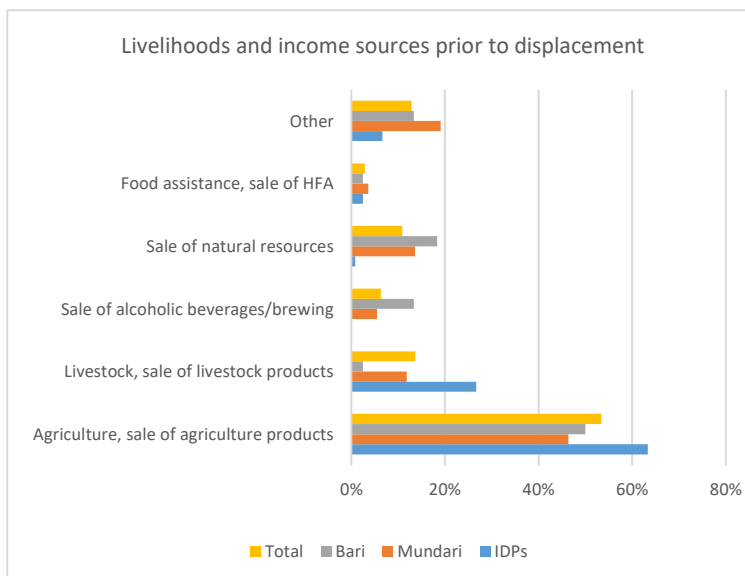
The IDPs were traditionally agropastoral, they grow crops and keep livestock like one section of the host (Mundari) the other host (Bari) majorly grow crops with limited livestock keeping. These livelihoods were negatively impacted by the flood waters. The crops mainly grown by the host include sorghum, groundnut, cow peas and maize. Comparing past years to current in terms of harvest; the host reported there was better harvest in the year 2019 compared to last year 2020. The average farm size is between one to one and a half feddan.

5.7.1 Livelihoods and Income Sources

The IDPs were traditionally agropastoral, they grow crops and keep livestock like one section of the host (Mundari) the other host (Bari) majorly grow crops with limited livestock keeping. These livelihoods were negatively impacted by the flood waters. The crops mainly grown by the host include sorghum, groundnut, cow peas and maize. Comparing past years to current in terms of harvest; the host reported there was better harvest in the year 2019 compared to last year 2020. The average farm size is between one to one and a half feddan.

5.7.2 Main Source of Livelihood during past 12 Months

Agriculture, including production and/or the sale of cereals, vegetables and other crops (53.4%), livestock and products 13.7%, sale of firewood and other natural resources(10.9% sale of alcoholic beverages/brewing (6.3%), food assistance (2.9%) and gathering wild foods (1.7%) played a vital role as the main source of livelihoods in the last 12 months for both the hosts and the IDPs. Though the host and the IDPs have similar livelihood sources, the hosts rely more on agriculture, sale of firewood and other natural resources and beverages compared to the IDPs. The IDPs rely more on livestock compared to the host communities in the past 12 months.



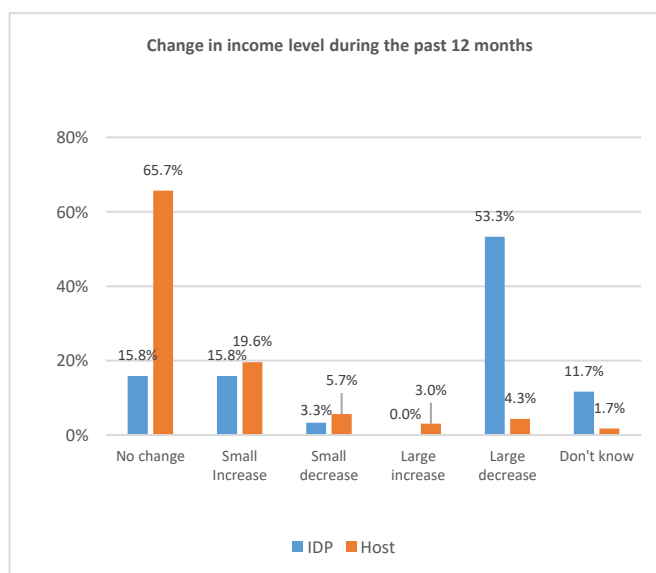
The host communities have started dry season vegetable farming close to the river. Mainly okra and cowpeas are planted. However, they mentioned limited availability of seeds force them to only grow okra and cow peas.

5.7.3 Changes in Livelihoods

Over the last 12 months, the income levels for both the hosts and the IDPs changed. Only 15 percent of the IDPs reported no change compared to 65.7 percent of the host. The IDPs reported the largest change in income compared to the host. The main reason for change in income include closure of business, change in market and inflation.

Agriculture as main source of livelihood decreased among both the IDPs and the host communities while livestock and sale of local alcohols increased among the Bari community. Food assistance has sharply increased among the IDP community as the main source of livelihood.

The main reason for decrease of income for both the IDPs and host communities is closure of business though the host expect to restart their business once again. Changes in the market conditions and inflation that substantially reduce income levels have been cited by both communities as other reasons that led to changes in income levels.



5.8. Access to markets

Access to market was reported as not being a major problem in Mangalla. The proximity of Mangalla to Juba and the good road make it easy to supply Mangalla with food and other essential commodities from Juba. The market is functioning and most commodities including sugar, salt, beans, onions, and sorghum are available. The shops are all retail and prices comparable to Juba.

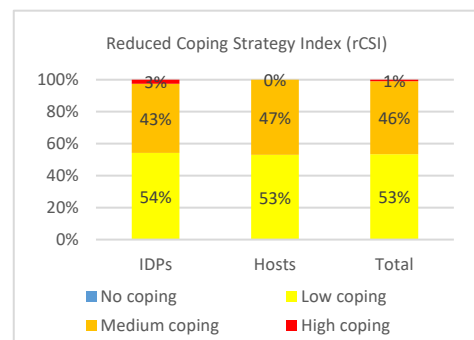
5.9. Shocks experienced by households

Overall 64.3 percent of the surveyed household reported experiencing shocks. Serious illness or accident of household member (21.1 percent), unusual high food prices (15.4 percent), house flooded (13.7 percent), insecurity and violence (13.7 percent), crop destroyed by floods (12.9 percent), reduced income for households (11.1 percent) were the most prominent household level shocks in the past six months prior to the survey.

5.10. Households Coping Strategies

5.10.1 Reduced Coping Strategy Index

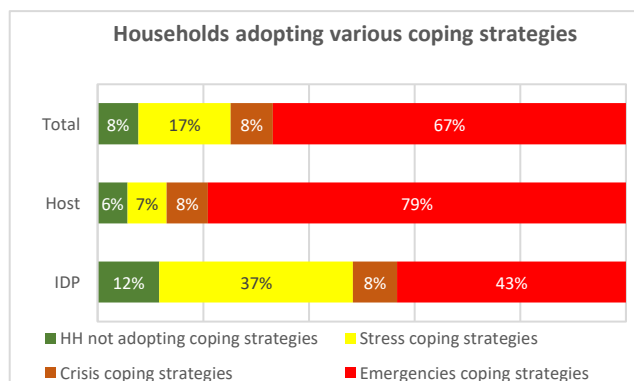
All the assessed households adapted consumption based coping strategies during the week preceeding the assessment. The average rCSI for the IDPs is 16.5 percent, whereas the average score for the host were 17.8 percent and 14.9 percent for the Mundari and Bari communities respectively. Overall, 3 percent of the IDPs adapted high coping while the the highest coping employed by the host community is medium coping strategies. The most commonly used coping strategies included limiting portion size (93.4 percent), reducing number of meals (91.4 percent), eating less preferred food (90.9 percent) and restricting consumption by the adults so that children can eat (86.0 percent).



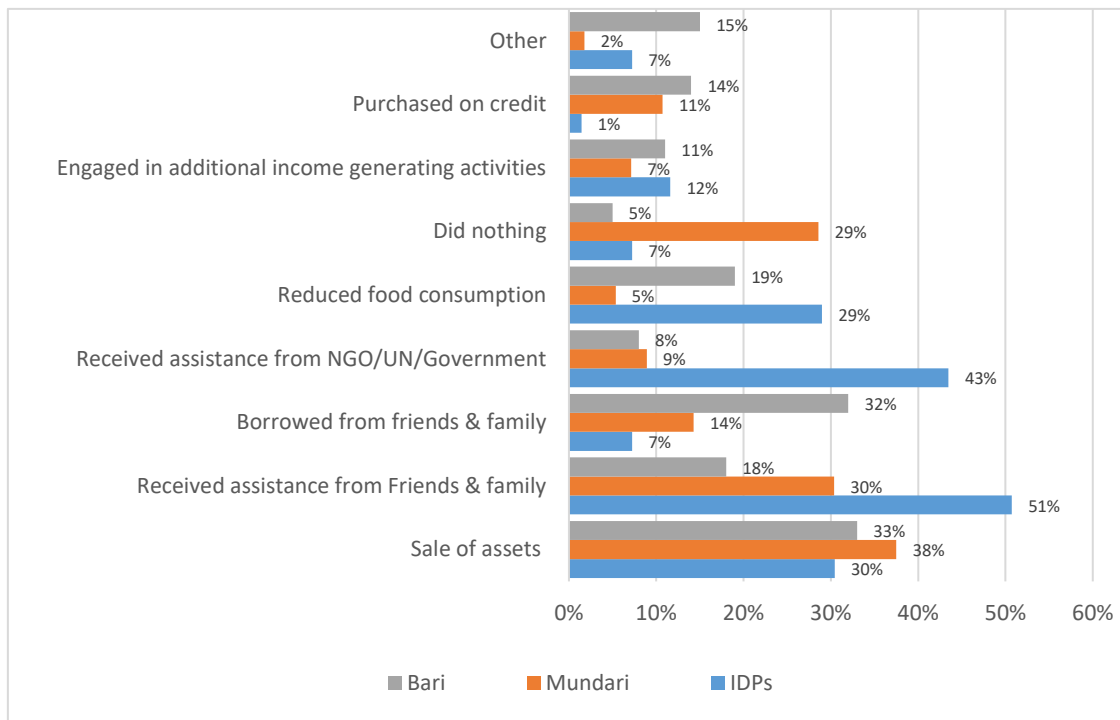
5.10.2 Livelihood Coping Strategies

All residence categories adopted emergency coping strategies. This is a maximum coping that households can adapt. These include sale of productive assets, migration of entire family and begging. Emergency coping undermines households' resilience and compromises with its ability to cope with potential shocks.

Sale of assets as a coping strategy was reported by one out of three respondent households. The most frequently reported



coping strategies among the IDPs was assistance received from relatives and friends (51%); UN agencies, INGOs and host government (43%). Most of the IDPs lost assets because of the flooding prior to displacement to Mangalla. Increased sale of assets especially livestock was observed among the Mundari which is driving the Emergency coping strategies. However, this does not mean all the livestock sales are distressed sales resulting from acute food shortages.



5.10.3 Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance plays a vital role as a livelihood and the main source of food for the IDPs. The IDPs reported they received assistance from different humanitarian organizations and individuals upon arrival to Mangalla. They received both food and non-food items (NFIs). The assistance from individuals including the First Lady Ayen Mayardit and Vice President H.E. Rebecca Garang. Humanitarian partners: Islamic Relief, Tear Fund and Caritas World Vision International, WFP and others assisted them.

Among the food commodities received were sorghum, beans, salt, vegetable oil and Maize flour. The NFI's including plastic sheets, water container, sets of utensils and tools for making shelters were provided. Though assistance were provided, majority of the IDPs were unable to receive the assistance. They estimated about 40% of IDP population received assistance and other 60% did not. Mainly the IDPs who arrived later after the registration did not get assistance. However, those who received assistance shared it with households that did not receive.

The IDP noted that food distribution was fare, but quantity of the food distributed was insufficient to last for two weeks. The host community mentioned that they started receiving humanitarian assistance when the IDPs arrived in their area. They were not receiving any assistance before the arrival of the IDPs. That in Mangalla there are three distribution sites, for the IDPs, the Mundari and the Bari and the communities register accordingly.

According to the FGD, only a section of Mundari residing in Mangalla Centre Boma receive assistance and those in other two Bomas of Legeri and Yeri were not assisted. They noted that the

Rapid Needs Assessment Mangalla

other bomas were equally affected by the floods. Most humanitarians don't come down to consult them before doing any humanitarian activity.

The host community asserted that they should be consulted and informed by the partners before bringing assistance so that the all community member in need get assistance. Most of the members of the host community are not aware of their entitlement. They would prefer any NGO coming to implement any project to come down to tell them how, when, what the project is about before they can be implemented.

- The major priority for host in terms of assistance is Health Service and food assistance.
- The host community who manages to receive the food are even not able to take the cereal for milling due lack of money.

According to the HH survey most households received food assistance a month ago, others received two to three weeks prior to the assessment. During the last distribution the hosts and the IDPs received food in kind.

	Within Last week	2-3 weeks ago	A month ago	Between 1 and 2 months	More than two months
IDPs	3.2%	26.6%	40.4%	29.8%	0.0%
Host	4.8%	18.7%	56.6%	11.4%	8.4%
Total	4.2%	21.5%	50.8%	18.1%	5.4%

5.11. Security.

The security situation in the area is relatively calm though tense. Prior to the arrival of the IDPs, the Mundari and the Bari had land dispute and each side claim Mangalla as their own. The arrival of the IDPs has added another level to the already complex situation. The movement of the IDPs away from the areas allotted for them and erecting structures pose a major concern among the host communities both Mundari and Bari. This is a threat to their coexistence with the hosts.

5.12. Conclusion

- The conflict between the Mundari and the Bari over the administration of Mangalla payam has not been resolved; the Payam administration office and the health facility remained closed. The arrival and continual stay of the IDPs from Jonglei is likely to add another dynamic to the conflict especially the issue of exploitation of natural resources and grazing of livestock in a predominantly crop farming community.
- The three communities were all equally affected by the floods in Mangalla in addition to the impact of floods in the areas of origin of the IDPs.
- Consumption based food security indicators revealed that higher proportion of households in Mangalla are food insecure. There was low dietary diversity with cereals being the most frequently consumed food commodity.



Rapid Needs Assessment Mangalla

- Significant proportion of households adopted the maximum livelihood-based coping strategies, impacting on their ability to cope with future shocks and undermining their future productivity.
- Household size for all categories stood above the national average and the # of child and adult members (high dependency) increases vulnerability of households to food insecurity.
- Physically disable and chronically ill HH member(s) across the categories aggravate the vulnerability of households to food insecurity.

6. Recommendations

Any assistance in Mangalla should consider the current potential situation in Mangalla to avoid escalating it further; all communities should be consulted and assisted equally not to be seen favouring one over the other. Assistance should be temporary response to the impact of floods on lives and livelihood.

In the short term:

- Protection of HHs from deterioration of food security should be the priority
- Distribution of general food assistance to the population to save lives

It is critical for humanitarian partners, including WFP to understand how its operations could impact the underlying conflict dynamics in the longer-term and institute humanitarian response approach that would mitigate any harm whether in terms of targeting or resource allocation for different groups.

For longer-term solution, coordination among the stakeholders is recommended – such as support for the voluntary returning IDPs to rebuild their devastated homes in the places of. Other activities should include reconstruction of broken dykes through FFA modality.