South Sudan
Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Pibor Rapid Assessment Preliminary Results, Juba
13th December, 2019
Objectives

1. To assess the current food security and nutrition situation
2. To summarize other multi-sectoral needs and access to services for affected populations
3. Understand the most likely evolution and resilience strategies of the situation in the coming months
Methodology

• **Assessment sites:** Purposively selected, accessible locations in Pibor Town and surrounding areas, Likuangole, Verteth. The assessment team did not access Gumuruk.

• **Quantitative Data** – Household survey focused on MUAC screening, FSL and child morbidity.

• **Qualitative Data** – Focus group discussions with men/women, key informant interviews with community leaders, NGOs, others.
Flood Effects – Movement Dynamics

• Flooding has disrupted and continues to delay normal cattle migration patterns.

• Whole households have reportedly moved to cattle camps, generally an extreme coping strategy.

• Mostly households without cattle, or dependent on agriculture, were assessed in accessible population centres.
Results – Current Food Consumption Gaps

- **Food availability and accessibility decreased**
  - Harvested crops, but lost much in floods due to suddenness, particularly in Likuangole, Vertheth and Pibor.
  - Livestock losses due to drowning, limited grazing land, and some disease (no confirmed outbreaks however).
  - Market prices for staples have risen 2-3x, smaller units of sale available. Likely to continue with no road access until possibly January, only commercial flights active now.

- **Overall poor quantity and quality of foods consumed, by FCS and HHS.**
  - Households consuming 1-2 meals per day; Often reported at least 1 day in last 7 days not eating anything at all.
  - Limited cereal stocks (2-4 weeks) and food distributions, fish and meat, however lacking vegetables and milk in many areas.

- **Current response:** Food drops in Pibor in days after the assessment, however Likuangole and Vertheth not yet serviced. Registration ongoing in Gumuruk.

- **Populations in cattle camps may not be able to access services.**
Destroyed granaries near Besuban village, on river to Likuangole payam

Limited maize stocks in Verteth Centre
• Health and nutrition services continue to function, however challenges in access, reporting.

• Low, but not representative proxy GAM by MUAC due to heavy age bias for younger children, likely indicates older children have moved to cattle camps.

• More than two-thirds (38%) of under-5 children reported sick in last two weeks, with fever (suspected malaria) the most common concern.

• Contaminated water points, lack of sanitation facilities, open defecation and congested population due to flood relocations is of major concern.

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<th>Weighted Total**</th>
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** MUAC shows a known bias towards younger children. In a balanced sample we expect approximately two thirds of the sample to be over 2 years old. If too few older children are included in the sample use the weighted total.

% of children under-5 years reported sick in two weeks prior to data collection

- Any symptom: 38%
- Fever (suspected malaria): 32%
- Cough: 17%
- Diarrhoea: 16%
- Skin infection: 7%
- Fast or difficulty breathing: 3%
- Eye infection: 2%
- Other: 2%
3-month Outlook (Evolution)

• **Population Movements:**
  • As flood waters recede, cattle will start moving towards primary dry season grazing grounds. Possible frictions due to alternate routes.
  • To Monitor: Will households move to dry season cattle camps, or partial households return to access services in population centers like Pibor Town and Gumuruk Centre?

• **Food Security and Livelihoods:**
  • Limited food stocks will run out soon, food distributions accessible in population centres, high market prices
  • To Monitor: Potentially more vulnerable households currently in cattle camps, what condition will they be in when accessibility improves?

• **Health and Nutrition:**
  • Accessibility to health and nutrition services should improve in coming months, but operational and security challenges will persist.
  • Common morbidities (malaria, respiratory, diarrhoea) likely to increase as flood waters recede, and increased risk of disease outbreaks.
  • To Monitor: Possibility of disease outbreaks, access to services for those in cattle camps
• **Deterioration of Food Security in Coming Months:** IPC Phase 4 Projection prior to flooding for January to April 2020, and GAM >15% this time last year...so potentially worse now.

• **Likely populations in cattle camps without access to services:** Large information gap on numbers, needs, conditions.

• **High sanitation needs in Pibor town and other population centres due to lack of facilities and congested population.**

• **Major operational challenges persist** due to flood waters, lack of communication, and increase in criminality in some areas.