

Sudan Crisis Response: Rapid Emergency Food Security Assessments



Assessment Methodology

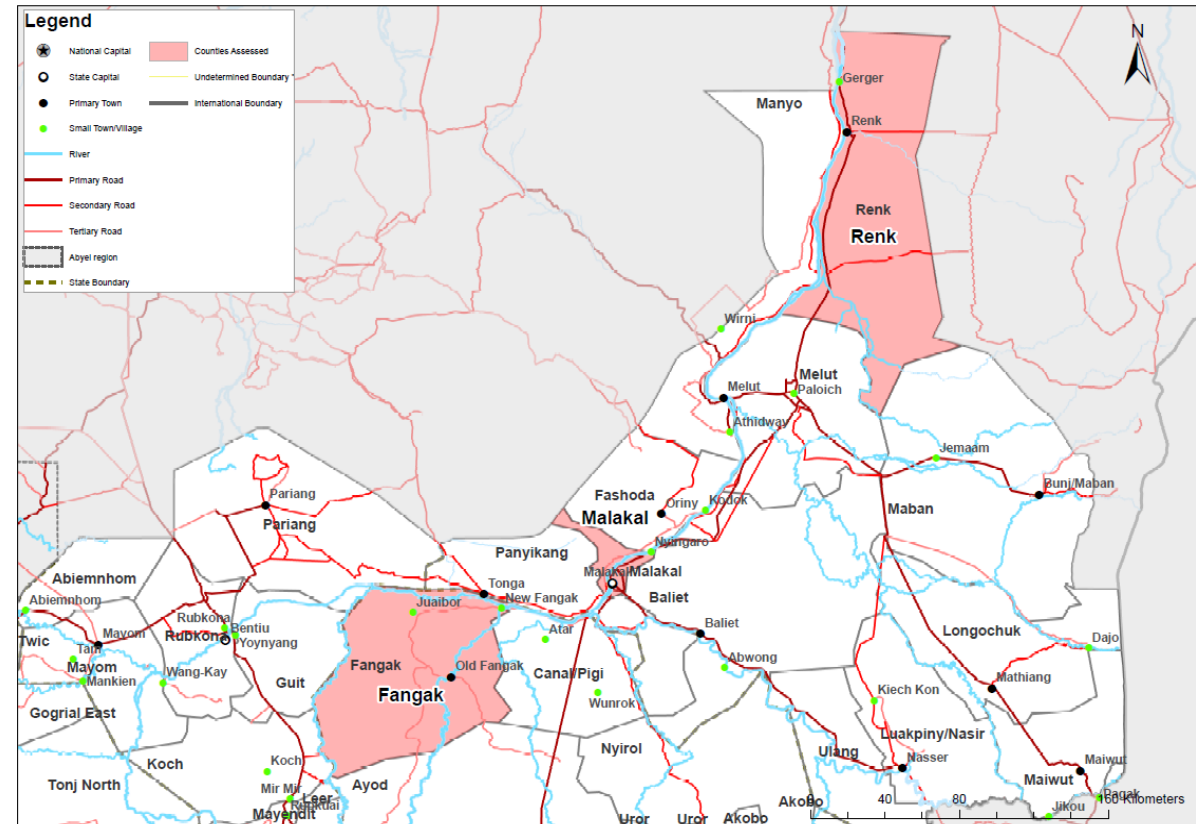


Between **17th May and 7th June**, the FSLC/WFP conducted rapid vulnerability assessments in **Renk, Malakal and Fangak**

The objectives of the assessments were to assess

- returnee vulnerability profiles
- movement intentions
- current, multisectoral humanitarian response and gaps
- opportunities for livelihood adaptation and possible barriers

Qualitative methodology including Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with humanitarian partners and government officials, and FGDs with returnees



Vulnerability profile of the returnee population



Majority of returnees are coming from Khartoum



While in Sudan, most of the men were engaging in casual manual labour/cash for work, while most of the women worked in the service industry



South Sudanese returnees from Khartoum were not receiving any assistance while in Sudan



Armed actors targeting returnees/refugees while in Sudan



The assets transported by returnees are very limited, and many HHs reportedly came with nothing at all



Returnees liquidating assets to access cash

All returnees assessed were highly vulnerable and in need of assistance

Renk/Paloich response and challenges



Renk response



- HEB/BP5 provided at reception centre
- WFP providing hot meals in the Transit Centre (TC)
- HEB/BP5 provided for boat transit

Challenges



- Many returnees have been displaced from the TC and cannot access services
- Creation of camps in Renk town. Estimated 25,000 people inside Renk town– discussion on to provide assistance to these populations (food and livelihoods)
- Challenges with onward movement to Malakal – currently suspended
- Lack of services for those travelling independently

Paloich response



- WFP provided a one-off 10 day ration for 5,882 people in Paloich on May 28th
- Discussing second distribution

Challenges



- One-off assistance likely to have finished
- Very limited humanitarian infrastructure in the area
- Slow onward movement (two planes transporting 295 people left on May 30th) but many returnees (around 5,600) have been in Paloich for around 6 weeks – fishing only livelihood opportunity available

Response during transit (boats from Renk to Malakal)



Food

- Returnees reported **no provision of food for the journey between Renk and Malakal.**
- Returnees were responsible for either bringing food or purchasing food at stops along the way. Financial access to markets is very low and market capacity in these markets (such as Kodok) is low, and stocks were exhausted quickly. **Most people spend days without eating.**



WASH

- WASH conditions on the boats are very poor. FGD participants consistently reported that the only source of water along the journey was directly from the river.
- There are no latrines or bathroom facilities on the boat, and given the irregular stops. FGD participants reported defecating in containers on the boat.



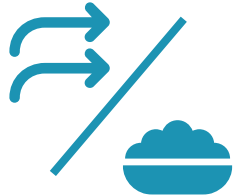
Shelter

- The boats not equipped with plastic sheeting to protect returnees from the sun.
- As no shelter NFIs have been provided, most people do **not have mosquito nets** and sleep in the open air. This will pose **an even greater concern as we move into the rainy season and malaria prevalence increases.**

Malakal response and challenges



Response



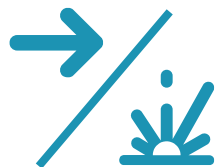
- WFP was previously providing 2 weeks of in-kind food assistance, however, due to expectation so of faster onward movement, and delays between arrival and reception of assistance, the response was adjusted
- WFP is currently providing returnees with 7 days of in-kind food assistance, typically the day after arrival

Challenges

Due to clashes in the Malakal PoC, WFP has been unable to provide assistance at the transit centre since 8th June.



Due to verification challenges, returnees that facilitate their own movements are unable to be registered to receive assistance, as they are not identifiable – this will pose a challenge for all sectors



Movement to Malakal has been suspended since 8th June due to clashes in the PoC, and onward movement from Malakal has also been suspended. High level discussions are currently ongoing to resume safe movements.

Fangak Assessment Findings



Number of Returnees

- There is a distinct lack of information as to how many returnees are currently in Fangak county.
- Local authorities reported allocating field monitors to port locations to track inflows, however, this does not appear to have happened.
- Data is available for facilitated movements and large commercial boats, however there is no data on other arrivals.
- Figures from the interagency assessment which took place on May 12th were still being used for operational planning by authorities and NGOs in early June.
- Estimated 1,500 to 2,500 returnees in Fangak.
- Since arriving in Fangak, almost all of the returnees have integrated into the host community making them very difficult to identify.

Displacement routes

- Estimated that around 50% of the returnees came from Malakal, while 50% travelled independently and crossed from Sudan via Liri, which is reportedly not being monitored.

Fangak Food Security and Livelihoods



Food security and livelihoods



- It is likely too late in the cultivation season for returnees to cultivate, burdening host communities substantially
- Currently, all returnees are highly vulnerable and equally dependent on the host community
- Female headed HHs are likely to face the highest barriers to adapting livelihoods and access food and cash due both to a high degree of time poverty and heavily gendered stereotypes related to the implementation of livelihood activities

ACCESS



- The primary source of food within the host community is food assistance
- When assistance finishes access to food across Fangak will likely decrease

AVAILABILITY



- While there is food available at the market, financial access is very low, however, there is a planned SSHF multi purpose cash intervention planned that may provide a temporary boost, however, availability is likely to decrease further
- Fishing is a feasible livelihood opportunity, but requires NFIs
- Water lily is expected to become available in September

UTILIZATION



- Shelter and WASH conditions are very poor which will likely compound the impact of inadequate food consumption
- In the coming months, utilisation will likely decrease as seasonal food assistance ends, and communities begin to depend on alternative, less preferred and less nutrition sources of food, such as waterlilies.

Fangak Market assessment key findings



Markets



Prior to the crisis in Sudan, most staple foodstuffs, notably sorghum, were procured from Sudan.



Traders reported that the prices of sorghum in Juba were higher than in Sudan, with supply being less predictable and more expensive due to the presence of frequent checkpoints along the river.



Supply from Renk has slowed substantially and this trend is expected to continue in the coming months, eroding food stocks and pushing up prices.



Any delays in food assistance could also exacerbate reliance on markets, as could a continued influx of returnees.

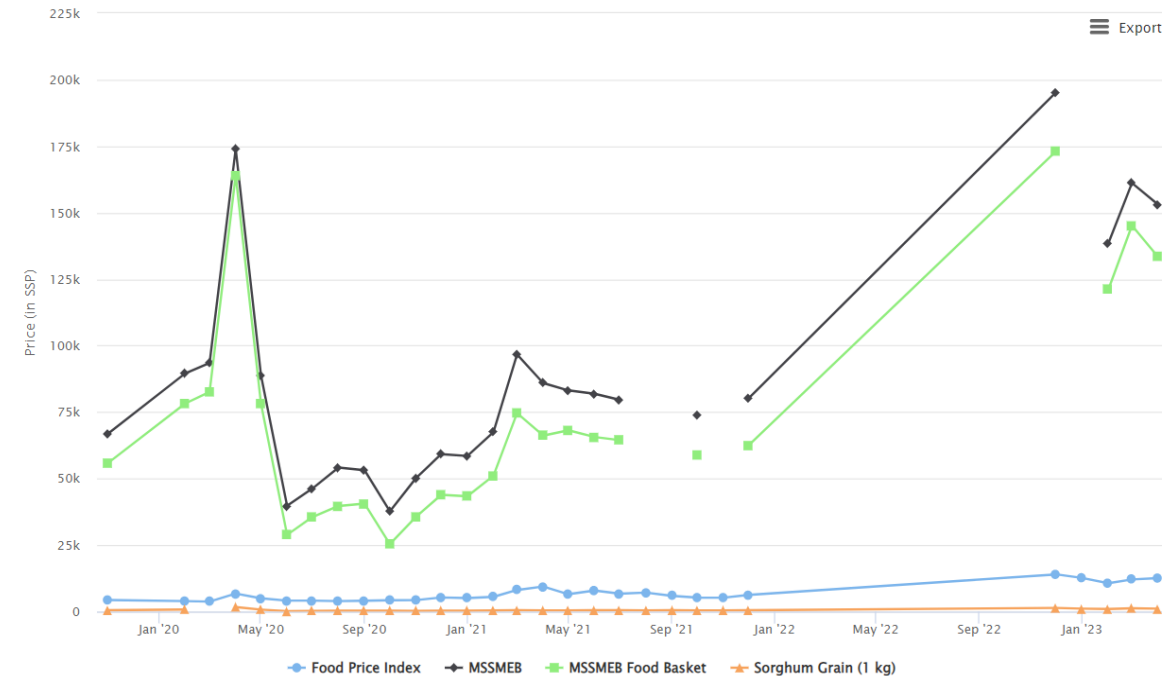


Figure 1: Price trends in New Fangak (Jan 2020, May 2023)

Response operational constraints



The biggest challenge to the local level response is the **lack of clarity as to the number of returnees, and how to identify them**



Due to the **challenges in verifying returnees** that travelled independently, there is a high chance that they **will be excluded from programming**

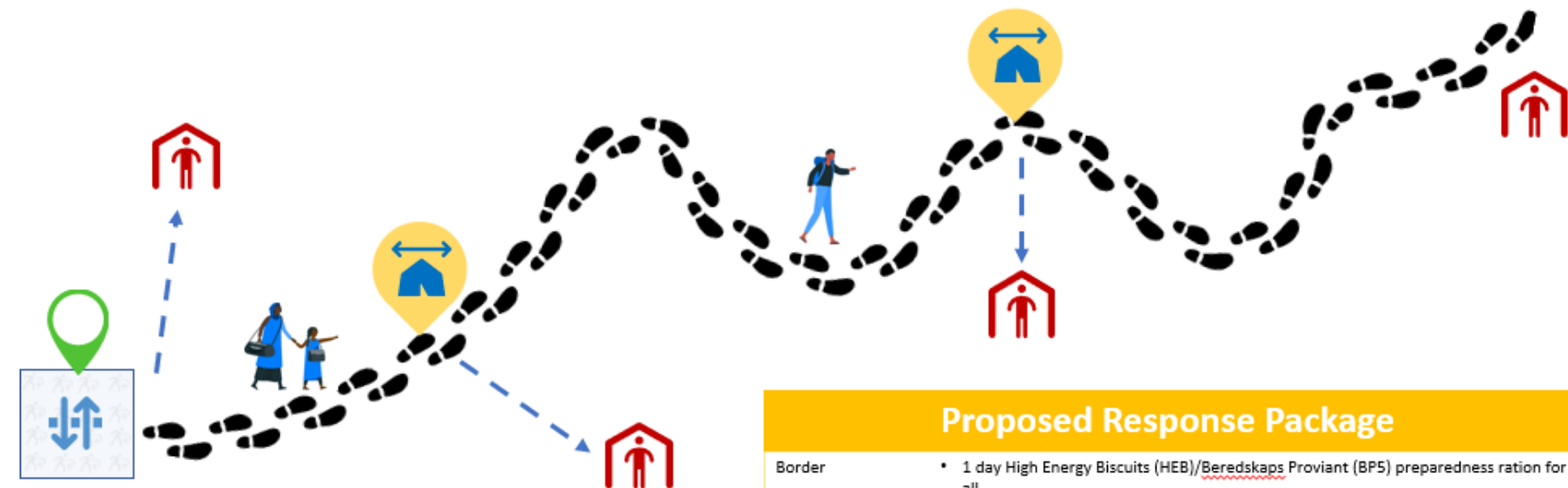


Lack of population information poses a substantial challenge heading into the rainy season, given that many NGOs, especially health and nutrition partners, **restock supplies on a quarterly basis**, and need to plan shipments



advocacy on prepositioning ahead of flooding season

advocacy for funding



BORDER POINT



Proposed Response Package

Border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day High Energy Biscuits (HEB)/Bereds kaps Provi ant (BP5) preparedness ration for all.
Transit Centre/Transit Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition support for 1 day prior to provision of food assistance Provision of food assistance (either hot meals OR renewable dry ration/cash until onward transportation is made available) Specialized nutritional products for Under 5s and Pregnant Lactating Women (PLW) Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Mild Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases.
Movement to place of chosen settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HEB/BP5 compact food for the expected number of days in transit + 1 day (300g per person per day) 7 days Ready-to-Use Supplementary Foods (RUSF) for children under two.
Place of chosen settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 month food assistance (either in-kind or cash) aligned with the priority level of the county Depending on the livelihood zone, and seasonal factors, provision of crop seeds, vegetable seeds, tools and fishing equipment will be provided.

