PIGI CANAL County, Jonglei State

RAPID ASSESSMENT

WFP VAM, July 2020
CONTEXT of the ASSESSMENT

IPC projects Canal/Pigi to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) level of food insecurity for the May-July 2020 period

Information by the Commissioner on severe food security situation (including hunger-related deaths) in the villages of Alam and Wunayien – not served by WFP assistance;

BACKGROUND

Main livelihoods include crop production, animal rearing, fishing and gathering of wild foods;

Floods are the main livelihood hazard affecting crop production and livestock

Conflict significantly displaced the population within Canal/Pigi County between 2013 and 2016. In 2019, more households were displaced and livelihood disrupted

Repeated displacement and livelihood and markets disruption substantially reduced households’ access to food
METHODOLOGY

Primary and secondary data:

• HH survey (49 HHs interviewed F2F);
• Key Informant Interviews;
• Focus Group Discussions;
• Review of health and nutrition data from humanitarian partners operating in the area

AREAS ASSESSED

Patai and Wunayien - Alam/Kulaliet could not be reached due to distance (12 hrs walk from Korwai)
FINDINGS

Overall, the food security and livelihood situation appears extremely severe;

Team able to verify 5 hunger-related deaths in Wunayien through FGD – though only able to see one grave;

The food security situation appeared even more severe in Wunayien, where dependency on seasonal and non-sustainable livelihoods was reported as extremely high;

A failure of the 2018/2019 agricultural season due to flooding (crops destroyed before maturing) was reported as the main cause of high food insecurity;

Limited availability of cereals – market purchases done in New Fangak market and Normanyaang market (Ayod county). In turn, these markets (currently low in cereal stocks) are supplied by Tonga and Malakal markets. Able-bodied people from assessed areas sometime walk for days to reach Tonga and Malakal markets themselves.
**FOOD CONSUMPTION**

Very severe food consumption situation – HHs reporting consuming cereals every second day;

Very limited consumption of animal proteins (milk consumed, on average, less than 2 days a week);

Most households reported consuming one meal per day.

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**HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE**

- 76% Moderate hunger
- 16% Severe Emergency
- 6% Severe Catastrophe

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**FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE**

- 53% Poor
- 43% Borderline
- 4% Acceptable
Selling of dry fish represents a source of income – though fish becomes scarce during the rainy season as water levels increase;

Over-reliance on wild food collection and bartering;

**LIVELIHOODS**

**MAIN SHOCKS EXPERIENCED by the HH**

- Travel restrictions
- Shortage of medicines
- Shortage of food in the household
- High food prices
- Insecurity/violence/theft/robbery
- Lack of foods in the markets
- Eating less preferred foods
- Unusually high prices of fuel/transport
- Unusually high food prices
- Death of working HH member(s)
- Reduced income
- Loss or reduced employment
**DISPLACEMENT**

The area of Wunayien (considered a sort of safe-heaven) is reported receiving IDPs from the neighbouring areas of Atar, Kamel and returnees from Kulaliet.

These populations are exerting additional pressure on the limited natural resources of the area, and on the limited basic services available.

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

NO household reported receiving any humanitarian assistance (including HFA) in Wunayien;

In Patai, only 1 household every 5 reported having received HFA (in the form of GFD) in the last 3 months;
RECOMMENDATIONS
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Short-term

Extend current Humanitarian Food Assistance in Pigi Canal to the assessed locations;

According to the team, both locations are along the river and could be accessed by Malakal;

A rapid assessment should also be conducted in Alam/Kulaliet, using RRM modality considering the distance;

Long term

Food for Asset (FFA) modality to be introduced in the communities to sustain food security and improve infrastructure such as roads, dykes, school structures etc.

Introduce vegetable and fruit seeds in the communities that could be grown during dry season along the tributaries of Canal swamps.