

## **Ayod Inter-Agency Humanitarian Flood Assessment in Ayod Payam, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2012**

### **Joint Inter-Agency/ Relief & Rehabilitation Commission, Administration and Humanitarian Assessment in Ayod County**

**16th August 2012**

#### **1. Brief Summary of Assessment Findings**

An inter-agency assessment consisting of partners working within Ayod County initiated a follow up assessment in the Kuachdeng and Pajiek Payams as representatives of the other 6 payams, while at the moment the floods are on the Southern part of Kuachdeng and Western area of Pajiek respectively the authority declares that due to the nature and flow of floods it will soon affect Mogok and Pagil on the Northern area of the County headquarters. The source of flood is from the River burse its banks and daily heavily rains respectively. Moreover, this is a follow up assessment to one on the 13<sup>th</sup> August; in total the aggressive nature of the floods and effects on the livelihoods of the community in regard to the displacement of populations to from their original homes is already a complex humanitarian emergency which requires well coordinated and immediate interventions.



**Picture 1: Community members putting up dykes to avoid floods to choke the crops in the gardens.**

The authorities reported that the payam/district is marooned by the effects of floods from the neighbouring Duk County.

The assessment team recommends humanitarian interventions and follow-up actions in the sectors of food, water, hygiene and sanitation, non-food items and shelter, education and protection

#### **2. Assessment Itinerary**

The team members consist of partners working within Ayod County. The team spent approximately 3 to 4 hours on foot walking in the water visiting bomas/locations in Ayod Payam/district of Thotwat, Pulchulchany and Greenland.

##### **Methodology**

Information was collected through direct observation and pictures.

**Pictures 1,2 ,3:** taken in the Ngundeng highway, at the Kuachdeng, Pajiek, Ayod and Paluony Junction.



**Picture 2: Ayod Market, road completely flooded.**



**Picture 3: The assessment team in Hai Zain area.**

### 3. Background

Ayod County is in the northwest part of Jonglei state and borders Fangak and Khorflus counties to the north, Nyirol and Urur counties to the east, Duk County to the south and Unity State to the west. It is comprised of seven payams/districts namely Ayod, Haat, Korwai, Mogok Pajiek, Pagil, Pieth, Kuachdeng and Wau. Ayod County and its environs are inhabited by Gawaar Nuer. It has a population of 139,282 people. Ayod town hosts the county administrative headquarters. Ayod County is along the River Nile to west which fuels the floods into the entire County. Livelihoods: Ayod is characterized with clay or black cotton soil, swampy vegetations and open wooded grasslands. Livestock keeping, fishing and crops cultivation (sorghum, maize and

vegetables) are the main economic activities. Accessibility to this county by road is only possible in the dry season (December to June yearly) from Bor and Malakal. There are three airstrips one in Ayod town, Jiech and the other in Pagil. The Pagil is barely used due to its poor status while the Ayod airstrip is subject to the weather conditions as in the rainy season it takes two to three days to dry-up.

### 4. Total numbers affected

According to the Ayod County RRC Coordinator; payams /districts currently affected and households enumerated /identified.

Initial Assessments	Flood	Origin of Floods	Populations	Number of affected	HH's
Duk Padiet/ Canal and Rains	River,	Kuachdeng	6,000	1,200	
		Pajiek	13000	2,500	
		Wau	11, 570	2,314	
		Mogok	16,130	3,226	
		Ayod	15, 655	3,131	
		Pagil	5,000	1,000	

The discussion with the RRC coordinators also suggests that even though official registration has taken place and even from observation some new influx of community members to Ayod town has been witnessed. These people have traumatize by recent inter-communal fighting and the years of civil wars; this year they have been trying to settle down heavily engaging in agricultural productions to produce food for themselves and eradicate hunger but now floods have washed their crops away drawing them back to zero levels.

## **5. Operating environment**

Roads connecting Waat to Ayod (east), are in disrepair not accessible. The road to Ayod is passable by 4X4 vehicles and some trucks in the earlier dry season. According to the latest *S o u t h S u d a n - A c c e s s C o n s t r a i n t s* Bor- Pibor; Bor - Ayod- Pathai Road is impassable for all traffic WFP, UNOPS, 27/01/2012 report. According to the local authorities, the roads to Bor and Malakal are also currently not accessible. The airstrip can be used by helicopter and fixed-wing nose aircraft. Mobile communication: Zain cellular network is now available after 2 months of failure. The local authorities use both cell phones and satellite phones (Thuraya). According to the local authorities, there are adequate police officers and an army battalion in Ayod County.

## **6. Humanitarian Organizations Present**

ALSI (African leaders skill initiative), NPA, Carter Center, VSF Belgium, Christian Mission for Development (CMD), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), SSWIDAP, Peace Winds Japan and COSV are present in Ayod and NPA and CMD operates food security and agricultural programmes; WFP has a warehouse (rub hall) which is managed by NPA. Carter Center trachoma and guinea worm activities, SWIDAP in health in neighbouring Payams/districts, VSF and CMD animal husbandry and livelihoods improvement, Peace Winds Japan and CMD runs WASH services, CASI involved in community awareness on immunization and child protection and rights in collaboration with UNICEF and COSV in support to basic life saving services for the most vulnerable people affected by recurrent conflicts and returnees in South Sudan.

## **7. Sectors affected**

### **(a). Food Security:**

In Pagil Payam/district there is a reporting severe drought and crop failure affecting communities. People rely on agriculture and livestock (cattle) for their livelihood, and with the crop failure it means that even the animals do not have fodder and thus the source of livelihood is affected. The heavy rains which started in June have destroyed the crops; hence projected harvest is minimal this year. There are no adequate stocks in the Ayod market since it had been razed down twice earlier in the year by fire and traders were not able to restock in time, minimal amount of food in stocks in Ayod market showing the need for food assistance. The households have normally cultivated 2 feddans or less in some households. Sorghum still in cropping stage that are currently under water and not expected to yield anything, most of the crops in Ayod area are at an advanced stage and expected to be harvested in early October 2012; maize cobs are already being harvested but could last two months.

Crops development and performance especially sorghum, bean and grounds in vegetative and flowering stage are severely affected in this floods so the expectation projects a poor yield.

### **(b). Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

Access to safe water supply is severely affected – boreholes broken-down. The authorities indicated that the household members are now using rain water from the pools, and this may predispose them to diarrheal infections, water borne diseases and even guinea worm active transmission. They neither use filters nor the chlorine tablets for water purification. They are appealing for the provision of essential

medicines, since the quarterly drugs kits are not been prepositioned to the County. In addition to this, the floods can exacerbate the situation and an explosion of animal diseases, hence appealing for the animal drugs too. It is also common practice in the community to defecate in bush/open areas. Latrines are however seen, mainly in public places such as school, church and PHCC. Vast majority of people both the host community and the IDPs have used to defecate in open areas. Health and hygiene education is recommended. Peace winds Japan and CMD are continuing supporting and triggering community on importance of construction of latrines as well as hygiene promotion campaigns. Interviews with key informants show that there are eight (10) boreholes and 5 are fully operational and others 5 in dysfunctional in need of rehabilitation. There is poor access to safe and adequate drinking water forcing majority to fetch from floods water or water pools.

#### **(c). Shelter and NFIs**

The populations of the payams/districts affected are living out of their homesteads and have no long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLIN's), cooking ware. Direct observation suggests that there is a general need for non-food items, but households seem to have basic items for cooking. It was not possible to ascertain neither the requirements of the resident population nor the specific needs of the displaced people, all seems to be vulnerable.

#### **(d). Health**

The PHCC in Ayod Payam/district is run by COSV, staff present includes 1 doctor; 1 public health nurse; 1 medical assistant; 3 Community health workers, 1 midwife and 5 case finders while the nutritionist, midwife and the laboratory technologist are on leave and are expected back to Ayod soon. The quarterly essential drug kits for the stocks have ruptured and lack enough medicines and other medical supplies, intervention and supplementary drugs from COSV. Maternal health care and immunization services and delivery facilities are ongoing however due to the influx it can be strained. The incidence of malaria, diarrheal diseases is high. It was also suggested that the stock of medical supplies may need to be replenished especially diarrhoeal and anti-malarial drugs.

#### **(e) Education**

The schools activities are suspended in Pajiek and Kuachdeng Payams/districts due to floods.

#### **The greatest challenges:**

- The greatest challenge at hand is even with the governments and humanitarian agencies are accessibility to the affected areas / households and populations. Only helicopter and the fixed wing nose aircraft could reach Ayod County at this moment. Roads are not accessible now until January to May of each year.
- And secondly, mobilizing the communities to do more resistant dykes, which is more sustainable is the challenge.
- The communities affected are already made vulnerable by inter-communal fighting and long civil wars between Sudan and South Sudan. Many returnees, IDPs and refugees were trying to settle down engaging in agricultural productions but floods now swept their efforts and now have lost hopes for the future.
- Lack of Non food items like (hygiene and sanitation kits) as cholera outbreak is looming.

## **Opportunities and recommendations**

**Food Security:** well wishers to provide immediate response followed by a medium term intervention based on available secondary source data. World Food Programme to intervene and

**WASH and Health:** WASH/health to be followed-up on the essential drugs kits; preposition a cholera and typhoid kits and LLIN's; rehabilitate 5 boreholes and drill 4 new boreholes and training WASH / health service providers to carry out life-saving messages; diseases mitigation and needs assessment; provide hygiene and sanitation kits to community health and WASH service providers and scaling up the use of the chlorine water treatment tablets in the community.

**NFIs and emergency shelters:** Provision of temporary shelters materials to families MOST affected by the floods in the hot spot Payams/districts and distribution of mosquito nets is of great important. Provide mosquito long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets as they are not in stock even in the market and there is a demand and other NFIs to the displaced population is also recommended, mosquito nets should also be distributed to both host and IDPs respectively to curb the rising incidences of malaria.

**Education:** UNICEF to be contacted for needs assessment on education sector as many schools are currently closed-down due to the floods and displacement of populations.

**Fisheries:** Fishing equipments (hooks and nets) are needed as fish are already visible in the floods to substitute the lost sorghum for community. UN FAO to be contacted to intervene in this sector as it needs immediate actions.

**Advocacy:** CMD and other concerned /like-minded agencies are requested by community WASH /health committees to facilitate advocacy to international humanitarian NGOs and UN bodies of the impending needs in NFI's, WASH, education supplies, fishing equipments and food security in the floods situation effects in Ayod County.

- **Key messages and where IEC materials that CMD should develop with focus on WASH /health promotion in Jonglei State and in Ayod County in particular.**
- Hand Washing practices; home preparation of ORS; safe drinking water; four F's of diarrhea transmission; malaria and mosquito nets; safe disposal of human waste; household sanitation; importance of immunization; benefits of exclusive breast feeding for the first 6 months; deworming; nutrition; WASH/health seeking behavior change; safe pregnancy and delivery; HIV prevention; HIV and STIs; TB and Kala Azar

### **Brief Introduction of the Health & WASH committees:**

This was a follow-up on a previous community health committee (CHC) and WASH process formed and remained dormant. This is a reactivation/sensitization on the cross cutting community health/WASH agenda in the Ayod County at the moment with a view of broadening role to encompass the other 6

payams/districts if deemed feasible.

In the spirit of community participation, needs identification, planning, prioritization and implementation of health care/WASH activities, there is need for the linkage and building capacity of community health/ WASH committees in Ayod County. The committees' role is a bridge between the community and health care/ WASH activities players; they are people entrusted by the community and voluntarily work for the community to ensure the WASH and health gaps in the community are addressed by the stakeholders. They promote positive Health and WASH adoption of good hygiene and sanitation promotion seeking behavior change within the community and reports any suspected disease to the health authorities as soon as possible for intervention. Revisited were the highlighting of the roles and responsibilities of the community health and WASH committees.

**Roles and functions of the health and WASH committees include:**

- Identify community WASH and health priorities through regular dialogue
- Plan for community WASH and health actions
- Participate in community health & WASH activities
- Monitor and report on planned health/WASH activities
- Organize and implement community Health/WASH days
- Participate in community outreach and campaign initiatives
- Advocate for affordable, accessible, appropriate and available health and WASH infrastructure in the community.

**Identified Health & WASH needs within the Community**

County health officer welcome COSV Health Coordinator to introduce and expound on the agenda.

In addition Kai, explained reasons for broadening the membership of the Community health committee to include: Ayod water committee, faith leaders, education department and trader's representative.

**For more information please don't hesitate to contact our office using address below:**

Rev. Thomas Tut Gany

CMD Executive Director

Tel: +211955432664; +211919701340

Emails: [info@cmdsudan.org](mailto:info@cmdsudan.org)

[tutgany@gmail.com](mailto:tutgany@gmail.com)

Website: [www.cmdsudan.org](http://www.cmdsudan.org)

Deng Reath Monythoy

Food security and WASH coordinator

Tel: +211914422561

Email: [rdeng@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeng@yahoo.com)