



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SOUTH SUDAN

Diocese of Aweil, South Sudan

“ To Lead and To Serve ”

Flood assessment report Aweil – South Sudan

Introduction: It was by the third week of September that rivers overflowed. Pouring out more water in to small streams, which later reached out to homesteads alongside the river. Displaced communities settling around the river and streams had to move to higher ground and make emergency settlements.

The flood waters covered almost all locations allocated in low land in 5 counties of Northern Bhar el Ghazal state. Community leaders from the affected population were interviewed and it came out that women, children and elderly people were the most severely affected population. Women spent a large part of their day controlling children who desire to play in the water not knowing that they can easily drown. Children make up most of the cases that included snakebite and water borne diseases. Elderly people always become the second severely affected group in any crisis simply because of the vulnerability, as they could not move from one place to another.

2020 looks unique with lot of natural disasters led by COVID -19 pandemic. Rainfall added to this and started in late June meaning farming was late to start in Aweil . This led to Agricultural activities elapsed to other months. The current deteriorating situation gives an indication that local communities may migrate to Sudan should there be no intervention.

Critical points to look at:

- ❖ Displaced population have been struggling with where to sleep though host households are willing to provide temporary accommodation for them. The current season still hosts mosquitoes as surrounding water gives conducive environment for mosquito breeding.
- ❖ Observation carried out during assessment proved that concrete buildings such as schools were at maximum capacity sometimes being shared by up to ten families to a room.
- ❖ Affected population couldn't access health services.

- ❖ Malaria cases shot-up in the last 7 days up to 859 with 3 death cases registered in those few visited locations.
- ❖ Among other cases reported at nearby clinics 28 were diarrhea cases, 250 injuries, 8 snakebite cases with death of snakebites, 3 acute respiratory infections and 143 pregnancy related disease cases.
- ❖ Supplies needed most include plastics sheets, blankets, mats, jerry cans, and cooking utensils.
- ❖ Though communities are feeding from their own production especially those who have cultivated short crops varieties in early July, the information captured during assessment tells that the current food will only last for one to two weeks.
- ❖ The current economic crisis driven by dollar rate against South Sudanese pound has triggered market prices to hike excessively as the bottle of 500 ml of fuel reaches 1000ssp+ in the market.
- ❖ Other basic commodities are unavailable to the population with low purchasing power because of the price hike.
- ❖ The combination of flooding, dollar rate and malaria outbreak have severely hit the already affected population of Aweil North County.



Pic. 03. Crops submerged in to water

Immediate recommended food security response:

- ❖ Immediate and continue provision of food aid to the most affected displaced population.
- ❖ Provision of agricultural inputs (mostly vegetable seeds and tools) for dry season vegetable production.
- ❖ Provision of fishing kits to the affected households which are positioned to be potential fisherman come fishing season.
- ❖ Flood awareness through radio broadcasts.
- ❖ Introduction of flood resistance crops varieties like rice.

Key findings in the health sector

- ❖ Number of malaria cases have increased in last than 7 days.
- ❖ Birth rate with no skill attendant was recorded to be **84**in last than seven days.
- ❖ Some health facilities are waterlogged and can't be accessed by nearby communities and affected populations are getting medication from privates' clinic with high charges.
- ❖ Inadequate drugs, doctors/ nurse available in the PHCU
- ❖ Drugs such as Anti malaria, ORS, contraception, tetanus, BCG are in low supply in the public health facilities.



Pic.04. Patient Critically sick carried to hospital

Immediate recommendations from the health sector

- ❖ Activate Establishment of Mobile health service to those areas where affected communities are settling.
- ❖ Provision of insecticide and medicine for water born illnesses
- ❖ Reinforcement of malaria drugs supplies.
- ❖ Allocation of skillful birth attendances to displaced community.

Key findings in wash sector

- ❖ Some members are reported to be drinking flood water which is very unhealthy for human consumption.
- ❖ Open defecation becomes an issue as local constructed latrines are flooded, and waste could be seen floating on the surface of the flood water.
- ❖ General poor hygiene practices observed higher in the settlement areas.
- ❖ Significant risks of COVID -19 are high due to not being able to socially distance.



Pic. 05. Hand pump flooded

Immediate recommended response in wash sector.

- ❖ Water management training.
- ❖ Provision of hygiene kits to mature girls and young ladies in displaced communities.
- ❖ Rehabilitation of broken hand pumps around the area
- ❖ Conduct awareness campaign about COVID -19

Protection key findings;

- ❖ The most significant safety and protection concern in the community are police and community leaders
- ❖ Victims in the community are making reports to chiefs and police

Emergency Shelter/NFI Key findings.

- ❖ The local mud made tukuls/claps have all been washed away by flood water.
- ❖ Displaced households are settling on marram road used by vehicles, motor bikes and pedestrians. High probability that someone will be involved in an accident.
- ❖ Public institutions are used as community accommodation with up to 10 households sharing one classroom.
- ❖ Household utensils are limited as some could not be moved in time once the flood waters came.
- ❖ Interviews showed that the few tukuls still standing are being shared by 5-7 people



Pic. 06. Affected population settling on main road

Immediate needs under shelter /NFI.

- ❖ Temporary shelter set up for displaced community to avoid settling on the road.
- ❖ Provisions of plastic sheets to the affected population
- ❖ Provision of open land space to affected communities
- ❖ Distribution of non-food Items (households utensils) to affected populations

Challenges

- ❖ Some selected location could not be reached due to magnitude of the flood.
- ❖ Roads cut by flood made it impossible for the team to access other locations.

Recommendations

- ❖ Quick information sharing to different donors, friends at state and national level.
- ❖ Immediate response by different actors based on their mandate
- ❖ Government to respond to isolated areas to allow movement to affected areas.
- ❖ Funds mobilization to respond adequately



Pic. 07 affected people moving out of water



Pic. 08. Main road cut in Wathok



Pic. 09. Old Mama moving out of water



Pic.10. settlment in school



Pic. 11. Pool settlment of Over 10 hhs in the chutch



Pic. 12. Of children going to collect water