

*This IRNA Report is a product of Inter-Agency Assessment mission conducted and information compiled based on the inputs provided by partners on the ground including; government authorities, affected communities/IDPs and agencies.*

## Key Highlights

- Rumbek North has witnessed the worst floods compared to previous years. Not only crops have been submerged in flood waters since August, but also houses/tukuls many of which collapsed as a result.
- The County is also affected by the prevailing insecurity and inter-communal tensions in the State and therefore, received forced returnees and IDPs from Rumbek Center.
- More than 20,000 people have been affected by both floods and insecurity.
- Nine cases of measles with three deaths were reported. In addition, malaria, ARI, diarrhea, skin diseases and guinea worm are the most common diseases affecting the community.
- In terms of humanitarian needs, food provision is the first priority followed by NFI and fishing kits. Supply of drugs, PUR and hygiene promotion are also needed. Further assessment is recommended to determine the status of the existing boreholes and repairs needed.

## Situation overview

- According to local authorities, **20,268 people (3,378 households)** have been affected by both the floods and/or the conflict. Out of these, 8,910 individuals (1,495 households) have been displaced from Malek Payam (Rumbek Center) to Rumbek North following insecurity and fighting in the former. The rest (11,291 individual or 1,883 households) have been displaced, as a result of the floods. In addition, 366 IDPs from Mayendit to Maper Center. During the assessment, more women were seen compared to men. However, the local authorities were not able to disaggregate the data by gender.
- Being a flat land, Lakes State is a flood prone area. Floods occur nearly on yearly basis. However, the State and Rumbek North in particular has seen more flooding this year compared to the past years. This is evident as most houses and farms that were seen sitting in the flood waters.
- The situation was compounded by the recent fighting and clashes between the Government forces and the Pakam section at Malek Payam of Rumbek Center County. The Government's intervention was reportedly a response to several clashes between Pakam and the Roup clans involving cattle raiding and revenge killings. The Pakams reportedly refused Government's decision to push them back to their land of origin in Rumbek North where they left in 1991. Since most of the County was already flooded, the Pakams resisted the orders, leading to the running skirmishes between them and Government forces. Nevertheless, the most vulnerable groups (women, children and the elderly) fled to Rumbek North

# Site overview



Figure 1: Showing flooded areas



Figure 2: Showing inadequate water containers

Location map: Rumbek North, Lake State

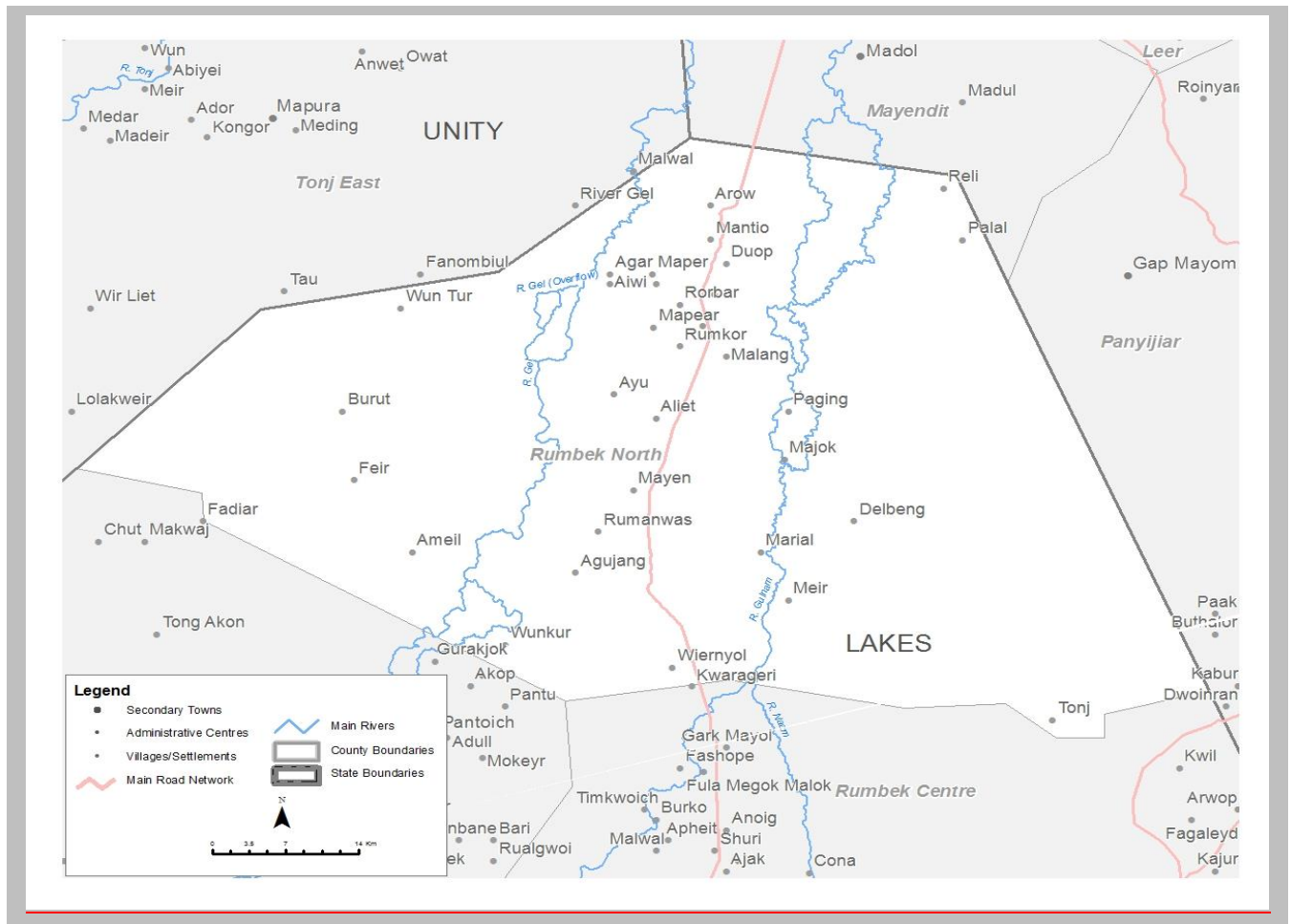


Figure3. Showing Map of Rumbek North

## Drivers and underlying factors/triggers

Generally, Lakes State has been unstable in terms of security. The situation worsened between June and July this year with increased numbers of criminal activities including cattle raids, revenge killings, robbery, arrests and detention and shooting. In addition, the State was affected by the bigger national crisis, as it is hosting thousands of IDPs from the neighboring States of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile. Mingkaman, Awerial County, saw dramatic increase of population from about 7,800 individuals to over 100,000 individuals immediately when the conflict broke out in December 2013. Yirol East, Yirol West and Rumbek also host some IDPs from other states.

The cattle camp youth in Cueibet, Rumbek East, Rumbek Central, Wulu and Rumbek North staged inter and intra-clan conflicts that have resulted into approximately 2,000 deaths and thousands wounded. The conflicts were then followed by revenge killings, arrests and detentions and robbery along the main roads of Rumbek Center - Wau, Rumbek Center – Rumbek North, Rumbek Center – Wulu and Rumbek Center – Yirol.

The peak of the situation exacerbated when the Paramount Chief of Rumbek East was murdered in cold blood. This increased tension in Rumbek East, Rumbek Center and other parts of the State for the unknown. Despite the peaceful speech delivered by the State Governor in the funeral, the situation continued to remain tense while criminal activities including killing of women and children and raping of women were noted more so in Rumbek East. With the big numbers of arms in the hands of civilian used in all the criminal activities, the Government tried to launch a peaceful disarmament which did not succeed due to unforeseen circumstances.

As tension continued in the State, the Pakam cattle camp youth attacked Malek police station where an officer was killed which triggered high tension between the Government and the Pakam youth. The running battle between the Government and the Pakam prompted the Government to forcefully push the Pakam to their land of origin in Rumbek North.

Rumbek North is a land locked low land area prone to seasonal yearly flooding. This year Rumbek North has witnessed the worst floods compared to the past few years. The IRNA team observed hundreds of standing and collapsed houses in the flood water. Farms with some crop stalks were clearly seen in flood waters. The communities interviewed revealed that they were not able to harvest any crops as the flood started as early as August. In respect to water, the communities revealed that they use the flood waters for domestic purposes. Reportedly, the IDPs and the flood displaced communities sleep out in the open. It was evident that approximately three quarters (¾) of the area flown over by the IRNA team is sitting in flood water and people were seen crowding on higher grounds. Wide spread open defecation is practiced since there were no clear pit latrines seen in the areas visited which was also confirmed by the key informant.

In July, at least 61 households translating to 366 individual IDPs from Mayendit County of Unity State arrived in Rumbek North. These IDPs have since been depending on the support of the Pakam community who are hosting them.

The communities have been able to cope with the situation on their own. However, it is clear that there is looming hunger that will soon hit Rumbek North pushing the entire community into serious malnutrition and diseases outbreak.

The current total breakdown of road network between Rumbek Center and Rumbek North is a hindering factor to reach the affected communities with humanitarian assistance. Meanwhile the ongoing insecurity which has led to closure of the road to Rumbek North is yet another huge factor that is hampering humanitarian activities in the County.

## Scope of the crisis and humanitarian profile

As evidenced from the air, ¾ of Rumbek North is sitting in flood waters. The local authorities and the communities informed the IRNA team that most of the Payams in Rumbek North County are laying in flood waters. However, it is important to mention that the entire State has been badly hit by floods this year. Reports from other counties including Rumbek East, Wulu, Rumbek Center, Cueibet, Awerial and some parts of Yirol East and West have been flooded. Due to inaccessibility, it has been difficult to conduct IRNAs in these areas. Since the rains started early this year followed by floods, the crops have been affected before maturity stage. Thus few crops if any have been harvested this year – a looming food security problem that require close monitoring

According to the RRC, the total population figure of the County is estimated at 43,000 excluding the 8,910 individual IDPs from Rumbek Center and 366 individuals from Mayendit County of Unity State.

According to the local authorities, 20,268 people (3,378 households) have been affected by both the conflict and the floods in Rumbek North County. During the assessment, more women were seen compared to men. However, the local authorities were not able to disaggregate the data by gender.

#### Current population figures<sup>1</sup>

County/Payam/Boma	Location	Host population	Displaced population	Source	Notes
Rumbek North	Maper Center		3036	Local authorities	
	<i>Malueth</i>		3756	Local authorities	
	<i>Alor</i>		3564	Local authorities	
	<i>Madol</i>		2442	Local authorities	
	<i>Wurieng</i>		3030	Local authorities	
	<i>Meen</i>		4440	Local authorities	
<b>Total</b>	<i>Rumbek North County</i>	43,000	20,268		

## Status of the population in the affected area

The IDPs reported that they lived in harmony with the host communities. Besides, the Nuer IDPs that moved into Maper in August this year following the national crisis that lead into serious hunger in Unity State have expressed that they were warmly welcomed by the community and the local authorities and have never experienced any difficulties. They reported sharing of the limited resources with the host communities. The only challenge reported by the IDPs from Malek Payam is the voluntary family separation as their children were left behind to complete P8 exams while others are in Secondary school still attending classes.

Meanwhile, the communities reported existence of GBV but due to cultural challenges, these cases are not reported anywhere or attended to clinically. Besides there are no trained personnel to manage GBV clinical cases in case they were reported.

The IDPs and the forced returnees currently live mainly on leaves, wild fruits and fish. In terms of livelihoods, the communities have expressed the inaccessibility of Rumbek Center in terms of poor road conditions and insecurity. They said a return trip to Rumbek Center cost them 800 SSP on a motorcycle, and that with a luggage, the fair would increase. The hiking of the fare has disabled the shopkeepers in Rumbek North such that one hardly finds anything to buy. While the Nuer IDPs said that they have engaged in burning charcoal that they sell to survive.

Access to basic services in the entire county has been a problem. There are inadequate safe water sources and the community practice poor hygiene and sanitation. Besides, there is only one PHCC with six (6) PHCUs in the County. Out of the health facilities only six (6) are functional with hardly any drugs. Routine immunization of the children in the County has been hampered. Reportedly, cases of suspected measles outbreak have been reported with three (3) deaths.

During the interviews there were more women than men and as usual the women, the children and the elderly suffer most. A number of school going age children were seen.

## Key response priorities

### Education

<sup>1</sup>Based on best available figures for initial planning purposes, valid until independent registration is completed.

- A good number of school going age children were seen during the assessment. However, most children are learning under the trees – a cause for the cluster to carry out an in-depth assessment and provide some form of shelter.
- The existing school buildings were not affected by the floods except a store.

## Food Security and Livelihoods

- Crops were seen submerged in flood water and thus, affecting crop production.
- Local authorities and the communities reported that the flood displaced people live on leaves, wild fruits and fish.

## Health

- In the county, there are 7 functioning health facilities-1 PHCCs and 6 PHCUs. The health cluster delivered estimated one month drugs to the facilities during the assessment. Most common diseases reported include Malaria, Acute Respiratory infection diarrhea, skin diseases and suspected guinea worm.
- The county reported nine (9) cases of measles with 3 deaths from Tholcattle camp in Meen Payam. The County Health Department (CHD) tried to respond with measles vaccination. Other Measles cases were reported from Maper PHCC. Below is an epidemiological record collected from the health facilities

S/No	HF Name	Acute watery Diarrhea	Bloody Diarrhea	Measles	Malaria
1	Maper PHCC	37	17	12	64
2	Malueth PHCU	10	3	0	100
3	Amok	22	14	0	52
4	Total	69	34	12	206

## NFIs and Emergency Shelter

- Most houses were seen standing in flood waters while many reported to be damaged or collapsed. People were also seen overcrowding on higher ground. Since the flight first landed in Malueth in the morning, a few mosquito nets were seen still hanging outside and a sign that quite a number of people are sleeping in the open. This was confirmed by the communities during interviews. The IDPs said they sleep outside in the open most without mosquito nets and that they also lacked cooking utensils. Provision of NFIs came out as their second priority.

## Nutrition

- Although cases of suspected malnutrition were not quite visible among many children seen, it is eminent that the situation will soon deteriorate given the fact that all farms observed are submerged in flood water. The communities said that the flooding started as early as August when the crops were still at the flowering stage while others were not yet ready for harvesting. With the flooding, the communities said that there are a lot of fish which they are currently feeding on. However, they revealed that they do not have fishing gear to enable them catch enough fish.
- The health cluster member carried out a Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening of 30 children (17 girls and 13 boys) between the age of 6-59 months and about 96% of all the children screened were well nourished and less than 5% had nutrition problems (MAM).

## Protection

- There were reports of voluntary separation more especially among the forced returnees from Malek Payam. Reportedly some children who were already in schools in Rumbek Centre were left behind to complete the term and sit for their exams. This has not been an easy thing for both the parents and the children themselves.
- Apart from the Nuer IDPs from Mayendit who have settled in a camp like location in Maper Center, the forced returnees have integrated into the community and live with their relatives and friend.
- The IDPs and host communities reported peaceful co-existence and share the already overstretched resources.
- There were minimal reports on GBV but the survivors are not in any way seeking medical attention neither reporting anywhere. Meanwhile, GBV knowledge among the IDPs and the host community is very limited and yet there are no trained personnel on clinical case management in the County.

## WASH

- The flood IDPs and the forced returnees collect surface water from the flood for domestic use, The key informants in Malueth Payam clearly said that water is not a priority as they have more than enough water on ground. While in Maper and Amok, the communities were able to say that there is inadequate safe water for domestic use which they supplement with the surface water. Out of 14 boreholes reported in the three (3) locations, 6 of which were reported to be in good working conditions.
- The entire community practice widespread open defecation at least one school was visited had block of two (2) stances. Reportedly one of which has been turned into a store following collapsing on the school storage facility.
- Hygiene practices are also poor. The communities have complained of common skin diseases, diarrheal diseases and suspected guinea worm.

## Humanitarian access

### Physical access

Rumbek North is one of the land locked Counties in Lakes State where physical access has been a huge problem. The Trunk Road from Rumbek Centre leading to Unity State is in poor conditions. The road is usable during dry season with difficulties. While in the wet season, vehicles including land cruisers do not travel on this road cutting off the County from Rumbek Centre and other neighbouring Counties. There is no airstrip in Rumbek North County Head Quarters. The County can only be accessed by helicopter during rainy season. Being a low land area, it is important to mention that most of the County is affected by floods every year and most of the population is displaced on yearly basis. Rumbek North has no water transport system as it is land locked with no main permanent river. Besides, the County has no communication network for easy communication and monitoring of the humanitarian situation on ground. The County relies on radio communication installed for the organized forces in the area.

WFP have at least three rub halls in Amok in Meen Payam which serves the entire County. WFP uses the rub halls to pre-position food during dry the season for its projects including FFA, FFE, FFC and General Emergency Food. However, due to insecurity along the road, WFP was not able to preposition food in Amok this year.

### Humanitarian access

Despite the poor road conditions and insecurity along the road, the armed groups also play negative roll in stopping vehicles including the humanitarian vehicles and personal belongings robbed. These incidences mainly happened at the beginning of the rainy season when humanitarian workers intended to preposition resources on ground in Rumbek North. The battle between the Pakam and the Roup created more fear as increased criminalities happened along the road. Besides, the recent battle between the Government forces and the Pakam at Malek Payam in Rumbek Center County worsened the situation as no any form of transport could cross the area peacefully.

## Key findings

### Logistics

#### *Key findings*

- Poor road conditions
- Lack of communication network
- Inadequate fuel in the State
- Deteriorating insecurity along the road

#### *Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response*

- Improvement of security along the road through advocacy to the Government and engagement of peace building activities among the Communities (cattle camp youth)
- Reconstruction/improvement of the road between Rumbek Center and Rumbek North
- Installation of Network to allow communication with the people in Rumbek North

### Education

### Key findings

- Most of the school materials and structures have not been destroyed by the floods however, there are reports that a store collapsed in Malueth Primary school.
- Head teachers are anticipating increased enrollment of IDPs pupils from Rumbek Center in the various schools in the upcoming academic year.
- Pupils in Kak, Wurieng, Aliet and 2 classes in Malueth primary schools are learning under the trees. Meanwhile, the IDPs children are lacking school materials.

### Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Provision of emergency education materials to the various schools.
- Provision and construction of Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS)
- Construction of pit latrines in the various schools

## Food security and livelihoods

### Key findings

- Farms were seen submerged in flood waters
- Reported lack of fishing gear
- Host community sharing little food with the IDPs

### Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Immediate distribution of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) for five (5) days, 15 days food ration which will be followed by Food for Asset (FFA) to 11,298 individuals (1883HH) flood affected, 8,910 individuals (1495HH) IDPs
- FAO to provide fishing gear to the Flood affected population in Malueth.
- Provision of farming implements to all affected.

## Health

### Key findings

- Increased number of consultation on diarrheal cases has been high in the month of October 2014
- Suspected cases of Guinea worm in Malueth
- 12 cases of measles and three (3) deaths were reported.

### Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Immediate restocking of drugs in the health facilities in the County
- Deliver of Measles vaccines and immunization of the children

## NFIs and Emergency Shelter

### Key findings

- It is reported that the IDPs are living in the open with no shelters while others shared living places with their relatives. Most of the houses observed in the air are standing in flood waters and people are seen converging in some higher grounds.
- The IDPs reported of inadequate NFIs including cooking sets.

### Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Distribution of NFIs (Plastic sheets, Mosquito nets, mother kits, blankets, soap, sleeping mats, kitchen sets and kanga/Leso)

## Nutrition

### Key findings

- Children and Lactating mothers looked healthy though amidst tough living conditions and inadequate food on the ground.

- Through Mid-term Circumference MUA, 30 children (17 girls and 13 boys) between the aged of 6-59 months old were screened for malnutrition. 96% of the children were found to be well nourished while 4% already had nutritional challenges – a sign that the situation is likely to deteriorate if not addressed now.

#### *Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response*

- Prepositioning of nutritional food for supplementary feeding program since all crops have been lost in the floods and looming hunger is eminent and other obvious aggravating factors such as diarrheal diseases are expected.
- Health partners on ground to closely monitor the situation and report on nutritional status of children and any other changes noticed on the population.

### **Protection**

#### *Key findings*

- There are reported cases of voluntary separation of children of IDPs displaced from Rumbek Center. The children separated from the parents are mainly primary 8 candidates and secondary school going children in Rumbek Center.
- There were reported cases of GBV however, the survivors are not seeking any medical help in any way due to limited knowledge on GBV
- There are no trained clinical personnel to manage rape cases in the area. CUAM the only health provider in the area does not have the capacity to manage such cases at the moment.

#### *Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response*

- Immediate support of the IDTR of the unaccompanied children, missing or separated children (IDPs in Maper from Mayendit of Unity State and Rumbek Center).
- Intervention in terms of support to victims of child abuse, sexual abuse, early or forced child marriages and training of focal point person on clinical management of rape cases at the PHCC and conduct awareness on GBV.
- Provision of secure environment for the children in terms of psycho-social support and provision of child friendly spaces (CFS).

### **WASH**

#### *Key findings*

- In the three (3) locations visited, most people use the flood water without any form of treatment. Meanwhile 8 boreholes are broken down and only 6 are functional.
- The community members are practicing poor hygiene and sanitation. Open defecation is widely practiced.
- Inadequate water containers were reported and some dirty old water containers were observed.
- There are reported cases of diarrheal cases and malaria skin diseases, suspected guinea worm and cough.

#### *Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response*

- An in depth assessment of the existing boreholes in Rumbek North and immediate rehabilitation of the broken down boreholes to enable the affected communities use safe water for domestic use.
- Immediate launching of hygiene promotion activities and encouragement of the communities to construct both household and institutional latrines for the schools in Rumbek North.
- Distribution of water purification tablets, water containers (jerrycans and buckets) and soap

## **Next steps**

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Priority actions</b>	<b>Human and material resources needed</b>	<b>Responsible entity</b>	<b>By when</b>
<b>Food Security</b>	Distribution of 5 days HEB followed by 15 days Food ration	HEBs and Assorted food items	WFP and cluster	25/11/2014
<b>Non Food Items</b>	Distribution of assorted NFIs	Plastic sheeting, mosquito nets, Blankets, Mother kit and kitchen set	Plan International and Cluster	25/11/2014

<b>Health</b>	Delivery of drugs to the PHCC & PHCUs	Assorted drugs and Measles Vaccines	WHO, UNICEF, SMOH& cluster	25/11/2014
<b>WASH</b>	Distribution of Puritabs and Water containers	Water Purification tablets, Jerrycans and Buckets	Sign of Hope, UNICEF DWS and cluster	25/11/2014
<b>Education</b>	Delivery of Emergency Education material	Education materials and TLS set	UNICEF and Ministry of education	25/11/2014
<b>Protection</b>				
<b>Logistics</b>	Advocate for Security and road construction		Log Cluster	25/11/2014

## Assessment information

IRNA stands for “**Initial Rapid Needs Assessment**”.

**Initial:** Serves as a ‘first look’ at locations where immediate emergency humanitarian response is anticipated, and determines immediate priorities for intervention – registration and targeting of caseload can be required as follow-up, or ‘blanket’ distribution of aid can be actioned directly.

**Rapid:** Deployed quickly, from a list of pre-trained and pre-qualified humanitarian personnel

**Needs Assessment:** The IRNA is an Inter-agency and inter-cluster process using an ICWG-endorsed tool, reporting format and methodology – namely The IRNA form, and the IRNA Reporting Template.

The IRNA was endorsed by the South Sudan Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG) and launched in November 2012, combined with training of humanitarian actors at Juba and state level.

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