

## Background

UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and WFP are piloting a joined multi-sectoral, area based recovery and stabilization programming approach in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) which has been launched since September 2017.

Latest evidence<sup>1</sup> has shown heightened vulnerability of the NBeG region to multiple shocks of severe food insecurity and acute malnutrition coupled with livelihood disruption and depletion of community coping mechanisms. It has been estimated, for instance, that more than 60 percent of the population in NBeG are severely food insecure and global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates have stayed above the 15 percent emergency threshold for decades, often unresponsive to the harvest. UNDP led field assessments have also reinforced these findings and pointed towards progressive erosion of community resilience, severe livelihood disruption and increasing youth unemployment in the region.

While stepped up life-saving humanitarian interventions are necessary, they need to be complimented by the community building initiatives for durable effects. Relative political stability and peace in the NBeG present immediate and credible opportunities to invest in resilience project to complement humanitarian actions.

## Key Programme pillars and approach

Aligned to the 'New Way of Working' (NWOW), it is increasingly clear that a more sustainable response to the dire situation in NBeG is to complement humanitarian investments by (1) delivering life sustaining services and strengthening local agricultural systems to produce and market food (2) ensuring the delivery of basic services and (3) strengthening livelihoods to help households and communities recover and build resilience against future shocks in an enabling peaceful environment.

These interventions are aligned to the recovery and resilience joint programming pillars of (a) reinvigorating the local economy; (b) provision of basic services and (c) peace building and social cohesion. This approach has an inbuilt potential to progressively improve the ability of local population to cope.

The implementation of the pilot programme is based on the principles of 3Cs viz: co-location, collaboration and coordination amongst the participating agencies and other relevant actors on the ground. This integrated approach enables bringing together programme synergies and deliver enhanced and concentrated development impact on the ground.

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<sup>1</sup> Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) reports, South Sudan, 2017 and Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Causal Analysis (IFANSCA) brought out by WFP, UNICEF et al

The joint programming approach has a nation-wide potential and it is expected that with the enhanced support of the development partners, the initiative will be able to achieve results and based on lessons learnt replicate in other relatively peaceful yet vulnerable areas in the country.

A key aspect of the joint programming approach is to achieve synergies across key programmatic interventions. These are as follows:

### **Nyoc Anoon**

Nyoc Anoon is one of the Bomas in Aweil South County in which 164 vulnerable households (90 female headed households and 74 males headed) were registered.

From these 164 households, 140 households (62 males and 78 female-headed households) were engaged in crop production and shallow wells digging but some of these activities were affected by flood. The site to be visited is a vegetable garden for 24 vulnerable households (12 males and 12 females). Each household has been given a land of 20metres x 20 metres. The vegetable produced by these households is intended to improve their household diet as well as generate incomes by selling the produce during the dry season.

In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, WFP and FAO implements Cash for Assets programmes through five partners namely: Joint Aid Management International (JAM), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Concern Worldwide (CWW) and World Vision

### **Aweil Vocational and Livelihoods Training Centre**

The vocational training centre, which has just been launched, is training 150 vulnerable women and youth in market aligned trades and supporting them towards self-employment and sustainable income generation. The selection of trades include carpentry, plumbing, bakery, tailoring, welding and metal fabrication, computers and basic literacy and numeracy skills as a cross-cutting skill. WFP is supporting the trainees with food supplies and FAO is considering developing agriculture and farming training courses to be delivered at the centre. UNICEF is looking into potential support on WASH.

The training centre is looking into an innovative public-private partnership whereby local private sector players can work with the trainees to produce goods and channel a part of the resources towards running of the centre. A key aspect of the training centre is the twinning of government trainers with Help Restore Youth (HeRY) UNDP's implementing partner towards ensuring sustainability and exit strategy.

### **Kuom Outpatients Therapeutic Programme (OTP)/ Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP)**

In this Centre, Medair managed UNICEF supported Outpatient Therapeutic Programme for Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) for Children under 5 and WFP supported Targeted

Supplementary Feeding Programme for moderately Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for children under 5 years and Pregnant and Lactating Women(PLW) that are moderately malnourished.

Based on the cluster approach/strategy for quality service delivery, the nutrition program across the state has been harmonized. Monday/Tuesday is the OTP working days for SAM, Wednesday/Thursday is the TSFP working days. The harmonization of the working days is among one of the measures that was agreed to mitigate duplication in caseload and/ double registration caused by mothers moving from one Centre to the other.

The facility usually serves around 100 children age 6-59months in OTP day. These children receives one-week ration depending on the weight, the ration range from 14-35 sachets per child per week. The average monthly caseload for TSFP is around 1100 children age 6 to 59 months and around 300 monthly caseload for pregnant and lactating women and these beneficiaries are serve on biweekly basis.

The categories of the above-mentioned children and PLW are mixture of former returnees and host communities. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal, WFP and UNICEF implements the above programmes in 104 sites through five nutrition partners namely: Action Against Hunger (ACF), Concern Worldwide (CWW) International Rescue Committee (IRC), Premere Urgency International (PUI), MEDAIR. The OTP and TSFP services are rendered at Kuom PHCU, the facility is exposed to strong winds and storm as such FAO and partner JAM have considered planting trees around the facility to act as wind breakers and provide shade while contributing to overall environmental management.

### **Women's Hai Salaam market**

A women's vegetable market targeting 96 beneficiaries with water and sanitation facilities has recently been built and launched in Aweil by UNDP. The local market which is rapidly evolving as a business hub, is expected to incentivize increased vegetable production for supporting nutrition requirements and promote exchange towards revitalizing the local economy. The market has crowded in meat stalls as also fruit stalls and act as a local hub for supply of daily labour and allied market related services.

Discussions are advancing with FAO to provide agricultural inputs, seeds, tools and training and with UNICEF and WFP on supplementing the current water point built by UNDP for drinking water and irrigation in the dry season for uninterrupted supply of vegetable production and ensuring adequate nutrition. The local government is contributing by providing tractors for tilling the land for cultivation by women farmers.

### **Milk bar**

The milk bar is an initiative of FAO with financial support from SDC and it is aimed at improving milk value chain. The bar is run by a group of ten women as an income generating activity, the women buy milk from the cattle camp purify and preserve it and or process it into yogurt. FAO supported the women group with training and milk handling equipment. The milk bar has been running since 2015. FAO intends to build on the success of the milk bar to further improve livestock productivity under the Join Recovery and Stabilization Program, discussions are ongoing

with UNDP on ways to further enhance livestock product value addition and market linkages thereby diversifying nutritious commodities for local sale and consumption.

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