

Mission Report South Sudan  
4<sup>th</sup> July – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012  
Coordinated Assessment – Mission Report

### Dates of mission

4<sup>th</sup> July – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012 South Sudan - Juba  
16<sup>th</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 South Sudan – Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal State)  
18<sup>th</sup> July – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 South Sudan – Kwajok (Warrap State)

### Mission Itinerary

Timing	Activity/Content	Mission Members/Responsibility/Participants
28 <sup>th</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Start collection and collation of Secondary Data of South Sudan	All Mission members
4 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Arrival of Assessment Coordinator in Juba	Fawad Hussain – OCHA
5 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Preparatory meetings/briefing and review arrangements	Fawad Hussain OCHA, GVA OCHA field Office Juba
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Arrival of Information Management Capacity	Andrew Alspash – OCHA, GVA
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Arrival Chief of Coordinated Assessment Support Section in Juba	Loretta Hieber-OCHA GVA
	Arrival Assessment Training Capacity in Juba	Hisham Khogali – ACAPS
11 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Information Management Secondary data analysis briefing/meeting	Assessment Support Mission Clusters/Sectors Information Managers Information Managers from UN operational agencies Government Census department
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Training on Coordinated Needs Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IASC operational guidelines on Coordinated assessments</li> <li>- MIRA Approach</li> </ul>	Government Sectors Clusters representation UN agency representation Selected Cluster partners/NGOS Field Assessment focal points`
13 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	Strategic Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalisation of IRNA Assessment plan</li> </ul>	Government Sectors Clusters representation UN agency representation Selected Cluster partners/NGOS Field Assessment focal points`
14 <sup>th</sup> July -20 <sup>th</sup> July	State level trainings (to be concluded when mission is in county)	Assessment Support Mission OCHA Office in South Sudan

### Purpose

Following the mission of the IASC Transformative Agenda, joint needs assessments were identified as an area requiring further technical support. A four-person mission led by OCHA Geneva, in consultation with OCHA South Sudan, facilitated a two-day workshop in Juba on July 12-13, 2012 to introduce humanitarian stakeholders to the IASC Operational Guidance and MIRA (Multi-cluster Initial Rapid Assessment) and to provide support for the enhancement of the South Sudan Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) tool, based on assessment best practice. The IRNA was developed by South Sudan cluster leads, but had not been rolled out systematically throughout the country. The mission's intent was to provide support to the South Sudan

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humanitarian actors to enhance the IRNA and prepare State-level IRNA implementers to successfully complete a joint assessment following a critical event.

### **Mission Objective**

- Enable the humanitarian community to better assess and analyse the effects of emergencies on the population of South Sudan; and
- Ensure a more evidence-based CAP through strengthened IRNA data collection and analysis.
- Raising awareness and orienting in-country decision-makers to the benefits of coordinated assessments, the Operational Guidance and MIRA / guidance, and
- Enabling those coordinating and undertaking assessments to improve coordinated assessment practice in their country context, in order to result in evidence-based programming across the humanitarian community.

### **Key activities/meetings during mission**

- **28<sup>th</sup> June – 10<sup>th</sup> July – Pre/in-mission Secondary Data Analysis exercise** – Before the start of the mission there were discussions between Information Management Support Section and Coordinated Assessment Support Section to activate and pilot test utilizing the volunteer networks to collect secondary data for South Sudan. Basic idea was to test the volunteer network capacity to collect data during emergencies. Digital Humanitarian Network (DHNetwork) was activated resulting in data collection of 15,200 unique pieces of information. The data was used during the trainings/workshops and highlighted the need to establish state level baseline data set (humanitarian profiles) for the states. Preliminary scenario definition was also produced based on this data which was used in Juba and 9 state level training workshops.
- **4<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> July – Preparatory Meetings** – In an effort to customize the workshop and training material several meetings took place between the mission members and OCHA South Sudan, Cluster and NGO representation. This helped the mission to customize the training to local context, using country scenarios and utilizing on information management systems in place such as Assessment Database/Incident Mapping database.
- **11<sup>th</sup> July - Information Management Secondary Data Analysis briefing/Meeting Juba** – Mission arranged a pre-workshop briefing and discussion of Information Management staff from various UN and humanitarian agencies. The staff members were briefed on Common Operational Datasets, Secondary data analysis and basics of MIRA and Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments. The meeting also highlighted systems, registrations, surveys, assessments and tracking initiatives in the country.
- **12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July – Coordinated Assessment Training and Workshop Juba** - In total, 45 humanitarian actors in Juba participated the workshop. Participants in the Juba workshop included representatives from all 10 clusters and comprised staff from OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ACTED, IOM, WVI, Medair, Save the Children, FAO, UNHCR, the South Sudanese Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs. The workshop was divided into the following sessions and included a combination of presentations, group work and exercises that helped in building consensus to roll out IRNA data collection tool which is an adaptation of MIRA in complex emergency settings. Training sessions included:
  - The IASC Operational Guidance for Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises
  - Defining the Methodology of Assessments
  - The MIRA
  - Secondary Data Analysis and the Preliminary Scenario Definition
  - Primary Data Collection and Community Level Assessment
  - Data Preparedness per State
  - The IRNA Data Collection tool
  - IRNA Capacity
  - Data Management, Joint Analysis and Response Planning
  - South Sudan Assessment Roll-out
- **16<sup>th</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012- Coordinated Assessment State level trainings** – Close to 250 participants attended 9 state level trainings in South Sudan as a direct result of the mission. As part of the agreed IRNA roll-out, mission supported 9 state trainings through trainers of trainer and directly facilitating 6 out of 9 state level trainings:
  - WBeG- July 17

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- Warrap- July 19
- Upper Nile- July 16
- Unity- July 18
- Lakes- July 17
- NBeG-July 19
- Jonglei-July 17
- EES-July 19
- WES- July 19

## **Findings**

### **Juba Level Findings**

- It was encouraging to see OCHA South Sudan office maintaining Assessment database and incident database at the Juba level.
- There are multiple systems; monitoring/tracking, IDP/Refugee registration, survey and assessments initiatives exist in South Sudan. These information products are currently maintained by clusters and UN agencies and are not accessible across the board. There is a great opportunity to analysed these datasets and information products as secondary data sources. Workshop also highlighted the need to consolidate reports and data sets of these systems by states in South Sudan to a country level website such as humanitarian response. Information Management working group focusing on humanitarian response activities may be a good starting point to consolidate these initiatives. There is need to provide information and data products to wider humanitarian community.
- IRNA tool was analysed and discussed at the workshop highlighting the need to simplify the tool. There was a consensus adapt MIRA like methodology focusing on key informants and observation based primary data collection. The workshop also identified there is a need to review the IRNA tool which currently possesses more then 200+ fields and may be unusable in its current form in the field.
- There was also willingness after the workshop to work on minimum data preparedness for the states which includes establishing humanitarian profiles, sort of humanitarian baseline for the South Sudan states.

### **State Level Findings**

- State level practitioners are keen to receive final IRNA assessment tool approved from Juba and have suggested a follow-up training on the tool through either field testing or desktop simulation.
- Need for consolidation of data and information already available and the need to strengthen mapping of cluster activities and over all information management capacity at the state level. Currently OCHA does not have any IM capacity at the state level offices.
- Participants feel the assessment database should be rolled-out at the state level to collect and share assessment results establishing assessment coordination.
- Consistent request to conduct more trainings/workshops that strengthen coordination, build skills and introduce new concepts at the state level.
- Despite limited capacity due to limited human resource and logistical constraints there is great deal of interest to roll out coordinated assessments at the states in South Sudan.

### **Follow-up/Next Steps**

- Mission staff members from CASS and ISS will finalise the assessment plan for South Sudan which will include agreed assessment methodology, assessment planning check list and primary data collect IRNA tool revised along with workshop report and participants list. (7<sup>th</sup> August 2012). Assessment plan also include National and State level training package which can be reused as refresher by the country team.
- Final endorsement of the Assessment plan by the South Sudan Inter-Sectoral Working group should initiate roll out of IRNA at the field level. Follow-up one day training and field testing of the IRNA tool is also recommended by the mission.
- OCHA South Sudan should look into establishing state level baseline information in form of State level humanitarian profiles and establish state level Information management capacity.
- OCHA South Sudan should also look into the possibility of establishing a country level humanitarian website to bring information management products at a central place.

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**03-08-2012**