BACKGROUND

Baldong, and Golol in west Jabal Murra locality have not been visited by humanitarian partners since the eruption of the conflict in Darfur in 2003. In November 2019, both HAC commissioner for Central Darfur State and the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA/ AW) contacted OCHA requesting response to the humanitarian needs in Baldong, and Golol. As a response to this request; OCHA established a channel of communication with SLA/ AW and with government authorities in Central Darfur (CD) to conduct a crossline mission to Baldong, and Golol.

MISSION PARTICIPANTS

Nine staff from OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, and different UNAMID sections representing all sectors participated in the rapid needs assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Qualitative data was gathered through meetings and semi-structured interviews with local authorities, community members, affected people community leaders, and group discussions with women and youth, and a transect walk to observe the surroundings and living conditions of people living in Baldong, And Golol.

OPERATIONAL PRESENCE

There are currently no humanitarian partners present in Baldong, And Golol villages.

SECURITY AND ACCESS The security situation was calm during the assessment mission. During the interviews, there is a SAF base in the area to provide security to people in both villages. However, during the meeting, interviewees stated that the road between the 2 villagers towards Nertiti and Thur is not safe (reported robbery incidents).

Physical Access to Baldong, And Golol is easy but requires UNAMID escort.

KEY FINDINGS

- Before Sudan Government Military operation in JM areas in 2016; Baldong, and Golol were under SLA/A control. During the military operation, people fled toward neighboring areas and different displacement sites, specifically Thur-Nertiti and Nyala.
- Baldong is 18 km South east of Nertiti. Golol is 20 km south east of Nertiti Town.
- People started the return to both Baldong and Golol as of last quarter of 2017.
The assessment team identified **most urgent needs in:** FSL, WASH, Health, Nutrition, NFIs, Education and Protection sectors.

There is no provision of humanitarian assistance or services in neither Baldong nor Golol. People are seeking health services in Thur or Nertiti, approximately two to three hours walking distance.

People in need includes over 700 HH in Baldong, and 66 HH in Golol (These 66 HH use to come from Thur at day hours to irrigate their farms).

A kilometer south east of Golol; the assessment team managed to identify some populated villages under SLA/AW areas. The team was not able to reach these villages due to the road conditions.

**SECTOR FINDINGS**

Immediate priority needs for the affected peoples include: Food, NFIs, Health, Nutrition, Shelter, Protection, Education and WASH.

**Food Security and Livelihoods:**

Livelihoods Findings

- The main source of livelihoods as informed by the FGD is agriculture. 100% of the community is practicing seasonal farming during the rainy season. However, small portion of the community (estimated 5%) have fruits farms. The main crops are millet, groundnuts, potato and sweet potato.
- The second livelihoods and income source are collecting of the grass and firewood and sell them in the main markets in Nertiti and Thur.
- The main challenges of the agricultural livelihoods’ group are the unavailability of sufficient land spaces, crops destruction by nomads, birds and pests. While in Thur, the IDP farmers used to rent lands at rate reaches 1000 SDG per feddan per season.
- Other challenges are, but not limited to, time-to-time harassment from the nomads against the women who go for grass and firewood collection. Most of the cases are not reported.
- The crops harvest of the last year was not as good as expected. The villagers informed that rainfalls continued up to November, the factor that badly affected the crops and yields.
- To support the livelihoods in the village, the community requested feasible agricultural inputs and tools such as small generators, ploughs, hoes, axes and improved seeds in addition to agricultural extension trainings which may involve advanced agricultural techniques.
- To restore household’s assets, the community requested the organizations to provide them with donkeys and goats; goats to secure and improve children feeding.
- To maintain the community assets, families involved in the FGD showed interest to invest in food assistance for assets (FFA) to rehabilitate roads and the services institutions such schools and health centers.
Most of the youth (estimated 90%) are unemployed. Few people used to go for daily labour work in Nertiti, Zalingei and Thur. The women reported that the daily rate for the workers is not satisfactory. It reaches 50 SDG per day - maximum.

The possible security challenges that the community may face if the livelihoods’ assistance is provided, is the looting of the assets from the nomad’s side.

Food Security Findings

- 100% of the interviewed families reported taking two meals per day. No family reported spending the last night without food.
- 80% of the food is coming from own production. Only few items like meat, oil and sugar are purchased from the markets using the money that generated from the selling of grass and firewood or labor rewards.
- As informed during the FGD, the main food security challenges are less production of the crops for the last season, low daily wage to buy additional food and unavailability of some items in the village. The FGD participants informed that some families have already consumed the last harvest products.
- Although the historical dynamics (displacement) indicates that some might have received and continue receiving WFP’s food assistance in Nertiti and Thur, no one of the interviewed people mentioned personally that his/her family has received food assistance.
- Isolated elderly (estimated 1% of the total population) are the most vulnerable groups that are usually exposed to food scarcity. Children also have similar risks.
- Despite nutrition part was covered by UNICEF, however out of 60 MUAC screened U5 and PL/W, 2 cases were discovered severely malnourished and 6 others are moderate.
- Although men and women share equal responsibility, so far women are the most facing food security challenges as men are travelling most of the time leaving children for women to take care of them.
- During the last food gap period (Jul to Sept 2019), all interviewed group members reported experiencing 100% of coping strategies including: less preferred food, borrowing, seeking help from others, limiting portion size at mealtime, restrict consumption for adults in order for small children to eat and reducing number of meals eaten in a day.
- The main food security priorities are delivery of food assistance and supporting livelihoods’ assets.
- The villagers suggested to receive food, if recommended so, in the yard near the big mosque in Boldong.
- Referring to the unsuccessful harvest season that mentioned previously, if the food assistance is not secured, people will face severe food scarcity in the coming six months.
- The affected population had examined different strategies to cope with food insecurity during the last food gap period (Jul to Sept 2019) as shown in the below table:
Strategy Proportion of total household
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food 100%
Eat borrowed food or borrowed money to purchase food 100%
Rely on help from friends and relatives (musa’ada) 100%
Limit portion size at mealtime 100%
Restrict consumption for adults for small children to eat 100%
Reduce number of meals eaten in a day 100%
*Note: All families applied all strategies to cope with food insecurity between July to September 2019.

Markets
- Administratively, Boldong falls under Nertiti, west Jebel Marra locality. As such, the main market for Boldong population is Nertiti and Thur. It is rare to find people attend markets in Zalingei and Nyala.
- No shop was observed selling the main food items in the village.
- Although there have been some nomads herding their animals in the western side of Boldong, but the mistrust exists to allow there two different ethnic groups to interact and exchange benefits.
- Potato is sold at 2000 SDG per big sack of 100kg.
- Grass-mat is sold at 120 SDG per one sheet.
- Donkey-load firewood is sold at 100 SDG/ donkey load.

Market prices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current Price</th>
<th>Price one year ago</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millet</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onion</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep meat</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow meat</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Bottle (1kg)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>Pound</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry tomato</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry okra</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The daily wage of unskilled labor in Nertiti has been measured against masonry daily wage as in the below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current price/ SDG</th>
<th>Price 1 year ago/ SDG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unskilled manual labor (female)</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>100 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unskilled manual labor (male)</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>100 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations/ needs priorities

- Reportedly, the produced crops yielded quantities are fairly small compared to average land-space cultivated; and relevantly these amounts will not last for 3-month maximum. Therefore, food distribution remains a high priority for the assessed community.
- IOM to thoroughly crosscheck the lists with Nertiti and possibly Thur lists in order to avoid duplication of services.
- FSL sector to launch livelihoods programming to ensure small scale business are established in the area.
- Distribute eBSFP to U5 children and pregnant and lactating women to complement the eGFA and conduct MUAC measurements.
- Planning for EFSA after the emergency food distribution as per the emergency response SOPs.
- Increase water sources for clean drinking water.
- Consider the area in FFA prgramme, specifically distribution of goats to help in children’s feeding.

Shelter and NFIs

It was very clear from the home visit that, the IDPs returnees did not have adequate NFIs in their shelter as they have stated by them, they were not supported by NFIs since their arrival to Baldong in 2017 and 2018. The situation is very poor especially regarding sitting mats, blankets, water storage, cooking and hygiene.

One woman interacted with during this mission have cited that, she has 9 kids and she only has 2 cooking pots and 3 cup for drinking water, another family interviewed during this mission stated that, they have only one pot used for cooking Porridge and soup she has no mosquito nets and blankets ,

it was also observed that, the IDPs returnees they are lacking sitting mats, and they are using lubricants jerrycan for collecting the water.

The IDPs returnees they are lacking shelter, majority of people they are living and sleeping in the old house, which was used by them before they got displaced, IDPs returnee stated they are not able to rehabilitate their houses

Materials used to build the shelter is more than light and would not protect the family from rain. There is dire need for plastic sheet since most of the IDPs returnees they don’t have plastic sheeting.

ES/NFI Response Priorities:

- IOM to conducted registration as soon as possible
- NFIs should be distributed as soon as possible.

As the level of the affect is the same among IDPs returnee its highly recommended that, all affected families receive NFIs
**WASH**

**Baldong - Key Findings:**
- Out of 3 hand pumps only one is functioning, and one is totally damaged.
- Most of the people more than 75% are depending on the surface water in Wadies, apparently surface water is available along the year.
- Wide practice of open defecation, No a single latrine observe during HH visits.
- There is one school latrine, however school is used by SAF.
- Two water samples checked and both samples were uncontaminated.
- Poor hygiene especially among children, particularly personal hygiene.
- Poor condition of Jerrycans and water storage utensils.
- **Key response priorities:**
  - Drilling and installation of mini-water yard and two hand pumps in the surrounding villages (it could be useful to explore spring water management in case of unpromising geophysical results).
  - Rehabilitate the broken hand pump, provided repair toolkit and establish spare-parts center.
  - Implement CLTS in Baldong and surrounding villages.
  - Train and establish community hygiene promoters and WASH committees.
  - Distribution of WASH NFIs including Jerrycans.

**Health**

Due to a long-armed conflict causes the deterioration and limitation of basic health services in boldong and surrounding villages increased the morbidity and mortality among children under age of five and pregnant/ lactate women (PLW) and malnutrition the main challenges among the affected communities (including returnees and IDPs).

- There is no health facilities in Boldong  only there is one nurse inside the armed garrison(SAF) managing small clinic which working rarely open from 10 AM to 1 PM some effected population in boldong village benefit from it which led to a shortage of medicine, due to big number of resident sharing arm clinic ,the nearest PHC /hospital is nertiti 12KM
- Main health concern, acute respiratory infection (ARI), eye infection, malaria, skin diseases, fever, diarrhea diseases, dosentaria, Schistosoma, delivery problem and malnutrition, during previous two months 2 death of women were recorded due to bleeding and during childbirth according to arm nurse.
- During previous two months 2 death of women were recorded due to bleeding and during childbirth according to arm nurse
- There is no trained midwives
- Absence of humanitarian INGOs and MOH to provide integrated services
- Long distance to access to health facilities and logistic issues as well
Health Response Priorities:
- Establish fixed and mobile health clinics with provision integrated services to all villages in the area.
- Establish and train community health promoters CHP.
- Train midwives and equip them delivery tools.

Nutrition
Boldong – Key Findings
The nutrition situation is bad due to food insecurity and lack of awareness among the effected population rapid mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) was conducted to 50 children under age of five years. 9 of them malnourished 2 detected sever acute malnutrition by oedema (SAM) and 7 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) all were referred to Thur feeding center.

- Food insecurity is a major reason for malnutrition also a low income, difficulty obtaining food, the malnutrition was observed among adults
- Early weaning was observed due to a lack of awareness of the importance of IYCF and complementary feeding.
- Absence of feeding centres OTP/TSFP /EBSFP/SC.
- Absence of MSGs, outreach workers
- Lack of awareness of the importance of IYCF and complementary feeding.
- Nutrition Response Priorities:
  - Establish all CMAM component to reduce malnutrition rate among the children and pregnant and lactating women.
  - Formulate mother support Groups (MSG) to improve exclusive breast feeding
  - Establish Community nutrition volunteers to undertake MUAC screen to detect SAM cases earlier as well raising awareness in community.
  - General food distribution to effected population.

Education
Boldong is the only area had been reached and assessed as the other areas had been denied being accessed and the mission returned to the base although school occupation by SAF in Kotrom had been reported.
In Baldong, 700 + HH are available, most of them living in the area and some of them are collecting local construction materials. SAF is occupying the only one school in the area and using it as military regiment. According to the community there are 400 school age children in the area most of them study in Galol, but the low grades cannot walk the distance to the Golol school, and they stay in their homes. The schoolteacher informed that there is PTA in the area consist of 12 members. The school had been abandoned since 2016. The community planning to open the school and military commander agreed to evacuate the school. However, the occupation of the school will be
addressed to MOE DG to raise it over to the Wali to send a message to all SAF in Jabel Mara to evacuate all occupied schools.

**Immediate actions:**
- Boldong PTA should conduct a meeting to discuss opening the school in April.
- PTA with the military commander to evacuate the school, assess the damage and send it to MOE DG.

**Recommendations:**
- MOE must issue a message to all SAF in Jabel Mara not to use schools.
- Conduct training for Boldong, Kwela and Kotrom PTAs.
- CP section should contact UNAMID ODO to clean Baldong school from UXOs before the entering of the students.

**Education Response Priorities:**
- SAF evacuation from Baldong basic school.
- Clean the UXOs from the school.
- Classroom rehabilitation.
- Provision of education supplies.
- Teacher and PTA training.

**PROTECTION**

**Physical Safety and security**
According to women group interviewed during the mission that the security inside the village good, the army providing them with protection, other group of youth women they have mentioned that, the security situation inside the village is good during the day time, but at night there restriction of movement.

The group also mentioned that, the village was deserted for sometimes and as result of that, there are large number of snakes moving around at night and during the last 2 month three incidents of snake biting were recorded.

There is no police post, the only post in the area is in Nertiti as police post in Thur constructed by UNHCR is not functioning, the police in Nertiti have no regular patrol to the area, community solve their disputes through elderly and sometimes they involve the army.

**Movement of the population:**
According to community during the daytime there is no movement restriction but from evening time there is movement restriction imposed by the army, and returnees are not allowed to lite fire at night. Regarding movement outside the village; IDPs and returnees have stated that, the way to Nertiti and Thur is very risky and always they are facing robbery and sexual harassment happening in those
direction according to community the main perpetrators of this incidents are nomads and armed militia.

**Civil registry and documentation:**
Majority of children lack birth certificate. Community leaders said that civil registry team never visited the area and they were not able to get documentation when they were living in the IDPs camp because the process of getting birth certificate and national number is very complicated, the community have requested for support in getting official document.

**PSN:**
According to the community leaders, there are numbers of the PSNs. But they don’t have record and they have estimated the number of vulnerable individual as, 200 single women, 250 women headed household, 70 single elderly and 20 people living with disabilities.
All the above-mentioned categories have no access to service as there is lack of services supporting their vulnerability.

**Protection community mechanism and structures:**
In Boldong village, there is no community mechanism for protection. According to the community members, even before the displacement there was no committee. Also, there is no any existing committee within the community, there is no community multi-purpose center, IDPs returnees they discuss their issue under the shade of trees.

**Women protection and SGBVs**
There no women center and women are not engaged an any IGAs activities apart from going distance to collect grass and sell it in Nertiti and Thur market according to some women interviewed during the mission that, every week there is rape incident, but this cases were not reported ,the survivors are not aware of any service correspond to their condition, also they are afraid of stigma.

**Peaceful co-existence committee:**
In 2018 as per the community leaders in Boldong, a peaceful and co-existence committee have been established, but the committee was not effective due to huge responsibility and lack of support, the committee was not trained its capacity was weak, and the committee is not function since last year.

**Protection Response Priorities:**
- In depth protection need assessment to understand the protection risk (to establish SGVBs identification and referral system)
- protection partner to establish protection network committee
- Conduct vulnerability assessment of women, girls, people with disabilities and the elderly for assistance
- Distribution of Sanitary kits to women, young and adolescent girls
  - Provision of training to the army based in the area
  - Regular protection monitoring mission to the area.
**Child Protection**

Kuwaila:
Mission was aborted by SAF.

Golol:
As informed by SAF commanders, around 66 families including children used to come from Thur for the daytime to clean and irrigate their farms and return to Thur. No Child Protection concern were mentioned by SAF.

Boldoung:
- Over 700 family are residing in Baldoung and surrounding villages
- Children aged 3-5 are daily left in the villages without caregivers as families fetch grasses for making sheets for shelters.
- Communities are not organized prepared for any responses to child protection issues
- Child solders were observed among SAF forces
- GBV is a concern for women and girls while moving to fetch grass and firewood
- Children out of school is a major concern in this area as community mentioned over 70% are Out of school children
- No services in the area in terms of health, education and water. Only one working handpump
- School in occupied by SAF forces

Child protection response priorities:
- Establishment of community-based child protection networks CBCPNs in the villages of Baldoung, Kalu, Konda, Wi, Tranga, Kurgeh
- Training on CP to community-based child protection networks CBCPNs in the villages of Baldoung, Kalu, Konda, Wi, Tranga, Kurgeh
- Establishment of Child Friendly spaces/all-purpose Child protection centres in strategic locations within Baldoung Admin unit.
- Provision of recreational kits to all children groups in the area.
- Alterative/accelerated learning programme is to be supported jointly with education sector in this area as matter of priority.
- Training on the Action plan to SAF in the area
- Other sector to provide the basic services in the area
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