



CAPACITIES AND VULNERABILITIES ASSESSMENT

KAMEL, KHORFULUS, PIGI/CANAL COUNTY, JONGLEI
STATE.

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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Overview of Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment in Kamel

From 25 September 2014 to 8 October 2014 Nonviolent Peaceforce (**NP**) conducted a Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment (CVA) in Kamel, Khorfulus Payam, Pigi/Canal County, Jonglei State.

The assessment was conducted during an NP mission that included protection support for a World Food Program (WFP) food distribution in Kamel.

The population currently residing in Kamel is a mix of various tribes and clans: the host community is Dinka Athoi; the IDP communities include Nuer, Shilluk, Mabanese, Equatorians, and Anyuak; and the refugee population includes both Nubans and Darfuris. The IDP population displaced from a wide range of locations, including Malakal, Ayod, Lilo, Bor, Baliet, Bentiu, Nasser, Obel and Dolieb hills. Prior to coming to Kamel, the IDP population was in Khorfulus and Canal Towns.

1.2 Recommendations

Five key recommendations to address protection concerns in Kamel

- 1. Continue food distributions, and other necessary humanitarian assistance as decided by relevant sectors, in Kamel Boma in order to avoid IDPs endangering themselves by moving outside of the area where they have chosen to come for their safety.**
- 2. Protection monitoring and direct protection support for distributions and other humanitarian activities.**
- 3. Family tracing and reunification for separated children in the community, and parents who are missing children.**

2. What is a Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment?

2.1 Nonviolent Peaceforce Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment Tool

The Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment (**CVA**) tool was developed based on NP's civilian protection activities and conflict analysis experience in South Sudan since 2010. This tool was adapted taking into consideration the most recent incidents and developments in South Sudan.

In conducting this assessment, NP utilised the guiding principles of 'do no harm' and confidentiality through conflict sensitivity and diverse community participation.

By reporting the perspectives and experiences of the conflict affected communities, NP has sought to identify vulnerabilities and protection concerns, the capacities these communities already have in place to deal with vulnerabilities, and how humanitarian assistance could be used to strengthen the capacities of these communities.



2.2 Methodology

NP conducted interviews and focus group discussions with **100 people** in Kamel Boma, Khorfulus Payam, Pigi/Canal County, Jonglei State, including:

- Internally displaced community members (men, women and children);
- Local authorities
- Traditional leaders
- Women leaders
- Teachers and health workers

All of the information provided in this assessment is from one-on-one interviews with key informants and focus group discussions with both the IDP and host communities. The teams' field observations supplemented witness and informant testimony.

We used gender and age-specific discussions to ensure that the protection needs and perspectives of all parts of the community were included.

Background

3.1 Context

Pigi/Canal County was assessed as severely food insecure according to the last IRNA conducted in the area in June 2014. Kamel is a obma located in Khorfulus Payam, to the west of Khorfulus Town, south of Canal town and Kaldak. It is named after a huge tree called Kamel by the community and is divided into two banks by the Jonglei Canal. Kamel was originally inhabited by the Dinka Thoi community, which practices **small scale farming**. The community fled mainly to Khorliet in the early days of the conflict. In Pigi/Canal County, IDPs arrived from many locations, including Malakal, Ayod, Lilo, Bor, Baliyet, Bentiu, Nasser, Akobo, Guit, Ullang, Obel and Doleib. Khorfulus Town has reportedly been partially damaged and the population displaced.

Due to its location, Kamel is far from the current fighting in Malakal, Canal, Doleib, and Khorfulus. As a result, the Commissioner-iO of the County has requested IDPs who were in these areas and specifically in Khorfulus to move to Kamel where it is safer.

According to the Commissioner-iO of Pigi/Canal County, there is a chief appointed by each tribe and each clan. Amongst the diverse IDP community each person knows the chief of his clan/tribe. Of the host community of Kamel – Dinka Thoi – 51 households were left. The Commissioner-iO also reported that 10,000 IDPs are in Khorfulus and are expected to move to Kamel. IDPs started settling in Kamel in early August 2014.

3.1.1 Early Conflict Movement:



Jonglei and Upper Nile States have been severely affected by the conflict since December, which resulted in multiple displacements. IDPs moved from Malakal, Bor, and Bentiu, to counties and villages that were not affected by the conflict, staying in the bush for long periods of time until they reached Pigi/Canal County in Jonglei State. IDPs were settling in Pigi/Canal's six payams and moved between Khorliet and Wunlam in order to search for food and to avoid military presence until they were asked by the Pigi/Canal County Commissioner (iO) to move to Kamel, where he felt they would be safe.

The violence left orphaned children, moving either on their own or with elderly relatives, widows, and separated families. A high number of the IDPs settling in Kamel reported losing a family member or a child during the conflict. They did not know the location of their missing family members or if they were dead or alive.

3.2. Security

IDPs in Pigi/Canal County were asked by the County Commissioner (iO) to move to Kamel for security reasons. Kamel is far from the current shelling in Malakal, Khorfulus and Doleib. Government forces currently hold the state capital of Malakal. Opposition troops remain around other population centers in the area. Malakal and Dolieb experience shelling. Canal and Khorfulus remain vulnerable to shelling. **The team was told that there is a customary peace agreement that protects the Kaldak area from being shelled.**

During focus group discussions held with 65 people (IDPs and host community members) including women and children, the community reported feeling safe in Kamel and that the security situation is stable, both because the boma is far from the shelling and troops and because the IDP and host communities are not fighting between each other. People reported willingness to stay in Kamel due to its safety.

People reported: "Our children do not hear gunshots here at night", and that "women do not fear anything here, and the community is protecting each other".

The community is fairly harmonized, host community and IDPs are living together peacefully, and the team did not witness any signs of conflict over resources. Women reported feeling safe in going to fetch water or in cutting wood, and even in walking between the three payams (Canal, Khorfulus and Kaldak). Women also reported feeling safe using the bush as there are no proper latrines in Kamel.

Police-iO were present heavily in Kamel, yet the team did not see their official station – if any. The team could not verify if the police force was in Kamel for the distribution, if they came with the commissioner-iO, or if they were already staying in Kamel.

The team occasionally heard gunshots, which the community told the team were from hunting in the bush for wild animals and birds.

There was no clear military presence in Kamel, yet the number of single men with no families registered in the food distribution was high. Some men said they left their families either in Khorfulus or Canal, or that they do not have families at all.



3.3 World Food Program Food Distribution

Between **25 September 2014** and **8 October 2014**, the World Food Program (**WFP**) distributed one-month food rations to 9,926 individuals (3,072 households) in Kamel Boma.

The distribution appeared to secure the settlement of people in Kamel. After the distribution the team witnessed not less than 55 new homes being built. A large number of IDPs reported that they had decided to settle down in Kamel because they hoped that more humanitarian assistance would be delivered there and it was a place that they felt safe enough to receive it.

UNICEF conducted registration for separated children and families. 16 unaccompanied minors were registered (two of whom were the heads of their households), 11 separated children were registered, and parents registered 68 missing children. NP and UNICEF suggest the actual numbers of unaccompanied minors, missing, and separated children are higher than the registered figures because the information about family and children registration was not delivered to all beneficiaries therefore not all families/children targeted approached the UNICEF registration table.

4. Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability refers to the degree to which a community or individual is able or unable to cope with negative effects of existing or potential stresses or shocks. Vulnerability of a community increases when the community is unable to face increasing threats due to declining resilience and coping mechanisms. The affected population in Kamel is experiencing a number of vulnerabilities due to the multiple displacements they have been through since the beginning of the conflict.

4.1 Food, Livelihood and Shelter Vulnerabilities

The community in Kamel has very limited access to basic services. Few homes were left behind after the host community fled conflicts, and close to no services remained available. Given that the community that benefited from the WFP distribution only recently moved to Kamel, they were not able to cultivate the land before the end of the rainy season, or engage in livelihood activities.

There is no market in Kamel. People in Kamel used to walk to Khorfulus and Canal to find vegetables, as okra is still growing in Khorfulus and some maize and guava, but IDPs said they no longer felt safe to make that trip and would prefer to receive seeds and tools so they can cultivate where they are.

During the rain up to 50 persons sleep seated in one home. The majority of the community members, including children, sleep in the bush at night without basic shelter. When the team arrived there were less than 20 homes around; emergency shelter is a severe need in Kamel. By the end of the mission the community started building homes, yet not everyone was able to do so. The community requested assistance with emergency shelter or at least sleeping mats and plastic sheets to protect their children from the rain.



Kamel is divided into two banks by the Canal. IDPs stay in the east bank and do not cross to the west bank due to the lack of boats. The community is currently unable to fish in the Canal, a normal source of food and livelihood, due to a lack of fishing tools. The team met with only one person who was preparing a fishing net. The rest of the community asked for tools for fishing, informing the team that the soil is rich with fishing worms.

There is no borehole in Kamel. People drink the water of the Canal.

4.2 Health vulnerabilities:

The population in Kamel suffer from severe health problems. Diseases reported and witnessed were malaria, respiratory infections, typhoid and diarrhoea. Many children suffer from these health problems plus fever, ear infections, and skin diseases.

Children are more vulnerable to health problems in Kamel due to sleeping outside during the rain and the lack of food they have experienced. The community suffers from cold at night during the rainy season due to sleeping outside. The community uses traditional medicine when people get severely sick. Some sick people are taken to Old Fangak for treatment, if the sick person has a relative or neighbour to accompany them. Few people reported being able to go as it takes more than 4 days walk to reach Old Fangak.

There were no drugs or a health facility in Kamel, but there were community health workers there temporarily with the UNICEF and IOM teams.

4.3 Child Protection Concerns

There are a number of child protection concerns in Kamel:

- Children living in the bush with their families.
- There are a number of separated children (11) and unaccompanied minors (16) without proper care and other children are vulnerable to separation due to continuous movements,
- Some children suffer from psychosocial distress in Kamel, especially some of those who were forced to leave schools, and children experiencing separation from their families,
- Children are severely malnourished (according to assessment by Nutrition actor) and are vulnerable to many diseases without access to a proper healthcare facility.
- Separated and unaccompanied children might be vulnerable to forced/voluntary recruitment into armed groups.

There is no school in Kamel. There is a school facility in Khorfulus but it is not functioning. The lack of educational facilities increases childrens' vulnerability to being forced/voluntarily recruited into armed groups. UNICEF has set up a Temporary Learning Shelter (TLS), and there were five teachers from the local community who will be working in the TLS after UNICEF leaves.



The team met with a 15 years old child who was the head of her household. She became separated from her mother while fleeing the early conflict. Her father is dead. She is not sure if her mother is still alive. She is taking care of her 4 younger siblings.

The girl is taking a heavy responsibility; she and her siblings are living alone around old neighbours they trust. The team assisted the children during the food registration and made sure they received their food ration. The team also assisted the family in being registered with UNICEF family tracing and reunification registration.

5. Capacities and Survival Strategies

The capacity of the IDP community in Kamel to cope with existing and potential threats is limited due to their repeated displacement. Furthermore, the various patterns of displacement and multiple ethnicities represented in Kamel create specific vulnerabilities related to the presence of armed forces from the government and the opposition. Capacities are shown in the following areas, taking into consideration that the community only arrived in Kamel in August.

5.1 Population Movement

Due to the severe food insecurity in Pigi/Canal County, the IDP population and the host communities have been moving from one place to another looking for food. People in Kamel informed the team that after their displacement in the early conflict, they arrived to Canal and from there moved searching for food. The community members travelled to Khorliet between January and April, then moved to Wunlam between May and July until there was no longer enough food in those places.

5.2 Food and Livelihood:

The community of Kamel mainly depended on herbs for their diet. In Pigi/Canal County the soil is fertile, which enabled the community to cultivate in Khorfulus, Canal and Kaldak. The team frequently saw maize, okra, guava and pumpkin being eaten. The team was told that people move to Khorfulus to bring those food items back to Kamel, but are increasingly reluctant to do so due to insecurity.

The community also describe the soil in Kamel as very fertile. They want to plant okra, tomatoes, pumpkin, potatoes, guava, roquette, beans, and maize. The crops grow healthy and quickly in Kamel. Its forest is also important for the community; there they hunt wild birds sometimes for food and wild animals if they can afford it. Women collect firewood from the forest. The community collected wood for homes from the forest. The community also eats the grains of a famous tree they have in



Kamel (Lolu – Nima – Buckthorns). The community boils the wood of the Lolu tree to drink when they are sick. They consider the tree as one of their assets. The community has other local cooking tools which they share among each other, like small grinding tools.

5.3 Ethnic diversity and location:

The population of IDPs and the host community in Kamel is diverse. It includes Dinka (Rut, Ngok, Thoi, Luach, Padang, Paweny, Ruweng, Atar, Bor), Nuer (Lou, Lak, Gawar), Anyuak, Shilluk, Mabanese, Darfurians, Equatorians and Nuba people. The host community, despite being mainly Dinka, is also diverse, with intermarriage between tribes. The community lives together peacefully, contributing to making Kamel a safe haven for the IDPs.

The location of Kamel is important, as it is a middle point far from places affected by the conflict and has not up to now been a site of fighting.

5. Conclusion

Whilst the situation is stable and safe in Kamel Boma; women, elderly, sick and children remain vulnerable to malnutrition, food insecurity and health problems.

The need for continued humanitarian intervention in Kamel County remains high especially with IDPs settling in Kamel. The humanitarian response in Kamel must include protection mainstreaming in order to support the most vulnerable and at risk members of the community.

The community reports family reunification, food assistance, and shelter as their primary needs. IDPs have no means of finding where their children/families are, they do not know if they are alive or not. Many community members are distressed by being separated from their families; NP was approached daily by IDPs seeking help in finding their family members. Health, education, and livelihood support are identified as secondary but still urgent needs.

6. Nonviolent Peaceforce Organisational Profile

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP) is a global leader in the practice of unarmed civilian peacekeeping (UCP). Having deployed field teams into conflict and post-conflict environments since 2002, NP has developed a body of evidence-based practice through the implementation of UCP in conflict scenarios in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, South Caucasus, Myanmar, and South Sudan. NP is an international, non-governmental organization working to reduce violence and protect civilians in



situations of violent conflict and its aftermath, through the deployment of multinational teams implementing unarmed civilian peacekeeping and protection programming.

Unarmed civilian peacekeeping and protection is the direct physical protection of civilians under threat of violent conflict, providing support to local civil society to protect themselves and prevent further outbreaks of violence and strengthening the capacity of existing, locally owned protection and prevention mechanism. NP's protection officers are specially trained professionals living full-time in conflict-affected communities providing for full time presence that facilitates trust and the ability to be responsive to rapidly changing needs. UCP activities include providing protective accompaniment to vulnerable individuals, strategic protective presence, conscious visibility, local level shuttle diplomacy, facilitating dialogue and safe space, confidence building, local capacity building, rumour control and interactive monitoring of agreements.

NP began operations in what was then southern Sudan in 2010 with a mandate to assist with local efforts to reduce violence and protect civilians during the transition to a fully functioning independent state of South Sudan capable of protecting its own civilians and managing potential violent conflict through legal, political and other nonviolent mechanisms. Today NP has 11 field teams operating in six states, implementing protection and violence reduction programming. Thematically the scope of the programme includes protection mainstreaming, women's participation in peace and security, direct protection, civic engagement, child protection and inter-communal violence reduction.

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