

Situation overview

New Fangak is a payam in Fangak County. It is also referred to as Phom. According to local authorities, the intensity and ferocity of the conflict in this payam dislodged over 12,000 people and forced them to flee to Wicmoun and Buom, both located at a cruising distance of some 30 minutes and one hour respectively on the Giraffe River from New Fangak. A good number of the population also moved deep into remote areas such as Koatnyakoang and Quaker to avoid the atrocities that characterized the conflict. SSRC officials noted that with calm returning to the town, some 5,000 of those displaced have returned, and many more are expected to return back to New Fangak. IDPs from Southern Unity State are also present in the payam.

Relative calm has since returned to New Fangak and surrounding areas, according to local security sources and other inhabitants interviewed. The front line is said to have moved to Malakal when the SPLA withdrew its troops. New Fangak and surrounding areas are firmly under IO control. A few armed men were seen in New Fangak. A General with his bodyguards frequent the communities. The town witnessed recurrent bombardments from heavy explosives and endemic skirmishes between November 2014 and May 2015. The bombardments completely destroyed homes (tukuls) and major social infrastructures including the payam's hospital, schools and a religious edifice in New Fangak. As a result, services such as health care, education and religious services have been disrupted since November 2014. Livelihood of the population was also largely disrupted by the conflict. People have cultivated small scale farm lands with maize and sorghum, but farming started late and harvest in September is not likely to sustain them for more than a month or two. Until harvest is ready, the community reported that they currently feed on wild leaves including water lilies. Both IDPs and host populations identified their most urgent needs as food, health, shelter and NFI as well as agricultural implements, particularly fishing gears, seeds and tools.

Site overview

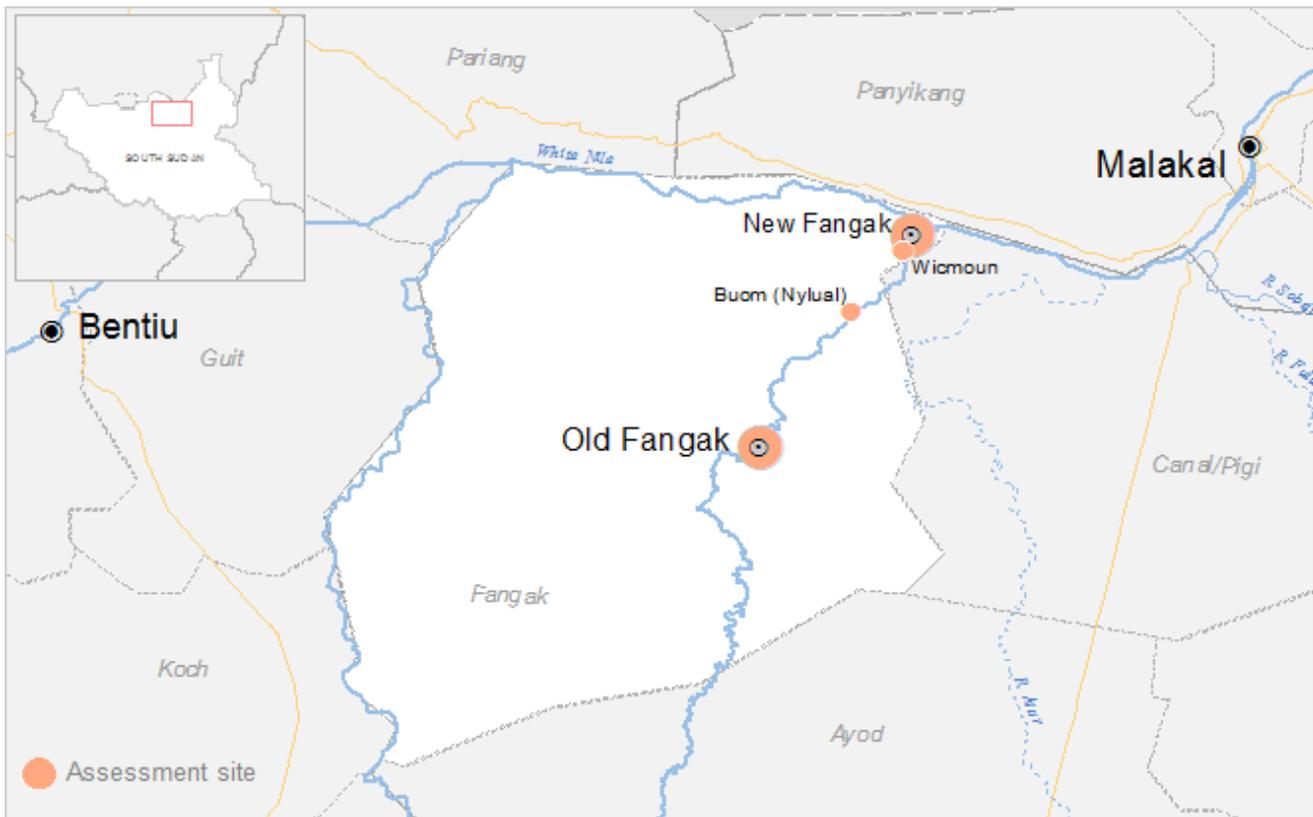


A war ravaged school in New Fangak. The health center was also similarly destroyed



Boat/canoe transport is the main mode of access to communities during the rainy season

Location map



Drivers and underlying factors

The main driver of the crisis is the ongoing civil conflict and its attended disruption of the people's livelihood. The conflict destroyed homes, major social infrastructure like health centers and schools, directly took its toll on the population, and rendered most of them extremely vulnerable and traumatized. Small scale farming and delay in the planting of crops means harvest will be low and will sustain the population for a very short duration. People are also vulnerable to epidemiological outbreak because of poor sanitation. The lack of shelters amongst some vulnerable people including IDPs exposes them to high prevalence of malaria and other illnesses

Security in the area is likely to remain calm. Until harvest is ready, food security is not likely to improve in the short run. However, security will continue to improve should the front line remain at its current position or move further away from the payam. In the medium term, the prospect of food security situation will improve for brief period with the impending harvest, but increase in water borne diseases and other epidemiological hazards will put the population at risk, giving the current poor sanitation and lack of clean and safe drinking water.

With armed elements meandering in the area, protection concerns including SGBV are likely to increase. Food security prospect will become daunting owing to limited food stocks at the household level; and disease prevalence will remain on the rise amidst poor sanitation and water quality.

Minimum humanitarian assistance including food aid, health, WASH, mosquito nets will prevent potential humanitarian crisis; and the provision of agricultural inputs particularly fishing kits will help to bridge the livelihood gaps. Significant delay of humanitarian response is likely to further worsen the vulnerability of the population; hence, necessitate large scale interventions to respond to a crisis rather than to mitigate or prevent it.

Scope of the crisis and humanitarian profile

The affected areas cover communities in New Fangak and surrounding areas including communities in remote areas and those dispersed along the rivers bank such as Wicmoun payam and Buom Boma. There are ten of such communities along the rivers, the last one visited situated at a cruising distance of one hour from New Fangak. Several communities in remote and hard-to-reach locations, particularly where IDPs are reported to be taking refuge, are about three to five hours walking distance from the river bank. These include Quaker comprising ten villages or 'blocks,' and Kuerkir Airstrip and its surrounding.

The table below shows the disaggregation of the IDP caseload as provided by the local authorities. IDPs are largely integrated into host communities; and a number of them are located in makeshift shelters in Kuerkir Airstrip some hours away from Wicmoun. IDPs are reported to also be in Nyalyal and Your-Your. The IDPs in Wicmoun are predominantly pre-war residents of New Fangak. A few are reported to have come from Unity and Upper Nile State.

Current population figures¹

New Fangak Payam, Fangak County, Jogle State	Location	Host population					Displaced Population					Sources
		M	F	B	G	Total	M	F	B	G	Total	
	New Fangak	1100	1400	1300	1200	5000	160	120	140	180	600	State Secretary, SSRRA, Payam Administrator & SSRRA Secretary
	Wicmuom Payam	600	800	1010	1070	3480	4621	6459	3151	4261	18492	
Total:		1700	2200	2310	2270	8480	4781	6579	3291	3331	19092	

Disclaimer: The figures in the table were provided by the local authorities and are indicative. The IRNA team did not verify the caseload because of time limitation and other constraints. It is advised that their use be subject to verification prior to any humanitarian intervention.

Men and boys are by-and-large involved in fishing. A few are engaged in small scale farming and raising animals. Some women travel long distances to get sorghum and other commodities; while, a few women and girls are involved in selling charcoal and operating small tea shops and market stalls with small numbers of commodities such as salt and spices.

Status of the population in the affected area

Generally, the population was deemed relatively safe in terms of protection. With the front line as far as a walking distance of one and half day, security is relatively calm. An IO Major General and his bodyguards of a sizeable number of troops constantly conduct patrols in most areas including New Fangak and its surroundings. There was no report of forced recruitments or other violations in relations to boys. Violence and abuses against girls appear to be prevalent particularly in communities remotely from New Fangak and those along the river. A few cases of domestic violence were reported.

The livelihood situation of the population is dire. Most households consume one to two meals a day. Cereal is mainly eaten by those who can afford; while the most vulnerable people eat wild foods including leaves and fruits for subsistence. Fish is a major source of protein but it is normally in short supply, owing to the limited amount of fishing equipment. As coping strategies, men are involved in fishing and selling their catches; women and children excessively consume wild fruits and reduce their meal intake to one meal per day.

Access to basic services is literally non-existent. Children have not attended classes since the conflict started; health service delivery is limited, and major health related cases are referred to Malakal for treatment. Children are vulnerable to major epidemics as no vaccination campaign has ever taken place since 2013. Besides Nile Hope that operates in Buom and partially covers other locations, and MSF that currently conducts river ambulance service in villages along the river, no other active humanitarian agency operate in the area.

¹ Based on best available figures for initial planning purposes, valid until independent registration is completed

Women and children including youths are the most vulnerable: children are redundant and idle, and could potentially be lured to join the ranks of armed groups. Long distant travels to find food for the homes in areas besieged by armed elements put women at potential risk to GBV and other forms of abuses.

Key response priorities

Food Security and Livelihood

- Immediate provision of food assistant to IDPs and host community based on verification
- Provision of animal health service
- Provision of fishing and vegetable kits to both IDPs and host community

Health

- The provision of mobile clinic in Pakan to improve health status of the returnees in New Fangak
- Capacity building for health staffs in Buom
- Setting up a mobile facility to manage major communicable diseases among the IDPs and host community.
- EPI vaccination in both New Fangak and Wicmuon Payam is urgently needed
- Verification of reports of suspected Polio cases in Wicmuom and Buom

Nutrition

- Set up an OTP in the densely populated area of Koatnyakoang, which is five hours away from Buom. It has a PHCU.
- An urgent nutrition verification/screening of children to determine malnutrition status
- Establish an OTP in New Fangak if the area is fully inhabited or Pakan because it is densely populated, as well as a mobile team to cover New Fangak town

WASH

- Hygiene promotion in all three locations to possibly include safe water treatment (e.g. boiling) and cat-sanitation promotion.
- Repair hand pumps in New Fangak (Phom)

Protection

- Awareness raising and general training on Child Protection and Gender Based Violence in New Fangak is critical.
- Initiate the registration of unaccompanied, separated, and missing children for reunification and tracing; set up child friendly space for children ages four years to six years;
- Offer guiding and counseling, as well as psychosocial support to mitigate trauma which affected most of the people as a results of the conflict.

Shelter & NFI

- Conduct blanket verification/registration of both IDPs and host population since the IDPs had over stayed and it is difficult to distinguish them from the host population. The current situations of IDPs and host community are completely the same in New Fangak town.
- Distribute loose NFIs (2 Plastic sheet, 2 Mosquito net, 2 blanket, 2 Sleeping mat, 2 Jerry can and ½ cooking pot)
- Coordinate with CADA the local NGO on ground for logistic preparation

Education

- Establish temporary learning space (TLS) with the support of the local communities especially in New Fangak where schools were totally destroyed; and repair the schools that was slightly destroyed in Wichmuon Payam; notably, Kuerkan primary school.
- Restored schools in the areas to avoid children staying home, or engaging into unproductive practices such as boys being lured into becoming child soldier, and girls being forced into early marriage.
- Supply teaching and learning materials like chalk boards, text books, pens, exercise books, chalk and other teaching aids

- Mobilized volunteer teachers and give them some basic skills on teaching methodologies because as per the data received, even before the crisis, teachers had only Sudan school certificates and never had any teaching qualifications
- Provide English lessons for already identified teachers because most of the former volunteer teachers have only had Arabic orientations.
- Provide teachers with some training in life skills and psychosocial support in order to address the needs of traumatized children.
- Education actors should link with other sectors like wash, child protection and nutrition in order to cater for separated, malnourished and other vulnerable children as well as ensure proper hygiene in the school environment.
- Food for education should be among the priorities to encourage children attend classes regularly.

Humanitarian access

Physical access

New Fangak and surrounding locations can only be accessed with humanitarian assistance by helicopter during the rainy season. There are a number of airstrips in the town, and another in Buom of Wicmoun Payam, but only helicopter can land on all of them. Road networks are impassable during the rainy season due to marshy and waterlogged terrains as well as tall grass that cover the existing roads. River access for transportation of humanitarian services/assistance by boat appears to be possible, but exploring such option might be unlikely for now giving the fragile security environment in the region. Telecommunication including internet and mobile communication is non-existent. Besides a few government officials that use Thuraya Phones, civilians particularly, including local humanitarian workers are reportedly not allowed to use the gadget. No storage facility or accommodation exists in the area as all structures were completely destroyed.

There was no report of incidence of land mines or UXO, but humanitarian operation needs to be conducted with caution as the heavy bombardment that took place in the area could have left behind remnants of or unexploded objects. The Mine Action sub-cluster advises that the following hazards are in close proximity to the assessment area. These hazards pose a threat to host, IDP communities and humanitarian actors. UNMAS is able to provide further advice and relevant training as needed. Mine Action alerts are:

State	County	Payam	Boma	Hazard Type	DA Type	Status	Area	AreaType	Longitude	Latitude	Devices
Jonglei	Fangak	Old Fangak	Old Fangak	MineField	SuspectedMineField	Active	3526564	MilitaryInstallation	30.884464	9.069444	AP-AT
Jonglei	Fangak	Phom	Pacchoul Kon	MineField	SuspectedMineField	Active	812180.738	Unknown	31.158583	9.408694	AP
Jonglei	Fangak	Phom	Pacchoul Kon	MineField	SuspectedMineField	Active	18382	Unknown	31.150889	9.411361	Unknown
Jonglei	Fangak	Phom	Pacchoul Kon	MineField	SuspectedMineField	Active	710235	Unknown	31.155417	9.407306	Unknown
Jonglei	Fangak	Phom	Juaibor	MineField	SuspectedMineField	Active	8000	Path	31.486889	7.518556	UXO

Humanitarian access

The population did not express concern about safety associated with the delivery of humanitarian assistance, but the frequent movement of armed men means that assistance should be provided with caution. Women and girls transporting food to long distances could be exposed to GBV.

Key findings

Food security and livelihoods

Key findings

- The food security situation for both for IDPs and host community households is precarious, with the IDPs most affected. Most households consume on the average between one and two meals a day mainly composed of cereals and wild foods (lalop leaves/ fruits and water lily).
- Common coping strategies applied included excessive consumption of wild foods, reduction in number of meals and fishing with limited fishing equipment. IDPs are dependent on the host community for their food needs.
- The farming system is generally less diversified with communities planting mainly sorghum, maize and a few vegetables like pumpkins. Some crops in the field have been affected by prolonged dry spell especially, maize.

- Livestock situation was generally reported well though cases of endemic diseases like Liver Flocks and HS were reported. Insecurity related to livestock is reported to be minimal.
- There is a lack of animal health services especially following the crisis; although there are few animal health workers, they lack drugs and vaccines.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Immediate provision of food assistant to IDPs and host community based on verification
- Provision of animal health service
- Provision of fishing and vegetable kits to both IDPs and host community

Health

Key findings

- Besides MSF that runs a river ambulance in areas along the river bank, no other health NGO operates in the areas since November 2014, following the conflict that destroyed the health facilities. Until June 2015, Nile Hope was the only NGO that ran a three-month mobile clinic.
- Malaria, Pneumonia, watery diarrheal, typhoid and STI are common diseases among the people.
- The population has no access to static health services in communities of New Fangak, Pakan, Lele, Wuntur, Dinye Kolapach and Paytath.
- In Wicmoun, health workers are providing Primary Health Care and consultation for under five children and adults, but they literally have no drugs to operate and other medical supplies.
- There is a PHCU in Buom with fairly regular reporting, but there is shortage of drugs and medical supplies.
- No EPI vaccination has ever been conducted since 2013 in Wicmoun and New Fangak Payams.
- There was no outbreak detected during the time of the visit except one suspected polio case in Wicmoun and two suspected cases in Buom that need verification.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- The provision of mobile clinic in Pakan to improve health status of the returnees in New Fangak
- Capacity building for health staffs in Buom
- Setting up a mobile facility to manage major communicable diseases among the IDPs and host community.
- EPI vaccination in both New Fangak and Wicmoun Payam is urgently needed
- Verification of reports of suspected Polio cases in Wicmoun and Buom

Nutrition

Key findings

- Nile Hope is running an OTP in Buom Boma. The assessment established that some children from the far north of Wicmoun Payam do not reach the Nutrition facility because of the distances from the facility. Some have to trek four to five hours from their homesteads. E.g. Koatnyakoang is five hours away from Buom and is densely populated. It has a primary health care unit (PHCU). This facility services several other surrounding villages.
- Returnees, IDPs and the host community in New Fangak and Wicmoun Payam presented pockets of malnutrition cases. A rapid MUAC screening of 20 samples revealed that 1 child in 20 children was a SAM case and GAM was at 15 percent. This is evident that there are more cases of malnutrition in remote and hard-to-reach communities.
- The presence of large number of IDPs in a sparsely populated community of Wicmoun has put tremendous stress on and depleted scarce community food stock, leaving both communities food insecure. This situation has impacted on the nutrition situation of the children.
- Nile Hope's staff operating the OTP in Buom cited difficulties in extending services to outreach setups since the distances to them is very far and trekking through marshy and bushy roads can be tiresome.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Set up an OTP in the densely populated area of Koatnyakoang, which is five hours away from Buom. It has a PHCU and there are many villages within the vicinity.
- An urgent nutrition verification/screening of children to determine malnutrition status
- Establish an OTP in New Fangak if the area becomes fully inhabited, or Pakan because it is densely populated, as well as a mobile team to cover New Fangak town

WASH

Key findings

- There are 6 hand pumps in New Fangak (Phom town) of which two are functional, two are broken down and two are inaccessible due to insecure locations. Of these boreholes, one has no handle and all the pipes were removed. In all cases the hand pumps are not fenced and are surrounded by dense bushes.
- No trained pump mechanics and water management committees exist in all three locations. There are also no trained hygiene promoters.
- Communities are accessing water directly from the river without any treating it. e.g. no boiling of drinking water.
- Households have insufficient water containers for collecting and storing water.
- There are no latrines and therefore 100% of people are practicing open defecation. Of the households visited and interviewed, people generally have very poor hygiene practices and knowledge.
- No construction materials (e.g. sand, bricks and gravel) available locally.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Hygiene promotion in all three locations to possibly include safe water treatment (e.g. boiling) and cat-sanitation promotion.
- Repair hand pumps in New Fangak (Phom)

Protection

Key findings

- According to local authorities including top security sources and based on observations, New Fangak Payam and areas around it are currently very well secured. It is safe for the IDPS and host communities because it is very far from the frontline.
- The IDPS and the host communities coexist very well. The majority of the IDPs are integrated in the host communities; some reside in makeshift tukuls and abandoned and ravaged structures.
- The war left most of the population vulnerable and destitute as they lost almost all of their belongings including homes.
- Forced and early marriage, domestic violence, physical assault, and rape case appear to be rampant. A seventeen years old girl, for instance, was reportedly raped recently by two people men who had on military uniforms when she had gone to fetch water from the river.
- Children are not in the school. Because of their idleness, parents are encouraging early marriage of the girls.
- Cases of separated and unaccompanied minors were reported. There were also reports that a few children got missing during the fighting. UAM and separated children are cared for by relatives.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Awareness campaign and general training on Child Protection and Gender Based Violence in New Fangak is critical.
- Initiate the registration of unaccompanied, separated, and missing children for reunification and tracing; set up child friendly space for the children ages four years to six years;
- Offer guiding and counseling, as well as psychosocial support to mitigate trauma which affected most of the people as a results of the conflict.

Shelters & NFI

Key findings

- Although the IDPs were fully integrated in the host community, particularly in Buom boma, it was evident during homes visits and focus group discussions that IDPs who have no community link exist in Wicmuon Payam.
- Most homes were destroyed in New Fangak town. A few IDPs from Atar in Pigi, Tonga in Upper Nile State and IDPs from surrounding area were observed sleeping in the destroyed buildings and in open spaces.
- IDPs are coming back gradually to New Fangak town and few tukuls are being constructed. They appear to have basic needs for the households' items including cooking pots, Jerry cans and utensils.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Conduct blanket verification/registration of both IDPs and host population since the IDPs had over stayed and is difficult to distinguish them from the host population. The current situations of IDPs and host community are completely the same in New Fangak town.

- Distribute loose NFIs (2 Plastic sheet, 2 Mosquito net, 2 blanket, 2 Sleeping mat, 2 Jerry can and ½ cooking pot)
- Coordinate with CADA the local NGO on ground for logistic preparation

Education

Key findings

- As of 27th/November/2014 when the SPLA captured Phom/New Fangak, schools were forced to close in the town and surrounding areas including Wichmuon because children and teachers fled to Old Fangak and other nearby villages.
- New Fangak and its surrounding areas had seven schools prior to the conflict. All of them were completely or partially destroyed during the SPLA assault to capture New Fangak. Teaching materials were also destroyed.
- Preschools/early childhood development in Wichmuon was unavailable before and after the conflict.
- Some of the volunteer teachers who taught at the schools prior to the conflict are still available and willing to offer their services voluntarily.
- There are approximately 2000 age school going children in New Fangak (Returnees and IDPs) and 8000 age school going children in Wichmuon Payam (host and IDPs)

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Establish temporary learning space (TLS) with the support of the local communities especially in New Fangak where schools were totally destroyed; and repair the schools that was slightly destroyed in Wichmuon Payam; notably, Kuerkan primary school.
- Restored schools in the areas to avoid children staying home hunting and fishing and engaging in unproductive practices such as boys being lured into becoming child soldier; and girls being encouraged into early marriages.
- Supply teaching and learning materials like chalk boards, text books, pens, exercise books, chalk and other teaching aids
- Mobilized volunteer teachers as soon as possible and give them some basic skills on teaching methodologies because as per the data received, even before the crisis, teachers had only Sudan school certificates and never had any teaching qualifications
- Provide English lessons for already identified teachers because most of the former volunteer teachers did their studies in Arabic.
- Provide teachers with some training in life skills and psychosocial support in order to address the needs of traumatized children.
- Education actors should link with other sectors like wash, child protection and nutrition to cater for the separated, malnourished and ensure proper hygiene in the school environment.
- Food for education should be among the priorities to encourage children attend classes regularly.

Next steps

[Indicate ICWG-endorsed cluster commitments based on the findings]

Cluster	Priority actions	Human and material resources needed	Responsible entity	By when
FSL	-provision of food assistant based on verification -Provision of animal health service -Provision of fishing and vegetable kits	Human resources, food, veterinary doctors, animal vaccines / drugs, fishing gears, seeds	FSL cluster	ASAP
Health	-Set up mobile clinic in Pakan to manage communicable diseases among Returnees, IDPs and the host community -Carry out EPI vaccination -Send a team to verify the suspected case of POLIO	Provide medical supplies such as drugs, dressing materials etc EPI vaccines	Health cluster and their partners Ministry of health	Immediately
Nutrition	-Set up an OTP in Koatnyakoang -Set up an OTP in Pakan	Nutrition supplies such as plumpy nuts, plumpy	Nutrition cluster and their	Immediately

	-Set up mobile team in Pakan to cover New Fangak -Rapid respond in New Fangak for more verification of malnutrition rate among the returnees	sup, CSB etc	partners	
WASH	-Hygiene promotion in all 3 locations possibly to include safe water treatment (e.g. boiling) and cat-sanitation promotion. -Repair hand pumps in New Fangak (Phom)	Hygiene promoters -WASH Technicians; Tools and IM2 spare parts	WASH cluster	ASAP
Protection	-Awareness raising and general training on Child Protection and GBV is critical. -Register unaccompanied, separated, and missing children for reunification and tracing; set up child friendly space; -Offer guiding and counseling, as well as psychosocial support.	- CP & GBV trainers - social workers for tracing, reunification, and guidance & counseling	Protection cluster	ASAP
Shelter & NFI	-Verification/registration of IDPs and host population. -Distribute loose NFIs (2 each of Plastic sheets, Mosquito net, blanket, Sleeping mat, Jerry can and ½ set cooking pot) -Coordinate with CADA the local NGO on ground for logistic preparation	Human resources Plastic sheets, Mosquito net, blanket, Sleeping mat, Jerry can and ½ sets cooking pot	ES/NFI team, IOM	ASAP
Education	-Establishment of temporary learning spaces; -repair of the destroyed schools; -mobilization of teachers and supplies of learning materials	Staffing by HCO for the proposed CHF	Education cluster	

Assessment information

The assessment to New Fangak was carried out by the following individuals:

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