

IRNA Report: Yambio County, Western Equatoria State: 23 – 24 July 2015



This IRNA Report is a product of Inter-Agency Assessment mission conducted and information compiled based on the inputs provided by partners on the ground including; government authorities, affected communities/IDPs and agencies.

Situation overview

On the 23-24th July, 2015 RRC, UNOCHA, WVI, CMMB, WHO, UNIMISS, CDTY and State Ministry of Agriculture(SMoA), conducted an assessment to understand living conditions and needs people, displaced from Maridi and Mundri counties, following the recent conflicts in the two Counties. The assessment was conducted in Yambio Town Payam and Bangasu Payam.

The team visited 41 households with 217 individuals in Yambio and in Rimenze we visited 32 households' with 58 individuals, 15 vulnerable for both Yambio and Rimenze.

The IDPs in these Payams are living under similar challenges; most of the IDPs are women and children. They said that the men were left behind to try and monitor their homes and villages.

Now the women are alone and struggling to fend for their children in the places of displacement in the case of the majority of households whose men remained behind. School is interrupted for most children, but the state ministry of education is encouraging all children to enroll in schools in the areas of displacement.

IDPs who fled to Yambio are entirely depending on support of relatives and friends, who share with them shelter and food. Relationship between the host and IDPs is good but much strain put on host families is increasing vulnerability of the hosts, especially with the high prices of food and all goods in the country.

A limited level of humanitarian assistance has been made by some partners and this includes: distribution of one Plastic bucket with lid and 4 bars of laundry soap by directorate of rural water and sanitation, 1000 mosquito nets from UNICEF and repair of 10 bore holes in Yambio town to increase availability of water to meet water needs of IDPs. Congestion in homes is high and may expose IDPs and host to spread of communicable diseases. IDPs have missed out from the first cropping season and are willing to cultivate if host allow them to use land and if they are assisted with tools and seeds.

The most outstanding needs that require immediate response from government and humanitarian partners include: provision of emergency shelter and NFIs, distribution of food, Provision of seeds and tools, additional water containers for IDP households, provision of schools materials including additional learning spaces in schools accommodating more IDP children, Creation of awareness on where to access medical services, Identification, registration and assistance to extremely vulnerable IDPs and psychosocial support.

Site overview

Women and children lack adequate shelter

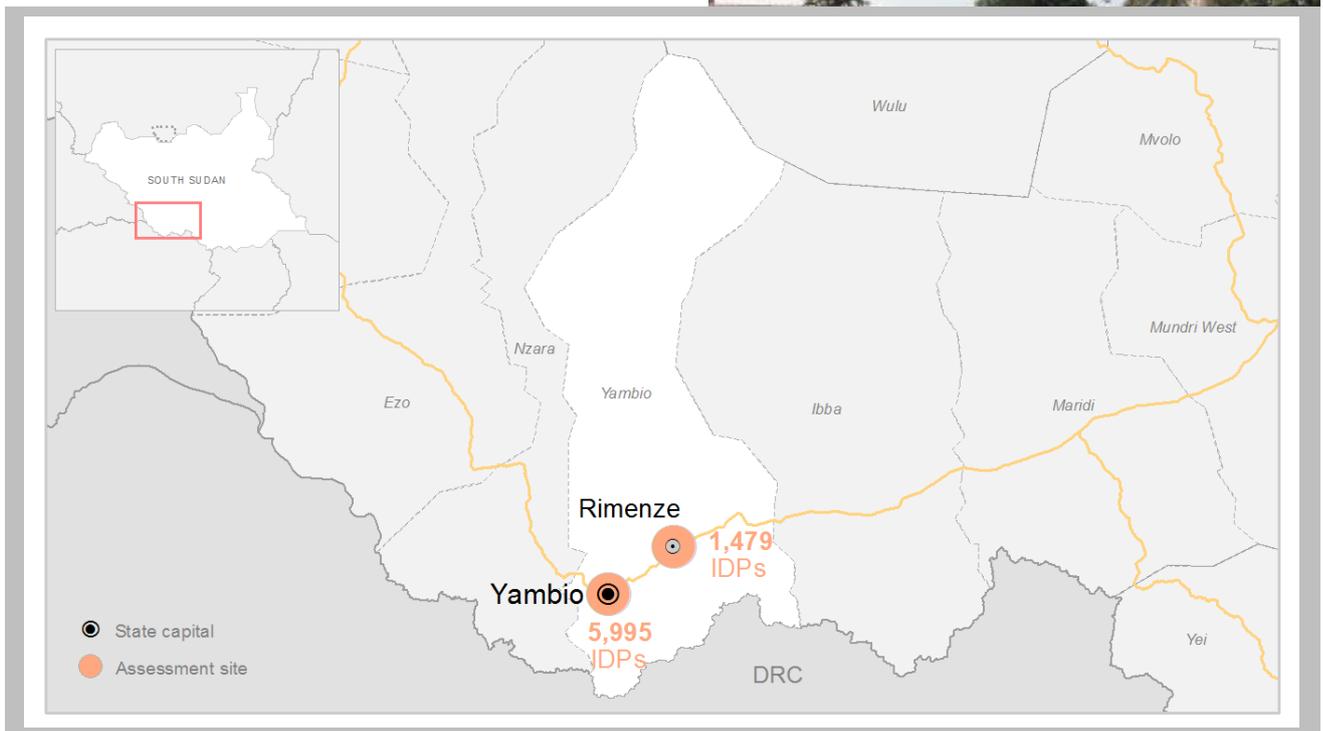


Assessment team interviewing IDPs in Yambio



Location map

Yambio Town and Rimenze in Bangasu Payams of Yambio County



Drivers and underlying factors

Yambio County is one of the counties receiving displaced populations from Maridi and Mundri counties. Being the capital of western Equatoria state and seat of the state government, it is obviously the safest of the ten states of Western Equatoria because issues will be better addressed given the proximity of the highest state authority. Yambio is also the place where people of western



Equatoria have many relatives who are employed or self-employed and thus expected to be able to give some help in this bad time of insecurity and economic hardships. This partially explains the movement of some IDPs from Maridi and Mundri to Yambio County.

Sudden outbreak of fighting underlies the high level of vulnerability among the IDPs in Yambio County, thus they had to flee without any belongings from their homes to places perceived to be safer. Community and humanitarian actors in south Sudan were not expecting such turn of events as well.

First in on 21st May 2015: Conflict erupted in Mundri West between SPLA soldiers of Dinka ethnicity, but the violence spread to the town and caused burning of houses, looting of property, deaths due to shooting, children drowning in the river, 10 cases of SGBV and massive displacement of about 37,901 individuals to various areas within Mundri West and Mundri East counties. 117 houses burnt, 4 people killed, 3 injured, 3 missing

Secondly, on 7th June 2015, Conflict erupted between Dinka cattle keepers in Maridi and the local population of Maridi County, following an incident where a grenade was thrown into a cattle camp killing some cows belonging to the Dinka cattle keepers in Maridi. This event also added to a situation where over the years, tension has grown between the local crop cultivating community and cattle keepers from the neighbouring states of lakes and Jonglei. The grenade incident caused the cattle keepers to retaliate against the host community which they suspected for the attack. 196 Houses were burnt, 14 people reported killed, 5 cases of SGBV by the Army, 196 houses burnt, shops, Maridi hospital looted and vandalised. Maridi County, 2,483 people fled to Ibba County and 5,216 fled to Yambio County.

Another group of displaced civilians is from Nyaka village. There are 208 households (990) individuals from Nyaka village who were displaced by SPLA soldiers on 29th May 2015 along the border of DRC- Congo, 45 kilometers from Kasia this particular incident happened when SPLA (soldiers) were patrolling looking for rebels who are said to be holding training in the bush. When they arrived in Nyaka village, they started threatening the population and their Boma chief reported that he was tortured. the community fled, having experienced similar deadly attacks in the past they were attacked by LRA. They deserted area and are currently taking living in Kasia village of Bangasu Payam of Yambio County.

Scope of the crisis and humanitarian profile

The displaced population from Maridi and Mundri countries are now located mainly in Yambio town Payam and Bangasu Payam, which lies along the Yambio- Maridi Road. The main locations in Yambio County are: Hai Masiya (Kuzee), Hai Kuba, Behind the Police HQ, In Bangasu Payam, main locations are: Kasya; with IDPs from Maridi IDPs as well as plus those displaced when SPLA post was attacked in revenge in Nyaka leading to violence by SPLA against civilians at the same time of conflict in Maridi. Also Rimenze, has IDPs from Maridi and Makpandu church

The displaced are mostly children and women. Although there are some men among the IDPs, most grown up and able bodied men have remained in areas near to their destroyed or displaced homes in both Maridi and Mundri. They also probably remained back to try to monitor the situation in the homes towns and villages

Current population figures¹

Payam	Location	Total HHs	Total Population	Sources	Notes
Yambio	Yambio town	1090	5665	RRC	
Bangasu	Rimenze	283	449	RRC	
Yambio	Kasia	208	990	RRC	
Bangasu	Makpandu Church	8	40	RRC	
		1589	7144		

The main coping mechanism for the displaced is kinship support. Others are assisted by the church congregations. However the assistance from these categories is very small, so the IDPs try to supplement with casual work. By this mechanism they barely survive on one meal per day, but living with a lot of stress. The rain season is at its peak in the county and poor shelter is causing health issues especially among children.

Throughout the locations assessed in Yambio County, IDPs told the assessment team that they feel safe in their current places in Yambio County. Their relationship with host community is good and some of them are not planning to return to their home counties. They also feel that they are putting a lot of strain on their hosts who will not be able to sustain them for long.

They are currently sharing the resources of the host community, such as water points, shelter, kitchen utensils, beddings, etc leading to delays in meal preparation, congestion among other constraints. They access the existing health facilities, schools and other public places without prevention. The challenge is that strain on these already inadequate services

School enrollment is interrupted by lack of money among the IDPs, ignorance of the policy adopted by the state Ministry of Education - where public school have been asked to enroll all IDPs children who come up for enrolment and to share the statistics with the ministry, who together with development and humanitarian partners look into education's needs and gaps

During the violence that ensued back in their home areas, IDPs faced many problems including stress and trauma due to the violence. At the current places of displacement, IDPs feel safe. Women and children are the most affected as they are the majority living in displacement in addition to temporary or permanent separation from some of their fathers and husbands, some of whom were the main bread winners for their families.

Majority are depending on daily casual works for their survival. Casual work includes working in gardens of host communities, burning charcoal, etc in exchange of food stuffs like cassava, ground nuts, etc. IDPs households groups living in public places share whatever they acquire, to ensure that, all members in the group are cared for, they cook and eat together.

Key response priorities

Education

- Provision of scholastic materials and recreational kits for 1,000 children, ECD kits to around 500 children and 25 temporary learning spaces or 25 tents.

ES/NFIs

- Distribution of plastic sheets or tents, sleeping materials and kitchen utensils, water containers

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

Food Security and livelihoods

- Distribution of food or cash assistance program for the IDPs in Yambio town
- Distribution of seeds and tools to enable IDPs who will not go back to their counties to cultivate in the second cropping season

Water and sanitation

- Additional water containers for larger households. The directorate of rural water and sanitation has provided timely plastic bucket and 4 bars of laundry soap per household in Yambio town.

Humanitarian access

Physical access

Physical access to current locations where IDPs reside is very easy. Most are within the Yambio town Payam. Even the ones in Bangasu Payam are accessible along the road only because some of the villages in Bangasu Payam have not memorable roads; rather they are linked by foot paths

Bangasu is about 20 Km from Yambio and it takes about 2 hours maximum to drive from Yambio to Bangasu areas of Rimenze and Kasia

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is very good in Yambio County. There are no hindrances at the moment; the local authorities are very supportive to delivery of assistance and working together with Humanitarian non-governmental agencies to prevent sexual exploitation. No UXOs have so far been reported in the County. The only constraint is the lack of resources from both government and humanitarian partners

Key findings

Education

Key findings

- On 23rd July IRNA team Carried out assessment in Yambio Town Payam visited 4 households, two Schools and County Education office. Then on 24th the same team visited Rimenzi, and Makpandu. In all sites IDPs are staying with their relatives and are in need of assistance of NFIs and shelter, Food, WASH, Education.
- Total of School age going According registration in RRC Yambio county Office is 1698 Male and 1786 Female totaled to 3484 out of which 902 Joined School .
- All displaced students and pupils lost their books and Uniforms being looted or burned
- Some pupils and students have reported to School and being accepted by the School administrations. Some students and pupils did not attempt to join Schools, while other IDPs children have stopped going to school because their parents don't have money to buy them scholastic materials
- IDPs are not ready to go back, unless the groups who committed the atrocity are out of Maridi.
- Candidates for both Primary and Secondary are worried about their final exams

Statistic of pupils in Yambio Town Payam

Category	Pupil numbers before IDP influx			IDPs Learners		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Primary Schools	10582	11449	22031	237	368	605
Secondary	1592	1055	2647	106	191	297

Schools						
Total	12174	12504	24678	343	559	902

Source: Yambio County Education Office

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- There is need for supplying the schools in the hosting community with learning materials like school in a box, Recreational kits, Teachers kit, school bags Chalk and blackboards and other scholastic material .
- There is need for construction of temporary learning space (Tents) as the number of pupils have increased in the Schools
- Need for integration of the learners for lessons in the hosting communities.
- More teachers are needed as the number of students and pupils are increasing and more attention to the Candidates of both primary and secondary levels.
- Need for Psychosocial Support, consoling and sensitization meetings with the IDPs and hosting community.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

Key findings

- Most IDPs are staying with their relatives and friends.
- IDPs sleep under unfinished construction buildings where glasses of windows and doors are not yet fixed by the owners. They sleep in an average of ten people in one “tukul”; most of them sleep in unprotected shelters without doors, mosquito-nets or blanket, as seen in the picture on page 2 of this report. Friends and neighbors are sharing their few kitchen utensil, and water containers most with the IDPs especially in Yambio town
- Water containers are being shared and it has made children go to fetch water more than ten times a day due to the big numbers of people staying in one household.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Distribution of NFIs such as blankets, mosquito-nets, kitchen sets, Jerry cans, plastic buckets, sleeping mats, soap and sanitary materials to women and girls.
- Distribution of emergency shelters (plastic sheets and tents) to reduce the congestion of the IDPs within the host homes.

Food security and livelihoods

Key findings

- IDPs food items were looted from their houses and their gardens were destroyed by cattle.
- The IDPs are sharing food with the host community; this makes the food available for their consumption very limited.
- IDPs reported that they consume one meal a day compared to the three meals they used to consume per day before the crisis.
- The IDPs showed the team during assessment some wild vegetables which they are currently feeding on.
- The main crops grown in the host community are Maize, groundnuts, sweet potatoes and cassava. However the IDPs have not been able to cultivate as they have no lands, tools, seeds and they came after the first planting season

- Some IDPs are ready to cultivate in the next farming season which will start next month but they don't have land, seeds and tools. Some will be able to individually negotiate with host communities for temporary use of land

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- General Food distribution to the IDP community
- Distribution of seeds and farming tools for food sustainability.
- Supplementary feeding for children and pregnant Lactating mothers

Health and Nutrition

Key findings

- The IDPs are able to access available health facility in the hosting area; the following health facilities were within reach of the IDPs: Yam bio state hospital, Yambio PHCC, Prisons clinic Yambio, Makpandu PHCC, Rimenze PHCU. All the five health facilities could be accessed in 30 minutes' walk. All services are offered free of charge except where they have to visit private clinics when facilities run out of medical stocks.
- IDPs residing in the area behind the police headquarters reported that when visiting Yambio State Hospital they could not get treatment due to lack of drugs (anti-malaria) the same situation is also reported to affect the host community.
- At Yambio hospital, pharmacy staff only decried an erratic supply system. He confirmed that from 1st of July to 20th the pharmacy could not dispense any medicines since there was a delay in supplying them from the Main store in the hospital.
- In Yambio state hospital out of 38 deliveries reported over the last 7 days, only 12 of them deliveries were conducted by a skilled midwife. It was not reported if any was from the conflict affected area. However, there was one IDP case that had Caesarean section but was already discharged from the Hospital.
- Yambio PHCC was visited and services were found to be on going. The facility is managed by 4 clinical officers, 4 nurses, 2 vaccinators, 4midwives and 1 laboratory technologist. The facility has an average <5 consultation of 50/ day and about 70 adults per day. VCT services are available but Pep Kit was not available at the time of visit. Patients requiring Pep are referred to Yambio State Hospital. Most of the essential drugs were adequate and supplies could last for 3 weeks except exception for antipyretics and antibiotic (amoxicillin)
- There were neither reports of any unusual diseases nor outbreaks observed in the health facilities.
- Two cases of nodding disease, whose cure is not yet known, were reported among the IDPs in Yambio town
- There were no signs of malnutrition among the children in the homes visited. However if access to food does not improve, in the long run, the situation may deteriorate and lead to malnutrition.

Morbidity report in the 2 health facilities visited

Morbidity	Yambio PHCC	Yambio PHCC	Yambio state	Yambio State
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	<5	>5	Hospital <5	Hospital
Malaria	36	88	78	139
ARI	13	08	25	5
Diarrhoeal Disease	35	0	38	7
Injuries	0	19	0	12
Total consultations	94	174	329	383

Main challenges in the health service include:

- Yambio PHCC facing stock out of Antibiotics and Antipyretics.
- Lack of continuity of services in Yambio state hospital (most departments not open in the afternoon Hours).
- Lack of adequate staff in Yambio State hospital.

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Provision of LLTN to the IDPs.
- Provision of Temporary shelter to avoid sleeping in overcrowded places.
- Health education on the existing health services and where the IDPs can access the services by World Vision
- All eligible children to access immunization at the nearest health facility.
- Psychological support and counseling by protection cluster
- The Yambio state hospital to review internal supply procedures to avoid lapses since medicine is available in the hospital stores.

Protection

Key findings

- During this IRNA, eight [8] homesteads were visited; where the IDPs from Maridi conflict reside within the host communities: five [5] within Yambio Town, one [1] in Kasia, one [1] in Rimenze and one [1] in Makpandu area near the refugee settlement.
- IDPs interviewed reported that they feel quite secure and no any threat, interact easily and share amicably the available basic social services with the host communities.
- Only one household in Rimenze expressed the desire to return immediately if the situation in Maridi returns back to normalcy but the rest expressed their reservations about immediate return even if the situation normalizes.
- Most of the IDPs are women, children and adolescents, thus given the hard living conditions they are facing, there is most likelihood that the children might be exploited through child labor to make ends meet.
- Only one mother was identified separated from her two teenage children who could likely have been separated from their mother due to the disorganized flight or movement in the time of the crisis.
- Congestion was found to be a common phenomenon in the IDP households as there is dire lack of sleeping spaces as clearly illustrated by cases found in Kuzee, Baiporu and Kpirabe residential areas - e.g. thirteen [13] households share one medium size house in Hai Kuzee. This congestion could easily be a source of and or faster spread of communicable diseases especially amongst the children. About 5-9 persons include children who shares the same room to sleep
- There is still insecurity threats reported in Nyaka

- In the current areas of displacement in Yambio county, there are no cases of SGBV, child recruitment into armed forces, discrimination at public centres, or exploitation reported among the IDPs
- Only 3 children remain separated from their families since time of fleeing from Maridi; but other children who were separated were later united with their families. No unaccompanied children were identified.
- Persons with special needs observed during assessment include 7 persons with disability and 4 male and female older persons among the IDPs
- 2 pregnant mothers do not have access to Antenatal care at Remenze

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- There is need for psychosocial support for children and women who might under gone violence & exploitation during the conflict.
- There is need for family tracing and re-unification (FTR) for accompanied children.
- Proper registration and identification of persons with specific protection needs, including person with nodding disease, physically challenged persons and most elderly persons.

Water and Sanitation Hygiene

Key findings

- The IDPs within Yambio urban area and in Kasia area of Bangasu Payam, share water resources with the host community. They are granted access without hindrance by the community.
- The state directorate of rural water and sanitation in collaboration with UNICEF have repaired 10 boreholes in areas hosting more IDPs around Yambio town
- IDPs are lacking water containers as they fled leaving behind and others looted during the conflict. However the Directorate of rural water is distributing water containers and soap to all IDPs households in Yambio town Payam
- Hosting households in Yambio town and Bangasu Payam have household latrines

Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response

- Given the congestion in most hosting households, hygiene promotion is required so as to prevent sanitation related sicknesses.
- Distribution of water containers and soap to IDPs in Bangasu payam



Next steps: ICWG-endorsed cluster commitments based on the findings

CLUSTER	PRIORITY ACTIONS	HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES NEEDED	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	BY WHEN
Education	Provision of scholastic materials and recreational kits for 1,000 children. Provision of ECD kits to around 500 children. Provision of 25 temporary learning spaces. (25 tents).	Scholastic materials: School in the Box (40 kits), Tents (25 Pieces), Early childhood (30 Kits), Development Kit (40 kits), Recreational Kit (30 kits)	SMoEST /UNICEF	August 2015
ES/NFIs	Provision of NFIs and shelter materials to 2120 HHs.(1872HHs in Yambio, 40 HHs in Makpandu & Rimenze) and 208 HHs in Kasia	Shelter Materials, Tents , Plastic sheets, Cooking sets, Jeri-cans, Sleeping-mats, Mosquito-nets, Blankets, Soap	UNHCR, IOM, ADRA, WVI	ASAP
Food Security	Provision of GFD 8991 people. (Yambio 7926) 75 in Makpandu & Rimenze) and 990 in Kasia.	One month ration food	WFP,ADRA, WVI	ASAP
	Provision of seeds & tools to 1872 HHs(40 HHs in Makpandu & Rimenze) and 208 HHs in Kasia)	Seeds & tools	FAO,SSRC	ASAP
	Supplementary feeding for children and PLW	Supplementary food	WFP,UNICEF	ASAP
Health & Nutrition	Provision of LLTN to the IDPs. Health education on the existing health services and where IDPs can access services by World Vision All eligible children to access immunization at the nearest health facility. Psychological support and counseling by protection cluster The Yambio state hospital to review internal supply procedures to avoid lapses since medicine is available in the hospital stores	LLTN, personnel	SMoH/Health Cluster/WHO WVI SMoH	August 2015 August 2015 August 2015 August 2015
Protection	Psychosocial support for children and women who experienced violence & exploitation during the conflict FTR for unaccompanied children. Identification, registration and assistance to persons with specific needs.		SMoGCSW/ CMMB/ UNICEF UNICEF/ UNHCR UNICEF/	August 2015
WASH	Hygiene promotion to prevent sanitation related sicknesses. Distribution of water containers and soap to IDPs in Bangasu	Buckets, Jeri-cans, Soap, Information aids, personnel	Directorate of Rural Water /WASH cluster/UNICEF/WVI	August 2015

Assessment information

The IRNA in Yambio town Payam and Bangasu Payam was carried out by the following individuals:

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