

## **JOINT ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT**

### **Beltebei village, Um Dukhun locality (Central Darfur)**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2016



*Group of Beltebei community interviewed by mission team*

### **MISSION PARTICIPANTS**

Mission Participants included representatives from TGH, IOM, HAC and WES.

### **BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

Due to tribal conflict between Salamat and Misseriya tribes that occurred in Um Dukhun locality in 2013 and 2014, massive population displacement occurred, mostly from Um Dukhun town and camp to surrounding villages, localities and South Darfur as IDPs, or to Chad as refugees. After the peace agreement between the two conflicting tribes was signed in June 2014, the overall security situation improved, allowing displaced household to start returning to their former villages, or to re-settle in secondary areas while waiting for the security situation to improve.

Beltebei village is located 10 km east of Um Dukhun. The population before the conflict was approximately of 3,000 households (15,000 individual), belonging to both Salamat and Misseriya tribes. The conflict heavily affected Beltebei area in on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2013, leaving the entire village destroyed and therefore causing important population displacements of both Salamat and Misseriya tribesmen that were host communities of Beltebei into South Darfur and Chad.

### **MISSION OBJECTIVES**

- 1- To collect information regarding new arrivals of population in Beltebei village.
- 2- To assess the humanitarian situation and identify urgent needs of humanitarian assistance.
- 3- Report the situation to state level humanitarian partners for response coordination.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Different approaches were used to collect information. These included situation report provided by HAC commissioner, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with men and women from the community, informal interviews with a number of returnees and local leaders, random shelter visits and household interviews, assessment of water sources available and water sampling for water quality tests.

## **MISSION FINDINGS**

### **Security Situation**

According to interviews with community members and leaders, the security situation has significantly improved since the Peace Agreement in 2014 and no security incident connected to the inter-tribal conflict has threatened the achieved peace and stability in the village area.

### **Population Movements**

An estimated caseload of 700 returnee households (3,600 individuals), all belonging to Miseriya tribe, arrived from Kabbum and Markundy villages in South Darfur, as well as from Haraza and Oyo villages in Chad. None of them were settled in camps in Chad. According to community leaders, the population caseload is expected to increase by another 500 households coming from South Darfur. This movement was not identified with pastoralism, as all Misseriya returnees are reported to be farmers originally from Beltebei, and returning due to the improvement of the security situation in the area and bad living conditions in displacement / refugee areas.

### **Needs of returnees and their situation**

The joint mission team visited and interviewed a number of returnees in the village, and identified their main live-saving needs: Non Food Items and Shelter, Food, Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities and access to Health Services as well as access to Education.

## **Sectors Report:**

### **Water and Sanitation:**

The joint team assessed the water supply and sanitary situation in the village. Water supply sources and sanitation in general is very poor.

The entire population depends only on traditional hand dug shallow wells (3-5m) depth which provides unsafe water for drinking and cooking purposes and in limited quantity.

As confirmed by the two water sample teased by TGH staff shown the high turbidity as taken from shallow and unprotected sources.

Sample 1: turbidity 150 PH 6.6 F. coliforms FC/100ml 0

Sample 2: turbidity 250 PH 6.5 F. coliforms FC/100ml 0

Up to date, there are no latrines in the village and open defecation can increase the risk of water contamination and the spread of water-borne diseases. TGH is planning to distribute 100 latrine kits in the village under 2015-2016 activities, which will however be far from covering this gap. Additionally, poor hygiene conditions are observed due to lack of sufficient availability water for hygiene purposes and lack of soap. Cases of diarrhea in children were mentioned by the women in the community.

The situation is expected to worsen during the coming months of dry hot season as the water available in the shallow wells is already scarce (slow recharge capacity).



*Shallow open wells are the only available water source in Beltebei*

#### **Health and Nutrition:**

The health situation is poor in Garaya village with no nearby health facilities or clinics. People can only walk up to Um Dukhun clinic to access health services (10 km) .

#### **Food & Livelihood:**

Most returnees depend on agriculture activities. According to the interviewed people in South Darfur and Chad they had difficulties to access to land. Current income activities are collecting grass and firewood to sale in markets in Um Dukhun locality. Support for seeds and tools as well as other livelihood activities is highly demanded by the community.

#### **Education:**

Through FGD, community members indicated that more than 900 children were in school age, without access to education. Some of them attend school before the conflict in 2013.

#### **NFIs & Shelters:**

Due to tribal conflict and displacement to Chad all displaced people lost their items as many houses were burned during the fighting between the two tribes. Currently, shelters are constructed only from grass, without plastic sheets as none of the returnees received NFI assistance during their displacement or in Chad– not being settled in a camp-. Non-food items and emergency shelter assistance is most needed, especially for People with Special Needs that will be more affected by the upcoming rainy season.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1- Returnees' registration by IOM with collaboration of Um Dukhun based INGOs is highly recommended to verify and specify accurate number of new arrivals and PSN and to enable humanitarian agencies to provide required assistance.
- 2- Um Dukhun based INGOs in coordination with HAC and local line ministries representatives should develop an emergency response plan in key sectors of WASH, NFI & Shelter, Health and Nutrition, considering the available resources for immediate response to save lives and to mobilize additional resources to fill the current gaps and as a preparedness mechanism in an anticipation for further new arrivals expected.
- 3- Work closely with HAC to effectively mobilize and involve line ministries particularly MoH, MoE and NNGOs in the response plans in their respective sectors.
- 4- NFIs & Shelter are highly recommended for protecting and preserving the health and life of the children, women, elders and people with disabilities in the returnee villages.
- 5- WES, in collaboration with other local & state level WASH operating partners, to plan a response strategy in water supply and hygiene and sanitation.
- 6- Nutrition cluster in collaboration with sector partner UNICEF/MoH/WFP is encouraged to plan for MUAC screening program to rapidly determine the nutritional status of the children under five.

### **Participants' contacts**

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