

Introduction

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated since the onset of civil war in 2013, with an estimated 1,8 million internally displaced¹, 1,18 million displaced in neighbouring countries², and 3,7 million people food insecure³. DFID Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience Building in South Sudan (HARISS) programme is a five-year program seeking to save lives, alleviate suffering and support vulnerable communities’ ability to cope with and recover from challenges. Upon request from DFID, IMPACT Initiatives provided short-term monitoring and verification of HARISS contracting partner activities from December 2016 through May 2017.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is a German NGO focused on hunger and poverty alleviation. In Rubkona County, WHH conducts Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programming through World Food Programme (WFP), providing General Food Distributions (GFDs) and a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) to beneficiaries in Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Bentiu Town, and Dingding. This factsheet summarises the key findings of a monitoring and verification visit to WHH FSL programme in Bentiu PoC, Rubkona County, Unity on 28 March 2017.

Project Summary

Contracting Partner: WFP
Implementing Partner: WHH
Sector: FSL

Site Visit Location: Bentiu PoC, Rubkona County, Unity

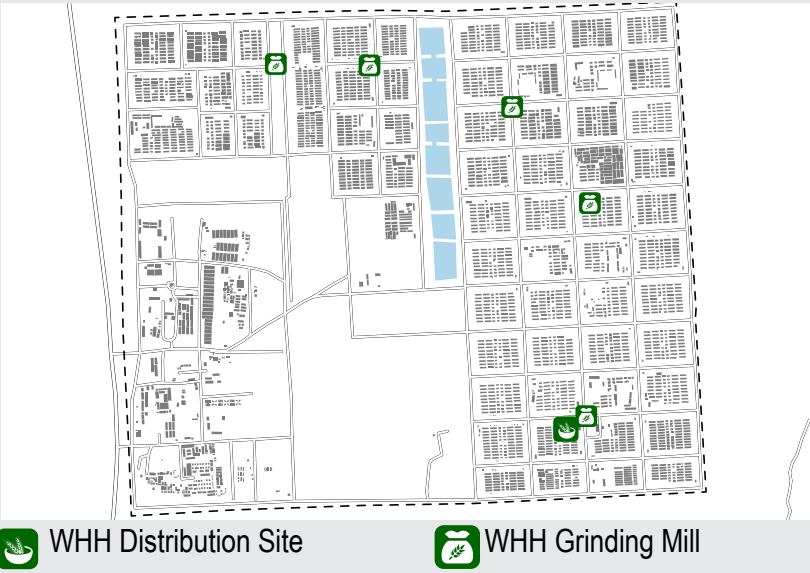
Project Start Date: 1 October 2016
Anticipated End Date: 30 September 2017

Overview of findings

WHH is providing monthly GFDs including pulses (15 day ration), sorghum (20 day ration), cooking oil (15 day ration) and salt (15 day ration) in Bentiu PoC over the course of 20 days per month for five hours per day. WHH also provides monthly BSFP (15 day ration of Corn-Soy-Blend “CSB”), nutrition messaging and has installed eight grinding mills across all sectors of the camp through their Field Level Agreement (FLA) with WFP. Nutrition messaging occurs in the crowd control areas of the food distribution points, and includes messaging on hygiene promotion, water safety and instructions on how to cook CSB. In terms of GFDs, WHH employs a distribution system designed for the scale of distribution for 164,000 beneficiaries. WHH groups beneficiaries based on the biometric registration system into groups of 20 represented by two able-bodied members who submit registration cards and collect the food distribution for their entire group. This allows for smaller queues and a more streamlined distribution process, but presents a potential challenge related to distrust among the two selected representatives. WHH reportedly conducts post distribution assessments on a monthly basis. WHH collects proxy data on coping strategies and dietary diversity by identifying the most requested food in the market on a weekly basis. A KII noted that the food distributions are insufficient for a fully diverse diet, and because many beneficiaries have no alternative sources of income, sometimes GFD items are sold in the market to obtain other needed products. A KII noted that during the rainy season when GFDs are delayed due to impassable roads, beneficiaries travel outside of the camp for FAO seed distributions.

Beneficiaries reported receiving sorghum, pulses, vegetable oil and salt during the most recent distribution. KIIs with beneficiaries revealed that most respondents consume *wal wal*, a combination of sorghum, water, salt and milk or oil if available, for most meals, with only one respondent reportedly consuming fruits or vegetables in the previous week. All respondents reported resorting to coping strategies in the past week to cope with insufficient food such as limiting portion sizes, reducing the number of meals consumed per day, adults skipping meals so that children could eat, and skipping full days without eating. Beneficiaries indicated that the most needed food items were sorghum, pulses and cooking oil, but recommended increasing the size of food rations to better meet their needs. These findings provide an indicative view of the critical food situation in Unity and South Sudan more broadly. In the absence of comprehensive livelihood opportunities, populations remain dependent on GFDs to provide a critical stopgap for food needs.

Map 1 - Site Visit Location - WHH Distribution Site and Grinding Mills, Bentiu PoC, Rubkona County, Unity



Monitoring Methodology

- IMPACT utilised the following methodologies to assess this project:
- Secondary data review of contracting partner’s (WFP) proposal and implementing partner’s (WHH) most recent distribution report
 - Verification of project activities, outputs and outcomes through two Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with WHH staff, five KIIs with beneficiaries, GPS mapping and physical verification of project locations

KIIs with WHH staff provided insights into programme implementation including strengths, challenges and adherence to proposed indicators, and KIIs with beneficiaries provided insights into the effectiveness of aid and beneficiary perceptions of WHH programming.

Strengths	Challenges
<div><div>1. Programme manager indicated that WFP reportedly provides strong logistical support to WHH, particularly in the dry season.</div><div>2. Programme manager indicated that WHH coordinates with other clusters for joint distributions. For example, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster partners with the FSL cluster for soap distribution on food distribution days. The two-representative distribution system presents a challenge to joint distributions, as cluster partners must plan to ensure that beneficiaries are able to physically transport the weight of combined distribution items.</div><div>3. Programme manager shared that WHH responded to beneficiary challenges in transporting GFD items by opening three food distribution points in the camp to minimise travel and minimise the likelihood of beneficiaries selling food to obtain transportation for their goods.</div><div>4. In terms of time to completion, programme manager shared that WHH has reportedly succeeded in serving 30,000 beneficiaries per day from 8am to 1pm on distribution days.</div></div>	<div><div>External Challenges<div><div>1. Field officer indicated that there are misconceptions surrounding the proper use of CSB despite community messaging. For example, some families cook the CSB for elderly family members. There is also a reported belief that CSB improves male virility, which has led to instances of gender based violence when women provide the CSB to children under five in the household.</div><div>2. During the rainy season, road travel from the warehouses to the food distribution points becomes a challenge due to difficult roads. If trucks are not well maintained, a breakdown can cause delivery delays.</div></div></div><div><div>Internal Challenges<div><div>3. Programme manager shared that there are challenges in communicating with communities regarding distributions. When the information is not received in a timely manner, rumours circulate about distribution dates, causing beneficiaries to feel threatened that they may not receive their ration.</div><div>4. Programme manager shared that there is reportedly insufficient direct home supervision on the preparation of certain food items (e.g. CSB). It is not known whether families adhere to recommendations, which can alter the intended effects of the product. Additionally, some children reportedly refuse to eat CSB, which requires further research into the scale of this issue and how to adapt CSB for children.</div></div></div></div></div>

1. OCHA. South Sudan: People Internally Displaced by Violence. Nov. 2016.

2. UNHCR. South Sudan Situation Regional Overview. Dec. 2016.

3. FAO. South Sudan: Escalating Food Crisis in 2017. Nov. 2016.

WFP7 Project Factsheet: WFP Welthungerhilfe Nutrition Programme

Third Party Monitoring for DFID HARISS Programme

Proposed, Reported and Verified Project Activities, Outputs and Outcomes

IMPACT collected data from both primary and secondary sources to compare proposed, reported and verified project activities, outputs and outcomes. Non-verified items do not indicate that these activities, outputs, or outcomes are not occurring, but rather that the methodology did not capture this information.

- ☒ Reported or verified items
- ☐ Non-verified items

	Proposed	Reported ⁴	Verified
	<i>Proposed items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were submitted in the contracting partner's proposal to DFID.</i>	<i>Reported items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were reported in standard reporting to DFID or internal documents shared with IMPACT.</i>	<i>Verified items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were verified through KIIs, FGDs or physical observation.</i>
Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bentiu PoC, Unity State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bentiu PoC, Unity State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bentiu PoC, Unity State
Activities	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GFDs</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BSFP</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrition messaging (e.g. how to deliver nutrition supplements, hygiene practices, disease control and prevention, use of insecticide treated bednets, infant feeding practices, introduction of locally available and affordable energy rich foods)</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programmes (TSFP) for children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)⁵</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Transition from GFD to conditional assistance⁵</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Cash based transfers in areas with markets⁵</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Scale up SCOPE registration⁵</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GFDs<ul style="list-style-type: none">1,695 Metric Tons (MT) of sorghum, pulses and vegetable oil distributed to 158,860 beneficiaries⁶</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BSFP<ul style="list-style-type: none">83 MT of CSB++ distributed to 27,657 children under five</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GFDs<ul style="list-style-type: none">Observed distribution of vegetable oil (this was an additional distribution for beneficiaries who did not receive vegetable oil during the standard distribution of 23 March because WHH had run out)KII with WHH staff confirmed most recent GFD on 23 March</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BSFP<ul style="list-style-type: none">KII with WHH staff confirmed most recent BSFP distribution on 23 March</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nutrition messaging (e.g. how to deliver nutrition supplements, hygiene practices, disease control and prevention, use of insecticide treated bednets, infant feeding practices, introduction of locally available and affordable energy rich foods)<ul style="list-style-type: none">KII with WHH staff confirmed nutrition messaging occurred by four casual labourers in the crowd control areas during GFDs</div>
Outputs	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food, nutritional products, non-food items, cash transfers and vouchers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality in timely manner to targeted beneficiaries</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> IYCF messaging implemented effectively</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Development and implementation of consultative framework to adapt food assistance modalities</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food, nutritional products, non-food items, cash transfers and vouchers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality in timely manner to targeted beneficiaries</div> <div>1,695 MT of GFD received by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">50,284 girls under 1840,938 boys under 1836,742 women 18 and over30,896 men 18 and over</div> <div>83 MT of BSFP received by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">13,991 girls under five13,666 boys under five</div>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food, nutritional products, non-food items, cash transfers, and vouchers distributed in sufficient quantity and quality in timely manner to targeted beneficiaries</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Observation of vegetable oil distribution (which had run out in the 23 March distribution)KII with WHH staff indicated timely distribution as a success of programming</div>
Outcomes	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased programmatic adaptation to context-appropriate assistance mechanisms</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Stabilised or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted individuals⁷</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Stabilised or reduced undernutrition among children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women</div>	<i>Distribution report provided snapshot of most recent distribution, but did not include data on food consumption or nutrition rates within the PoC.</i>	<div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increased programmatic adaptation to context-appropriate assistance mechanisms<ul style="list-style-type: none">KII with WHH staff revealed that WHH increased number of food distribution points to facilitate beneficiary access, created the two-representative system to more efficiently deliver GFD items and installed grinding mills across all sectors for vulnerable populations to better utilise distributed food items</div>

Figure 1: WHH staff unload a truck for a distribution of vegetable oil that had run out of stock in the previous week's distribution



Figure 2: A beneficiary demonstrates the quality of the sorghum received in the most recent WHH distribution



4. Based on WFP Final Distribution Point Report on Cooperating Partner Food Distributions for Feb 2017.

5. Proposed indicators based on WFP proposal to DFID, which encompassed all programming across the country. Implementing partners (e.g. WHH) tailor their service provision based on resources and technical specialty.

6. In February 2017, the Sector 1 distribution included sorghum, pulses and vegetable oil. The sector 4 distribution included only pulses and vegetable oil. The Sector 5 distribution included only sorghum and vegetable oil. The IMPACT team did not have an opportunity to inquire as to the reasoning behind different distributions because this report was received after the site visit.

7. KIIs with beneficiaries revealed that food quantity was insufficient to meet beneficiary needs, with four of five respondents indicating that they had skipped a meal in the past seven days and the majority of meals consisting of *wal wal*.