Aweil Centre County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal

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.

Medair has been operating in South Sudan since 1992 providing multi-sector interventions to respond to population needs in the context of a chronic complex emergency. Medair Emergency Response Team (ERT) implements short-term emergency response projects triggered by emergency disease outbreaks. This factsheet summarises the key findings of a monitoring and verification visit to Medair's Malaria Centre in Aweil Centre County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal on 17 January 2017.

Project Summary

Contracting Partner: Medair

Implementing Partner: Not Applicable **Handover Partner:** Malaria Consortium (MC)

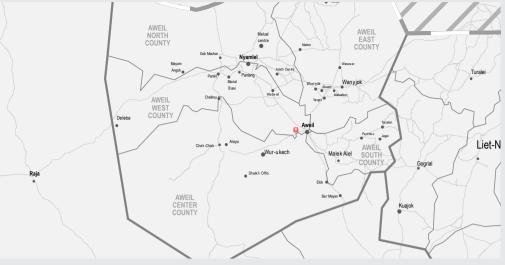
Sector: Health

Site Visit Location: Maper, Aweil Centre County, Northern Bahr al Ghazal

Project Start Date: 22 September 2016

Anticipated End Date: Ongoing as of site visit date

Map 1: Site Visit Location - Maper Malaria Treatment Centre, Aweil Centre County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal



Medair Malaria Treatment Centre

Monitoring Methodology

IMPACT utilised the following methodologies to assess this project:

- Secondary data review of contracting partner's (Medair) proposal, terms of reference and intervention summary report
- Verification of project activities, outputs and outcomes through five Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with Medair staff, outreach workers and MC, 1 Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with beneficiaries, GPS mapping and physical verification of project location

KIIs provided insights into key indicators achieved and implementation challenges experienced by the Medair team. A KII with MC provided information on Medair's entry and exit, and an FGD with beneficiaries shed light on beneficiary perceptions of the intervention.

Overview of Findings

In response to an upsurge of malaria cases in Northern Bahr el Ghazal in 2016, Medair ERT opened a malaria treatment centre in September in Aweil Centre County to treat uncomplicated malaria; provide resuscitation, treatment, and referral of complicated cases; provide nutrition screenings to identify children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) who attend the treatment centre; and to provide facility and community based malaria prevention and health messaging. FGDs with beneficiaries indicated strong community buy-in to the programme. A KII with the future handover partner (MC) indicated that Medair engagement before entry and prior to exit had permitted MC to prepare for the transition of care to their facilities. For future outbreak response programming, Medair could benefit from considering mobile clinics to access hard-to-reach areas as the treatment centre remains difficult to access for beneficiaries outside of Aweil Town.

Strengths Challenges

- 1. KIIs with programme management indicated that Medair malaria response project in **External Challenges** Aweil Centre complements their nutrition and community messaging programming, providing services that meet multisectoral population needs.
- A KII with MC indicated that Medair's involvement with MC before entry and exit permited MC to handle the malaria caseload upon Medair exit. A KII with Medair 2. programme management staff confirmed that Medair identifies handover partners to ensure that their emergency programming does not negatively impact health service provision in the area.

- Following threats to Equatorial staff across South Sudan in October 2016, Equatorial staff of Medair and other INGOs chose to relocate to other regions, resulting in delayed service provision.
- Medair's Health Programme Manager reported challenges in the medication pipeline through the Ministry of Health (MOH). From May to December 2016, there was a stock out of many essential medicines for both the MOH and local partners.
- Beneficiaries reported that some patients walk long distances to access malaria treatment services due to a lack of services across Aweil Centre County. Beneficiaries recommended that the centre provide non-malaria medications in addition to malaria treatment because they were unable to afford essential medicines at pharmacies4.

- 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.



Medair1 Project Factsheet: Medair Malaria Centre 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	Reported⁵	Verified
	Proposed items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were submitted in the contracting partner's proposal to DFID.	Reported items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were reported in standard reporting to DFID or internal documents shared with IMPACT.	Verified items refer to activities, outputs and outcomes that were verified through KIIs, FGDs or physical observation.
Activities	 ☑ Preventative and preparedness interventions ☑ Integration of health and nutrition services ☑ Capacity building of local partners ☐ Provide emergency primary healthcare 	 ☑ Preventative and preparedness interventions ■ Established malaria treatment facility ■ Provided malaria Test and Treat (T&T) services (including essential drugs and medical supplies) ☑ Integration of health and nutrition services ■ Conducted malnutrition screening for all children under five seeking malaria treatment ■ Referred SAM cases to stabilisation centres or Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) ☑ Capacity building of local partners ■ Recruited and trained local heath staff on malaria case management and facility based health messaging ■ Trained outreach workers in community based health messaging 	 ✓ Preventative and preparedness interventions Verified malaria treatment centre Observed malaria T&T for uncomplicated malaria cases and referrals for complicated cases KIIs with Medair staff confirmed treatment of diarrhoea and vomiting KIIs with Medair staff confirmed provision of facility and community based health education Integration of health and nutrition services KIIs with Medair staff confirmed provision of malnutrition screening to children under five KIIs with Medair staff confirmed referral of SAM cases to stabilisation centres or OTP KIIs with Medair staff confirmed referral of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases to Therapeutic Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) ✓ Capacity building of local partners KII with MC confirmed strengthened capacity of local health workers
Oufputs	 ✓ Respond to disease outbreaks ✓ Health messaging ✓ Capacity building ☐ Provide primary health care ☐ Conduct preventative interventions 	 ✓ Respond to disease outbreaks ■ 6,124 new consultations under five ■ 18,954 new consultations over five ■ 25,163 direct health beneficiaries ■ 92% of children screened for malnutrition ■ 333 (7%) children identified as SAM ■ 519 (11%) children identified as MAM ✓ Health messaging ■ 10,302 of people >10 years received health and hygiene promotion messaging 	 ✓ Respond to disease outbreaks Observation of malaria treatment centre KIIs with Medair staff indicated 360 reported daily consultations Staff performance reportedly measured through on-the-job supervision Service quality reportedly measured through exit interviews with five patients per day ✓ Health messaging KIIs with outreach workers confirmed health and hygiene promotion ✓ Capacity building KII with health PM indicated that 20 health care staff were trained as of site visit date (five clinicians, three nurses, three dispensers, four lab technicians, four registrars)
Outcomes	 ✓ Increased access to quality preventative and curative emergency health and nutrition services ✓ Reduction in excess morbidity and mortality in emergency-affected populations 	 ✓ Increased access to quality preventative and curative emergency health and nutrition services 6,124 new consultations under five 18,954 new consultations over five 25,163 direct health beneficiaries 	 ✓ Increased access to quality preventative and curative emergency health and nutrition services Observation of beneficiaries accessing curative emergency malaria services FGD respondents indicated general satisfaction with Medair services ✓ Reduction in excess morbidity and mortality in emergency-affected populations KII with Medair staff indicated malaria cases treated decreased from 2,000 per week at peak to 750 over the Christmas period KII with Medair staff indicated malaria cases increased from 750 per week over Christmas period to 1,500 per week in January⁶

^{6.} January saw an increase to 1,500 consultations per week. The Health Programme Manager indicated that the current malaria outbreak falls outside usual disease patterns, making it difficult to measure success through a reduction in cases.





^{5.} Reported figures by email as of site visit date on 17 Jan 2017.