

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.

World Vision International (WVI) has been working in South Sudan since 1989 providing emergency humanitarian assistance. WVI is the implementing partner for World Food Programme (WFP) in Upper Nile, delivering General Food Distributions (GFDs) and a Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) under Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programming and a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) under nutrition programming. This factsheet summarises the key findings of a monitoring and verification visit of WVI FSL programming in Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Malakal County, Upper Nile State on 22 March 2017.

Map 1: Site Visit Location - Malakal PoC, Malakal County, Upper Nile



Project Summary

Contracting Partner: WFP
Implementing Partner: WVI
Sector: FSL

Project Location: Malakal PoC, Malakal County, Upper Nile

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

Monitoring Methodology

IMPACT utilised the following methodologies to assess this project:

- Secondary data review of contracting partner's (WFP) proposal implementing partner's (WVI) proposal and most recent quarter narrative report
- Verification of project activities, outputs and outcomes through three Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with WVI frontline and management staff, five KIIs with beneficiaries, GPS mapping and physical verification of project site

KIIs with WVI programme management staff provided in-depth information on key indicators and on implementation challenges experienced in project locations. KIIs with frontline staff and beneficiaries provided details on community perceptions of the intervention. At the time of the assessment WVI was not delivering TSFP in Malakal PoC. This evaluation therefore only covers the GFD and BSFP elements of the programme.

Overview of Findings

Under the BSFP in Malakal County, WVI provides nutritional supplements for children under five and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) to prevent malnutrition. These supplements are distributed to all registered IDPs as part of the monthly GFD also delivered by WVI. WVI complements existing Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTP) and their own TSFP by providing a blanket distribution for all children under five and PLW to prevent acute malnutrition. However, despite successfully delivering the monthly GFD and BSFP in the PoC, WVI has experienced delays in delivery of food supplies, predominantly due to insecurity in other parts of the country. Additionally, poor quality food stocks resulted in WVI halving the GFD rations delivered in the PoC in February and March 2017. Feedback from beneficiaries indicated that the reduced rations were having a negative impact at the household level, with all respondents reporting that they had already finished their monthly food basket only two weeks after they had received it. Four out of five beneficiaries further reported skipping meals at least two days in the last week due to lack of food.

Strengths	Challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A KII with the programme manager indicated that WVI had a strong working relationship with WFP with open lines of communication between the Malakal Hub and the head office in Juba. The programme manager added that WVI is WFP's preferred partner for FSL distribution, as established in a global agreement. 2. The programme's greatest reported strength was their monitoring and evaluation capacity. KIIs with the programme manager and frontline staff indicated that WVI had established help desks during GFDs to respond to complaints and feedback from beneficiaries, as well as carrying out on-site monitoring to spot-check that the correct amounts in the food baskets had been delivered. Additionally, WVI reportedly conducts post-distribution monitoring at the end of every quarter in order to verify quality and timeliness of service delivery for beneficiaries. 3. WVI staff reported cultivating close relationships with other partners in the FSL cluster in Malakal, and strong co-ordination between different clusters, most notably the Health and Nutrition Clusters. 	<p>External Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programme manager reported issues with riverine supply pipeline as a result of insecurity. Consequently, river access clearance was not always forthcoming, leaving the food supplies to be delivered by air. This resulted in a reduction in supply, which contributed to delivery of half rations for beneficiaries receiving GFDs in Malakal PoC in December 2016. 2. The deteriorating economic situation in South Sudan and the rising rate of inflation had reportedly negatively impacted procurement processes. The project manager reported that the time taken to procure supplies had increased since the beginning of the project, which had delayed food deliveries. 3. Some beneficiaries were observed to be selling nutritional supplements in Malakal PoC market, indicating that although the GFDs provide a critical stopgap for the food insecure population, some beneficiaries sell rations to obtain other necessary items that are not provided through the GFDs. <p>Internal Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethnic tensions in Malakal PoC and Town have resulted in issues with staffing, which caused WVI to fly food monitoring staff from Juba when the GFD takes place, a solution which is not cost effective. 2. Local staff noted that their payment structures did not reflect inflation and indicated that they preferred to be paid in U.S. dollars rather than South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to reflect the nationwide devaluation of the SSP.

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.

WFP6 Project Factsheet: WFP - WVI FSL 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 ⁵	Verified ⁶
	<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	All sites in Malakal County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malakal PoC, Malakal County, Unity	All sites in Malakal County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malakal PoC, Malakal County, Unity	All sites in Malakal County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malakal PoC, Malakal County, Unity
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly delivery of GFD food basket to 40,000 beneficiaries in Malakal PoC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly delivery of CSB++ to 7,600 children between 6-59 months and 3,200 PLW in Malakal PoC as part of BSFP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Train and build capacity for staff members, including training in food handling, identification of eligible children and PLWs and food distribution planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly delivery of GFD food basket to 40,000 beneficiaries in Malakal PoC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Served 85,682 beneficiaries with 3,236.340 MT of cereals, vegetable oil, pulses and salt under GFD in last quarter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly delivery of CSB++ to 7,600 children between 6-59 months, and 3,200 PLW in Malakal PoC as part of BSFP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Served 8,235 children 6-59 months and 225 PLW with 132.366 MT of CSB++ under BSFP in last quarter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Train and build capacity for staff members, including training in food handling, identification of eligible children and PLWs and food distribution planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food for Assets training was conducted for all senior staff during the Annual Food Assistance Review meeting held in Juba in December 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monthly delivery of GFD food basket to 40,000 beneficiaries in Malakal PoC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiaries confirmed receipt of GFD food baskets, but reported that the most recent food basket had been inadequate to meet their needs. This is likely because issues with supply and food quality had resulted in WVI delivering half rations for February and March 2017 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training and capacity building for Food Assistance Team in e.g. food handling, identification of eligible children and PLWs, and food distribution planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KII with programme manager confirmed regular training of frontline staff
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promote the screening and referral for malnutrition of children between 6-59 months and PLWs at community and health facility level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For children 6-59 months, measurement of height with height sticks (height < 110cm) will be used in targeting. These children will be discharged from the program if their height becomes more than 110cm (>110) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Officers and Field Monitors will monitor food distributions exercises. WVI Monitoring and Evaluation team will conduct periodic evaluation exercises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Officers and Field Monitors will monitor food distributions exercises. WVI Monitoring and Evaluation team will conduct periodic evaluation exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Onsite distribution monitoring exercises were reportedly conducted to make sure beneficiaries were getting their actual entitlements through sampling of households at the food distribution point, weighing their food rations and checking if they are within the allowed amounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promote the screening and referral for malnutrition of children between 6-59 months and PLWs at community and health facility level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KIIs with frontline staff confirmed that the most recent screening in Malakal PoC took place in August 2016 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Officers and Field Monitors will monitor food distributions exercises. WVI Monitoring and Evaluation team will conduct periodic evaluation exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KIIs with frontline staff and programme manager confirmed that WVI were conducting Onsite Distribution Monitoring (ODM) and PDM exercises
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improved food security and nutrition status of vulnerable groups (internally displaced persons) in target areas <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced acute malnutrition among the target groups (children 6-59 months and PLWs) in target areas 	<i>Outcome indicators not reported in most recent quarterly report received by IMPACT.</i>	<i>Outcome indicators not measurable through verification methodology.</i>

5. The quarterly report submitted by WVI did not disaggregate activities by location. The figures presented here therefore reflect the overall figures for WVI programming in Upper Nile State, rather than figures specific to Malakal PoC.

6. As all of WVI programming in Malakal County centres around food distribution it was not possible to physically verify programme activities during the site visit.