



Diel Displacement and Access to Services Brief

Canal/Pigi County, Jonglei State, South Sudan, March 2018

Introduction

Severe levels of food insecurity, displacement, and minimal access to humanitarian services have been reported across Canal/Pigi County, Jonglei State throughout 2017. Round 21 of the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS) suggested that households (HHs) in Canal/Pigi County remained food insecure.¹ However, to further explore displacement, food security and livelihoods, and access to humanitarian services in Canal/Pigi County, REACH conducted a rapid assessment between February 25 and March 4 in Diel Payam, an IDP catchment site for HHs displaced from multiple locations in Greater Upper Nile.² Data was collected through 13 focus group discussions (FGDs) with over 70 participants disaggregated by gender and displacement origin, 5 Key Informant (KI) interviews with local leaders, traders, and humanitarian actors, and direct observation of 3 locations in Diel Payam, including Diel, Nor and Wietang Bomas.

Key Findings

- Approximately 22,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) arrived in Diel Payam, between February and March 2017 as a result of increasing insecurity near Canal, Khorfulus and Kaldak Payams in Canal/Pigi County and further insecurity on the eastern bank of the White Nile River, including Owauchi and Obai settlements. There are reportedly no host community HHs in the area.³
- The population's access to humanitarian services is reported to be severely limited; only two NGOs are permanently operating in the payam with only one permanent basic health facility functioning. In addition a bi-weekly mobile clinic is run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).
- The majority of IDPs fled with no supplies and are living in temporary shelters with minimal access to core relief items (CRIs).
- Although access to land is high, cultivation is minimal due to lack of tools and supplies. Further, market capacity is severely limited due to a lack of credit for traders to purchase goods in primary markets.
- KIs reported that HHs have little to no access to clean water and open defecation is practiced by nearly all of the community, causing concerns of a possible outbreak of water borne diseases during the rainy season.
- Health, nutrition, NFIs/Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) were reported as the top concerns for the area by FGD participants and KIs.**

Figure 1: Diel Payam Population by Boma, April 2017⁴

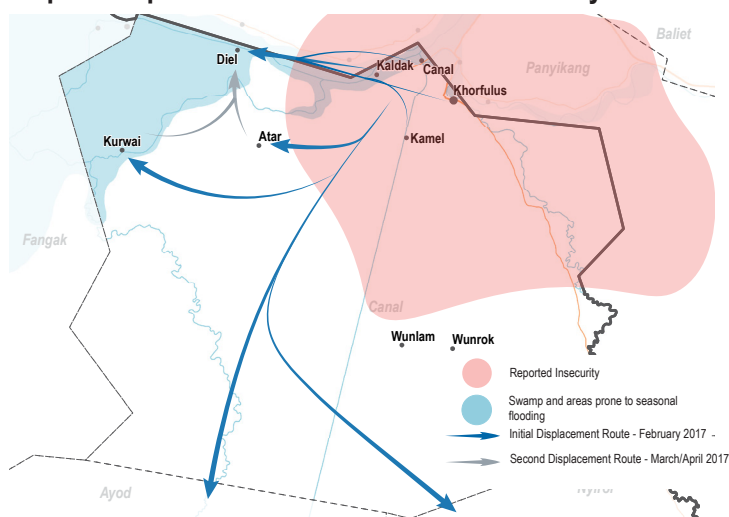
Assessment Location	Administrative level	Population (People)	Hours walking from Boma to Diel village ⁵
Bounyont	Boma	3,250	2
Wunkiranyang	Boma	1,500	2
Wunkinachiel	Boma	1,711	2
Nor	Boma	420	1
Wietang	Boma	480	1
Diel/Atar 3	Boma	13,301	0
Atar 1	Boma	531	3

Background

Diel Payam, also known as Atar 3, is an IDP catchment site where HHs have resettled after being displaced in early 2017. The payam is located on the southern bank of the White Nile River in north-western Canal/Pigi County. According to local authorities, Diel Payam consists of seven bomas and all of the HHs are considered IDPs, with the highest concentration of IDPs in Diel village located in Diel Boma. An initial IDP count by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in April 2017 estimated a total of 21,193 IDPs mainly from Canal, Khorfulus, Kamel, Kaldak and Atar 1 Bomas. According to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and local authorities an additional 7,346 IDPs have arrived since the IDP count, bringing the estimated total to 28,539 IDPs.

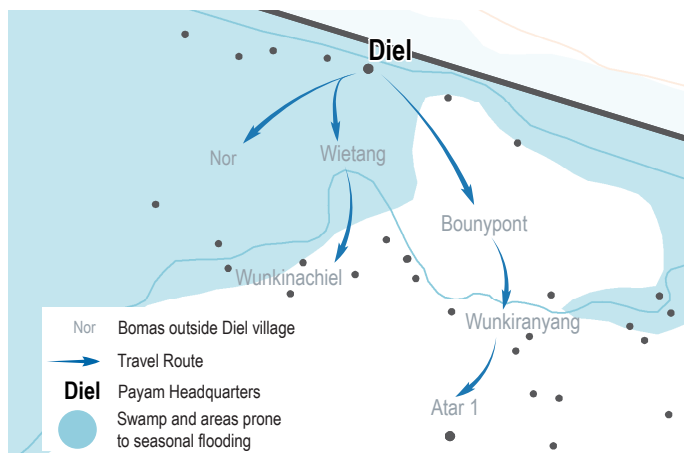
Out of the seven bomas that make up Diel Payam, Wunkinachiel, Wunkiranyang and Atar 1 are over a two hour walk and can only be accessed by crossing through a swamp. FGD participants mentioned during the dry season it is possible to cross on foot, but a canoe is required during the rainy season. Bounyont is approximately a two hour walk, and can be accessed by foot throughout the year.

Map 1: Displacement routes used in February 2017



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Map 2: Bomas in Diel Payam, March 2018



Displacement

HHs were displaced to multiple locations in northern Jonglei State between February and March 2017, as a result of increased insecurity. KIs reported that most IDPs fled to Diel or Kurwai Payams in Canal/Pigi County, while some went to Ayod and Nyirol Counties. The majority of FGD participants reported Diel Payam as their first destination. However, some IDPs stopped in Atar 1 and Kurwai for approximately one month before fleeing to Diel Payam due to an increase in the presence of armed actors. Nearly all FGD participants reportedly abandoned their HH assets when they fled, and the small fraction of HHs who arrived with livestock were relocated to bomas outside of Diel village due to tensions with HHs who did not flee with their livestock.

Pre-Displacement Livelihoods

According to KIs, prior to displacement most HHs in Canal, Khorfulus, Kaldak, Kamel and Atar 1 Bomas practiced agro-pastoralist livelihoods, relying on a combination of livestock rearing, subsistence agriculture and trade to acquire food and income. HHs mainly plant sorghum, maize, okra and onions and harvest staple crops during the harvest season in October and November. FGD participants reported that in previous years food stocks would last up to four months after harvest season. In previous years when food stocks were depleted, HHs relied on livestock sales, fishing and gathering wild foods to reduce food consumption gaps. Secondary markets in each boma and a more substantial market in Malakal Town in Upper Nile State allowed HHs to sell assets, such as goats and cattle, to pay for food and services, including healthcare and education.

Access to Services

Although displacement occurred in 2017, FGD participants reported that access to resources and humanitarian services was minimal for both HHs located in Diel village and the outside bomas. According to KIs there are two permanent and two temporary NGOs operating in the payam. Furthermore, KIs reported that there are

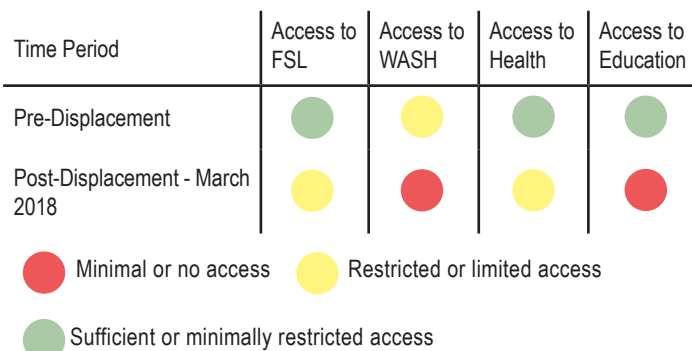
no education programmes operating in the payam. According to KIs, the majority of IDPs live in Diel village where HHs can access resources such as fishing, trade and limited humanitarian services. While HHs located outside of Diel village have access to livestock and fishing in the nearby swamps, they have to travel to Diel village, Tonga or New Fangak Payams to access humanitarian services and trade.

Health, Nutrition and WASH

Most FGD participants reported that most HHs were more concerned about access to health, nutrition and WASH services and the availability of NFIs than the availability of food. This was likely due to the presence of ongoing general food distributions (GFDs) by the World Food Programme (WFP) in the payam. Nile Hope runs a small health clinic in Diel village. However, a lack of supplies and staff limits its capacity to treat patients. MSF conducts bi-weekly clinics in Diel village. However, KIs emphasised that the clinic is only open for a couple of hours each time. HHs reportedly travel on foot to New Fangak Town in Fangak County to access nutrition and health clinics. However, the most vulnerable such as the elderly or pregnant women, are usually unable to make the journey. As a result, vulnerable populations often go untreated or are forced to rely on traditional medicine. For example, one FGD participant mentioned that when a child is malnourished and cannot access adequate treatment at a nutrition facility, a metal wire is heated up in a fire which is then used to beat the forearm of the child until they are no longer believed to be malnourished.

There are reportedly no boreholes in the payam and latrines are limited to NGO compounds. HHs collect untreated water from the White Nile River or nearby swamps. These are typically the same locations that cattle drink from, people bathe in and boats dock at. Health workers in Diel Payam suspected multiple cases of water borne diseases. However, without proper testing facilities, there was no capacity to confirm the existence of certain diseases like cholera in the payam. KIs emphasised that the limited capacity of the health facility in the area combined with the general lack of access to clean water, and poor sanitation and hygiene practices is likely to lead to another spike in diseases during the rainy season, particularly acute diarrhoea.

Figure 2: Access to services in Diel Payam, March 2018



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Shelter and NFIs

In addition to health, nutrition and WASH, FGD participants emphasised the lack of NFIs and shelter as another critical concern. IDPs reportedly were forced to abandon their possessions resulting in HHs sharing cooking utensils, jerry cans, fishing kits and agricultural tools. Furthermore, the majority of shelters observed by REACH were unfinished or temporary. FGD participants living in temporary shelters stressed plastic sheeting and mosquito nets are needed to protect them from increased rain and insects that are expected in the coming wet season.

Market Access

Minimal commodities are available in the one market for the payam located in Diel village. **At the time of the assessment, there were no staple food items, such as cereals or pulses, and CRIs including plastic sheeting, mosquito nets and jerry cans were also unavailable in the market.** During the dry season basic items, such as salt, sugar and tea, come from the Southern Nuba Mountains in Sudan through Tonga to Diel village. Due to poor road conditions in the rainy season, traders travel up the Nile River to Tayar Port outside of Ganyiel Payam in Unity State to purchase similar supplies.⁶ The price of goods increases during the wet season, due to higher transportation costs from a combination of factors, including longer distance travelled to access markets and fewer goods delivered per trip. Despite a high demand for food and CRIs from HHs, local traders emphasised they do not supply the market with these commodities due to a lack of capital and the inability of HHs in Diel to afford the items. As a result, HHs that can afford goods or want to sell assets typically travel to Tonga town or New Fangak town.

Food Security and Livelihoods

NPA is the chief implementer of WFP GFDs for the payam and also assists in monitoring for any influx of IDPs. However, FGD participants reported periods of large consumption gaps between WFP GFDs distributions. There is reportedly plenty of land for cultivation, yet, due to a lack of seeds and tools there was minimal cultivation last year. As a result, HHs rely on fishing or gathering wild foods as their primary food source when GFD stocks are depleted. HHs primarily gather the fruit and leaves of lalop trees to reduce food consumption gaps throughout the year.⁷ An overall lack of fishing nets limits fishing as a livelihood strategy. According to a KI, HHs used to hunt wild game for food. However, increased regulation in recent years, including fines and physical threats, has deterred people from using this coping strategy.

HHs that own cattle live outside of Diel village, primarily relying on the nearby swamps and livestock for food. According to FGD participants, the distance from the bomas that cattle keepers are staying in and the Diel Village Payam Headquarters restricts HHs' access to GFDs and other services.

Finally, FGD participants reported increased livestock mortality. Direct observation of cattle bones scattered throughout the two bomas assessed outside of Diel town suggests atypical cattle mortality. In Nor Boma, increased cattle mortality began in September 2017, whereas in Wietang Boma, cattle have been dying since they arrived in February 2017. Both areas reported similar symptoms seen among the cattle, including running nose, excess diarrhoea and shivering. According to FGD participants they are unable to trade unhealthy cattle for food and are instead relying heavily on wild foods to cover food consumption gaps.

Conclusion

Following a widespread displacement from Kaldak, Canal and Khorfulus Payams, and Kamel and Atar 1 Bomas in early 2017, IDPs fled to Diel Payam. FGD participants reported that most of the population have no intention of leaving the payam unless forced by insecurity. KIs regard a lack of WASH infrastructure and services as a major concern, citing an increased risk of an outbreak of water-borne diseases during the upcoming rainy season. KIs noted that the upcoming rainy season will affect many of the HHs living in the area, particularly those living in temporary shelters with no mosquito nets. As a result, it is likely that there will be a sharp increase in human diseases related to poor WASH conditions and lack of access to health and nutrition facilities, along an increase in cattle disease.

Direct observation suggests that there is ample land for cultivation. However there was limited cultivation last year due to a lack of tools and seeds and without further access to agricultural inputs there will likely be limited cultivation for the upcoming planting season in April and May. Furthermore, the limited size and presumed inability for the market to scale up in volume prevents HHs from utilising trade to meet consumption gaps, further increasing HH reliance on WFP GFDs.

Endnotes

1. FSNMS Round 21 was conducted by WFP Vulnerability and Mapping Analysis department from November to December 2017. It includes a series of questions regarding HH food security and livelihoods, including availability, access, utilization, and stability.
2. Catchment site is a temporary location where IDPs can access various services provided by local authorities and humanitarian actors
3. The original host community was displaced during the initial crisis (2014), and is likely in Malakal town or the Delthoma II informal settlement. REACH, Delthoma II Informal Settlement: Preliminary Findings Overview Factsheet, December 2014.
4. The population data is based off an IOM headcount in April 2017, since then approximately an additional 7,000 IDPs have been counted by the local authorities and NPA.
5. Hours required to walk between Diel Headquarters and each boma is likely to increase during the rainy season.
6. According to Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA): Livestock Off-take and Sorghum Market Systems in Leer County, Unity, South Sudan (January 2015), port Tayar, located near Ganyiel, has been an important market for traders in Greater Upper Nile, particularly Unity and West Jonglei pre and post crisis.
7. The fruit of the Lalop tree is commonly eaten during times of food shortages throughout the Greater Upper Nile region. It is available from October to March and the leaves, typically considered a relatively more severe food coping strategy, are eaten from April through August.