



Bentiu Emergency Flood Response

Situation Update #1

7 November 2021

Highlights

- On 30 October, 4 Amphibious Vehicles (Sherps) airlifted to Bentiu to begin food deliveries to the most flood affected areas.
- Deliveries to Guit with 6 Sherps started on 2 November, and to date, 26.46 mt has been delivered to the Guit warehouse.
- Since 2 November, 132 mt of food has been delivered from Yida to Bentiu by WFP truck to support Bentiu IDPs.
- Water levels continue to rise and most roads are completely flooded surrounding Bentiu.

Project Overview

Following the joint assessment mission (WFP, UNICEF, IOM and OCHA) to Bentiu on 14th October 2021 which recommended immediate humanitarian assistance to people displaced due to flooding, WFP immediately prepared an emergency response. The assessment determined that there are approximately 37,680 flood-affected people (IDPs and residents) within Unity state, who require multi-sector humanitarian assistance. The IDPs are based in three locations: Bentiu town, Mayom and Guit.

WFP initially plans to provide emergency food assistance to all flood-affected people (IDPs and residents) for a period of two months, November and December, which requires approx. 2,897 MT. Some food is already pre-positioned in the locations, however, the stocks are not sufficient for the response, therefore WFP initiated an emergency logistics operation to ensure sufficient food stocks are available in all three locations for the two distributions. The operation began on October 30 and there are just 15 days to ensure food is in position for the first distribution on November 15.

The operation will take place in 2 phases, the first phase is currently ongoing ahead of the first distribution on 15 November. The second phase will be initiated before the second distribution planned on 15 December.

Background

This is the third year of unprecedented flooding in South Sudan (2019, 2020 and 2021) and Unity State is one of the most affected in the country. A significant amount of the population has been displaced from Southern and Central Counties (Panyijar, Mayendit, Leer, Koch, Unity, Rubkona and Guit Counties) of the State. In August 2021, Bentiu town, which has no flood water management system, began experiencing flooding and water levels peaked in October

Phase 1: Guit, Mayom, Bentiu

Total Requirements

County/FDP	Planned bene.	Food Requirements for Nov					Total
		Cereal	Pul	Oil	Salt		
Bentiu flood IDPs (site A, B & C)	4,520	33.90	3.39	2.03	0.34	39.66	
Guit flood affected residents	7,756	58.17	5.82	3.49	0.58	68.06	
Mayom flood affected residents	25,404	190.53	19.05	11.43	1.91	222.92	
Bentiu POC	140,096	1,051	105.07	63.0	10.51	1,229	
	173,256	713	71	43	7	834	

Response Plan

County/FDP	Cereals	Pul	Oil	Salt	Distribution Date	Plan A
Bentiu	771.39	482.76	961.32	1.30		
Surplus/Deficit in Bentiu	(322.83)	272.62	835.23	(9.86)	5th Nov	Cereals from Yida and Salt has arrived at Manga Port
Guit Deficit	(58.17)	(5.82)	(3.49)	(0.58)	15th Nov	Shunt commodities from Bentiu by SHERPs
Mayom Deficit	(190.53)	(19.05)	(11.43)	(1.91)	30th Nov	By WFP fleet trucks from Agok to Abienhom and then by SHERPs to Mayom via Mankien until the road is repaired for the trucks
Total Deficit	571.53	0	0	12.34		

Phase 2: Bentiu and Guit

Total Requirements

County/FDP	Planned bene.	Food Requirements For Nov					Total
		Cereal	Pul	Oil	Salt		
Bentiu flood IDPs (site A, B & C)	4,520	33.90	3.39	2.03	0.34	39.66	
Guit flood affected residents	7,756	58.17	5.82	3.49	0.58	68.06	
Bentiu POC	140,096	1,051	105.07	63.0	10.51	1,229	
	173,256	713	71	43	7	834	

Response Plan

County/FDP	Cereals	Pul	Oil	Salt	Distr. Date	Plan A
Bentiu POC & IDPs Deficit	(1,083.50)	263.41	829.71	(10.85)	1st Dec	Cereals from Yida/ additional food needed to be transported from Elobeid through Panakuach by road
Guit Deficit	(58.17)	(5.82)	(3.49)	(0.58)	1st Dec	Shunt food from Bentiu WH using SHERPs
Total Deficit	(1,141.67)	0	0	(11.43)		

2021. Despite the highwater levels, most IDPs from Rubkona, Guit and Koch counties sought refuge from the floods in Bentiu town.

Given the level and the extent of the flooding and based on the October-November 2021 weather forecast for East and Central Africa, the water levels are not expected to recede, further water rising is possible, and much of the flood affected counties are expected to remain submerged. Given this situation, the IDPS coming from areas such Nhialdiu etc., are not expected to be able to return to their settlements in the near future.

Through this emergency response, WFP is prepositioning food in Bentiu and Guit to ensure flood-affected people can receive consistent and life-saving food assistance.

Key Updates to Date

To date from November 2—5, deliveries to the first location in Guit have been completed and 26.46 mt delivered. On Sunday, 7 November, deliveries will start to Kuach. 132 mt of food has been delivered to Bentiu from Yida to ensure sufficient stocks.

Next few days

Flood respond delivery Update					
Detail		Plan Qty to be Moved (Mt)	Delivery Qty done (Mt)	Balance Qty to be loaded (Mt)	Priority
Origin	Destination				
Nhialdiu	Bentiu	280	-	280	2nd
Bentiu	Guit	68	26.46	41.54	1st
Yida	Bentiu	1,000.00	132	868	1st
Manga Port	Bentiu	100	100	-	1st
Total		1,448.00	258.46	1,189.54	

WFP continues to preposition food in Guit County until all 68 mt are ready for the first distribution. The next priority is to conduct an assessment to Nhialdiu to determine flood levels and depth of the swamp to ensure the correct boat size can be used to increase uplift capacity and move food that had been prepositioned in Nhialdiu back to Bentiu Town as people have fled Nhialdiu due to the flooding.

For the second phase, WFP is exploring options to open river routes (connect Bentiu to Manga port) and strengthen the local transport network (using canoes). Based on the current level of flooding, roads will not be accessible and river movement will be the main mode of transportation. Strengthening the local transport network will bolster capacity for food deliveries, while supporting the local economy. Accessing isolated areas due to flooding is more costly and requires additional funding.



Photo: Loading Sherps in Bentiu for first delivery to Guit (Althea Pickering/WFP)



Photo: Sherps en route from Bentiu to Guit (Apiku Ark/WFP)



Photo: Sherps en route from Bentiu to Guit (Althea Pickering/WFP)



Photo: Offloading Sherps at the warehouse in Guit Town (Althea Pickering/WFP)

Challenges

 Significant food shortfalls and continued response requires additional resources especially to reach isolated areas

 Limited uplift capacity (~ 1 ton for the Sherps) will be challenging to meet the timelines based on the requirements

 Water levels continue rising, displacing people and increasing access constraints

 Many roads are impassable due to flooding and key supply lines will be cut if the airport closes

