



## **Women Aid Vision Assessment Report carried out from April 18th - 20th, 2017 for Mvolo and Yeri IDPs with inputs provided by County Local Authorities, IDPs representatives , Church leaders and consultations with other agencies on the ground .**

### **Women Aid Vision Background**

Women Aid Vision is a South Sudanese National Organization established in 2009 as a private, voluntary, non-political organization. WAV focuses exclusively on Women, youth and Children's issues with special attention to Peace building and Governance, Protection, Gender Based Violence, Girls Child education support, Socio-economic empowerment, Sanitation and hygiene.

WAV uses its community based initiative approaches as an integral part of a long term strategy to strengthen the IDPs and host communities through empowerment, protections mechanisms, peaceful coexistence gearing towards self-reliance and movements of IDPs monitored and documented in the operation areas. A community based approach to programming is an integral part of a long term strategy that WAV has employed in its work in the community at the grassroots. WAV strongly believes in the importance of local community self-reliance and in the significant role that, community leadership; women and youth can play in re-building a society that has been affected by conflict.

This gives the community direct inputs into allocation of resources, project planning, execution and monitoring, through a process that emphasizes inclusive participation and management. The basic premise for demand-led approaches ensures that local communities are better placed to identify their shared needs and the actions necessary to address them. Increased involvement of communities contribute to a sense of community ownership, which improves the sustainability of interventions.

WAV has its Headquarters at Kololo Block 3, Behind Dr. John Garang International School, Juba and active Field Offices in Mvolo County of Western Equatoria that coordinates activities in Western Equatoria and another Field Office in the center of Lakes state with our community Field Officers in the Five Counties in Lakes state.

### **Background of Mvolo County, Western Equatoria state**

In the margins of the January 2017 African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, and the United Nations in a joint statement expressed their deep concerns over the continuing spread of fighting and risk of inter-communal violence escalating into mass atrocities. "If South Sudan is to achieve peace," the Special Adviser affirmed, "all belligerents must urgently cease hostilities and invest in the peace process to settle their differences, before the territorial fragmentation and destruction of the social fabric of this young country become irreversible."<sup>1</sup> The conflict situation around Mvolo

County of Western Equatoria is not any different nor is it any better from the general security environment in South Sudan.

Mvolo County is one of the Counties in Western Equatoria to the west of the White Nile river. It covers an estimated land surface of approximately 68500 square kilometres in total of which 43000 square kilometres is still virgin natural-forest without human settlement. The current total population of Mvolo County is estimated to be 480,000 as the last census results indicates during 2008 .This number is expected to have increased after years of census conducted. The population of smaller centres varies between 1800 and 8000 people, but in the larger town such as Mvolo population is over the 30000 mark. However, most of the population in the county live in scattered villages.

In Mvolo County, home of Women Aid Vision where it originated as the first field site, violence occurs virtually every year during the dry season, when Dinka cattle keepers from Yirol West and Rumbek East Counties in Lakes State migrate across the border to Mvolo County in Western Equatoria State (WES) to graze their cattle. Because there is insufficient grass and water in Yirol West to keep and their cows alive during dry season (approx Dec- May), Dinka move south where there is more grass available. However, as they move south, they cross over into Mvolo County, where Jur farmers reside year-round. According to the Jur, the Dinka and their cattle trespass on their land, destroy their crops, steal their fish nets and scare away animals that are hunted. However, usually the violence is relatively contained and short-lived, as the Mvolo and Yirol West communities have a history of peaceful coexistence, including shared schooling, health care facilities and intermarriages.

But April 2017 was different, fighting started abruptly on the 10th of April after unknown group of gunmen suspected from Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA - IO) attacked Panhomtor cattle camp killing 17 persons mainly women and children. Panhomtor is a cattle camp located far to the South of Mvolo within Ngop Payam of Yirol West County. Though there are some indicators that they perpetrators who waged an attacked at the cattle camp are partially known to the members rebel group linked to SPLA in Opposition yet, the Dinka community from Yirol West still say this could be the youth from Mvolo County who made an attack. This thereafter prompted fear within the communities of Bhar Grindi Payam, Lessi Payam, Dari Payam and part of Kokori to run to Mvolo and Yeri as the usual revenge way is expected. The current displaced persons of concern of is about 28,847 IDPs respectively in Mvolo and Yeri.



**IDPs photo taken by WAV staff within Mvolo Centre for assessment purpose**



**New Arrival of IDPs within Mvolo town**

### **Situational context**

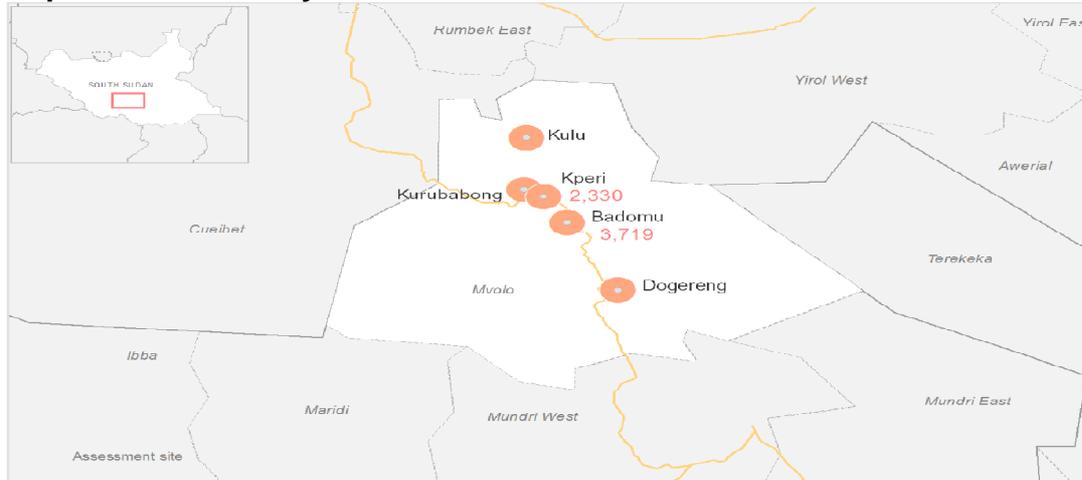
On 14 April 2017, the Office of RRC in Mvolo made a verbal request to Women Aid Vision Field in Mvolo to make a rapid assessment about the massive displacement in the County and to share with relevant clusters in the County to see if there can be intervention to supporting the IDPs and host communities in Mvolo and Yeri and the result of the current displacement. So far the RRC reported over 7 people dead due to hunger. This prompted Women Aid Vision that is the only potential Organization on the ground to conduct a rapid rough assessment have a better understanding on the issues behind the suspected death and the suffering of the IDPs. The findings would also enable the humanitarian partners make an informed decisions regarding provision of humanitarian assistance support to the affected population of IDPs in and host communities.

Data collection was conducted through focus group discussions and random assessment as well observation with the members of RRC, IDP community leaders from the affected population and other partners on the ground in Mvolo and Yeri. Two Payams of Mvolo and Yeri County which host the IDPs and are affected mostly by the food insecurity as the IDPs came from displaced centres Bhar Grindi, Payam, Dari Payam and Lessi Payam.

About 28,847 individuals IDPs and 13,000 host community members are affected by the food shortage which has resulted into both severe and moderate malnutrition among children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Generally men, women and children are affected by the situation. The Malnutrition has reduced the capacity of some members of the affected community to resist and recover from diseases such as Typhoid, Malaria, malnourishment and Diarrhea among others.

This explains the report of death related to hunger that has been reported to Women Aid Vision by RRC from Mvolo. The rains are about start following by dry spell has delayed the availability of green harvest at this time, leading to continued food insecurity. Most of the households have significantly reduced food consumption. Households around towns of Mvolo and Yeri depend on the market for food, but many cannot afford the food prices, moreover stocks are low in the market. Other families rely on wild vegetables and unusual consumption of bitter/acidic variety of cassava that is reported to have contributed to some death.

## Map of Mvolo County



### Physical access

Dari and Lessi Payams are not accessible by car throughout the rain season due to the bad road condition. Only affected population who come to accessible areas may be accessed, Yeri and Mvolo centers are accessible as they lie along the main road leading to Rumbek. Most of the IDPs have moved to come to Mvolo and Yeri towns where they think can access some services. However, vehicles and trucks of medium sizes can move well on that road through Rumbek and Yiroi West. Security along Mvolo, Yeri and Mundri road is currently not good as for transported of bulky relief supplies , it is only better to use Rumbek to Mvolo as the distance is also shorter than that from Juba to Mvolo.

### Crisis trend

Mvolo is one of the ten counties of Western Equatoria bordering Yiroi West and Rumbek East county and Maridi County. It has a history of perpetual conflict with armed pastoralist communities of Yiroi West and Rumbek East who usually come to graze herds of cattle on lands of Mvolo County Community, who are entirely Crop cultivators. The intrusion often destroys their crops and has been the major cause of inter-tribal clashes between the two communities leading to displacement of population within Mvolo County. The current food insecurity is majorly a result of the conflict that occurred between December 2014 on and off and April 2017, which resulted to loss of lives, serious gunshot injuries and displacement of the population mainly from Bahr-Grindi, Lesi, Dari and Kokori.

This situation causes lack of many social amenities as reducing meals and consuming wild vegetable, less known food sources such as bitter/acidic varieties of cassava leading to health problems including death.

There are also more women involved in selling of firewood to earn money for purchasing grains from the market. More men are trying to sell poles, do fishing in Mvolo and Yeri to earn a living due to harsh life being faced by the displacement bitterly affecting the IDPs and host communities.

### The current population figures

Payam	Hhs	0-5yrs		6-17yrs		18-59yrs		60 +yrs		Total		Host Population (2008( census)	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Hhs	Individual
Mvolo	2661	1100	1090	2600	2105	2709	3087	1950	1327	8359	7609	1455	10312
Yeri	2313												
<b>Total</b>		<b>988</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>2172</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2061</b>	<b>2490</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>1764</b>	<b>6442</b>	<b>7437</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>10168</b>

**This is the population randomly collected and provided by Mvolo RRC Office waiting for a proactive registration and profiling of IDPs.**

### Status of the population in the affected area

The affected population consisting of both IDPs and hosting population lives at peace between themselves. They share resources, but due to this increased pressure on resources such as food, clean water and shelter, these resources are now extremely insufficient. All categories of people: Girls, Women, boys and men are suffering from lack of adequate food; however, Children and lactating women are the most affected by malnutrition search for wild vegetables, firewood for sale from the bushes poses threat of SGBV.

### Key response priorities required

#### Food

There is need for urgent food items required to avoid further deterioration of well-being of the displaced population and host communities.

#### Nutrition

Urgent Emergency Provision of both Targeted Supplementary Feeding (TSFP) and Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) for IDPs and host population in affected areas for pregnant, lactating and children who are moderately malnourished (MAM) both in Mvolo and Yeri Payam, Provision of emergency food items to IDPs and Host community affected areas in both Mvolo and Yeri Payam is required

#### Health

Provision of mosquito nets, Supply of Pediatrics anti malaria and oral antibiotics, Nutrition supplementation for the pregnant and lactating mothers and the malnourished children, Strengthen EPI services at fixed sites and outreaches with emphasis on areas with IDP concentrations. Provision of dignity kits and sanitary materials for girls and women of reproductive health

#### Education

Provide classroom tents as temporarily classrooms to provide shelter for school children to learn, Provide Emergency School supplies ( school in-a box, blackboards, recreational supplies and ECD Kits) are needed, Support with WASH facilities in schools (drill boreholes and dig pit latrines).

#### Peace building

There is need for re-building the relationships between the displaced IDPs and host communities within Mvolo and Yeri as well extending this to the neighboring Yiról West County to restore their relationships. This peace building efforts can be designed for IDPs and host

community leaders from both Counties of Mvolo and Yeri West through short training on conflict management and peace dialogue to forge a new way of brotherhood and sisterhood in the neighborhood.

### **Protection needs**

There is need to strengthen the community rights based protection response of the IDPs and host communities and other vulnerable persons and communities in order to have a sustained social and economic empowerment as well Case management, CMR, kit support for SGBV survivors

### **Psychosocial Support**

Community-based psychosocial support and activities for women and children, Specific protective and support activities for women, children, persons with specific needs including persons with disabilities and older persons is of paramount.

### **Water and Sanitation**

Washing soap and some Jeri-cans to the most vulnerable groups in the community like the pregnant women, malnourished children and separated children, Repair of broken Water hand pumps.

### **Key Findings from the assessment**

- About seven Schools have been displaced into Mvolo and Yeri
- Education situation in both Mvolo and Yeri is affected by the impact of food crisis
- The schools in both Mvolo and Yeri have no proper pit latrine
- Almost all schools in Mvolo and Yeri have no sufficient learning spaces
- There is extreme hunger affecting both the IDPs and the host communities
- There is extreme poor sanitation as well no drugs for the patients in the PHCCs both in Mvolo and Yeri
- Most of the IDPs lack NFIs.
- There is extreme malnutrition affecting children under age of five
- There is no enough water for both the IDPs and host communities.

### **Priorities for Immediate Humanitarian response**

- There is need for urgent emergency Food distribution to the IDPs and host communities in affected areas of Mvolo and Yeri to prevent more related death because of hunger
- Provide classroom tents as temporarily classrooms to provide shelter for school children
- There is need to have proper profiling and registration of the IDPs for both Mvolo and Yeri
- It is recommended also the IDPs are provided with NFIs, shelter, seeds, tools, mosquito nets, blankets and cooking materials
- There is need to provide psychosocial support services for both IDPs and host communities
- Raising awareness on SGBV is also of paramount to the IDPs and host communities

**The Assessment was carried out by Women Aid Vision staff and assisted with some information by some partners on the ground mentioned in this table:**

	Name	Position		Email	Tel
1	James M.APUGI	Team Leader	WAV	mohandis@womenaidvision.org	+211955516390
2	Asiku Kassim	D.Program Manager	WAV	asiku@womenaidvision.org	+211955210200
3	Lilian Ajidru	Program Officer	WAV	lilian@womenaidvision.org	+211955838411
4	Monica Samuel	Mvolo Field Officer	WAV	info@womenaidvision.org	+211956275588
5	Joseph Aduh	County Education Officer	Windle Trust	aduhjose@yahoo.co.uk	+211955269341
6	David Dumuto	Executive Director	MUYSA	muysa2062@gmail.com	+211950799970
7	Lexson Bira	RRC Representative	RRC Mvolo		+211955356300

---

<sup>i</sup> Statement by Adama Dieng, United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, on the situation in South Sudan, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017