



*Plastic sheeting for shelter is provided only in central locations of the settlements.*

**On 30 January 2024**, upon recommendation by the Mission Community Development Agency, the Protection Cluster in Central Equatoria, represented by the Humanitarian & Development Consortium (HDC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conducted a key informant and observation method protection assessment in two locations close to Juba suburbs identified as hosting South Sudanese returnees from Sudan and IDPs.

### **BILNYANG IDP AND RETURNEE SETTLEMENT**

According to key informants in Bilnyang, an area of some 3 square kilometers was allocated by the local authorities (in coordination with national authorities) in August 2023 to IDPs from collective sites in Juba and returnees from Sudan. According to them, the population of Bilnyang is an estimated 5,000 households while during the assessment the UNHCR-HDC estimates the number of returnees only to be close to 1,000 individuals.

There are a few plastic sheeting shelters at the center of the settlement which are said to have been provided by Concern for Women (CW) at the onset of the settlement formation. Other residents are using locally available resources to erect their shelters.

There is a school building close to the site with no sign of function, according to one of community leaders, the school is closed due to previous reports of children being kidnaped by individuals from the Murle tribe.

The team did not observe any WASH facilities including a functional water source or latrines. The IDPs and returnees did not mention any particular concern about any particular diseases, and they access Health services from a commercial pharmacy at Gumbo some 2.5 kilometers from the sites, while those who cannot afford it resort to traditional medicine.

According to key informants, the security situation is good. There is a police station and two barracks in the vicinity and no incidents were recorded since December 2023. There are no reports of movement restrictions at the site or in wider community. IDPs, returnees and resident population move freely in and out of the area.

## MAPAW IDP AND RETURNEE SETTLEMENT

According to key informants, the area allocated to the IDPs and returnees who also settled in August 2023. There are also some plastic sheet shelters distributed by CW in the settlement's center and other residents use locally available resources for shelter.

The WASH, Health, Education, Restriction of Movement and Security situations are like in Bilnyang.

Based on interaction with a few community leaders) the population of Mapaw is estimated to be about 4,200 households of returnees and IDPs.

### Key findings

**ACCESS TO SERVICES** – Currently, there is no humanitarian assistance in the form of food, shelter, health, NFIs, WASH or Income-generating activity provided for IDPs and returnees at the site. Only one borehole is functional out of five existing in the area, this is leading to overcrowding sometimes and could create tensions between the communities, as a results, the community organized for water to be trucked to their location through own contributions, however this practice is no sustainable.

**SOCIAL COHESION** – Returnees and IDPs coexist peacefully with the residents' communities.

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE** – There are traditional justice systems in place at both locations and local chiefs who adjudicated cases are identified from all the diverse groups of IDPs and returnees on the sites. People normally prefer alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms or customary law because they are accessible, rapid, and not expensive. Individuals and Family disputes, and physical violence on mainly HLP issues are being reported.

**ACCESS TO LIVELIHOOD** – Women are involved in small businesses like selling food items, vegetables, and tea. The team saw very few children playing within their families' vicinity. Most of the people go out to seek work in Juba or locally as there is some construction work available.

### KEY RECCOMENDATIONS

- Land for small scale agriculture and gardening appears to be available. Farming tools and seeds would improve the Food situation in the communities.
- Land distribution and security of tenure gaps to be investigated in more details and potentially addressed with support of HLP actors.
- Development/Solutions actors should investigate the possibility of rehabilitating existing dysfunctional boreholes and/or construct new ones.
- Advocate with authorities to improve other basic services including WASH. Education and security for children.



*Land for small scale agriculture is available in the settlements.*