

Making Displacement Safer: Locally-led Solutions for Displaced Populations in Urban Areas

Report on Key Findings, Conclusions and
Recommendations - Juba, South Sudan.



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Root of Generations
Juba Civic Engagement Centre, May Street, Near Eco Bank, South Sudan

Phone +211 928 661 256 | root.generations@gmail.com | www.rogss.org

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1. Executive Summary

Globally over 70 million people have been forced to leave their homes and places of habitual residence, to become internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and asylum seekers due to disasters or conflicts. In partnership with GNDNR, Root of Generations, (ROG) is a national NGO that has been involved in the Making Displacement Safer project seeking locally-led DRR solutions to challenges faced by populations living in Gumbo a community on the edge of the capital city, Juba, South Sudan. We undertook 'Views from the Frontline Lite' research, an assessment tool deployed to understand the threats, consequences, actions and barriers of displaced populations in Juba to understand their challenges and perspectives. We have also carried stakeholder mapping, gathering case studies and hosting focus groups, stakeholders' interview and gap assessment. Findings showed that the majority of the displaced communities cannot afford basic services (food, water, health and shelter) for themselves. The national government, despite recently coming with a blueprint to address displacement, has very weak institutions drowned in corruption which may not provide immediate solutions. ROG recommends the creation of livelihood activities and WASH programme in urban displaced communities and the promotion advocacy to generate national will to make displacement safer.



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2. Making Displacement Safer

2.1 Overview of the project

Globally over 70 million people have been forced to leave their homes and places of habitual residence, to become internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and asylum seekers due to disasters or conflicts. It is estimated that about 60% to 80% of these people end up in informal settlements in urban areas. This relocation often puts them at more risk due to being forced to settle on hazard-prone fringes of cities, lack of awareness of their new risks, lack of basic services, weak social networks, lack of inclusion in decision making, lack of integration of language and culture. As disasters continue to increase, and as DRR and humanitarian actors change around the world, new and complex challenges are emerging for how to reduce the vulnerability of these displaced populations in urban areas.

Root of Generations has been involved in the Making Displacement Safer project. Seeking for locally-led DRR solutions to challenges faced by populations living in urban areas, the project aims to (a) increase understanding of the unique disaster challenges for displaced populations in urban areas; (b) increase the number of innovative approaches for reducing the vulnerability of displaced populations in urban areas; and (c) see the approaches and stakeholder roles for reducing the vulnerability of displaced populations in urban areas are institutionalized in national and international systems.

We have undertaken 'Views from the Frontline Lite' research, an assessment tool deployed to understand the threats, consequences, actions and barriers of displaced populations in **Juba** to understand their challenges and perspectives. We have also undertaken stakeholder mapping, gathering case studies and hosting focus groups, stakeholders interview and gap assessment.

The report captures the data findings, conclusions and recommendations in the selected communities under the project. This project aims to mobilize social, economic and political will at national and sub-national levels to prioritized disaster displacement.



2.2 Overview of MDS project in South Sudan

2.2.1 context of displacement in Juba South Sudan

South Sudan is the world's newest country, attaining independence from Sudan in 2011. Barely 2 years from birth, the nation descended into violent conflicts along ethnic divides. The recurring conflicts since 2013 caused approximately 4.2 million people to flee their homes in search of safety. Of these nearly 2 million of them were internally displaced persons (IDPs). Intercommunal violence and recurrent natural hazards such as floods and drought have further aggravated displacement (United Nations Report 2019). The report further adds that basic services such as food, water, health and shelter are some of the major threats faced by the displaced population. Juba is South Sudan's largest city and also the capital. The majority of the displaced persons arrive in Juba hoping to find food, security and better services – but usually end up with disappointments. Root of Generation chose to carry out the project 'Making Displacement Safer' in Gumbo Sherikat in the south eastern side of Juba because this is a recently preferred destination for IDPs. In our mapping, we divided this community into 6 zones namely;

- **Gumbo 1** (Slums and squatter settlement) near the river and flooding was an observed risk. The population there has lived there for more than 8 years, dependent on trade.
- **Gumbo 2** (Slums and squatter settlement) had more industries and also near the river. The population is mostly displaced from Lobonok, Central Equatoria State because of violent conflicts and dependent mostly on growing and selling vegetables. The zone was threatened by industrial waste and flooding.
- **Gumbo 3** (Slums and squatter settlement) population were displaced in South Sudan's 2013 conflict. Its population is characterised by a larger number of widows, people living with disabilities and older persons. Easily prone to floods. they depend on small-scale farming.
- **Gumbo 4** (settlement with semi-permanent structure) community has been displaced for over 20 years, depended on small-scale farming and businesses along the main highways. They were challenged by high crimes and water supply and risked eviction.
- **Gumbo 5** (IDPS Camps) mainly displaced in 2016 and 2013 conflicts. They live in two fenced IDP camps. The 2016 lot are supported by Don Bosco Missionaries, but the 2016 ones depended on hewing firewood and then exchange for food at Don Bosco compound. The biggest risk was disease outbreak from poor sanitation.
- **Gumbo 6** (settlement with semi-permanent structure) displaced by recent floods and conflicts in Bor, Jonglei state in 2019. They survive on cattle, small scale businesses e.g. selling dried fish. Poor housing, water supply and high crimes affect them.

Against this background we carried out the Views from the Frontline survey (VFL) to find out more about these urban displaced settlements in Juba.

2.2.2. Root of Generations

Root of Generations is a national Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) founded in 2010 and officially registered in 2016 by South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Its mandate is to lead empowerment efforts for women through civic education, peace building, eradication of gender-based violence, promoting human rights and imparting life skills for sustainable livelihoods in South Sudan. ROG envisions a community where women and men perceive themselves as equal partners in development. Greater portion of the displaced persons are women and children and they experience a mix of conditions such as access to basic services, GBV, poor legal address – which further increase their vulnerability. For this reason, ROG was very enthusiastic to conduct this research to aid future evidence-based advocacy for provision of durable solutions to displacement.

2.2.3 Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

Root of Generations is a member of GNDR. GNDR is the largest international network of 1500 CSOs in 126 countries working to strengthen resilience and reduce risk in communities. GNDR connects frontline CSOs with national and international policymaking institutions and governments. GNDR influence policies and practices by amplifying the voices of people most at risk. GNDR exchange knowledge and capacities and trial new approaches together.

3. Methodology

We involved the following steps in conducting the research as follows:

Community mapping: At this stage, we divided the target community known as “Gumbo Sherikat into 6 sub-divisions. In each sub-division we were able to understand their map of hazards, vulnerabilities, service provision, stakeholder’s connection alongside the areas where the internally displaced people were living.

Views from the Frontline: Root of Generation was able to find out the unique risk challenges/threats faced by the internally displaced populations in Gumbo-Ssherikat through VFL Lite Surveys. The survey explores the threats/risks, consequences of these threats/risks, potential actions to address them and barriers to action from the perspective of an at-risk population. It also explores the policy environment in which they are living.



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Stakeholder Interviews: We used observation, interviews and discussions as one of the methodologies. The data was aggregated in an open source and desegregated by country, City, community, age, gender and disability.

Project Analysis: Root of Generations also identified the innovative approaches that were used by other stakeholders in reducing these risks at both community and national levels. Some of those approaches will be further explored through an approach of undergo Urban Livingsaving Labs to trials in order to further understand their effectiveness and allow displaced populations to make decisions on their own solutions to trial.

Capacity Gap Analysis:

Policy Analysis: Root of Generations found out that the government has a plan for displaced communities. It is entitled, “Republic of South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees, and Host Communities 22 June 2021”. This was analysed alongside the observations and findings made from the community.

Reflection: The data collected was analyzed to assess the pattern and trends of existing risks, the impact and consequence of them, possible actions were taken and barriers faced in implementing these actions. The reflection helped us understand the gaps in overall resilience building of the urban displaced population. Key findings and conclusions were drawn based on the data results.

Solutions: Based on the key findings and through the “Urban Living Labs” approach, Root of Generations will complete innovative solutions (action) to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and assets, for displaced populations in Juba.

3. Selection of Risk Areas, Communities and Sample Size

3.1 Selected city

3.2 Selected communities

Root of Generations used guidance such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction 2015-2030 and GNDR Users Guidelines on VFL Lite, definition of urban areas, mapping techniques and online workshops to understand what risk areas are and how to select them. We also used community mapping which enabled us to understand the level of services provision, their hazards, vulnerabilities and the stakeholder's connection alongside the internally displaced communities. The mapping further helped us to observe the target community critically and divided it into subdivisions.

The selected communities are the subdivisions of Gumbo Sherikat which is defined as Peri-urban, these communities were highly dependent on Juba to undertake their livelihood generation activities, they are characterized by poor access to basic services(health education, food, shelter and water) poor access to livelihood, located along the River Nile (their exposure to flash floods is imminent), they practice open defecation around the surrounding bushes and compounds, poor access to urban facilities like buildings, roads, electricity, drainage and sewage; and often are not considered as a priority for development/intervention by the administrative authorities. Most of their social security nets are ad hoc and rely heavily on interpersonal ties between co-inhabitants.

3.3 Total Sample Size

Root of generations focused on selecting the respondents who participated in the VFL Lite data collection and analysis process. Based on the inception data, the minimum sample size was calculated. The size of the sample was dependent on the size of the population. The total sample size was selected based on the following criteria

Number of Men	Number of Women	Number of Children & Youth	Number of People with Disabilities	Number of Elderly	Number of Local CSOs representatives	Number of Local Govt. Representatives
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30%	30%	20%	10%	10%		
The target sample size was 497						
146	146	97	49	49	5	5

4. Findings and Conclusions at the Community and National level

4.1 Findings and conclusions at the Community level

IDP Camps

- Poor health delivery (no health center)
- Poor waste management
- 1 functional borehole
- Too much congestion in the camps due to limited spacing
- No police station
- 2 VIP Latrines (for leaders only)
- No grass or semi-permanent houses.
- High rate of Idleness
- Alcoholism and Drunkenness
- Poor roads
- No drainage system
- Low capacity of understanding

26.39% the data shows landlessness as the greatest barrier to success of the displaced people, **23.43%** of responses shows that the people living in IDP Camps lack access to basic services, **13.64%** of the data shows these communities have poor quality housing and therefore cannot shelter themselves from severe weather changes and safety issues.

of Slum/Squatter settlements 3 (Gumbo 1, 2 & 3)

Flooding
Industrial waste substances in Gumbo 2
No borehole
No health Centre
Poor drainage system
River swelling
Poor roads
Idleness



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Alcoholism
Disability
Land not demarcated

23.8% of the data shows landlessness as the greatest barrier to success of the displaced people living in slum/squatter settlements

23.77% of the responses shows that they lack access to basic services,

21.81% of data shows that these settlements are facing threat from flash floods. This means that, this communities have poor housing, poor drainage system and at risk of river swelling. According to the local Government there is increasing cases of urban displacement caused by floods and conflicts which needed immediate help. For example, the recent flash flood that happened in Gumbo 1 (slum/squatter settlement).

Settlement with semi-permanent structures: Gumbo 4 & 6)

- No health care facility in (Gumbo 6)
- Flooding
- Poor drainage system
- Idleness
- Alcoholism
- No borehole
- Crimes such as theft
- Land not demarcated (Gumbo 4)
- Poor roads

27.27% of the responses shows that these settlements lack access to basic services,

25.67% of the responses shows weak law enforcement is the main barrier to the Displaced settlements This means that, the people living in these communities are not protected or they are insecure from crimes.

12.0% of the data shows that insecurity is another threat in these communities. Again, there is corruption in service delivery especially safety between these communities.

CSO perspectives

22.22% of CSOs say that poor sanitation is a big threat to the displaced communities.

Local government perspectives

The local government has a durable plan for the internally displaced communities but not implemented.

The CSO Organizations have a wider gap in service delivery for example in WASH and Livelihood Creation.

Advocacy and funding have been the biggest challenge within the partners.



There is a need for collaborative effort in order to find out the innovative approaches, how to address them and advocate for institutionalization of the Risk Reduction Policy in to subnational, national and international level.

4.2 Findings at the Country level

4.2.1 Access to basic services of the displaced needs to be prioritised

31.15% responses from the local government show that there is a lack of access to basic services (food, water, health and shelter). *'We got displaced by conflicts from Jonglei state. We arrived here thinking our lives will be better. Since we came, we don't have guaranteed food. You can see we are living in plastic sheets which heat up and also cools too much in rain seasons. Our children don't go to schools or can access better health when they get sick. We often have problems with the host community because they think we have taken their land. We don't have jobs or to provide for our families. We are really suffering here'* Majok Stephen, chief of the community displaced.

According to VFL, 25.86% of the data shows that the internally displaced people lack access to basic services (Food, Water, Education and Health). *'If there is anything noble to help the displaced persons, it would be imperative to make them access food, shelter, water and health services'* Santino Ladu Jukeris, RRC chair person, Central Equatoria state.

This is matched by the CSO perspective, of whom **19.05%** stated poor sanitation as the biggest threat to internally displaced. They highlighted the risk of water borne diseases like cholera, typhoid, worm infestation, etc. Further, *"The rate of malnutrition is very high among the displaced persons especially among children, lactating and pregnant mothers. Pit latrines are filled up but people still have to use them and they have to cook just near those latrines. There is high chance for outbreak of diseases here"* Wani Bosco, World Vision, South Sudan

'The number of IDPS is increasing on monthly basis and are already straining the available services. Some of the families since they arrived have not got better shelter. So rains and sun heat always affect them.' Samson, Don Bosco staff, South Sudan.

In conclusion, based on the findings, all stakeholders agree that access to basic services needs to be addressed in order to build the resilience of the internally displaced.

Solutions to this issue were indicated by some IDPs - *' I would like to have movable bicycles to help me move around and look for food'* Regina Deng, disabled woman displaced from Jonglei state.

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22.87% of respondents highlight weak law enforcement as the greatest barrier in progress of the displaced population. Most of them are insecure from crimes within the settlements and they can not get legal redress for crimes committed against them. **According to the perspective of local government representatives themselves, 18.92%** felt that corruption is the greatest barrier to the progress of the IDPs. This means that the government is politically unstable and the institutions in the country and are disorganized/weak to address issues of IDPs.

VFL survey showed that corruption, lack of capacity and weak law enforcement are some of the biggest barriers to making displacement safer.

In conclusion, based on the findings...

4.2.3 xxx

98.8% of the IDPs state they remain affected by disasters. **14.58% of response highlight** flash flooding as a threat in the internally displaced settlements. This is a concern as floods can potentially trigger further displacement among the IDPs. Most of the IDPs are not consulted in design of policies, they do not receive financial assistance and lack timely usable information to help reduce the risk they face. Displaced people are always affected but there is a gap in the government understanding their core challenges and needs, including knowing how much budget to exactly allocate for displacements.

In conclusion, based on the findings...



4. Prioritised Conclusion at the Community level and National level

4.1 Prioritised Conclusion at the Community level

The majority of the displaced communities cannot afford basic services (food, water, health and shelter) for themselves. This was almost echoed by all the zones mapped.

Despite similarities in risks and threats, the communities have unique priority needs -depending on the zonal distribution and length of time they have been displaced. For example, communities who recently got displaced most prioritized access to food. While those who got displaced earlier needed better housing, employment opportunities and trade.

The IDPs living in gated IDPS Camps are more vulnerable than those living in slums/squatter structures and semi-permanent structures respectively. The IDPs in the gated communities are most recent and may have not yet understood coping mechanisms. After fully being oriented to Juba, they usually leave the gated communities to survive in the squatter and slums.

Communities living along the River Nile (Slums & Squatter Settlements) are at high risk of secondary displacement. Despite these communities being aware of floods, they stick around these areas because of the perceived economic benefits e.g. they farm vegetable gardens and practice fishing along the river banks to make a living.

99.8% of the displaced persons asked continued to be affected by disaster. When disasters do strike, communities were affected through loss/damage of housing (27.74% of respondents), loss of livelihood (24.7%), illness/injury (23.57%), relocation (16.35%), loss/damage of agricultural land/crops (6.98%), death of loved ones (0.66%). While these people prioritize basic needs, they silently suffer trauma and did not even mention it as one of the unique needs they face.

4.2 Prioritized Conclusion at the National level

The government has a plan for displaced communities. It is entitled, “**Republic of South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced**



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Persons, Returnees, and Host Communities 22 June 2021". However, the laid plans have not been put into practice. South Sudan's Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile and some parts of Equatorial regions have been submerged in water, and violent conflict continues to displaced thousands.

The urban displaced cannot afford basic services (Food, Water, Education and Health). Most urban areas are insecure from crimes within the settlements and they cannot get legal redress for crimes committed against them. This seems to be the common scenario in the IDP camps. The government has long shifted this responsibility to the UN and AID agencies. However, there is also growing donor fatigue and UNMISS (United Nation Mission in South Sudan) has declared to close some IDP camps. As a show of responsibility, the government recently came with blueprint to address issues of IDPs, refugees and returnees but the action has not been implemented. With vivid history of corruption and weak laws, this remains an ambitious target. .

5. Recommendations

Root of Generations found out that there is no common forum where the needs and challenges of the urban displaced communities can easily be addressed. We recommend the formation of a national task force shared at both state and national level.

There is low advocacy for the challenges/threats faced by the displaced communities, so there is need for advocacy at wider coverage for instance in sources of funding and building resilience.

Much as the Civil Society Organizations try their best to provide some of these basic services (food, water, health and shelter), there is still high demand for provision of these services in every displaced community.

We found out that most of the displaced communities are not involved in decision and policy making process. There is need for involvement of the displaced communities in decision and policy process.

ROG found out that weak law enforcement is the main driver of conflicts, crimes and secondary displacement, so there is need to strengthen law enforcement in these communities and at National level.

Poor sanitation contributes a lot to health effects/danger, there is need for provision of water and sanitation programme such as construction/repair of boreholes and construction of resilient shelters.



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There is need to expedite the national blue print for IDPS and refugees. currently many people are not aware of their risks and how to stay with it. For this reason, we recommend emergency disaster preparedness on how to deal with the urban displaced populations.

We found out that there is limited land provided for this displaced populations making it difficult for them to construct better houses and engage in agricultural activities for their livelihood. For this case, there is demand to coordinate with the host communities and encourage them to lease more land for the displaced communities.

Most of the displaced cannot afford their necessities because they are Jobless, couple with low level of education making them more poor and poorer. For this matter, we recommend creation of livelihood activities in the displaced settlements.

The Media should be highly encouraged to cover the plights of the IDPS and broadcast these findings for national awareness and action.

6. Next steps

Programme for WASH, education and creation of Livelihood Activities in the urban displaced communities in order to improve their health and build resilience are very salient.

Annexes

VFL Survey

VFL Dashboard

Republic of South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees, and Host Communities **22 June 2021**