



## **Field Trip Report**

**Location:** Old Fangak, Jonglei

**Date / Duration:** 15 – 22 February / 7 Days

**Issue(s) addressed:** Follow up 21 December mission following IDP influx in November and December 2016

**Ascertain more details regarding recent IDP movements including motivations, routes and methods of transport**

**Ascertain more details on basic available services in Old Fangak and immediate areas**

### **Introduction / Methodology**

Following reports of civilian movements into Fangak in late 2016, the IOM/DTM Unit sent a team to Old Fangak for a one day mission on 21 December published (29 December, 2016). On 15 February, 2017 a team arrived in Old Fangak to follow up on the findings of that mission. During the visit, the team met with locals' authorities, community leaders, representative from NGOs and civil societies as well as individuals living in the area and newly arrived Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees. These interviews took place in Old Fangak town, Toch, Wang-Chot and Wang-lel. The team was also able to make direct observations of the situation in the area.

The newly constructed administration of Fangak State is divided into three counties; North Fangak, Central Fangak and South Fangak. North Fangak has two major towns; Jaibor and New Fangak and its administrative headquarters are located in New Fangak. Central Fangak's main towns are Keew and Fagwir while in South Fangak, Toch and Nyadin are the most significant areas of population. Old Fangak serves as a major town and administrative headquarters for both Central and South Fangak. Since the conflict began in 2013, the area has been under the control of the SPLA/iO. However, there has been fighting in northern areas of Fangak.

### **Population Movements**

Between October and December 2016, civilian movements into Fangak were reported. Most were identified as former IDPs returning from Juba, primarily by river access. Others were identified as coming from Leer and Rubkona with smaller numbers coming from Mayendit, Guit and Koch. The IDPs and returnees were mainly from Nuer and Shilluk ethnic groups.



According to reports with local authorities, civilians that stayed in the Old Fangak area were initially given land on a temporary basis by the local Government and later most were integrated into the host community. Others were reported to have moved onto other areas within Fangak including; New Fangak, Toch, Fagwir, Nyadin and Jaibor where they had social and familial networks. Others still were reported as moving further north toward Sudan via Tonga in Panyikang County. A small number were reported as moving to Ethiopia. Some of those individuals are believed to have moved beyond Fangak through Ayod but most of those travelling to the eastern border were reported to have traveled via Pigi County.

A total of 5,560 IDPs and returnees that arrived in Fangak from October 2016 to December 2016 were verified and registered in late December 2016 by the Relief Organization for South Sudan (ROSS), the World Food Program (WFP) and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). However, IDP movements to Fangak and beyond greatly reduced in the second half of January and the first half of February. During this period an average of about 30 to 40 individuals were reported coming weekly to Fangak and beyond. A small influx, consisting of a boat of about 200 people, was reported as taking place as the mission was ending, however was not observed by the team. The IDPs were largely reported to be from Juba and primarily cited security concerns both inside and outside the Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites as a primary reason for their departure.

### **Movement Details**

Boat travel along the Nile and Phow Rivers is the main route of transport for civilians moving between Juba and Fangak. Road access is limited due to poor infrastructure but some groups have arrived in the area by foot. It takes 7 to 10 days travelling by boat from Juba to Old Fangak. Potential stops for travelers are in Bor, Mayen, Jocksur and Whichmun.

Travel onward to New Fangak by speed boat can take between 3 and 4 hours. It can take 1.5 hours to reach Toch. To walk between Old Fangak and Fagwir takes 3 hours by foot. Further travel by foot onward to Jaibor can take an additional 3 hours. Travelling between Fagwir and Keew by foot can take up to 6 hours.

### **General Situation**

There is a shortage of basic goods in Fangak. Currently Sudanese traders are unable to access the area. Presently the population depends on goods purchased from South Mayen. This is expensive due to the cost of additional transportation and the informal tariffs imposed during that transportation. Access to food is still reliant on humanitarian distributions. Some locals reported that many families depend presently on water lily seeds (yiel), lalop seeds, wild roots (Kei) and palm tree seeds (thow).

**(Table 1) Estimated populations according to local authorities and NGOs in Fangak**

S/n	Fangak main populated areas	Locals authority estimates of current host population	NGO estimates of current host population	Local authority estimates of IDPs
1	Old Fangak Payam	33,000	28,000	4,000
2	Fagwir	39,000	15,000	1,000
3	Toch	17,112	11,000	1,612
4	New Fangak	30,000	20,000	4,000
5	Jaibor	17,000	10,000	1,000
6	Keew	15,000	9,000	500
7	Nyadin	16,000	8,000	1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>167,112</b>	<b>101,000</b>	<b>13,112</b>

**(Table 2) Estimate of IDPs in individual villages according to local authorities in Old Fangak area**

S/N	Boma	Villages	IDPs
1	Wang-chot	Nanimach (1)	310
2	Wang-chot	Nanimach (2)	290
3	Wang-chot	Wang-chot	270
4	Nyatuat	Nyatuat	280
5	Nyatuat	Pankiir	270
6	Wang-lel	Diang- Daing	300
7	Chot-Bora	Chot-Bora	280
8	Nyatuat	Wang-Mok	260
9	Unlor-Wangchot	Pulthow	280
10	Unlor-Wanglel	Kuem-Duok	290
11	Unlor-Wangchot	Hai Galeli	290
12	Old Fangak centre	Hai Matar	260
13	Unlor-Chatbora	Ban	250
14	Old Fangak Centre	Hai 44	250
15	Old Fangak Centre	Hai Munlifra	250
16	Unlor Wanglel	Hai wang-thica	260
17	Unlor-Chatbora	Patai	270
18	Unlor-Wangchot	Pullieth	260
19	Unlor-Wangchot	Pultaly	280



**Situation in Toch (GPS N 08° 58' 37.55 E 030° 42' 36.41 Alt: 396.0m)**

Toch Payam is situated south of Old Fangak and falls under South Fangak County. It has five Bomas; Pathiay, Kuerbuay, Dharnor, Langtiem and Kapjuak.

According to locals, Toch has been experiencing yearly flooding since 2011, significantly damaging the viability of agriculture in the area. The population in Toch depends on fishing as a primary means of livelihood. The population collects water lily roots and wild fruits as a means to supplement their diet. Over gathering has however, depleted naturally occurring food sources in the area. Toch has not received regular food assistance, with the last distribution in the area reported as being January 2016.

IDPs have been moving to the Toch area since 2014. The majority of IDPs in the area have come from Juba, Bentiu and Malakal. The Payam received approximately 50 IDPs in the first two weeks of February.

Suspected incidents of cholera are reported as having taken place in the Toch area since December 2016. The most affected population was reported to have been fishermen from island areas. For many of those individuals travel to Toch, to receive basic medical attention, can take 2 to 3 days resulting in often fatal delays. Fewer cases of cholera were reported in January than December. Toch has an operational Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) but without cholera facilities. Suspected cases are referred to Old Fangak Primary Health Care Center (PHCC).

The most urgent needs according to the population are mosquito nets, follow by food assistance. Mosquito nets were distributed in 2015 in Toch but with the arrival of additional people, the population requiring further assistance has risen.

Toch can be accessed via the Phow River, approximately 30 minutes from the Nile. With a speedboat, Old Fangak can be reached within 1.5 hours. Travel to Ayod in the south can be done by canoe and takes approximately 1 day. The airstrip is serviceable and according to local sources is better quality than the airstrip at Old Fangak in the rainy season.

There are no household toilets at present in Toch. The community stated that an NGO is planning to construct household toilets for the population.

There are 5 functional schools in Toch Payam situated in Toch, Pathiay, Kuerbuay, Dharnor and Langtiem. Toch has two functional boreholes besides river water. One is located at Toch Centre and the other in Pathiay.

Further significant needs identified by the population included access to mosquito nets, fishing nets, blankets, soap, cooking sets, basins, buckets and sleeping mats.

**Situation in Wang-lel (GPS N 09° 10' 13.78" E 030° 54' 21.85" Alt: 397.8m)**

Wang-lel Boma falls under Bai Payam. The locals estimate approximately 300 people moved into the area during the recent influx since November 2016. Most of the individuals arrived from Juba and



Bentiu, accessing the area by river. There were also a small number of returnees from Ethiopia. IDPs in Wang-lel appear to have arrived in the area in order to access familial networks. There are no IDP sites in the area. The area has also served as an area to stop at, for individuals travelling to Sudan.

The Wang-lel people last received food assistance in October 2016 through a distribution in Old Fangak. Non food items such as buckets, saucepans, soap and sanitary pads were distributed in Wang-lel in November 2016.

Wang-lel Boma has a functional small market and functional PHCU. Medicine can be accessed through distributions by the Community Health Department (CHD). The health unit can refer more serious caseloads to Old Fangak and have access to speed boats for that purpose. There is a functional primary school in the area which has classes from P.1 to P.7. The Pupils in Wang-lel do attend P.8 in Old Fangak.

The locals reported serious floods in 2016 that damaged a large proportion of the crops in 2016. No vaccinations have been conducted for livestock in the area. Suspected incidents of cholera were reported in the area in December 2016 but none since then.

Significant needs identified by the population included access to food, medical supplies, seeds, tools, fishing equipment, mosquito nets and plastic sheets.

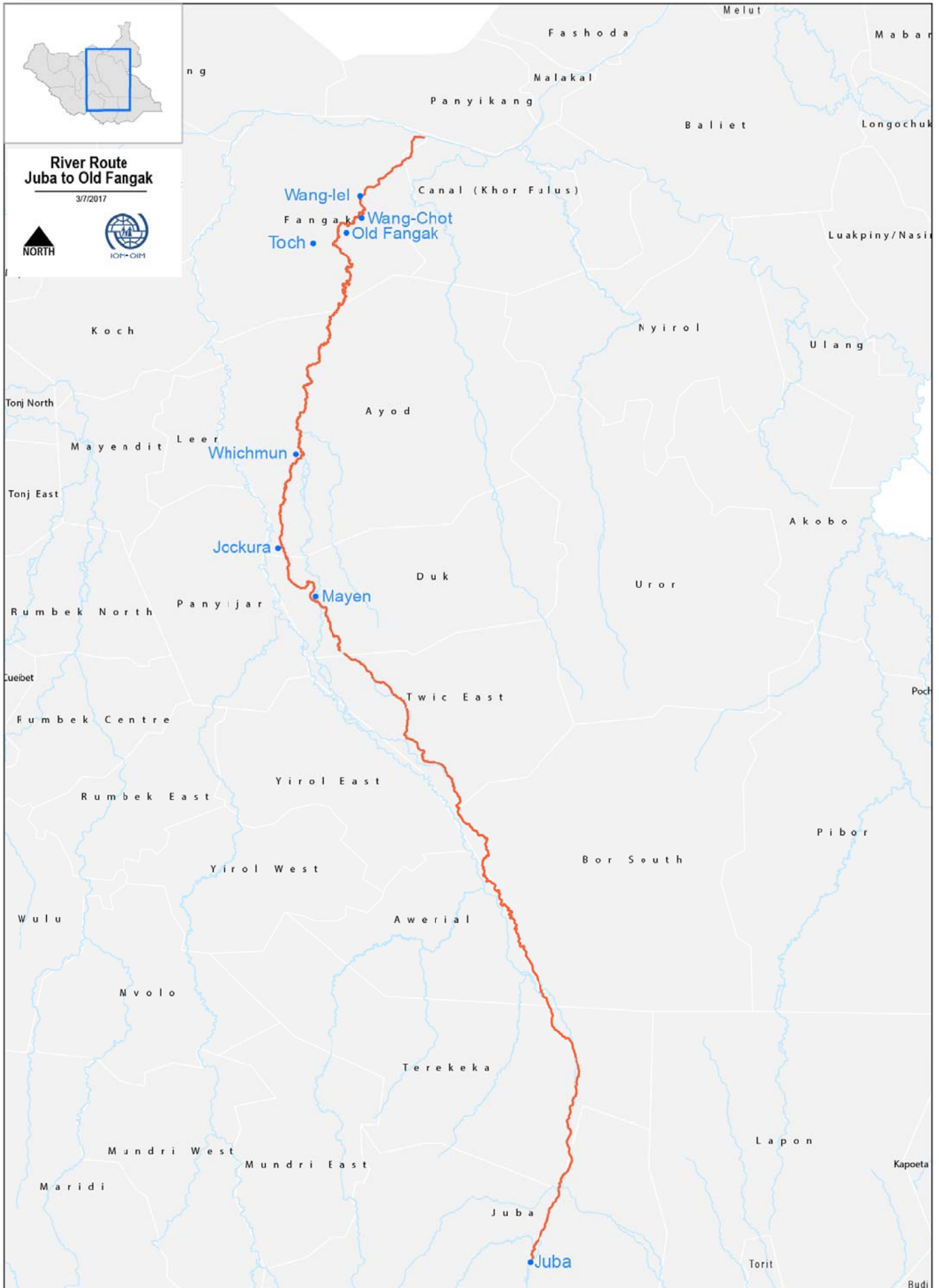
**Situation in Wang-Chot (GPS N 09° 05' 12.05" E 030° 54' 2.64" Alt: 392.6m)**

Wang-Chot Boma currently has a host community population of approximately 3,000 individuals and between 400 and 600 IDPs. The IDPs have largely been integrated into the host community with whom they are reported to have familial links.

According to the locals, they received NFI items including buckets, saucepans and soap in September 2016. The community last received food assistance in December 2016 distributed in Old Fangak. In November 2016 seed and fishing equipment were distributed in the Boma.

Wang-Chot has a functional PHCU. There is only one functional borehole. One borehole that had been regularly used by the community is currently out of service. There is also one primary school in Wang-Chot.

Significant needs identified by the population included access to; food, fishing equipment, seeds, farming tools and plastic sheets.



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