

Survival Kit Operation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Survival Kit?

A survival kit is a collection of essential, multi-sectoral life-saving items that improve people's ability to survive in field locations, where they are cut off from access to basic items. These populations are often on the run, hiding or unable to move due to the rainy season. A survival kit might include any combination of critical loose items from various sectors, primarily food security and livelihoods, health, non-food items (NFI), nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), .

The key characteristic of the survival kit is that it must be light enough to easily transport by air for a very rapid response and for beneficiaries to carry if they are on the move. The full survival kit is at maximum 9 kilograms.

The items in the full survival kit (see photo at right) were selected by the Cluster Leads for each of the above-mentioned sectors in mid-2015. However, a survival kit may also comprised loose items (not the full range) based on special recommendations by field partners on the ground.



The full Survival kits consist of the following items: 1/2 kitchen set; 2 mosquito nets; 2 collapsible jerry cans; 2 Aquatab sachets; oral rehydration salts (ORS); fishing kit; 2 packets of vegetable seeds; 4 BP5 packets or 18 High Energy Biscuits; and an IOM blue storage bag.



When is this model of response appropriate?

A survival kit operation should only be used as a last resort, when all other possible modalities are deemed impossible. It is a 'drop & go' airlift operation that aims to reach people in volatile areas with high security risks to both humanitarians and beneficiaries, where severe protection risks exist and where it is impossible to remain on the ground for more than an hour or two at a time. Survival kit operations are thus 'exempted' from the ideal and standard processes in the response cycle, including assessing needs through direct observation at the household level and verification of targeted beneficiaries and the numbers of households in need.

Locations for survival kit operations are proposed by the Juba level Advisory Group (AG), the Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG) and other key operational working sub-groups, such as the Southern Unity Group. The Survival Kit Working Group then agrees on operations.

A survival kit intervention is a one-off operation. It is only meant to be a temporary solution that enables people to survive for a week or two, until people can either access additional items on their own, or other response modalities become possible. These include regular mobile response or static presence on the ground, which can provide a more comprehensive and needs-based package of assistance.

How to access the Survival Kits Operations?

Survival kit operations are a coordinated effort between the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Logistics Cluster, the Shelter/NFI Cluster, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN World Food Program (WFP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and field partners on the ground. IOM acts as an overall focal point for this operational modality, facilitating coordination between all agencies and managing the overall operation of moving and packing kits.

Partners that are interested in participating in survival kit operations can submit their request to IOM Operations (details below). After it is agreed that a survival kit operation is appropriate for a given location, IOM will approve the request on behalf of all agencies and release the items.

Partners will then submit a Service Request Form (SRF) to the Logs Cluster to initiate transport, copying IOM Operations. Partners should specify in this email the total number of households they plan to target in each location.

All operations will be run from Rumbek, which serves as the logistics hub for prepositioning, pre-packaging of the kits, and transport by the Logs Cluster to the field location.

Final reporting on the operation will be done by IOM on behalf of all agencies.

Airlifts

South Sudan's Logistics Cluster is instrumental in organizing the use of an MI-8 helicopter to airlift kits.

Kits are loaded in Rumbek by the LC and airlifted by the MI-8 to each destination. Due to the volume of the kits, only 210 kits can be loaded on the helicopter per rotation.

Roughly 20 minutes is required to load and unload the helicopter at points of departure and arrival. The field team is advised to clear an area prior to landing for safety. The helicopter should remain on the ground for a maximum of 1 hour given security and protection risks.

The focal point from the Partner organization in the field is responsible for daily reporting to the LC on security clearance and weather conditions before the helicopter can depart. This focal point is also responsible for organizing the community for offloading **prior to arrival**.



Who to contact for more information?

For more information on the survival kits operations, processes and procedures and how to be part of it, please contact IOM Operations on the contacts below or refer to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Irfan Hameed, Operations Officer: ihameed@iom.int or 0922123188

John McCue, Head of Operations: jmccue@iom.int or 0922406616