

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, shelter and non-food items (S-NFI), nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The key characteristic of the survival kit is that it is light enough to be easily transported by air for a very rapid response and for beneficiaries to be able 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 be comprised of 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 in cases where needs and protection risks are high and a more substantial, sustained response is not feasible or is likely to be delayed. It is a 'drop & go' airlift operation that aims to reach people in volatile areas where the security risks to both humanitarians and beneficiaries are significant, and where there is potentially a small window of opportunity for intervention. Survival kits are meant to be a temporary solution that enables people to survive for a week or two, until they can either access additional items on their own or move to another location, or until another response modality becomes possible. These include a regular mobile response or static presence on the ground, which can provide a more comprehensive and needs-based package of assistance.

A survival kit intervention is a one-off, emergency operation and is 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), Operational Working Group (OWG), 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.

How to access the survival kit operation?

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 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN World Food Program (WFP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and field partners on the ground. IOM acts as the 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 (upon review by the Survival Kit Operational Working Group), 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 kits, and transport by the Logs Cluster to field locations.

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

Laura Jones, S-NFI Cluster Coordinator: ljones@iom.int or 0922405712