

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Upper Nile State

South Sudan October - December 2020

REACH An initiative of
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Introduction

This situation overview reports humanitarian needs across Upper Nile State (UNS) over the reporting period from October to December 2020. In particular, this report highlights humanitarian needs resulting from flooding in Panyikang and Fashoda¹, ongoing inter-communal violence in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir, and a reported increase in refugee returns and internally displaced person (IDP) movement in Manyo. The findings suggest that flooding and inter-communal violence have contributed to population displacement as well as increased WASH, shelter, and education needs in Panyikang and Fashoda, widespread protection concerns in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir, and increased food insecurity and WASH needs in Manyo.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This situation overview uses data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across UNS between October and December 2020.

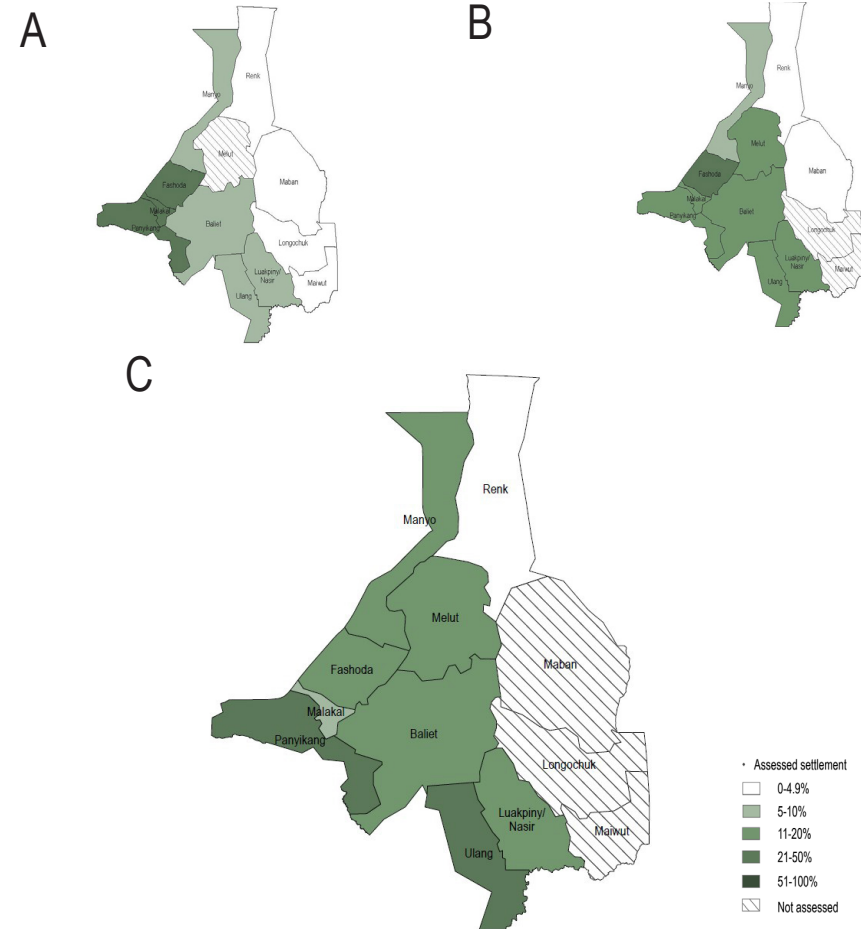
Methodology

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of UNS, REACH conducts interviews with KIs who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). These interviews were conducted in the Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site and Renk town in UNS throughout the reporting period of October to December 2020. Findings should be considered indicative only of the situation in assessed settlements.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted on a monthly basis using a structured survey tool. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated at settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal or most credible response. When no consensus was found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements in a given month were included in the analysis². Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month may vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam³ coverage over the period. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToR](#).

Figure 1: REACH Area of Knowledge (AoK) Settlement Coverage in October (A), November (B) & December (C)



of key informant interviews conducted: **598**

of assessed settlements: **526**

of counties covered: **8 (of 12)**

of focus group discussions conducted: **8**

1. OCHA, Flooding Snapshot, October 2020

2. To calculate the percentage of AoK coverage, the total number of settlements per county is based on OCHA settlement lists in addition to new settlements mapped by KIs reached each month.

3. Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.



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Key Findings



Population Movement and Displacement: Internal population movement across UNS appears to have remained high during this reporting period. KIs from assessed settlements in western bank counties⁴ reported the presence of IDPs in their settlement amid reported flooding in Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo⁵ during the reporting period. Elsewhere, reporting of security concerns from incidences of violence seems to coincide with recent population movement in south-eastern UNS.⁶



Food Security and Livelihoods: Food security in UNS appears to have worsened during this reporting period. In particular, findings suggest an increase in the number of people facing severe hunger in Melut, Manyo and Baliet amid reports of flooding⁷, limited access to humanitarian food assistance and pest related crop damage. KIs from assessed settlements in Manyo also reported a high number of new arrivals limited their access to food which coincides with reports of returning refugees and IDP movement highlighted in the Population Movement section. Findings also highlight access to food in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir appears to be fairly reliant on humanitarian food assistance.



Protection: Reporting of security concerns remained low and stable in all assessed settlements across UNS with the exception of Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir in the south-eastern region where ongoing security concerns⁸ remained comparatively high throughout the reporting period. In December, KIs from 73% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 52% in Ulang reported that most people felt unsafe in their settlement most of the time, whilst KIs from 77% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 66% in Ulang reported incidences of violent conflict resulting in a civilian death in the month prior to data collection.



Accountability to Affected Population (AAP): Reported access to humanitarian aid across UNS remained constant during this reporting period. It is important to point out that our data unfortunately does not include Renk. Humanitarian activity has been suspended in Renk since October, hence this situation overview does not contain any findings from Renk⁹. As a result, access to humanitarian aid is likely to have been impeded. The suspension of data collection in Renk means that is not reflected in this report.

Reported access to humanitarian aid was lowest in the areas worst effected by flooding. KIs from the majority of assessed settlements in Panyikang (86%), Baliet (78%), Melut (76%), and Manyo (70%) reported not having accessed humanitarian aid within 6 months prior to data collection in December.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Both reported latrine usage and access to improved water sources appear to have generally increased across UNS over the course of this reporting period. Despite this increase, in December, KIs from a 79% of assessed settlements still reported that people in their settlements use latrines less than half of the time and in 47% of assessed settlements a river was reported as the main source of water. Overall, reports on WASH conditions were comparatively worse in Manyo, Panyikang and Fashoda, which were also negatively impacted by flooding^{5&7}.



Health: During the reporting period, the proportion of assessed settlements with reported access to a functional healthcare facility increased. In December, KIs from none of the assessed settlements in Manyo (decrease from 27% in September) and in 4% of assessed settlements in Baliet (decrease from 14% in September), reported that people did not have access to a functional healthcare facility within walking distance. Overall, KIs from almost none of the assessed settlements across UNS reported not having access to a functioning healthcare facility within walking distance of their settlement in December. Elsewhere, Malaria remains the overwhelming health concern across UNS.

In December, KIs from 98% of settlements across UNS reported that most people in their settlement had heard of COVID-19. In 91% of assessed settlements where most people had reportedly heard of COVID-19, KIs reported that most people understood how the virus spreads and how to protect themselves, while in 68% of those settlements where awareness was reported, people had reportedly made some kind of behavioural change to prevent the spread.



Shelter/ Non Food Items (NFI): Flooding in Panyikang had seemingly forced an increased number of people to leave their homes and take shelter in community buildings over the course of this reporting period. Elsewhere, KIs from 83% assessed settlements across UNS reported tukuls were the main form of shelter in their settlement.



Education: Schools in South Sudan closed from March to October due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁰. Despite restrictions being lifted in October, KIs from 60% of assessed settlements across UNS still reported lack of access to education services in their settlement in December. In particular, KIs from 95% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 92% of those in Fashoda reported no access to education services in their settlement. Access to education services seemingly remains lower for girls than for boys across UNS.

4. Western-bank counties refers to Fashoda, Malakal, Manyo, and Panyikang.

5. SSUDA, Flood Update in Fashoda and Manyo, January 2021

6. South-eastern counties refers to Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir

7. 5. OCHA, Flooding Snapshot, October 2020

8. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang County

9. ReliefWeb. UNMISS peacekeepers evacuate humanitarian workers under threat in Renk. October, 2020.

10. ReliefWeb, UNICEF and UNESCO welcome decision to reopen schools in South Sudan, September 2020

Population Movement and Displacement

Internal Movements

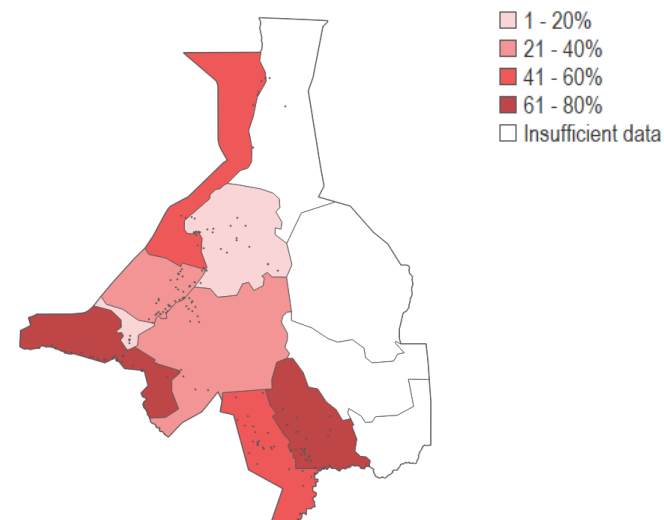
Internal population movement across UNS appears to have remained high during this reporting period. KIs from assessed settlements in western bank counties reported the presence of IDPs in their settlement amid reported flooding in Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo during the reporting period¹⁰. Elsewhere, reporting of security concerns from incidences of violence seems to coincide with recent population movement in south-eastern UNS.

KIs from assessed settlements across western-bank counties commonly reported internal population movement, which seems to coincide with recent flooding¹¹. In December, KIs from 95% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and also 95% of those in Fashoda reported presence of IDPs in their settlement. Meanwhile, the proportion of KIs from assessed settlements in Manyo where presence of IDPs was reported in their settlement increased from 60% in September to 80% in December. These population movement trends coincide with reports of flooding in Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo¹⁰.

KIs from assessed settlements in south-eastern counties¹² reported recent population movement amid incidences of violence highlighted in the Protection section of this situation overview. In December, KIs from 81% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 79% in Ulang reported presence of IDPs in their settlements. KIs in 35% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 42% in Ulang with reported IDP presence, reported that IDPs had arrived within the 3 months prior to data collection, comparatively higher than the rest of UNS. In 50% and 29% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang with IDP presence, KIs reported security was the main pull factor, followed by access to livelihoods (25% in Luakpiny/Nasir and 29% in Ulang). Access to livelihood opportunities may also have been impacted by insecurity and is covered in more detail in the Food Security & Livelihoods section of this situation overview.

In the majority of assessed settlements, KIs reported that IDP movements was within their county of origin or the neighbouring county. An exception was in Malakal, where KIs from 50% of assessed settlements reported recent IDP arrivals from Canal Pigi in Jonglei¹³ in December. In an FGD conducted in the Malakal PoC, participants recently displaced from Fangak and CanalPigi (Jonglei State), reported that approximately 200 individuals arrived in Malakal since September, having left their homes due to flooding. Participants also reported that due to the continued flooding, there may be more people in transit or soon to be displaced. It is therefore important to continue monitoring the situation in both Fangak and Canal Pigi in early 2021.

Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported IDP arrivals in UNS within 6 months of December.



Cross-border Movements

Reports on cross-border movements also increased over this reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported that refugees had permanently returned to their settlement after being displaced to another country, increased from 48% in September to 67% in December. In particular, the proportion of assessed settlements in Manyo where KIs reported that refugees had permanently returned to their settlement increased from 33% in September to 100% in December. The proportion of assessed settlements in Manyo where KIs reported that the returning refugees had arrived within the past month, increased from 0% in September to 50% in December. In addition, KIs in 40% of assessed settlements reported that refugees had arrived within the past 3 months. Overall, KIs from 90% of assessed settlements in Manyo reported that returning refugees arrived in their settlement within 3 months or less of data collection in December comparison to a state-wide average of 40%. In all (100%) of assessed settlements in Manyo where refugee returnees had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection, KIs reported that returnees had arrived from Sudan. Overall, in half of assessed settlements, security was reported as the main pull factor in December. Other commonly reported pull factors were lack of food (reported in 30% of assessed settlements, distance from family/home (30%), and lack of economic opportunities (20%). Findings in the Food Security & Livelihoods section of this situation overview detail how this population influx may have impacted food security in Manyo.

10. OCHA, Flooding Snapshot, October 2020

11. SSUDA, Flood Update in Fashoda and Manyo, January 2021

12. South-eastern counties refers to Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir due to their location in south-eastern UNS.

13. The Guardian, Drowned Land: Hunger Stalks South Sudan's Flooded Villages, March 2021



Food Security and Livelihoods

Flooding, inter-communal violence and increasing food prices¹⁴ contributed to high levels of food insecurity across UNS over the reporting period. Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity were reported in Manyo, Panyikang, Luakpiny/Nasir, Ulang and Maiwut¹⁵. Households faced large consumption gaps and reportedly mitigated them through the use of extreme consumption coping strategies such as skipping food for entire days or only having children eat.

Central and North-Eastern UNS (Baliet, Maban, Melut & Renk counties)

Widespread flooding in Melut and Baliet coincided with a notable increase in reports of inadequate access to food in the central region of UNS. The proportion of assessed settlements in Melut where KIs reported severe hunger increased from 0% in September to 88% in December, whilst in almost all (96%) assessed settlements KIs reported that most people in their settlements did not have access to enough food in December. Likewise, the proportion of assessed settlements in Baliet where KIs reported severe hunger increased from 7% in September to 56% in December, with 83% reporting that most people in their settlements did not have access to enough food in December. Potentially linked to this, reports of extreme coping mechanisms increased during the reporting period. In December, KIs from 24% of assessed settlements in Melut and 17% of those in Baliet reported that only children were able to eat. A recent inter-agency rapid needs assessment reported widespread humanitarian needs in Melut as a result of recent flooding¹⁶. Reflective of this, KIs from 44% of assessed settlements in Baliet reported crops had been destroyed by flooding. In addition to flooding, KIs from 48% of assessed settlements in Melut and 50% of those in Baliet reported crops had been destroyed by pests. Simultaneously, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported not having accessed any form of humanitarian food assistance in three months prior to data collection increased from 59% in September to 96% in December in Melut and from 71% in September to 83% in December in Baliet.

Western Bank (Fashoda, Malakal, Manyo and Panyikang counties)

Reports of access to food in Fashoda, Malakal and Panyikang remained consistent over the course of this reporting period, but seemingly worsened in Manyo. The proportion of assessed settlements in Manyo where KIs reported that most people in their settlement faced severe hunger increased from 0% in September to 50% in December. In 40% of assessed settlements where inadequate access to food was reported, KIs reported that the presence of new arrivals had a negative impact on access to food in the settlement. KIs in 20% of assessed settlements reported that main challenge to access food was lack of rain, in 10% KIs reported high prices, and in 10% KIs reported not having access to food distributions as the main challenge to access enough food. The Population Movement & Displacement section of this Situation Overview reports increased refugee returns and IDP movements in Manyo, which could have contributed to the reported inadequate access to food.

The proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported having access to enough food improved slightly in Panyikang over the reporting period. However, ongoing flooding remains a problem¹⁷. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported that most people in their settlement did not have enough food decreased from 100% in September to 86% in December. Despite this decrease, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported inadequate access to food in Panyikang remained relatively high compared to the average of 56% of assessed settlements across UNS. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported that most people in their settlement faced severe hunger also decreased from 24% in September to 5% in December. In 29% of assessed settlements in Panyikang where most people reportedly did not have access to enough food in December, KIs reported crops had been destroyed by flooding. Perhaps due to flooding preventing people growing food, KIs from 100% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported that purchasing food from the market was their main source of food in December. Reliance on food from markets increases vulnerability to price inflation, as a potential result, KIs from 29% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported that price inflation was the main barrier to accessing enough food.

South-Eastern Upper Nile State (Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang counties)

Food security in south-eastern UNS seems closely linked to access to humanitarian food distributions. KIs from 59% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 65% of those in Luakpiny/Nasir reported humanitarian food distributions as their main source of food in December. The proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang where KIs reported having accessed some kind of food distribution within three months prior to data collection increased from 42% in September to 69% in December. In turn, the proportion of KIs from assessed settlements in Ulang who reported that most people in their settlement did not have access to enough food decreased from 58% in September to 41% in December. The proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang where KIs reported that most people in their settlement faced severe hunger also decreased from 35% in September to 14% in December. KIs from 21% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 19% of those in Luakpiny/Nasir reported a short harvest season as a barrier to having enough food, whilst KIs from 77% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 66% in Ulang reported that conflict and/or looting had a small impact on food security. Reliance on humanitarian food distributions seems to coincide with a short harvest season and ongoing violence, which is detailed in the Protection section of this situation overview.

Findings indicate that use of extreme coping mechanisms remained comparatively high in south-eastern UNS during this reporting period. In December, KIs from 27% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 24% of those in Ulang reported that most people in their settlement were skipping food for entire days to cope with lack of access to food. Meanwhile, KIs from 38% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 41% of those in Ulang reported only children eating.

14. FEWS NET, South Sudan Price Bulletin, September 2020

15. ReliefWeb, Severe flooding in South Sudan and Ethiopia leaving people without adequate food, water or shelter, October 2020

16. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021

17. OCHA, Flooding Snapshot, December 2020

Protection

Security concerns seemingly remained low and stable for all assessed counties across UNS with the exception of Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir in the south-eastern region, where ongoing security concerns¹⁸ remained comparatively high throughout the reporting period. In December, KIs from 73% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 52% in Ulang reported that most people in their settlement felt unsafe most of the time. Potentially linked to reports of insecurity, KIs from 77% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 66% in Ulang reported incidences of violent conflict resulting in a civilian death within 30 days prior to data collection.

It is important to highlight that suspension of humanitarian activity in Renk since early October means that that our research coverage does not include Maban. However, protection concerns in Maban should not be overlooked. The security situation in Maban reportedly deteriorated at the end of 2020 and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security status in Maban was elevated from green to grey in January 2021¹⁹.

The proportion of KIs from assessed settlements across UNS reporting security concerns for girls and women decreased over the course of the reporting period. In September, KIs from 55% of assessed settlements across UNS reported some kind of safety concern for women decreasing to 40% in December. Domestic violence was the most common protection concern for women reported by KIs in assessed settlements in Melut (24%), Luakpiny/Nasir (23%), Fashoda (18%), Ulang (17%) and Panyikang (14%). The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported security concerns for women remained in Luakpiny/Nasir (81%) and Ulang (69%), where concerns about abduction and family separation were also reported. Similarly, the proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported some kind of security concern for girls fell from 55% in September to 37% in December.

The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported security concerns for boys and men remained consistent over the course of the reporting period. In September, KIs from 39% of assessed settlements across UNS reported some kind of safety concern for men and from 32% for boys. These figures remained consistent in December, with KIs from 38% of assessed settlements reporting some kind of safety concern of men and 31% for boys. Similar to the findings for girls and women, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported security concerns for men and boys were highest in Luakpiny/Nasir (81% for both boys and men) and Ulang (69% for both boys and men). Killing or injury by people from within the same tribe was the most commonly reported security concern for men (reported in 46% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 21% in Ulang).

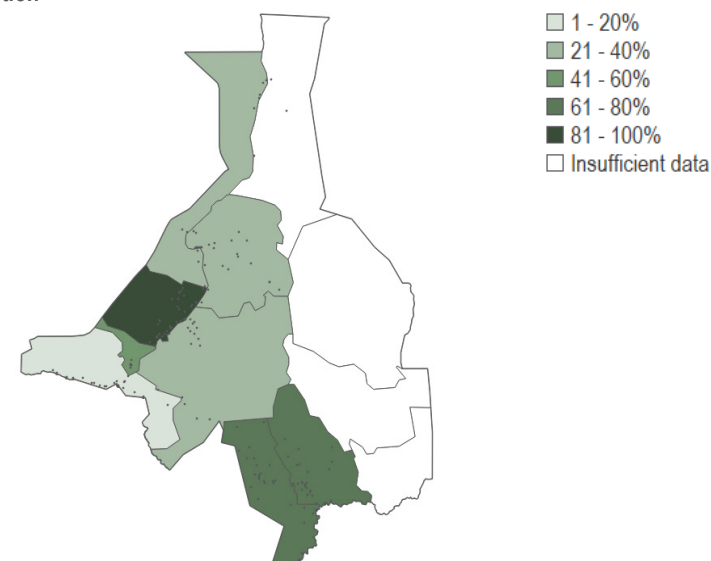
Accountability to Affected Population

Reporting of access to humanitarian aid across UNS remained constant during this reporting period. It is important to point out that our data unfortunately does not include Renk. Humanitarian activity has been suspended in Renk since October following a dispute with local youth groups over humanitarian employment practices²⁰. As a result, access to humanitarian aid is likely to have been impeded.

Findings suggest that access to humanitarian aid was lowest in the areas worst effected by flooding. KIs from assessed settlements in Panyikang (86%), Baliet (78%), Melut (76%) and Manyo (70%) reported no access to humanitarian aid within 6 months prior to data collection in December.

In December, KIs from 41% of settlements across UNS reported food distributions to be the assistance people in their settlement need the most. In particular, KIs from 76% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 88% in Melut reported a need for food distributions. KIs from 50% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 34% of those in Ulang reported needing protection amidst the ongoing violence reported in the Protection section. In the majority (86%) of assessed settlements across UNS where people had reportedly received humanitarian aid in the 6 months prior to data collection, KIs reported that the assistance received was the type of assistance that was needed most.

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported having received humanitarian aid within 6 months prior to data collection



18. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang County

19. WFP South Sudan Situation Report #282, 15 January 2021

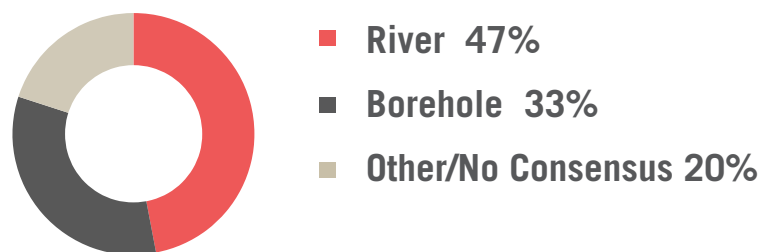
20. ReliefWeb. UNMISS peacekeepers evacuate humanitarian workers under threat in Renk. October, 2020.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Reporting of latrine usage across UNS appears to have increased across the reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported no latrine usage in their settlement decreased from 59% in September to 39% in December. In September, 0% of KIs from assessed settlements across UNS reported that everyone in their settlement used latrines. In December, this increased to 22% in Baliet, 20% in Melut and 14% in Malakal. Despite this progress, 79% of KIs from assessed settlements across UNS reported that people use latrines only half of the time or less in December. Participants of an FGD conducted in Malakal in October also reported that most people in their community did not have access to working latrines²¹. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs still reported nobody in their settlement using latrines were Panyikang (81%), Fashoda (71%) and Manyo (50%). In 63% of assessed settlements without any latrine usage, KIs reported the main barrier was that latrines were not available, followed by overcrowding (19%), and latrines being dirty (9%).

Findings suggest that access to boreholes increased across UNS during this reporting period. The proportion assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported access to boreholes in their settlement increased from 18% in September to 38% in December. Meanwhile, the proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported that the main source of drinking water was a river remained high at 47% in December, in comparison to 46% in September. The highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported rivers as the main source of drinking water were flood-affected counties such as Manyo (100%), Panyikang (95%) and Fashoda (71%). KIs from assessed settlements in these counties also reported not having functioning boreholes in their settlements. These findings suggest that, despite some improvement, access to clean drinking water remains a key humanitarian need; particularly in flood-affected areas.

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements across UNS by main source of drinking water



Health

The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported access to a functional healthcare facility increased during this reporting period. In December, KIs from none of the assessed settlements in Manyo (decrease from 27% in September) and 4% of assessed settlements in Baliet (decrease from 14% in September) reported that people did not have access to a functional healthcare facility within walking distance. Overall, KIs from almost all assessed settlements across UNS reported having access to a functioning healthcare facility within walking distance of their settlement in December. Across UNS, malaria remained the most commonly reported main perceived health concern.

Primary healthcare facilities remained the most common form of healthcare facility reported across UNS (reported in 66% of assessed settlements). In particular, a primary healthcare facility was reportedly accessible within walking distance in the majority of assessed settlements in Baliet (100%), Manyo (90%), Melut (84%), Panyikang (81%) and Fashoda (75%). Meanwhile, KIs from 86% of assessed settlements in Malakal reported that most people in their settlement had access to a hospital, whilst in a considerable proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang (45%) and Luakpiny/Nasir (58%), pharmacies were the most commonly reported type of healthcare that people had access to.

Malaria remained the most commonly reported perceived health concern across UNS. In December, KIs from 79% of assessed settlements across UNS reported malaria as the main perceived health problem for people in their settlement compared to 86% in December. Elsewhere, KIs from 28% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 23% of those in Luakpiny/Nasir reported malnutrition as the main perceived health problem. Reported malnutrition may be linked to the short harvest season and the impact of ongoing violence highlighted in the Food Security and Protection sections of this situation overview.

COVID-19

In December, KIs from 98% of settlements across UNS reported that most people in their settlement had heard of COVID-19. In 91% of those settlements, KIs reported that people understood how COVID-19 spreads and how to protect themselves, and in 68% of those settlements most people had reportedly made some kind of behavioural change to prevent the spread; most commonly avoiding handshakes reported in 67% of assessed settlements, social distancing (66%) and washing hands with soap (61%) or more regularly (57%).

Education

Schools in South Sudan closed from March to October as a measure to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic²². Despite schools reopening in March, KIs from 60% of assessed settlements across UNS reported most people not having access to education services in their settlement in December. In particular in Panyikang and Fashoda, KIs in almost all assessed settlements (95% and 92%, respectively) reported no access to education services in their settlement.

Findings suggest that access to education services is lower for girls than for boys across UNS. In 71% of assessed settlements across UNS where access to education was reported, KIs reported that less than half of the girls in their settlement attended school in December. In comparison, KIs from 85% of those assessed settlements with access to education reported that half or more of the boys in their settlement attended school in December. KIs from assessed settlements across UNS reported the main reasons girls were unable to attend school were needing to work (23%), early marriage (21%), early pregnancy (14%) and fees (14%).

Shelter/ NFI

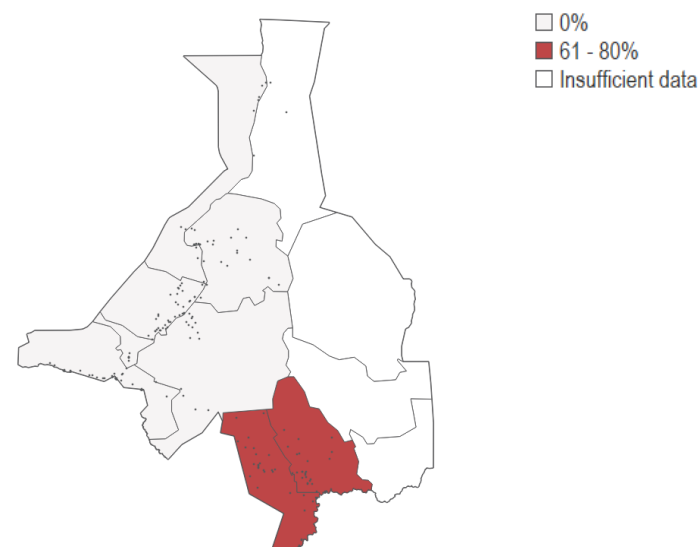
In Panyikang, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people were living in community buildings, potentially because of widespread flooding during the reporting period increased. In September, KIs from 95% assessed settlements in Panyikang reported most people living in tukuls²³. By December, this figure remained high with KIs from 57% of assessed settlements reporting most people living in tukuls. However in December, KIs from 29% of assessed settlements reported most people living in community buildings. Furthermore, KIs from 95% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported incidences of flooding forcing people to leave their home and sleep elsewhere. Across the rest of UNS the shelter situation remained stable, with KIs from 83% of assessed settlements reporting that most people in their settlements were living in tukuls in December.

Findings suggest that access to NFI distributions remained low across UNS during this reporting period. In December, KIs from 65% of assessed settlements reported that there had been no distribution of NFIs within the last 3 months prior to data collection. Meanwhile, specific NFI needs varied between counties. Blankets were reported to be the most urgent NFI need by KIs from assessed settlements in Manyo (75%) and Melut (83%). Mosquito nets were reported to be the most urgent NFI need by KIs from assessed settlements in Baliét (83%), Malakal (50%), Luakpiny/Nasir (38%) and Ulang (26%), which aligns with malaria being reported as the most common perceived health concern. KIs from 63% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported plastic sheets as the main NFI need.

Conclusion

This situation overview suggests that the humanitarian situation across UNS has deteriorated throughout the reporting period. The combined impacts of flooding in Panyikang and Fashoda, inter-communal violence in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir and a reported population influx in Manyo appear to have contributed to increased population movement and food insecurity as well as WASH, health, protection, education and shelter needs.

Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported incidences of violence resulting in civilian death in the month prior to data collection in December



About REACH Initiative

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

22. ReliefWeb, 1.9 million South Sudanese children despair over closure of schools due to COVID-19; mothers worried of the future, April 2020.

23. Tukuls are a semi-permanent shelter constructed with mud bricks and a grass thatch roof.