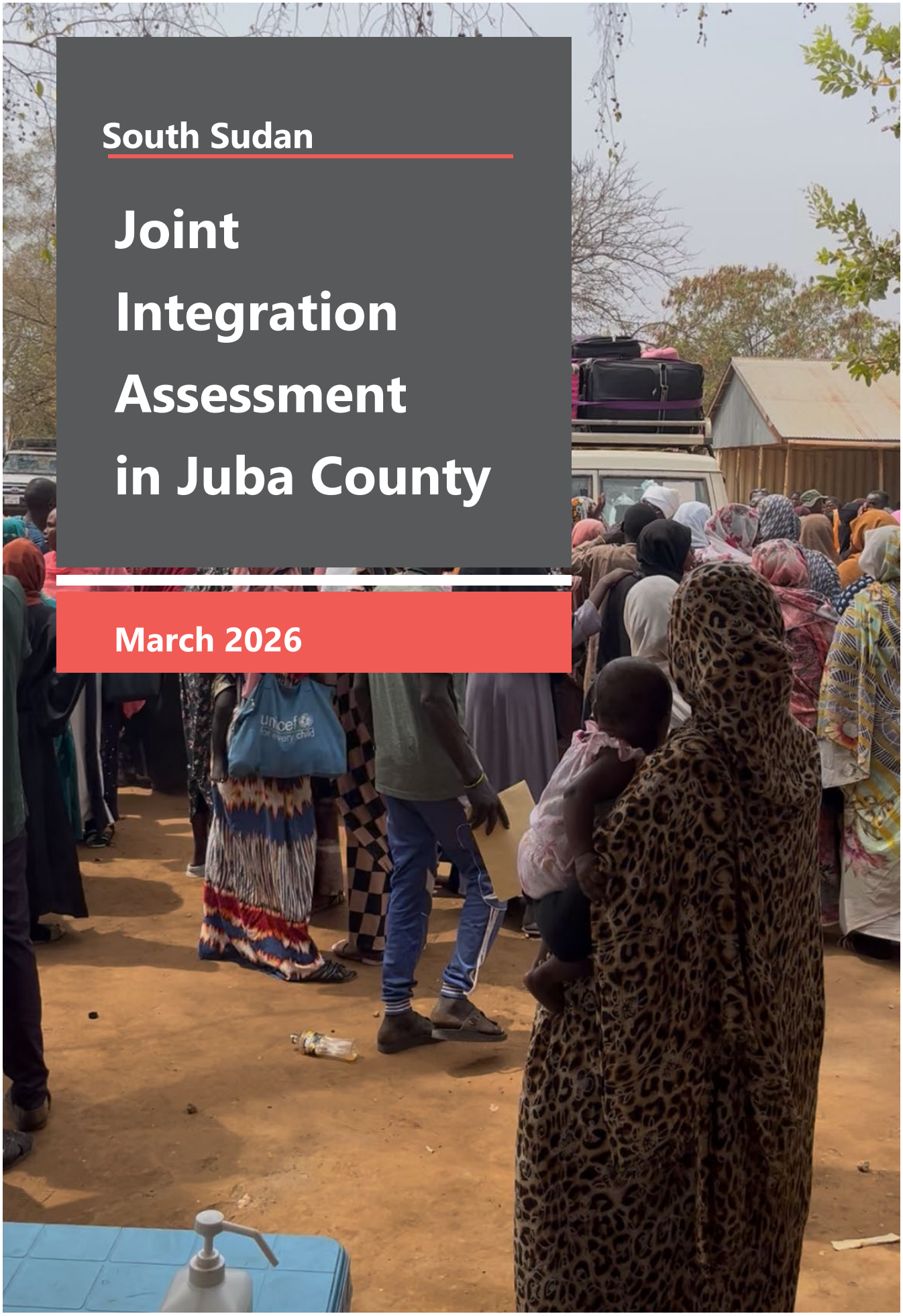
South Sudan

Joint Integration Assessment in Juba County

March 2026



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Cover photo: Juba, Gorom Refugee Settlement, households boarding during their relocation to another country - REACH

About REACH

REACH 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). For more information, please visit our website. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

Summary

Context & rationale. Displacement in South Sudan continues to unfold in cycles, driven by recurring flooding, ongoing insecurity, inter-communal violence, and the recently large-scale arrival of returnees from Sudan.[1] In 2025, nearly 753,000 people were newly displaced across the country, placing further pressure on already limited housing, services, and livelihood opportunities.[2] In Juba County, displacement sites and urban neighbourhoods host a diverse mix of IDPs, returnees, and refugees living among host communities. These areas face persistent challenges, including overcrowding, limited access to services, high living costs, and insecure land tenure, while repeated displacement has weakened households' coping capacities and increased reliance on overstretched host communities.[3]

Efforts to address these challenges are guided by the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities, and by the implementation of Chapter III of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). According to the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions, a durable solution is achieved when displacement-affected people no longer face vulnerabilities linked to their displacement and can enjoy their rights without discrimination. This assessment responds to a critical information gap on integration and reintegration conditions, barriers, and intentions across displacement sites and urban neighbourhoods in Juba County.

Stakeholders, coordination & objectives. The assessment was conducted jointly by IOM, through a representative household survey, and REACH, through qualitative FGDs and KIIs, in close collaboration with government authorities, local leadership structures, and the wider network of national and international humanitarian and development actors engaged in durable solutions in Juba County. The work was carried out under the umbrella of durable solutions coordination, bringing together government institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, and community-level stakeholders to ensure a shared analytical approach. Guided by the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions—and reflecting the three recognised pathways of voluntary and safe return, sustainable local integration, and relocation/resettlement—the assessment aligns its thematic analysis with the core DS criteria, including safety, adequate standard of living, access to livelihoods, restoration of housing, land and property, documentation, family reunification, participation in public affairs, and access to effective remedies.

The assessment pursued five core objectives: (1) identifying structural barriers to the integration of IDPs and refugees and the reintegration of returnees; (2) exploring social connections between displaced and host communities; (3) understanding factors influencing decisions to stay, return, or relocate; (4) assessing current needs and levels of economic and social inclusion; and (5) examining perceptions of safety and security in both current locations and potential areas of (re)integration. The findings aim to support evidence-based decision-making for government, humanitarian, and development stakeholders, enabling more effective area-based programming and strengthening the self-reliance of both displaced and host communities.

Scope, methods & limitations. The study covered six displacement sites (Mangateen; Juba Camps 1 & 3; Don Bosco; Mangalla; Gorom) and three neighbourhoods (Kator; Munuki; Northern Bari). Data included 3,597 household surveys (Dec 8, 2025–Jan 23, 2026), 20 FGDs, and up to 30 KIIs. Probability sampling was used for HH surveys (site/neighbourhood representativeness), with an adjusted margin of error of 7.5% for displaced strata in urban areas due to feasibility constraints; qualitative findings are indicative.

[1] IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2025
[2] OCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, December 2025.
[3] UNICEF, South Sudan, Humanitarian Situation report, November 2025
IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2025

Executive Summary

Main economic, social, and physical barriers to integration of IDPs/refugees and reintegration of returnees

Across settings, limited access to food, livelihood scarcity, insecure/temporary shelter, and weakened or costly access to services compounded by declining assistance since 2025 were primary barriers. Displaced households consistently link movement decisions to availability of food, livelihoods and security as pre-conditions for safe return or relocation across locations. These economic pressures affect both displaced and host communities, with displaced households experiencing greater severity due to fewer assets and less access to livelihoods.

Social cohesion among displaced populations and host communities

Most households (displaced and host community) reported living peacefully, and most displaced households felt welcomed by local communities, indicating broadly positive social relations. However, this cohesion co-exists with low perceived safety, especially in and around formal sites where gang activity and night-time insecurity were cited. In neighbourhoods, high coexistence and positive welcome also coincided with lower feelings of safety, suggesting structural insecurity—rather than social rejection—is the predominant constraint.

Factors influencing the decision-making to migrate or stay in specific areas

Across population groups, security, access to food, livelihoods, and functional services strongly influenced intentions. Preferences varied by location and status: in several formal sites, staying was most common (linked to insecurity and lack of services in areas of origin); return was more common in Don Bosco; relocation in Gorom; and local integration was higher where land access/cultural affinity existed (e.g., parts of Mangateen/Juba Camp 1). Timelines were often over a year.

Primary needs and priorities, and accessibility of basic services

Across all population groups, education access was hindered by financial barriers, distance/insecurity, and for girls marriage/pregnancy (site-specific); healthcare access was uneven, with formal sites reporting service cuts and recourse to traditional healers/herbalists; WASH gaps included open defecation in camps and reliance on water trucking/hand-dug wells in neighbourhoods; livelihoods remained informal/unstable, with high unemployment in displacement sites.

Perceptions on safety and protection risks

Households frequently reported peaceful coexistence yet felt unsafe, citing gangs, theft, and night-time risks. In Mangalla and Gorom, high perceived peaceful coexistence and safety perceptions were reported, but critical protection service gaps persisted (e.g., limited specialized services). Across locations, perceived protection risks for children under 18 differed by gender: for boys—gang involvement and alcohol/drug use; while for girls—child marriage and exposure on routes to water/firewood and in public transport areas.

Effects of gender, age, or vulnerability on integration and access to services

The assessment consistently documented gender-specific protection risks for children under 18 (boys: gangs/substance use; girls: child marriage, education disruption). The majority of the respondents in each location were women, who were more likely to report being unemployed (67%) than men (55%). However, the data did not present uniform, cross-site evidence that gender/age systematically determined service access or integration outcomes; patterns were location- and displacement group-specific. Nonetheless, some patterns seemed to emerge where some population groups presented better living conditions in some contexts rather than others: IDP households in formal and informal sites (farther away from urban areas) seemed to present greater needs and less access to services and livelihood opportunities. Displaced groups and host community in neighbourhoods (in urban areas of Juba) seemed to have better living conditions, while still struggling with livelihood opportunities, specially displaced groups. Refugees in Gorom (refugee camp) had better access to services thanks to the presence of NGOs and UN agencies but worse social cohesion according to qualitative findings.

CONTENTS

List of Acronyms

DSWG: Durable Solutions Working Group
FDG: Focus Group Discussion
GBV: Gender Based Violence
IASC: Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDP: Internally Displaced Person
IOM: International Organization for Migration
IPC: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
KII: Key Informant Interview
ODK: Open Data Kit
R-ARCSS: Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan
UN: United Nations
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Geographical Classifications

State: This is the highest form of governance below the national level[4]
County: Highest form of governance below the State level, and first tier of local government
Payam: The coordinating unit of a County which exercises delegated powers from the County
Boma: Basic administrative unit which exercises de-concentrated powers within a County
City/town: Urban area headed by a mayor
IDP Site: Broader term that includes any location where displaced people reside, whether is a formally organised camp or an unplanned site.

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[4] The Government of South Sudan, Local Government Act, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Displacement in South Sudan continues to unfold in cycles, driven by overlapping crises. Across many areas, people are repeatedly displaced due to recurring floodings, ongoing insecurity, inter-communal violence, and more recently, the large-scale arrival of returnees from Sudan.[5] In 2025 alone, around 753,000 individuals were newly displaced across the country, placing additional pressure on already limited housing, services, and livelihood opportunities.[6] Many households have experienced multiple displacements, weakening their coping capacity and increasing their dependence on overstretched host communities. At the same time, assistance has remained largely short-term and focused on emergencies, limiting the ability for displacement-affected communities to pursue long-term solutions. Larger system level gaps remain and limit displaced people's ability to access essential services, secure land tenure, rebuild livelihoods, and integrate safely, slowing progress toward durable solutions that are critical for communities to build resilience.[7] [8]

In South Sudan, efforts to advance durable solutions at the national level are guided by the *South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, Returnees and Host Communities* as well as the strategy for implementing Chapter III of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).[9] The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) defines a durable solution as being achieved "*when internally displaced persons (IDPs) no longer have specific assistance or protection needs linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement*".[10]

Although IDPs are the central focus of durable solutions, the framework for durable solutions recognises the impact that IDPs and other displaced populations have on host communities. In line with Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan and durable solutions principles, this assessment looks at four population groups: IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities. There are three pathways towards a durable solution, which this assessment also explores through the intentions of IDPs and refugees, which include:

1) Safe and voluntary return;
2) Sustainable local integration, which is the sustainable integration of IDPs in the areas where they have taken refuge, once they no longer have displacement-related assistance or protection needs and can enjoy their rights without discrimination;
3) Relocation or resettlement. Permanent relocation of IDPs to another area, different from area of displacement or place of origin. This third location can be inside the displacement country or a third one.

Furthermore, this assessment is grounded in the IASC Framework's criteria for achieving a durable solution. The eight criteria include:

[5] IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2025
[6] OCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, December 2025.
[7] IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2025
[8] IOM, Durable Solutions Index: Monitoring Progress Towards Durable Solutions in South Sudan - Upper Nile State, July 2025.
[9] Republic of South Sudan, South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action for Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, Returnees, and Host Community, October 2024; South Sudan, strategy for implementing chapter III of the R-ARCSS.
[10] Brookings, IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, April 2010;

1. Safety and security
2. Adequate standard of living
3. Access to livelihoods
4. Restoration of housing, land and property
5. Access to documentation
6. Family reunification
7. Participation in public affairs
8. Access to effective remedies and justice.

While all eight criteria were taken into account, several emerged more prominently across the data and are explored in detail in the thematic chapters of the reports. The analysis focuses primarily on the following criteria: (1) safety and security; (2) an adequate standard of living, including access to education, health, and WASH services; (3) access to livelihoods; (4) restoration of housing, land, and property; and (7) participation in public affairs. Together, these criteria offer a comprehensive lens for understanding the perspectives and reflections of displacement-affected communities and shed light on the areas where both displaced populations and host communities continue to face the most significant barriers to achieving more sustainable and dignified living conditions.

Juba County hosts a diverse mix of displaced populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and refugees living among host communities. Displacement in the county is cyclical and layered, with recent influxes linked to the Sudan crisis. Both displacement sites and urban neighbourhoods face significant challenges such as overcrowding, limited services, and insecure land tenure. As highlighted in the 2023 REACH durable solutions assessment, ensuring that the perspectives of displacement-affected communities remain central is critical to effective, community-driven durable solutions programming.[11]

This assessment therefore aimed to understand the barriers faced by IDPs and refugees in achieving integration, and by returnees in achieving reintegration, in order to identify their priority needs, and to support pathways toward durable solutions in Juba County. The specific objectives of the assessment were to:

- Identify the main structural barriers to the integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees and reintegration of returnees.
- Explore social connections and relationships between displaced populations and host communities.
- Understand the factors influencing decisions to stay or return to specific areas for displaced populations.
- Assess current needs and the level of economic, social inclusion, and access to basic services for the displaced population.
- Examine the perception of safety and security of the displaced population in their current locations and potential areas of integration and reintegration.

The assessment is intended to support evidence-based decision-making, helping humanitarian and development actors allocate resources more effectively and strengthen the self-reliance of displaced and host communities.

This report presents the findings of the Integration Assessment. Its sections are structured by geographical area (including displacement sites and neighbourhoods) and by population group (IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities). They cover the following themes, informed by the durable solutions pathways and the IASC framework criteria described above:

[11] REACH, South Sudan, "The body does not carry the name": community perspectives on displacement, humanitarian categorisation, and durable solutions, October 2023.

- Durable solution pathway and movement intentions;
- Living peacefully together;
- Housing, land, property, and civic documentation;
- Access to livelihoods and markets;
- Participation in civic life;
- Access to educational, healthcare, and WASH services.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment employed a mixed-methods approach led by IOM and REACH. IOM conducted the representative household surveys in displacement sites and surrounding neighbourhoods, while REACH conducted qualitative data collection in person in Juba County in four payams and six displacement sites. The household surveys were conducted with heads of households or an adult from the households, and these households were sampled randomly per the displacement site and neighbourhood, while the qualitative data collection was conducted with household representatives who were sampled purposively. REACH conducted FGDs with household representatives and conducted KIIs with community leaders, including chiefs, church leaders, women's representatives (female camp leaders), men's representatives (male camp leaders), and youth leaders (both genders where possible).

1. Geographical scope

The assessment was conducted in IDP and refugee sites and neighbourhoods in Juba County, Central Equatoria State. The following are the displacement sites and neighbourhoods for the assessment.

- Mangalla
- Mangateen 1 & 2
- Juba Camp 1 & 3
- Don Bosco
- Gorom
- Kator
- Munuki
- Northern Bari

2. Sampling strategy

Household Survey

The sample size per study was calculated using a systematic random sampling approach. The finding is representative of the population group, with a 95% confidence level and a 7.5% margin of error - a total of 3,597 household surveys collected after data cleaning.

Focus Group Discussions

Purposive sampling was applied to select FGD participants, based on their knowledge of the population groups, and data collection took place in areas where IOM was conducting household surveys. Efforts were made to ensure participants were chosen in a way that allowed them to feel comfortable sharing their views within the group. FGDs were organized separately for men and women, and additional factors such as age were also considered during the sampling process. For instance, having senior adults in one group or youth and adults in another group, and this was done to ensure that youth or adults are open to discussing their perspective, unlike when there's a presence of

senior adults. Female FGDs were facilitated by an experienced female facilitator, while the male FGDs were led by a male facilitator. The FGDs engaged distinct population groups, including host communities, IDPs, returnees, and refugees.

Key Informant Interviews

Key informants were selected purposively, with REACH identifying and interviewing community leaders based on their knowledge of the target population. Efforts were made to achieve a balanced number of interviews with men and women; however, this depended on the availability of individuals with the required profiles.

3. Data collection methods

The quantitative data was collected by IOM through a structured household survey administered via KOBO, while qualitative data was gathered by REACH using FGDs and KIIs. Data was collected between the 08th of December 2025 and the 23rd of January 2026.

Household Survey

A household survey tool, developed by IOM in collaboration with the REACH country mission, was used for data collection. The quantitative questionnaire was designed and coded in XLS Form and deployed on the IOM KOBO server. Prior to implementation, the tool was tested by the respective teams to minimize errors during data collection. All data was gathered using smartphones through Open Data Kit (ODK Collect) or Kobo Collect applications by IOM enumerators. Refer to the table below for details of the survey.

Table 1: Household sample size by location and population group

Data collection site/neighbourhood	IDP	Returnee	Refugee	HC	Total
Mangalla	261	2	0	0	263
Mangateen	252	0	0	0	252
Juba IDP Camp 1&3	259	0	0	0	259
Don Bosco	235	0	0	0	235
Gorom	280	0	0	0	280
Kator	99	122	42	351	614
Muniki	92	111	87	557	847
Northern Bari	107	120	26	594	847
Grand total	**1,585**	**355**	**155**	**1,502**	**3,597**

Focus Group Discussions

REACH gathered qualitative data through 20 FGDs with household heads or an adult member of the household. Each FGD included between four and six participants. Participants were selected purposively from the displaced population and host community (HC), and discussions were conducted separately with men and women.

Table 2: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) sample size, gender and location distribution

Data collection site or neighbourhood	IDP FGDs	Returnee FGDs	Refugee FGDs	HC FGDs

	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Mangalla	1	1						
Mangateen	1	1						
Juba IDP Camp 1&3	1	1						
Gorom					1	1		
Kator			1	0	0	1	1	1
Muniki			1	1	0	0	1	1
Northern Bari			1	1	0	0	1	1
Sub Total	**3**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**
Grand Total		**6**		**5**		**3**		**6**
								20

Key Informant Interviews

KIIs were conducted with community leaders, including chiefs, church leaders, women's representatives (female camp leaders), men's representatives (male camp leaders), and youth leaders (both genders where possible). REACH identified key informants through camp leadership structures and conducted 30 KIIs. REACH aimed to conduct at least three KIIs per location but availability and local constraints made this not possible in some locations.

Table 3: Key informant interviews (KIIs) sample size by and location distribution

Location	Woman KI	Man KI	Total KIs
Gorom Refugee Settlement	2	1	3
Juba Camp 1		4	4
Juba Camp 3		1	1
Kator	2	3	5
Mangalla	2	1	3
Mangateen 1	1	1	2

Mangateen 2		2	2
Muniki	2	5	7
Northern Bari		3	3
Grand Total	**9**	**21**	**30**

Geospatial Infrastructure Mapping

REACH mapped infrastructure in six displacement sites in Juba County. The following infrastructure were mapped: educational facilities (schools), health facilities (hospital, PHCC, PHCU, community clinics, nutrition center, pharmacy), WASH facilities (boreholes, protected wells, unprotected wells, tap water, water points, surface water – river, pond; open water tank – reservoir, water kiosk, latrines), worship places, and marketplaces.

4. Analysis

Household Surveys

REACH analysed the household survey data using the R statistical software and included both descriptive statistics using quantitative analysis and more advanced statistical analysis. The quantitative data was disaggregated at different levels, mainly.

- Overall: The data was analysed at the county level - all the data collection sites, neighbourhoods, and population groups were analysed as one category.
- Geographical areas
    - Location: The data was disaggregated based on the specific neighbourhoods and displacement sites.
    - Aggregated locations: A few displacement sites and neighbourhoods were aggregated based on their similarities, especially livelihoods, and perceived needs.
- Population groups: non-displaced and displaced.
- Head of Household gender: female-headed and male-headed households.
- Type of settlement: formal IDP sites, informal IDP sites in peri urban areas, refugee camps, and neighbourhoods (urban areas where host community and displaced groups coexist).

Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews

The qualitative data was transcribed in English and digitized in Microsoft Word by the team. A Data Saturation Grid (DSAG) was developed to track emerging themes. Qualitative analysis followed an inductive approach and allowed the assessment team to identify key trends across population groups and displacement sites. Findings from FGDs and KIIs were fully triangulated in the final report.

5. Challenges and Limitations

- Data saturation was not achieved, especially as there were few KII/FGDs per site, resulting in the possibility that some key perspectives might be missing in specific locations.

- Data from the FGDs and KIIs are indicative and used for triangulation and contextualisation of the household survey.
- Given the complex context of South Sudan, FGDs and KIIs were not audio-recorded, which resulted in some loss of detail during discussions. Nevertheless, the team strived to capture responses as close to verbatim as possible in the transcriptions
- The FGD and KII guides were prepared in English, while the FGDs were conducted in various local languages and Juba Arabic, meaning that the person conducting the FGD had to translate the question route into the local languages spoken by the participants during the discussion and then translate the answer back into English for the write-up. These likely impacted certain details and could be lost in the translation process; therefore, the team ensured thorough probing to maintain accuracy and depth of information.
- Although the plan was to have the female KII be conducted by the female facilitator and the male KII be conducted by the male facilitator, there were situations where male participants were largely available, which implied that the female facilitator led the male KII. This could have potentially influenced how respondents answered the questions.
- The data collection team encountered challenges in reaching the required quotas for different residence groups, IDPs, returnees, and refugees, within urban host community areas. Since household selection was based on randomly generated shelter coordinates, most selected households belonged to the host community. Additionally, because the sampling aimed to achieve representativeness for each population group, the quotas assigned to these groups were relatively high compared to their actual proportion in urban areas. Consequently, the initial sample allocation had to be adjusted to ensure feasibility. This adjustment involved increasing the margin of error from 5% to approximately 7.5%. The revision applied only to IDPs, returnees, and refugees living in urban host community locations (Northern Bari, Munuki, and Kator).

FINDINGS

This section is divided into four sub-sections, each focusing on a distinct geographic area with similar livelihood patterns and needs among displaced and host communities, as identified by key partners. The first sub-section presents findings from the formal IDP and urban displacement sites, which include Juba Camps 1 and 3, Don Bosco, and Mangateen. The second and third sub-sections outline findings from the informal IDP site of Mangalla and the Gorom Refugee Settlement, respectively. Finally, the fourth sub-section covers the surrounding neighbourhoods of Kator, Munuki, and Northern Bari.

Each sub-section is organised according to the same key thematic areas:

- Durable solution pathways and movement intentions
- Living peacefully together
- Housing, land, property,
- Livelihoods and access to markets
- Participation in civic life
- Access to educational, healthcare, and WASH services

1. Formal IDP sites – Juba Camps 1 & 3, Don Bosco, and Mangateen

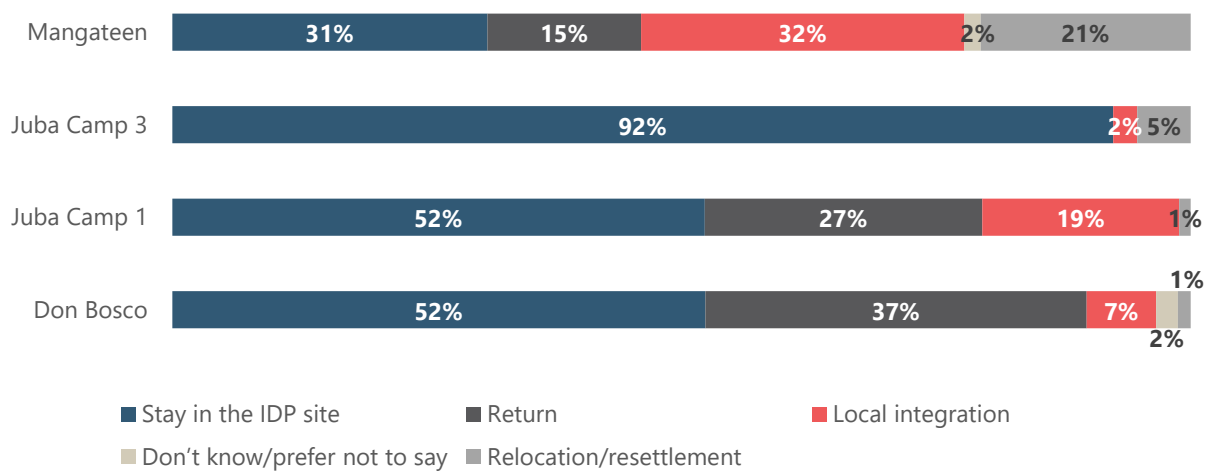
The formal IDP sites of Juba Camps 1 and 3, Don Bosco, and Mangateen host long-term IDP households who continue to face significant pressures linked to insecurity, limited livelihoods, and reduced access to basic services. Although each site has its own characteristics, the findings across the four locations reveal a broadly similar pattern of constrained choices, high uncertainty about the future, and strong dependence on living and security conditions when considering movement or integration options.

1.1. Durable solution pathway and movement intentions

Across the four formal IDP sites, IDP households expressed mixed intentions about their future, though a preference to remain in the current site was the most common response. The prevalence of this preference varied across sites. It was highest in Juba Camp 3, where 92% of surveyed households said they preferred to stay, while the proportion of households with this preference went to nearly half in Don Bosco (53%) and Juba Camp 1 (52%). In contrast, Mangateen showed a more diverse range of intentions, with only 31% planning to stay, and more households considering other options.

Some households reported feeling pressured to leave the sites (25%). Among these households, local authorities (21%) and humanitarian workers (23%) were the most mentioned actors by whom they felt pressured to leave. This was likely linked to the reduction of services and uncertainty about the future of support in the sites as some qualitative responses indicated.

Figure 1: Reported preferred solution for the household displacement situation of Juba Camps 1 & 3, Don Bosco, and Mangateen



a. Sustainable return to areas of origin

Preferences for returning to areas of origin differed significantly across locations. Don Bosco had the highest proportion wishing to return (37%), followed by Juba Camp 1 (28%), and Mangateen (15%).[12] According to FGD participants in Mangateen, the relatively high proportion of households intending to return to their areas of origin indicates a desire for access to livelihood opportunities, such as access to housing materials, forest products, livestock, and land for cultivation in their areas of origin.

Of those who reported wanting to return to their areas of origin, reported several information needs to make a decision on their return such as availability of livelihood opportunities (32%), safety and security (29%), availability and access to basic services (24%) in the areas of return.
The reported support that would be needed for their sustainable returns was consistent with the information needs. Households from the three camps who were considering returning emphasised the need for food (69%), functional schools (41%), safety and security (37%), renovation or reconstruction of shelters (24%), functional healthcare services (26%), and the availability of sustainable livelihoods (21%) in their areas of origin.

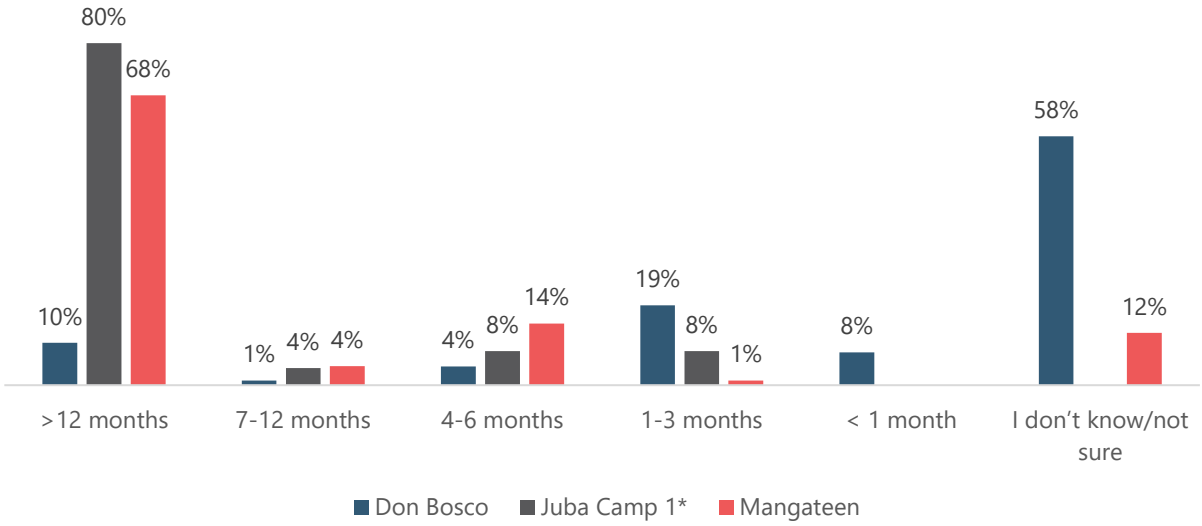
Table 4: Top 5 support needs for sustainable returns

Don Bosco		Juba Camp 1[13]		Mangateen	
Availability of food	80%	Proper land tenure documents	19	Functional health services	71%
Renovation/reconstruction of shelter and assets	57%	Availability of food	16	Functional school	63%
Safety/security	47%	Access to land for cultivation	13	Sustainable livelihood options	55%
Functional school	40%	Safety/security	5	Availability of food	45%
Basic infrastructure	16%	Functional health services	4	Safety/security	26%

[12] Households at Juba Camp 3 did not report a preference for returning to their areas of origin
[13] As only 24 households reported wanting to return to their places of origin, findings are presented as the total number of responses rather than in percentages.

Reflective of the high uncertainties regarding stability across South Sudan, the majority of the households reported that displaced people would intend to return to their areas of origin after a year or more (42%), and a third of the households reported that they do not know when they would return to their areas of origin. This is consistent with recent findings from OCHA that indicate uncertainties and increased tensions across South Sudan for the past months, which seemingly derail the peace agreement.[14] In terms of potential areas of return, the majority of the households reported a preference for returning, mainly to Lafon (45%) and Mayom (24%) counties in Eastern Equatoria and Unity States, respectively.

Figure 2: Reported time for planned returns by site



b. Local integration[15]

Local integration was not a dominant preference across the sites, though it was more reported in Mangateen (32%) and Juba Camp 1 (19%). FGD participants from these sites highlighted that shared cultural practices and traditions, and access to land helped facilitate their integration, particularly for displaced population who had acquired plots in Amadi, Mapau, Kabu, Hai Baraka, and Jebel Timania residential areas. At the same time, they stressed that integration would only be possible with better livelihoods, safety, and essential services, which supported the findings from the household survey where they cited the following as needs to support local integration: access to livelihood opportunities (71%), safety and security (62%), availability of services such as healthcare, education, and water supplies (52%), and legal support on housing, land, and property (38%).

These findings are coherent with previous research in other regions, such as IOM's Intention survey at Bentiu, which suggested security, livelihood, and services were identified as the key needs for local integration.[16] Households reported several areas for local integration, mainly in Lokiliri (2%), Juba Town (6%), Northern Bari (18%), Munuki (26%), and Rejaf (28%) in Juba County.

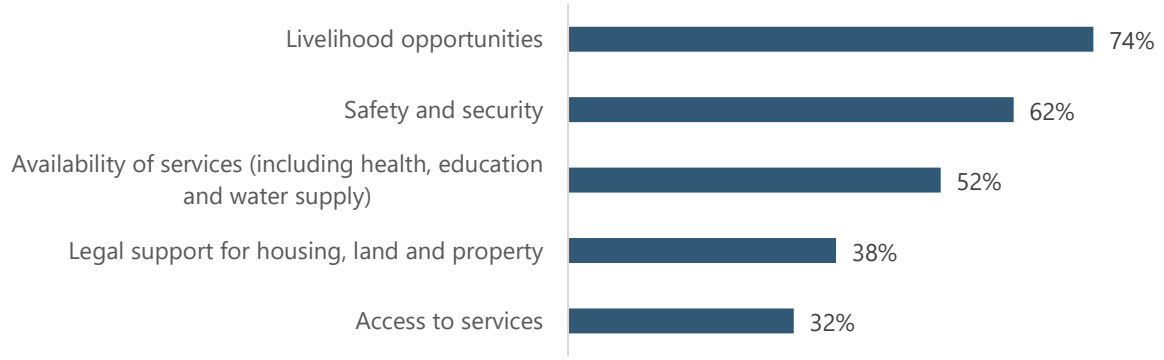
[14] UNOCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026, January 2026.

[15] Local integration refers to the sustainable integration of IDPs in the areas where they have taken refuge, once they no longer have displacement-related assistance or protection needs and can enjoy their rights without discrimination (IASC Framework, 2010).

[16] IOM, South Sudan: Bentiu IDP Camp Intentions survey, February 2026.

"Living here has shown us that [local] integration is possible; we share language, culture, schools, churches, and even our struggles with the host community. These everyday interactions help us live as one people, supporting each other despite hardship…".
FGD Participant in Mangateen.

Figure 3: Most reported needs to support households' local integration



c. Relocation or resettlement

A smaller proportion of households preferred relocation (9%). This option was most common in Mangateen (21%), likely caused by the uncertainty about the future of the site and concerns over possible eviction as the landlord intended to develop the land. Households that selected relocation most often highlighted needs such as livelihoods (39%), education (25%), and food availability (9%) in their potential relocation areas. The IOM Intention Survey conducted in Bentiu also suggested that livelihood opportunities were the main reported need for relocation.[17]

FGD participants in Mangateen cited a preference for relocation to areas within Juba suburbs such as Mapau, along the Juba–Bor road.

d. Stay at the current displacement site

Across all the formal IDP sites, reported preference to stay at the site was more common. Over half (54%) of households reported that they would prefer to stay in the camps. Subsequently, reported preference to stay at the current displacement site was relatively lower in Mangateen (31%), and higher in Juba Camp 3 (92%), Don Bosco (53%), and Juba Camp 1 (52%) The decision to remain in the location of displacement was usually driven by external factors, such as insecurity, violence, threats to life (from FGDs), or lack of basic services in areas of return, that prevent voluntary return.[18]

Table 5: Most reported reasons for wanting to stay in location, by location and push and pull factors:

	Don Bosco	Juba Camp 1	Juba Camp 3	Mangateen
Push factors in area of return				
Insecurity	77%	11%	74%	50%
Lack of services	68%	50%	27%	83%
No jobs	56%	22%	75%	78%
No means/money to go	16%	2%	34%	33%

[17] IOM, South Sudan: Bentiu IDP Camp Intentions survey, February 2026.
[18] Brookings, IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, April 2010

Pull factors in area of displacement				
Good conditions/services	30%	85%	11%	21%
Access to specific health/disability services	19%	91%	20%	6%
Access to work	13%	39%	58%	17%

Of the households that reported a preference for staying at the camp, a lack of job opportunities (64%), a lack of safety and security (63%), and a lack of services (53%) in their areas of return were the top three reasons for staying at their current displacement site. Other factors contributing to their wanting to stay in the displacement sites, according to FGD participants in Juba Camp 1, included targeted killings outside the camps and improper housing hindering their return.

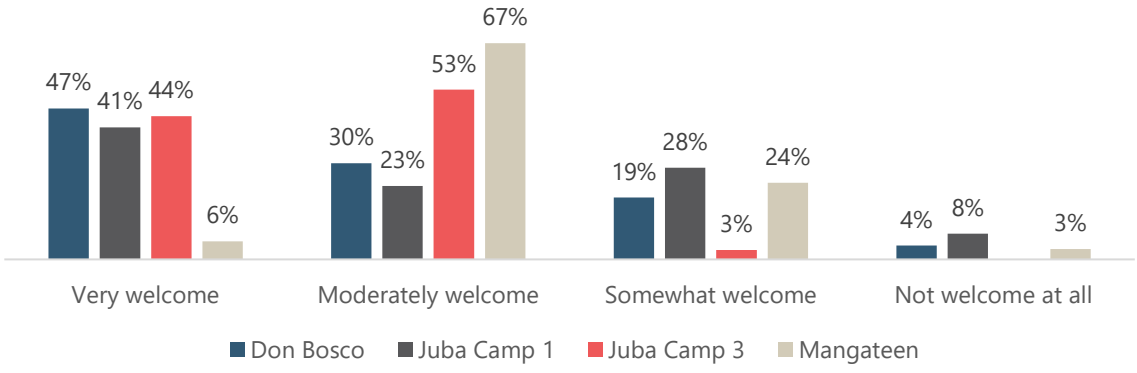
"If there's peace, we would be the first to move out of this camp. It's not our choice to remain here, but the worsening security situation is forcing us to stay. We want peace to return so we can go home to our places and leave this camp. We have been saying this to NGOs, but there's no feedback." **FGD Participant in Juba Camp 1**.

1.2. Living peacefully together

Most households living in the formal IDP sites described their communities within the sites as peaceful. Seventy-one percent (71%) reported that people in their area lived together in peace.

Acceptance from the surrounding host community was generally positive. Seventy-nine percent of households across all locations said they felt either moderately or very welcomed. However, acceptance varied across locations. Perceptions of feeling less welcome or not at all were relatively high in Juba Camp 1 (28% somewhat welcome and 8% not welcome at all), followed by Mangateen (24% somewhat welcome) and Don Bosco (19% somewhat welcome). In these sites, FGD participants mentioned tensions linked to competition over resources, language differences, or cultural misunderstandings. These tensions did not appear constant but were described as emerging during particularly difficult periods, such as when food or services were scarce.

Figure 5: Reported feeling of welcome from the host community by location



Although this sense of coexistence was strong, it did not always translate into feeling safe. Nearly 47% of households reported feeling unsafe in their community. In FGDs discussions, residents explained that insecurity often came from outside the sites. They mentioned incidents involving local gang groups, including looting, harassment, sexual violence, and night-time violence, which made people cautious about moving around after dark.

Households also identified risks[19] affecting children and adolescents (all ages under 18). For boys, the most reported risks were lack of access to education (59%), involvement in gang groups (58%), alcohol and drug use (54%), and exposure to physical violence (34%). For girls, the main risks included lack of access to education (60%), child marriage (55%), involvement in gang groups (42%), and exposure to physical violence (42%). This was consistent with findings from the qualitative data that highlighted dangers with sexual violence of girls and youth joining gangs, motivated by their peers and drug abuse. Thus, protection risks for girls were two-fold: as victims and participants in the gangs. Other reports suggest that girls are increasingly joining gangs and experiencing retaliation from rival gang violence.[20]

Table 6: Most reported protection risks for boys and girls by location and gender

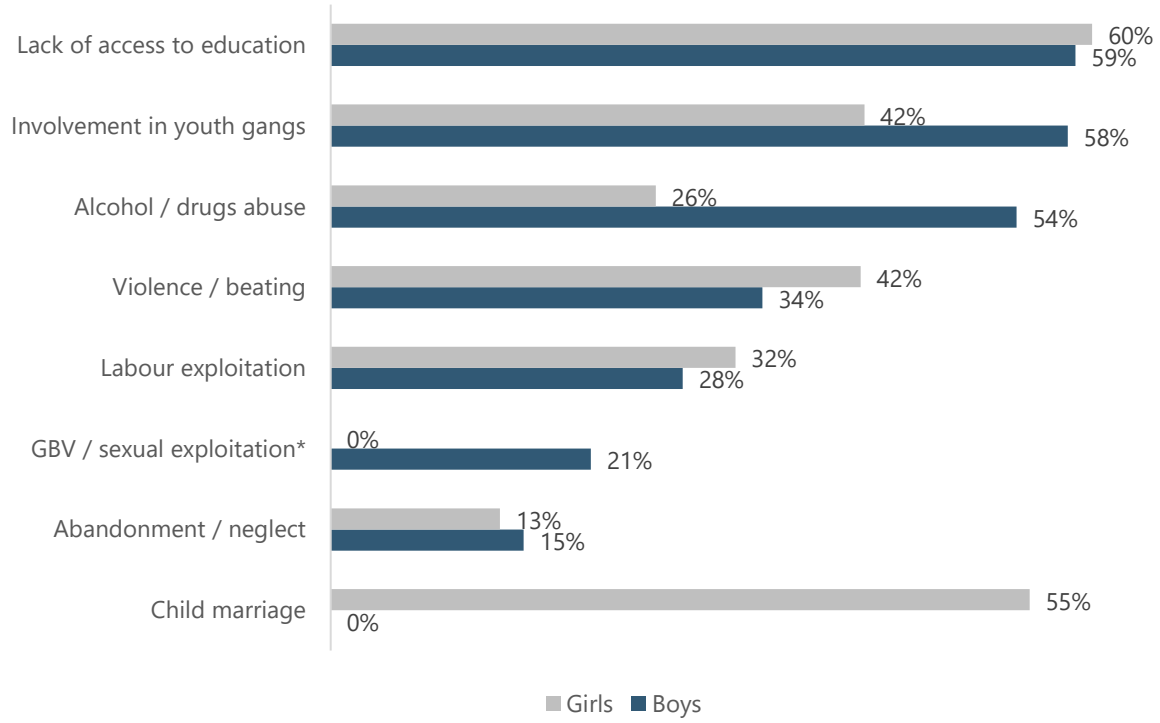
	Don Bosco	Juba Camp 1	Juba Camp 3	Mangateen
Boys				
Alcohol / drugs abuse	73%	65%	19%	57%
Involvement in youth gangs	56%	58%	27%	82%
Abandonment / neglect	38%	8%	1%	7%
Violence / beating	34%	10%	35%	42%
Lack of access to education	32%	70%	70%	73%
Labour exploitation	29%	33%	20%	30%
GBV / sexual exploitation[21]	22%	38%	32%	6%
Girls				
Child marriage[14]	84%	49%	44%	39%
Labour exploitation	46%	31%	13%	32%
Abandonment / neglect	37%	2%	0%	4%
Alcohol / drugs abuse	34%	51%	5%	24%
Lack of access to education	33%	69%	77%	71%
Violence / beating	33%	48%	30%	56%
Involvement in youth gangs	15%	40%	36%	73%

[19] Risks were related to protection. For simplicity thereafter these risks are named as "protection risks" but do not perfectly align with the official list of the Protection Cluster guidelines. Choices were adapted by IOM to fit the context.

[20] Nonviolent Peace Force, South Sudan, Interrupting gang violence: lessons learned from Juba IDP, January 2024; The Guardian, South Sudan's youth swept up in gang culture and street violence amid wider conflict, August 2025; UNICEF, South Sudan, violence prevention and reduction – creating trust among youth and adolescents labelled as gangs, June 2024; Human Rights Watch, South Sudan: Abusive "Anti-Gang" Crackdown, January 2026

[21] For boys the choices did not include child marriage but did include sexual exploitation while for girls it included child marriage but not sexual exploitation. Thus, findings should be interpreted with this limitation.

Figure 6: Most reported protection risks for boys and girls across informal sites (aggregated locations)[22]



The reduction in humanitarian funding in 2025 has had a negative impact on the availability of protection services. Thirty-nine percent (39%) of the households reported availability of protection services, of which mostly consisted of police (64%), counselling, recreation, and support services (35%), healthcare services for survivors of gender based violence (30%), individual and group psychological support services (23%), case management for survivors of gender based violence (14%), and child protection awareness raising (12%).

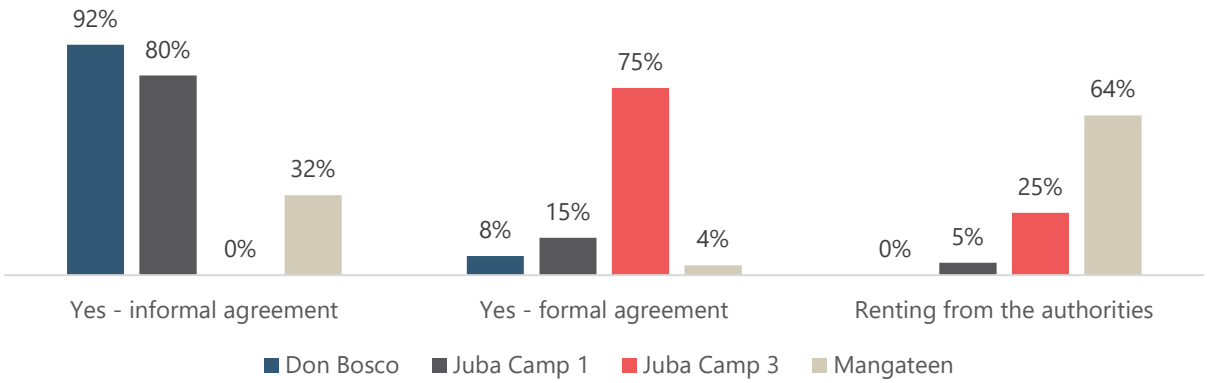
1.1. Housing, land, and property and civil documentation

Housing conditions across the formal IDP sites varied, but overall IDP households remained constrained by limited ownership, temporary structures, and high rental costs. Around 50% of IDP households reported owning a house or property. Even among those who owned shelter structures, 73% did not possess any formal land ownership documents, which reflects the temporary nature of the sites. Most households also reported that they were not involved in disputes related to housing or property (93%). For the small number who did report disputes, the most common issues included secondary occupation, land grabbing, multiple land title claims, and boundary disputes. These findings align with qualitative accounts where participants in Juba Camp 1 described past experiences of land grabbing and forced occupation of their homes in areas of origin.

From those not owning a house, 48% rented under informal agreements, 43% rented from authorities, and 9% reported having formal agreements. Households often explained that high land and rental prices in Juba limited their ability to secure adequate housing. Many reported overcrowded living spaces, describing situations where multiple family members shared small, congested rooms. FGD participants from Juba Camps 1 and 3 also spoke about overcrowded sleeping rooms, especially during the March 2025 insecurity, when more displaced people returned to the camps.

[22] (*)For boys the choices did not include child marriage but did include sexual exploitation while for girls it included child marriage but not sexual exploitation. Thus, findings should be interpreted with this limitation.

Figure 7: Type of rental agreement of households not owning property, by location



Linked to the temporary nature of the displacement sites, a majority (76%) of the households reported staying in rakoobas,[23] which are temporary structures. Other studies have linked households living in this type of shelter to lower income and more food insecure.[24] Regarding support needed for rehabilitation and construction, 90% of the households reported a need for materials for construction. The provision of this support would ensure households stay in decent and secure housing.

In terms of possession of identity documents, over half (52%) of the households reported that they possess identity cards, and a low proportion of 3% reported possession of social security cards. In addition, reported ownership of assets remained relatively low, with the majority (81%) citing that they do not own any assets. Among those who owned assets, household chattels (16%), farming land (1%), and livestock (1%) were the main assets owned by the households. The low proportion of households reporting ownership of property could have an impact on their livelihoods and reliance.

1.2. Access to livelihoods and markets

Livelihood opportunities in the formal IDP sites remained limited and unstable. Households relied mainly on informal and low-income activities that offered little security. The most commonly reported income sources were casual labour (40%), business activities (9%), private service work (7%), and small business ownership (7%). These patterns were also reflected in group discussions, where participants in Mangateen described depending on small-scale services, informal trade, construction work, and occasional seasonal agriculture.

In the context where unemployment is widespread, the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) is highly depreciated, and a worsening economic crisis caused by conflict and lack of cash fluidity, a vast majority (82%) of households reported not being employed. Of those who reported being economically active and employed (18%), almost half (42%) of these households reported engaging in the food business sector. In addition, retail businesses (17%), salon and hair braiding (9%) were the most common viable economic activities that households engaged in. Typical monthly income levels were low across all sites. Median reported incomes ranged from 81K SSP in Don Bosco, 86K SSP in Juba Camp 1, and 126K SSP in Mangateen, to a higher 300K SSP in Juba Camp 3, though even in the latter, households described income as unpredictable.

Table 7: Reported typical monthly income[25]

Don Bosco	Juba Camp 1	Juba Camp 3	Mangateen
81K	86K	300K	126K

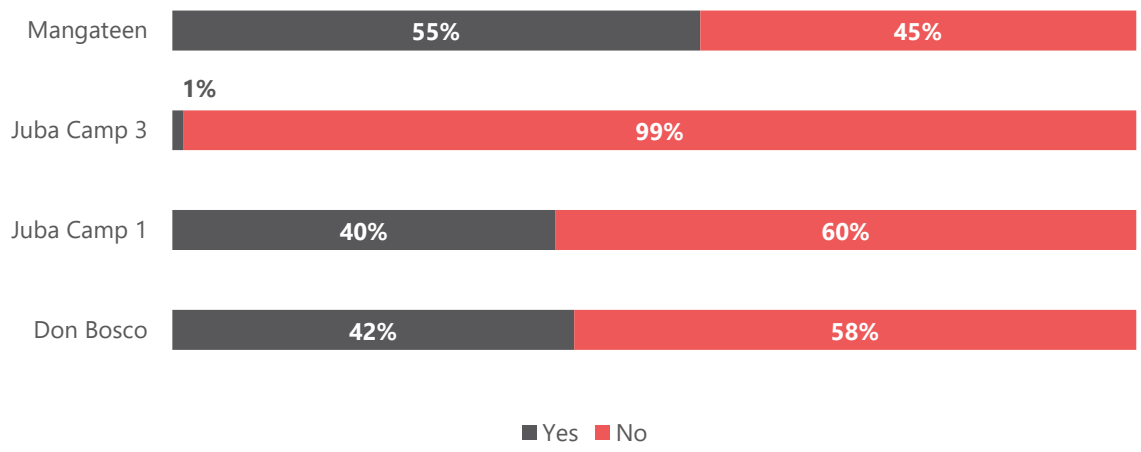
[23] Rakoobas are temporary shelters made from straw usually covered with a plastic sheet.
[24] World Bank Group, South Sudan, poverty and equity assessment, June 2024.
[25] Question asked for the typical monthly income. As data was collected in December 2025, this might have influenced their answers.

In 51% of households in Don Bosco, and 35% in Mangateen, households reported a lack of technical skills, which would make it more difficult to acquire formal jobs or income generation activities. The inadequate skills to survive in an urban setup like Juba could be additional factors contributing to unemployment and barriers to livelihood opportunities compared to the livelihood opportunities available in semi-urban and rural settings like their areas of return.

a. Access to Markets

Access to major markets differed widely across the formal IDP sites. In Don Bosco and Juba Camp 1, about 40% of households reported access to a major market. Access was almost non-existent in Juba Camp 3, where only 1% said they could reach such a market. In contrast, just over 55% of households in Mangateen reported access, making it the best-connected site.

Figure 8: Reported access to major markets, by location

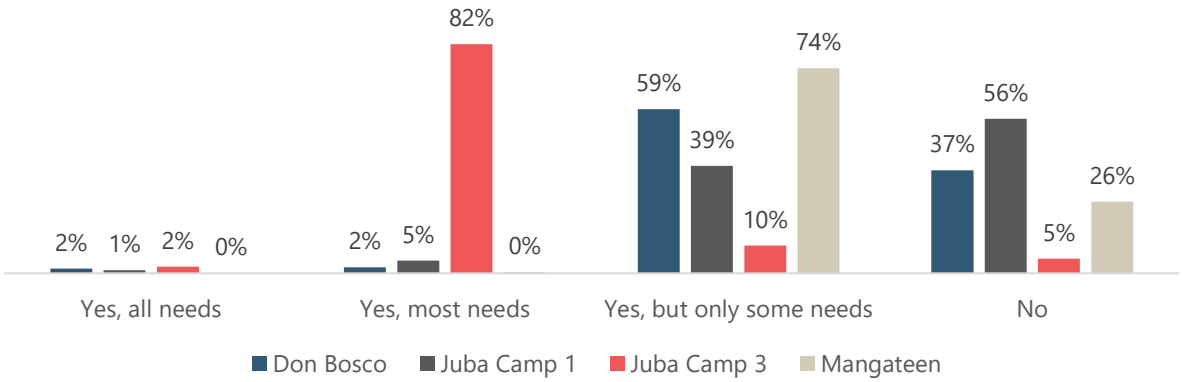


Travel times reflected these differences. In Don Bosco, most households needed about one hour to reach a market, and around 20% needed longer. In Mangateen, market access was much quicker, with more than half of households reaching a market in 15 minutes, and another 30% within 30 minutes. Households in Juba Camp 1 faced longer trips, with more than half reporting travel times of over an hour.

Regardless of access to large markets, households were also asked whether they were able to meet their basic needs: food, clothing, household goods, and any other basic needs. Most households reported that markets met only some of their needs. This was most common in Mangateen (about 75%) and Don Bosco (about 60%). In Juba Camp 1, almost 40% said they could meet only some needs, while more than half said they could not meet their needs at all.

The situation in Juba Camp 3 was unusual. Although almost no households had access to a major market, 80% of households reported that they were still able to meet most of their needs, likely due to access to smaller markets and a reportedly higher income compared to the other sites.

Figure 9: Reported ability to meet their needs



Overall, even where physical access to markets existed, limited income and rising prices remained the main barriers. Households explained that the issue was not only how far markets were, but also whether they could afford to buy what they needed once they arrived.

b. Agriculture, livestock, and fishing

Agriculture played a limited role in livelihoods within the sites. Only 12% of households reported practising farming, mainly because they lacked land or faced insecurity in nearby farming areas. Among those who did farm, challenges included crop destruction by livestock (44%), natural disasters (20%), conflict (16%), and crop diseases (12%). These constraints further reduced households' ability to produce food and contributed to ongoing concerns about food access.

Livestock ownership was rare. Only 1% of households reported owning farm animals or livestock. Households explained that they lacked grazing land and struggled with disease outbreaks. Some also referred to earlier periods of conflict, including events in 2016, which had depleted livestock holdings. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of households reported that they did not engage in fishing, mainly due to a lack of fishing gear, limited market access, and safety concerns around fishing areas.

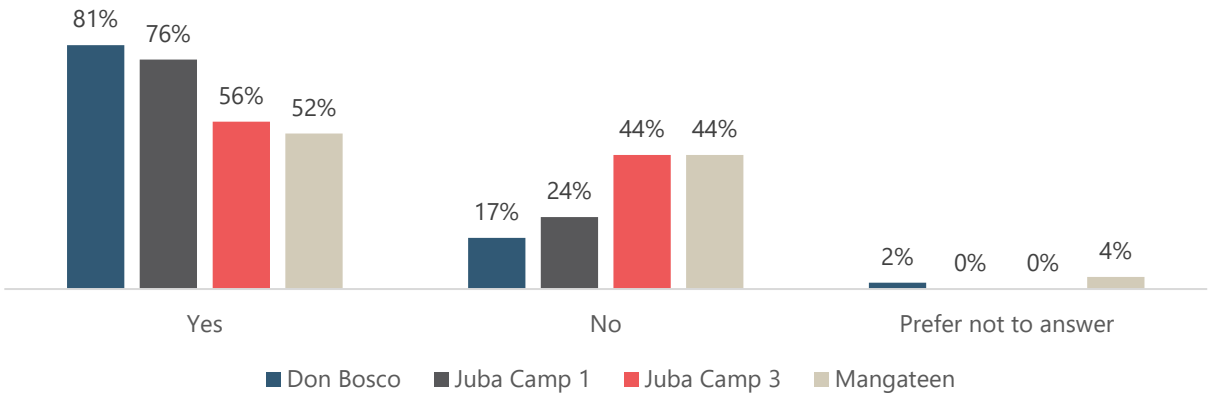
Overall, livelihood conditions across the formal IDP sites remained highly constrained. Limited employment, weak markets, and restricted access to land meant that households depended heavily on informal activities and struggled to secure a consistent income. These factors contributed directly to food insecurity and shaped households' views on whether they could remain in the sites or consider returning or relocating.

1.3. Participation in civic life

A majority of households reported feeling treated fairly by their local government (65%), describing decision-making processes as generally equitable and non-discriminatory. Access to justice also appeared broadly functional, with households reporting unrestricted access to justice mechanisms (66%) across the formal sites.

Regarding community leadership, many households noted moderate involvement of women in decision-making (42%), or significant involvement of women (19%) was also reported. Where women participated actively, FGD and KII participants highlighted that women often contributed to issues affecting family welfare and community cohesion. However, their influence varied across sites and was sometimes more limited in decisions related to security or resource allocation.

Figure 10: Perceived fairness by local government



1.4. Access to services

a. Access to educational services

Almost half of households (49%) reported that they could reach an educational facility in under 30 minutes. Despite this relatively short travel time, households described several barriers that limited children's attendance and continuation at school. These barriers varied for girls and boys.
For girls, households most often mentioned financial constraints, engagement in farming during school hours, and early marriage or pregnancy as key obstacles. For boys, the main barriers reported were financial constraints, security concerns when travelling to school, and long distances, particularly in sites where schooling options were limited.

Table 8: Barriers to access education by the boy and girls of the household

	Don Bosco	Juba Camp 1	Juba Camp 3	Mangateen
Boys				
Financial issues (fees or other school-related costs)	64%	95%	75%	99%
Child helping at home / farm	31%	32%	5%	20%
Marriage and/or pregnancy	23%	10%	1%	2%
Child working outside home	19%	27%	6%	16%
Distance to school too far / lack transportation	16%	66%	4%	20%
Poor school infrastructure/facilities	5%	2%	35%	13%
Security concerns of child travelling / at school	3%	42%	2%	54%
There are no barriers	29%	5%	12%	1%
Girls				
Financial issues (fees or other school-related costs)	61%	94%	70%	96%

Marriage and/or pregnancy	45%	50%	15%	22%
Child helping at home / farm	29%	30%	8%	21%
Child working outside home	20%	16%	12%	9%
Distance to school too far / lack transportation	17%	67%	3%	22%
Poor school infrastructure/facilities	3%	2%	30%	8%
Security concerns of child travelling / at school	2%	26%	1%	51%
Lack of qualified teaching staff	1%	0%	30%	1%
There are no barriers	28%	3%	11%	3%

Qualitative findings also highlighted shortages of teachers and scholastic materials, which further reduced access to education across the sites.

b. Access to healthcare services

Most households reported that the health facilities closest to them were either a Primary Health Care Unit (44%) or a Primary Health Care Centre (42%). However, access to care was inconsistent. More than one-third of households (38%) reported that they could not access health services when they needed them.

Figure 11: Functional healthcare facilities reportedly available, by location

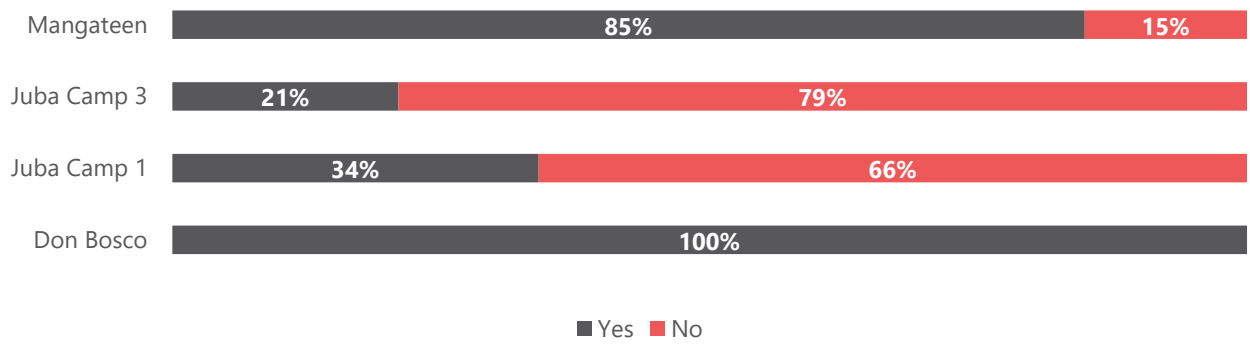
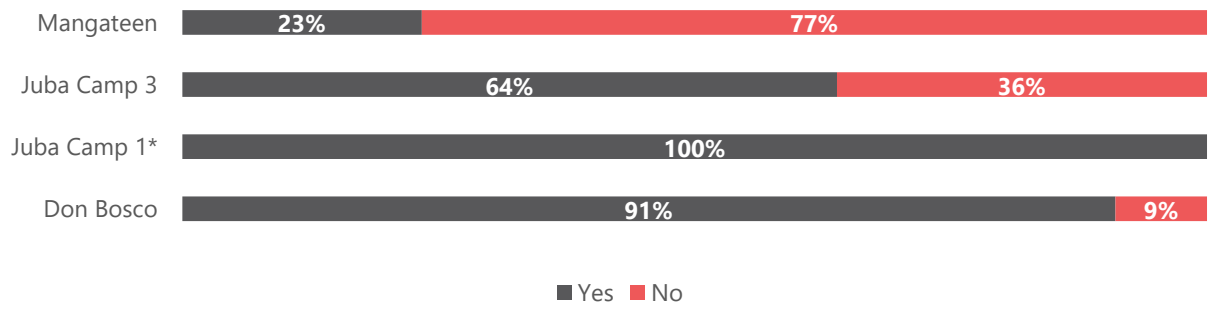


Figure 12: Reported ability to access the functional healthcare facility when the household needs to, by location[26]



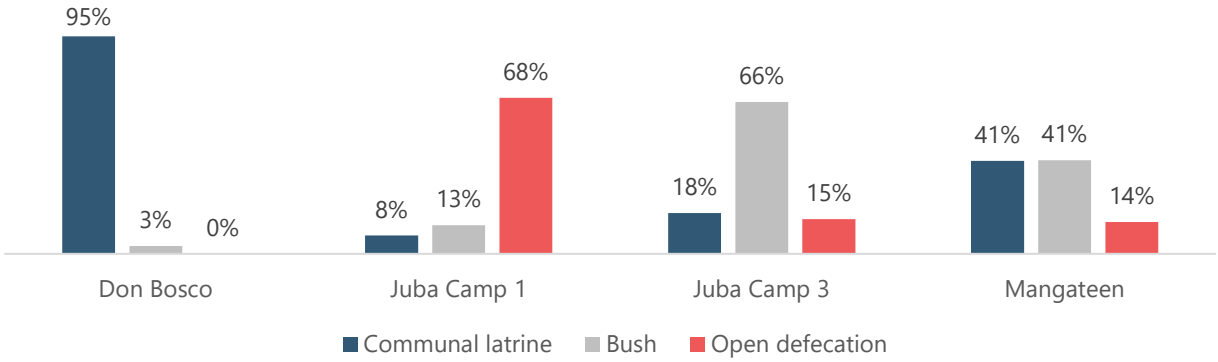
[26] (*) Juba Camp 1 based on a small subset (30 answers) of those reporting availability of a healthcare facility.

Although two-thirds of households (66%) said they could reach a healthcare service within 30 minutes, many noted that the closest available provider was often a traditional healer or herbalist. This was likely attributed to systemic constraints in the supply chains, low public healthcare service capacity, staff shortages and lack of medicines worsened by the reduction of humanitarian support, which had forced the closure or scaling down of services in several sites—an issue particularly highlighted in FGDs conducted in the Juba camps.[27]

c. Access to WASH services

The most common drinking water sources were purchased water from shops (35%), boreholes (33%), water trucks (19%), and hand-dug wells (13%). Most households fetched water in under 15 minutes (69%) or up to 30 minutes (19%), while 8% spent between 30 minutes to one hour.
Latrine access remained limited. The most frequently reported practices were open defecation in the bush (41%) and the use of communal latrines (41%). Open defecation was a concern raised repeatedly in FGDs, especially in Mangateen and Juba Camp 1, where residents feared a possible cholera outbreak. Households used several methods to manage solid waste. The most common approaches were burning waste (39%), disposing it in garbage pits (27%), and using garbage bins (17%).

Figure 13: Most commonly reported types of latrine use



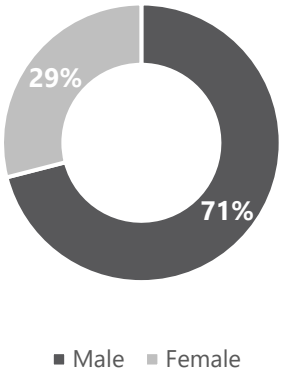
Hygiene practices were uneven. Many households reported covering drinking water (53%), covering food (49%), disposing rubbish in a pit or bin (34%), and treating drinking water (38%). These practices helped reduce health risks but were not consistently adopted across all sites.

[27] Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Left behind in crisis: Escalating violence and healthcare collapse in South Sudan, December 2025.

2. Informal displacement site – Mangalla

This section presents the main findings from Mangalla, an informal rural displacement site located along the Juba–Bor highway, in Mangalla Payam, Juba County. According to reports from World Vision, Mangalla became one of the largest informal displacement sites following severe flooding in Jonglei and surrounding areas, hosting tens of thousands of IDPs since 2020.[28] Despite its proximity to Juba Town (approximately 75 KM by road Northeast of Juba), the site continues to face significant gaps in services, livelihoods, and infrastructure. The findings for Mangalla cover movement intentions, social cohesion, housing, livelihoods, civic participation, and access to services.

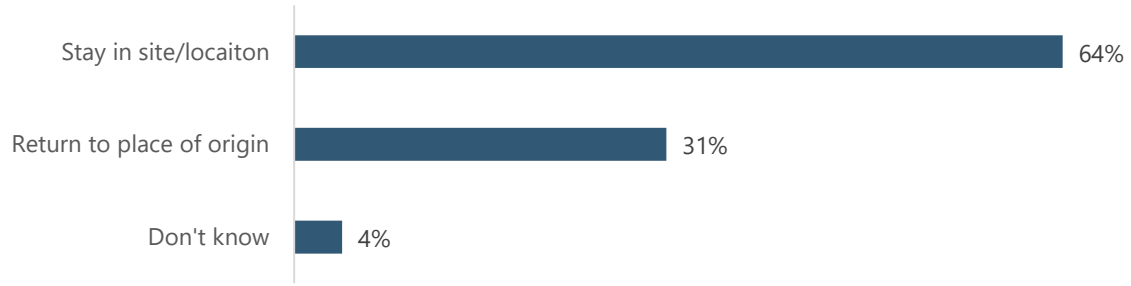
Figure 14: Demographic profile of head of households



2.1. Durable solution pathway and movement intentions

A clear majority of households reported a preference to stay in Mangalla (64%). Returning to areas of origin was the second most common preference, with households reporting a desire to return (31%). Only two households selected other solutions.

Figure 15: Preferred Durable Solution Pathway[29, 30]

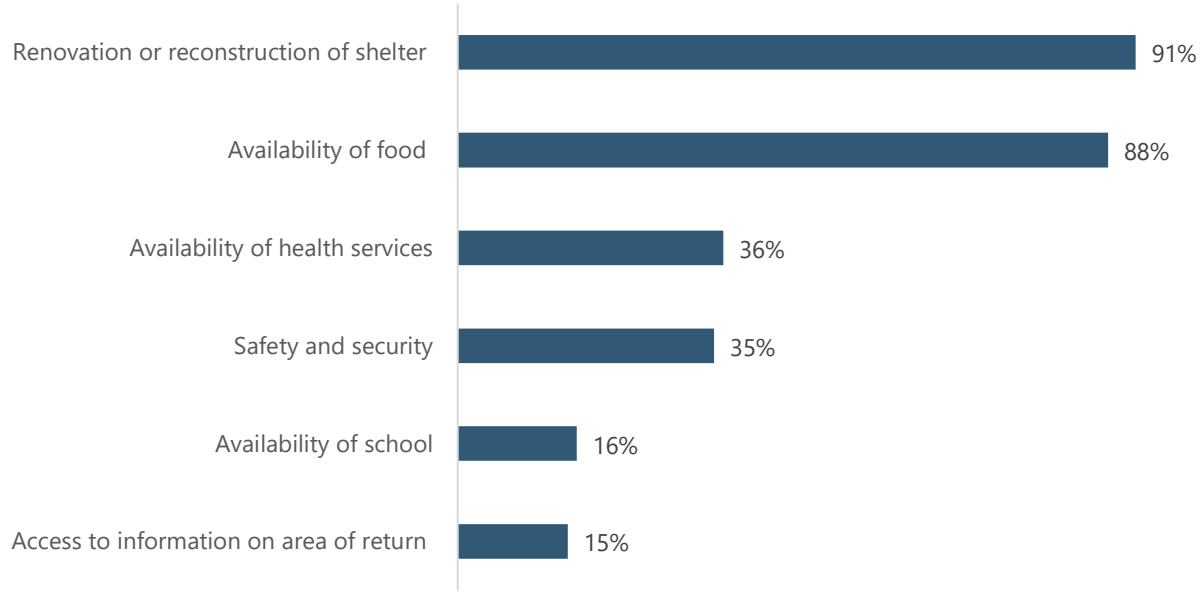


[28] World Vision, South Sudan, Reaching internally displaced persons in Mangalla settlement through an integrated response. The journey continues to enhance resilience, September 2022.
[29] Percentages were rounded off to the nearest tenth
[30] Low proportion of households reported preference for local integration (1 response) and relocation (1 response), and hence sub-sections on relocation and local integration were not developed.

a. Sustainable return to areas of origin

Among households intending to return (31%), several types of support were considered essential. These included renovation or reconstruction of shelter and assets (91%), availability of food (88%), functional healthcare services (36%), and safety and security in the area of return (35%). Households also highlighted the importance of obtaining information about climate conditions (78%) and security updates (13%), reflecting their past displacement due to flooding.

Figure 16: Reported support needed for return.



Regarding areas of return, the majority of the households reported a preference for returning to Twic East (67%), Bor South (25%), and Duk (9%) counties in Jonglei State. However, timelines were uncertain as the majority of the households reported being uncertain of when they would return (37%), and almost half of the households (48%) reported their intention to return to the area of origin in more than a year.

b. Stay at the current locations

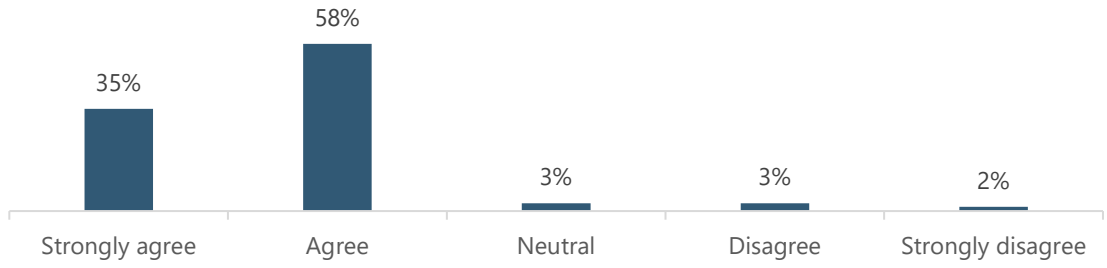
A large share of households expressed a preference to stay where they are (64%). The reasons most often provided included lack of services in areas of origin (95%), insecurity (80%), lack of transport or travel costs (32%), and lack of livelihood opportunities (30%). Some households also felt that current living conditions in the site were comparatively better, with 38% reporting that they remained because their situation in Mangalla was easier than what they would face elsewhere. The reported insecurity in the areas of origin was consistent with findings from UNHCR, which suggest that ongoing insecurity and flooding in most areas of origin (most households originated from Jonglei, specifically from Twic East and Bor South).[31] Furthermore, FGD participants in Mangalla highlighted flood waters in their areas of origin as a factor that hinders their return and forces their stay at the displacement site.

[31] UNHCR, Africa, Battling the rising waters: A farmer's story of determination in South Sudan, October 2026

2.2. Living peacefully together

Most households reported strong social cohesion in Mangalla. Households consistently described their community as peaceful (99%) and feeling safe and secure (98%). This high level of perceived safety was supported by qualitative findings in which residents explained that they generally felt safe moving around the site. In terms of social relationships, households reporting that people treat each other with respect (93%) reflected a largely cohesive social environment.

Figure 18: Proportion of households reporting perceived treatment of people with respect

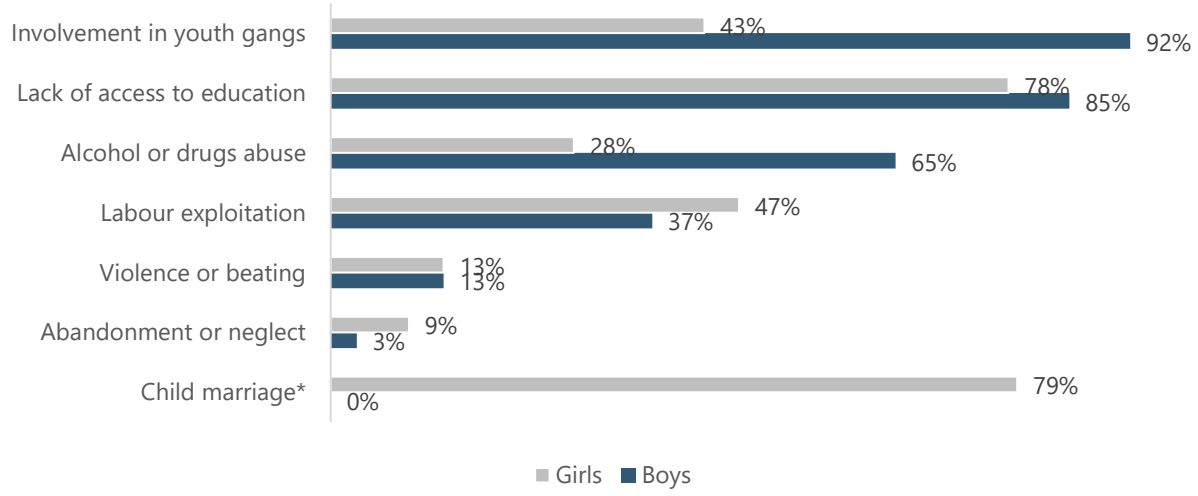


Protection Risks and Services

Regarding the availability of protection services, over half (65%) of households reported that there are no protection services available in the community. Of those who reported protection services, safety and security provided by the police (99%), counselling (46%), and management of GBV cases (14%) were the most commonly reported available protection services.

Households identified several risks affecting boys and girls differently. For boys, the most frequently mentioned risks were involvement in gangs (92%), lack of access to education (85%), and alcohol or drug use (65%). For girls, reported risks included child marriage (79%), lack of access to education (78%), labour exploitation (47%), and involvement in gangs (43%). Movement around specific areas—such as firewood collection points, public transport routes, and water points—was considered especially unsafe for women and girls during FGDs.

Figure 19: Most commonly reported protection risks for boys and girls[32]

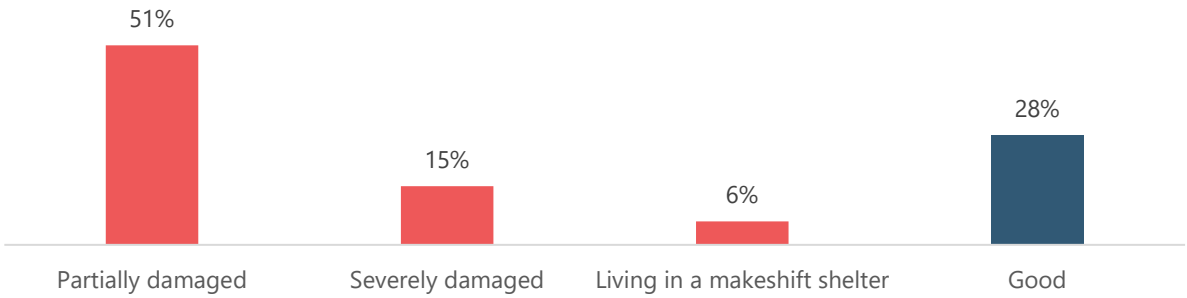


[32] (*)For boys the choices did not include child marriage but did include sexual exploitation while for girls it included child marriage but not sexual exploitation. Thus, findings should be interpreted with this limitation.

2.3. Housing, land, and property, and civil documentation

Property ownership was relatively high in the site, with households reporting owning a house or property (75%). Yet most did not possess formal land documentation. Households reporting no disputes over property (92%) were the majority, while 5% reported boundary disputes. These were typically resolved by community leaders.
Shelter types reflected rural building patterns, with households living in tukuls (71%) and rakoobas (29%). Shelter conditions varied: 51% were partially damaged, 15% severely damaged, and 6% were makeshift shelters. Only 28% reported their shelter to be in good condition. Repairs were most often needed for roofs, walls, doors, and windows.

Figure 20: Reported shelter condition of the households.



Regarding documentation, 25% of households reported having no documents. Among those who held documents, the most common were identity cards (68%) and birth certificates (51%).

2.4. Access to livelihoods and markets

The majority of the survey respondents in Mangalla were unemployed (93%).[33] However, linked to access to land, the majority of the households (89%) reported agriculture as their primary source of income. In addition, a low proportion of households reported service provision (4%) and casual labour (2%) as their primary source of income. The median income they reported to typically in a month was 33K SSP.[34]
Agricultural skills were common. Households reported having skills in agriculture (83%), livestock rearing (56%), and business (37%), though many still identified gaps in skills needed for income generation, such as tailoring (80%), hair braiding (66%), and food processing (40%).

a. Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishing

A very high proportion of households practised farming. Households engaged in farming (95%), mostly subsistence farming (100%, with 28% also using it as income-generative activity), mainly produced sorghum (100%), vegetables (32%), and maize (32%). However, farming was being affected by crop disease (68%) and natural disasters (28%), including recurrent floods.
Livestock ownership was also fairly common. Households owning livestock (52%) mainly kept poultry (74%) and goats (63%). Households mentioned grazing shortages, disease, and cattle-raiding threats as the main constraints. Fishing was less common, with 18% reporting it as an activity. Households

[33] The high reported unemployment is consistent with the African Development Bank report, which suggests that poverty in Juba has increased as the national economy deteriorates, resulting in income loss, collapsing services, high inflation, and severe livelihood constraints, creating unemployment. African Development Bank, Country Focus Report: Making South Sudan's capital work better for its development, June 2025.
[34] Question asked about the typical monthly income. Data was collected in December which might have influenced the answer.

noted that lack of fishing gear and lack of preservation equipment were the main challenges. KIIs also indicated that residents were sometimes restricted from accessing fishing areas.

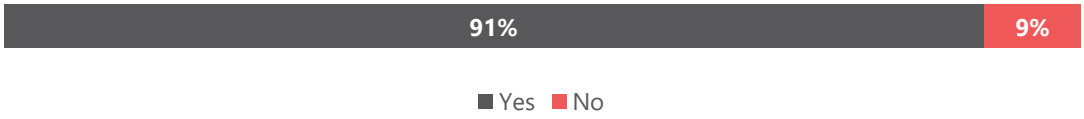
b. Access to Markets

The proportion of households reporting access to a major market was relatively high, with 74% of households reportedly having access to a major market for their needs and selling their produce. Over a third of households (33%) reported accessing the market within half an hour. Most households (75%) reported that they were only able to meet some of them, while others reported being able to meet most of their needs (19%), or all their needs (6%). A small minority reported that they could cover none of their needs (3%).

2.5. Participation in civic life

Civic participation indicators were notably strong. Households reporting unrestricted access to justice (98%) and households reporting that local government treats people fairly (91%) were both high. Women's participation, however, was more limited. In terms of women's involvement in the community's decision-making, their involvement was considerate moderate (43%) or rare involvement (34%).

Figure 21: Perceived fairness of local government

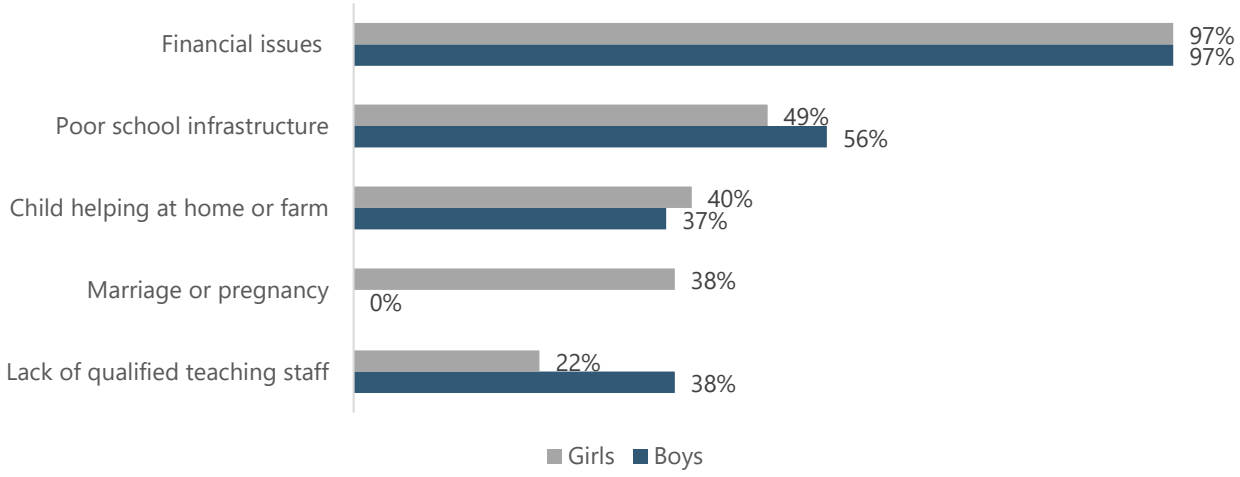


2.6. Access to services

a. Access to educational services

Access to education remained mixed. Households reporting that they accessed education within 30 minutes (39%) made up just over one-third of respondents. Barriers varied but commonly included financial constraints, school distance, shortage of teachers, and lack of learning materials.

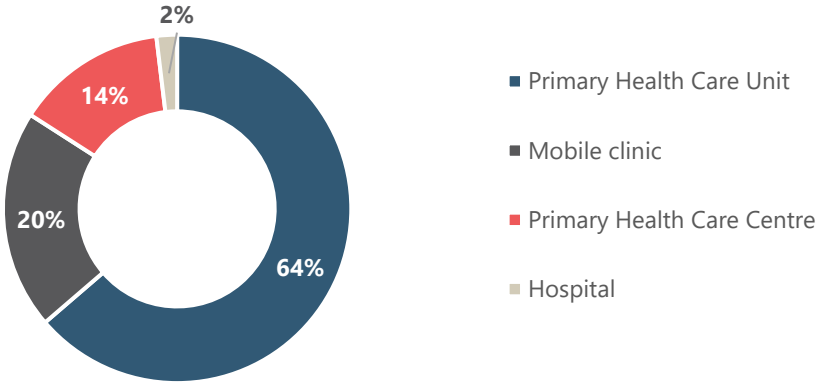
Figure 22: Most common barriers to accessing education services



b. Access to healthcare services

Access to a functional healthcare facility was more common in Mangalla than in the formal sites. Households reporting access to a functional health facility (60%) were the majority. The most common facilities were Primary Health Care Units (64%) and mobile clinics (20%). Reported access when needed was high, with households stating they received care when required (78%).

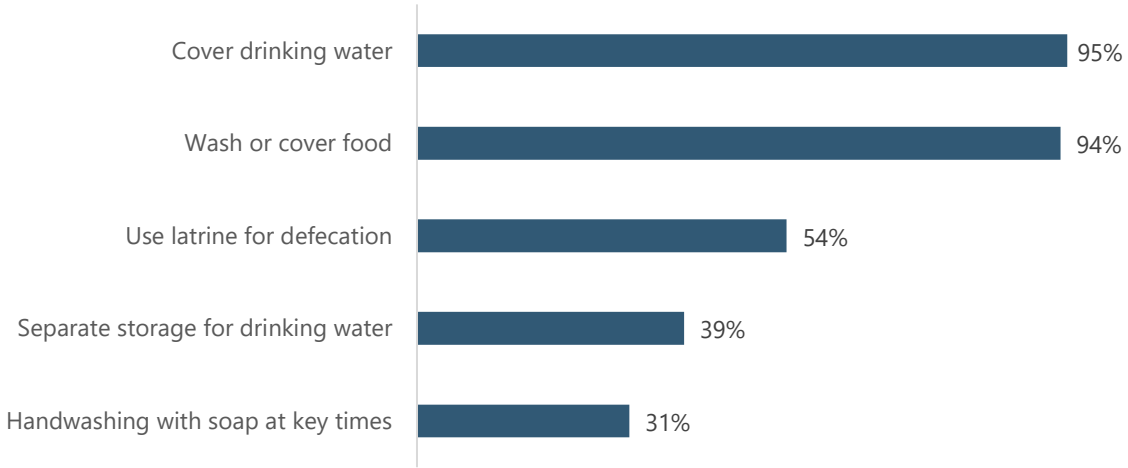
Figure 23: Reported types of healthcare facilities available for the households (Mangalla)



c. Access to WASH services

Boreholes were the main source of drinking water (71%). Unimproved sources such as ponds/streams (16%) were also used, raising health concerns.
Households reporting open defecation (39%) highlighted the risk of water-borne disease outbreaks during FGDs. Waste management relied mainly on burning (81%) or dumping in pits (14%). Hygiene practices were varied, with households reporting covering drinking water (95%), washing or covering food (94%), using latrines (54%), and handwashing with soap (31%).

Figure 24: Top 5 hygiene practices observed in the household



3. Refugee displacement site – Gorom Refugee Settlement

This section presents findings from the Gorom Refugee Settlement, which hosts refugees originating primarily from Sudan, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and a small number from other countries. Gorom Refugee Settlement is a UNHCR-supported site situated in Juba County, approximately 26 KM Southwest of Juba along the Juba-Yei Road, with limited access to Juba Town due to poor road infrastructure and transport system. The analysis covers movement intentions, social cohesion, housing and land, livelihoods, civic participation, and access to services.

Household demographics show a high proportion of female-headed households (68%), while male-headed households accounted for 33%. Refugees in Gorom mainly originated from Sudan (66%), followed by Ethiopia (25%), DRC (4%), and other countries (5%).

Figure 25: Demographic profile of head of households

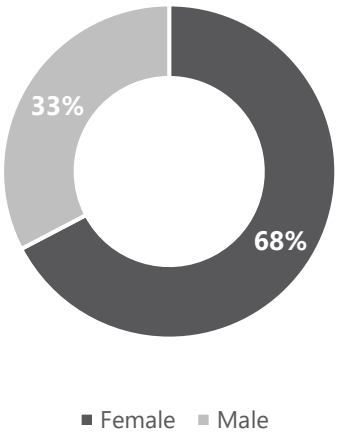
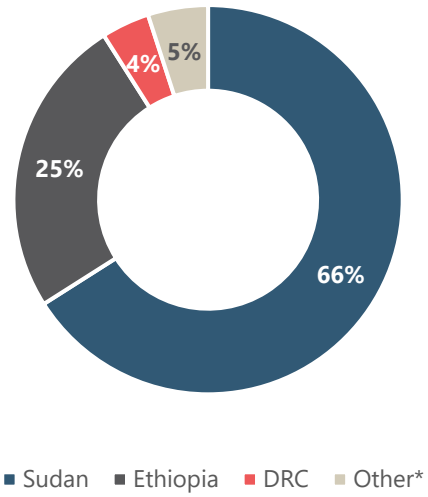


Figure 26: Country of origin of the displaced population households[35]

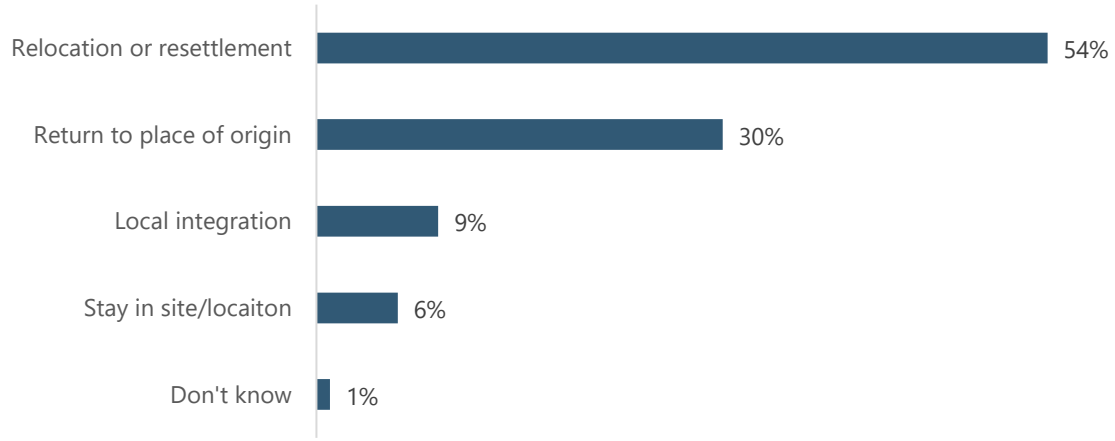


[35] * Other countries included: Uganda (2%), Burundi (1%), Yemen (1%), and Kenya (1%).

3.1. Durable solution pathway and movement intentions

Preferences for durable solutions in Gorom were more varied than in other sites. The most commonly reported option was relocation or resettlement (54%), followed by return to the area of origin (30%). Only 9% of households expressed a preference for local integration, and a small proportion preferred to stay in Gorom itself (6%), possibly indicating issues with the current settlement and the living conditions.

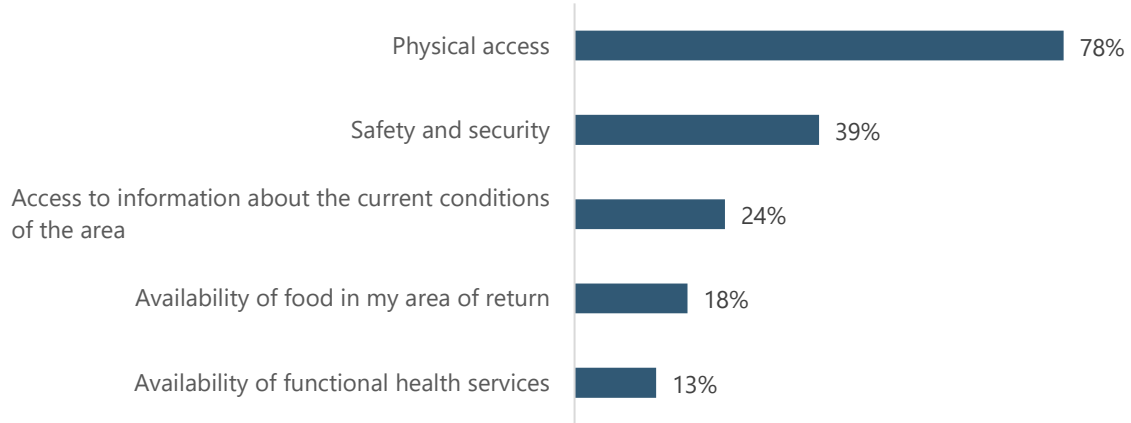
Figure 27: Preferred Durable Solution Pathway[36, 37]



a. Sustainable return to areas of origin

Among households preferring to return, several specific needs were identified as essential before they could go back. These included physical access to the area of return (78%), safety and security (39%), information about conditions in areas of origin (24%), availability of food (18%), and functional health services (13%). Most households intending to return expected to do so after more than 12 months (33%) or between 7-12 months (17%), while 38% reported being uncertain about when return would be possible.

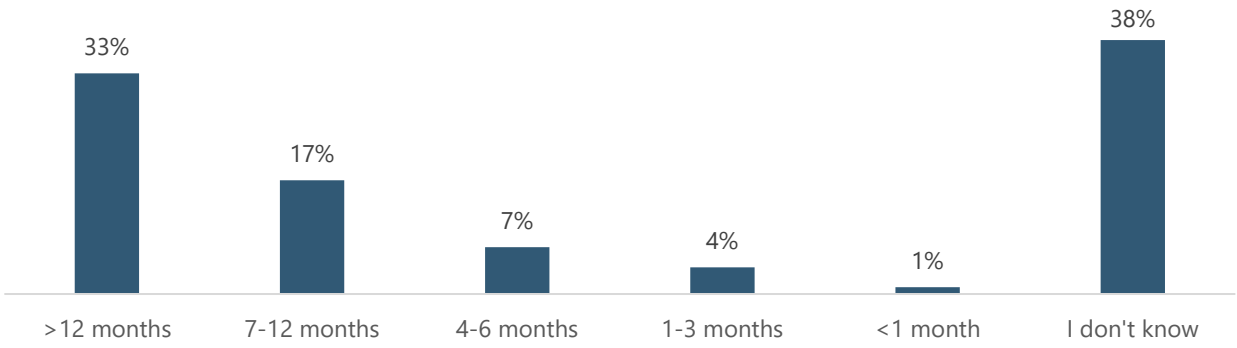
Figure 28: Top 5 needs to support sustainable returns



[36] Percentages were rounded off to the nearest tenth

[37] Low proportion of households reported preference for staying at the displacement, and hence sub-section on staying at the site was not included.

Figure 29: Planned timeline to return to the place of origin



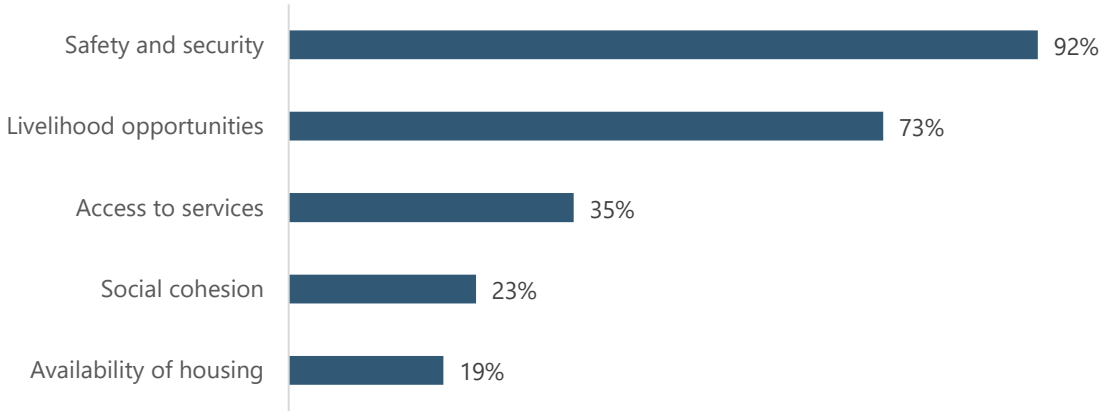
b. Local integration

Local integration remained a less common option for Gorom households. Among the 9% who reported it as a preferred solution, the main needs included safety and security (92%), livelihood opportunities (73%), access to services (35%), social cohesion (23%), and availability of housing (19%). Interests in local integration were often tied to whether refugees felt they could access services, land, and protection on par with surrounding communities.

"The Sudanese refugees feel that they're one people with South Sudanese... we speak the same language... we have many things in common, and that's why it's easier for Sudanese to be integrated here".

KII in Gorom Refugee Settlement

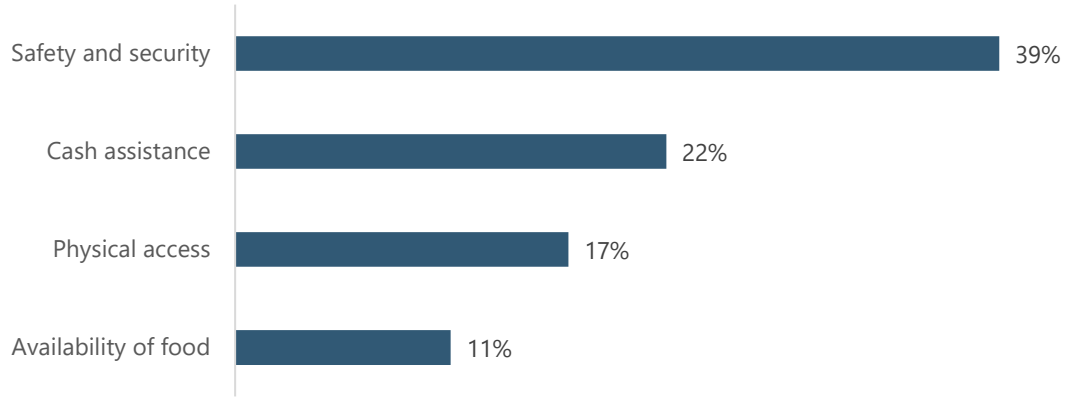
Figure 30: Top 5 needs for local integration



c. Relocation or resettlement

Relocation or resettlement was the most frequently preferred durable solution (54%). Households identifying this option highlighted needs such as safety and security (39%), cash assistance (22%), physical access (17%), and availability of food (11%) in the new location. These needs reflected both the challenges faced in Gorom and the uncertainties associated with moving elsewhere.

Figure 31: Top 4 needs for relocation or resettlement



3.2. Living peacefully together

A large majority of households reported that people in Gorom live peacefully together (95%), and nearly the same proportion felt safe and secure within the community (94%). These findings were echoed in FGDs, where participants described positive relationships inside the settlement and peaceful coexistence with the host community. However, several KII participants also highlighted episodes of internal tension, particularly among religious groups and between long-term residents and newly arrived households. Key informants noted that these tensions had, at one point, escalated into a serious incident that resulted in the loss of life. They also reported that some long-term refugees felt that new arrivals were being prioritised for assistance, which contributed to perceptions of inequality and strain within the settlement. This apparent contradiction between widespread reports of peace and isolated accounts of conflict may reflect several dynamics. It could indicate that household surveys and FGDs underreported social cohesion issues, or that such tensions are relatively uncommon, making them more visible to community leaders, who are often called upon to resolve disputes and therefore more aware of emerging or underlying conflicts.

Perceptions of social behaviour were relatively positive. Just over half of households agreed (51%) or strongly agreed (17%) that people in the community treat everyone with respect. Nonetheless, 29% of households reported feeling neutral about that statement. Most refugee households also reported feeling welcomed by the host community, either moderately (33%) or very welcomed (64%). Despite ongoing pressures on services and resources, households consistently described their community as cohesive and supportive, noting improvements in relationships with nearby host communities, as echoed during FGDs. This suggests that despite ongoing pressures on services and resources, social cohesion and community relations remain generally strong and were reported during FGD in Gorom, in which participants mentioned better relationships with the host community.

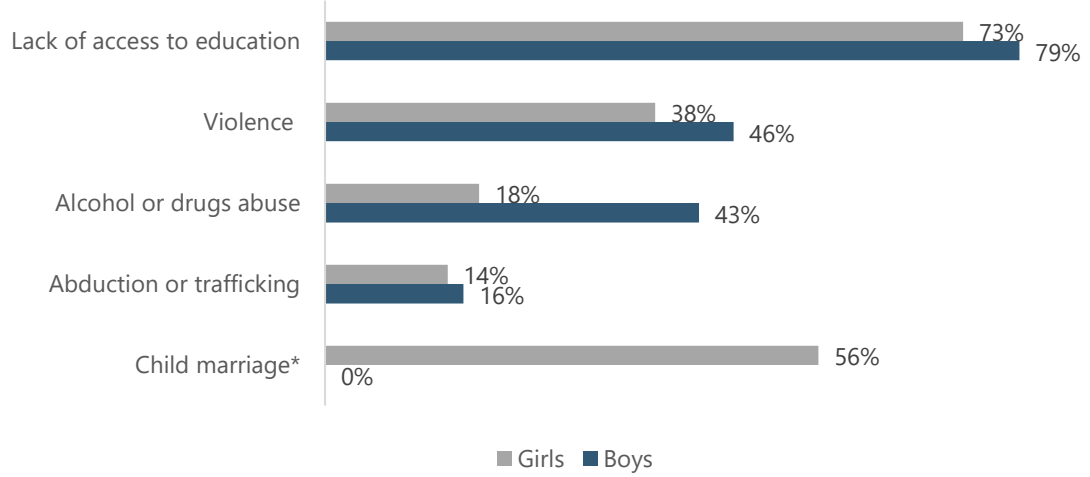
Protection risks and services

Access to protection support was considered very common in comparison to other sites. Households reporting the availability of protection services (93%) made up the majority. Among these, the most commonly reported services included security provided by the police (77%), medical services for GBV survivors (50%), child-protection awareness activities (16%), and counselling services (11%).

Households identified several risks affecting girls and boys. Lack of access to education, exposure to drug and alcohol use, and child marriage were mentioned most often as the risks that affect children in

the community. Although the prevalence of each risk differed between girls and boys, households viewed these issues as the main threats to children's well-being in Gorom. There was a higher concern over abduction or trafficking (16% for boys, 14% for girls) compared to IDP sites (formal or informal) and neighbourhoods.

Figure 32: Most commonly reported protection risks for boys and girls in their community



3.3. Housing, land, and property and civil documentation

Ownership of housing or property in Gorom was relatively high, with households reporting owning a house or property (58%). However, formal tenure remains limited. Households without land ownership documents (70%) formed the clear majority, indicating that while shelters are occupied long-term, legal security of tenure is weak.

Most households reported no disputes over housing or property (98%). In the small proportion of households that did report disputes, issues most often related to boundary disagreements, typically resolved by community leaders. Some households indicated dissatisfaction with the outcomes of these resolutions, suggesting gaps in local dispute-resolution mechanisms.

Shelter types reflected a mix of traditional and temporary structures. The most common shelter types were rakoobas (71%) and tukuls (22%). Rental arrangements were rare, with households living in rented shelter (7%). Qualitative information from FGDs supports these findings, describing congested living conditions and noting that many refugees stayed in the reception centre rather than in rented accommodation.

Shelter conditions varied in quality. Households reporting partially damaged shelters (48%) and severely damaged shelters (25%) were common, highlighting widespread need for repairs. Roofs, walls, doors, and windows were the most frequently mentioned elements requiring repair, reflecting the wear and tear affecting temporary structures.

Regarding personal documentation, households most commonly reported possessing identity cards (84%) and birth certificates (48%). Other documents included marriage certificates (17%) and social security cards (4%). While documentation levels were higher than in several other sites, the gaps still have implications for access to services and assistance.

3.4. Access to livelihoods and markets

Employment opportunities in Gorom remained limited. Respondents reporting being employed (14%) were a small minority, while households reporting being unemployed (86%) made up the majority. Among those who were employed, the most common income-generating activities included retail (53%), food business (16%), handicrafts (15%), and tailoring (9%). These activities were small-scale and dependent on limited local demand.

Households engaged in farming (38%) mainly practised subsistence farming (97%), with a smaller number combining subsistence and commercial production. Common crops included sorghum, vegetables, and maize, though yields were often affected by natural disasters and crop disease.

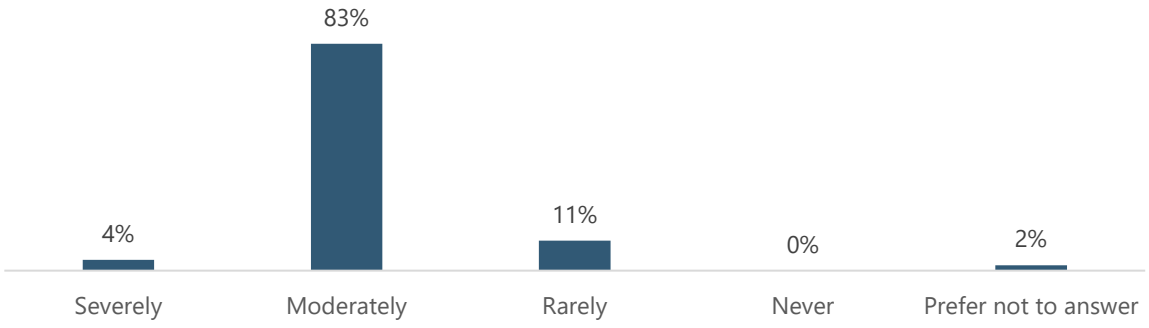
Market access remained limited. Households reporting access to a major market (48%) represented almost half of the respondents. Despite this low access, households able to reach a market within 15 minutes (39%) reflected the settlement's proximity to smaller trading points or mobile vendors. Households engaged in various market-related activities, such as petty trade (33%), retail (25%), and livestock sales (33%), with supplies often sourced from markets in Juba.

3.5. Participation in civic life

Households reporting that the local government treats everyone fairly (74%) made up the majority, but still a lower proportion than in other areas. Access to justice followed a similar trend, with the proportion of households reporting unrestricted access to justice (61%) relatively low compared to other locations. These findings suggest that formal and informal community governance structures in Gorom were viewed as relatively inclusive.

Women's involvement in decision-making was reported to be moderate. Households reporting moderate involvement of women (83%) formed a strong majority. While detailed breakdowns of specific roles were not provided, FGDs indicated that women participated actively in community matters, particularly in areas affecting household welfare and social issues.

Figure 33: Reported women's involvement in decision-making in their community

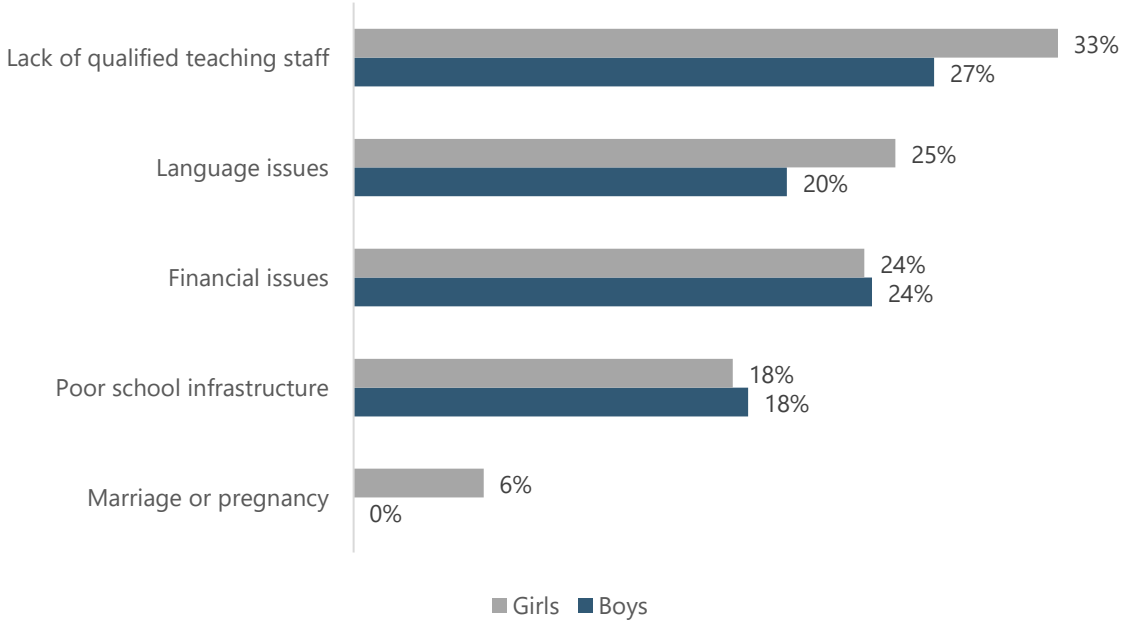


3.6. Access to services

a. Access to educational services

Households reported several barriers to education for children in Gorom. Barriers for girls and boys were often similar, and commonly included a lack of qualified teachers, financial difficulties, language challenges, and poor school infrastructure. These obstacles were mentioned both through survey responses and in group discussions.

Figure 34: Most common reported barriers to accessing education services

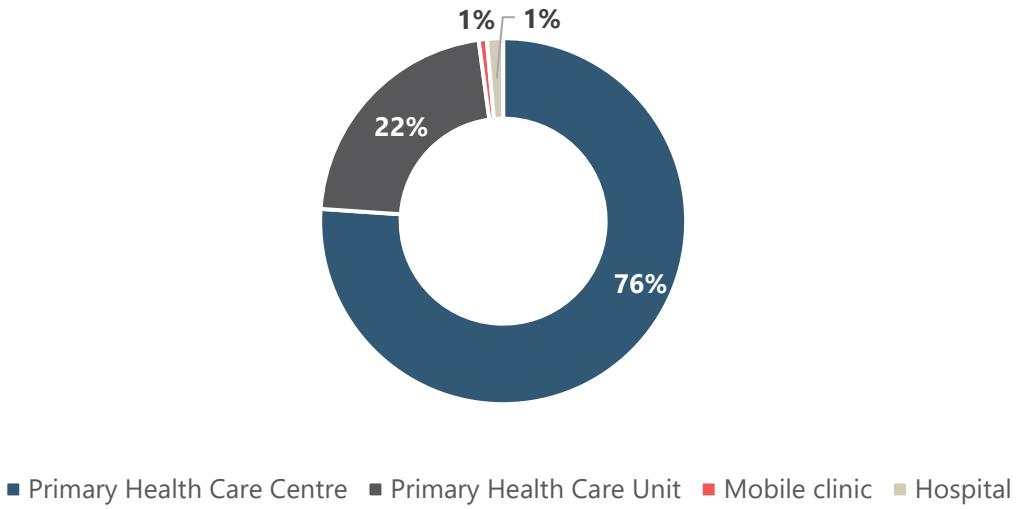


b. Access to healthcare services

Access to healthcare services was reported as relatively high. Households who stated they could obtain healthcare when needed (around three-quarters) formed a significant majority across the settlement. Several types of healthcare facilities were available, with Primary Health Care Centres and Primary Health Care Units being the most commonly reported options.

Most households reported spending less than 30 minutes to reach healthcare services, while 41% said they needed between 30 minutes and one hour. These patterns suggest that although the settlement is remote, households still had some degree of physical access to health services located nearby.

Figure 35: Reported types of healthcare facilities available for the households

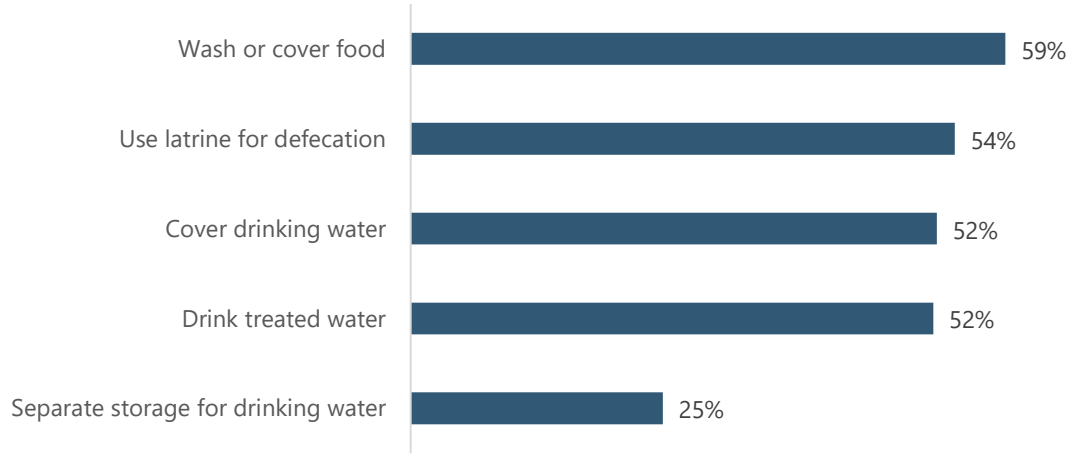


c. Access to WASH services

Improved water sources for drinking were widely used across the settlement. Households reporting boreholes as their main drinking water source (73%) made up the majority. Water collection was also relatively quick, with households spending less than 15 minutes to access water (54%).

Sanitation conditions were mixed. Households using private latrines (40%) formed just over one-third of respondents, while households using communal latrines (28%) were also common. However, households reporting using bushes (12%) and open defecation (18%) showed that unsafe practices remained present. Open defecation, in particular, poses risks of water contamination and disease outbreaks in a site like Gorom.

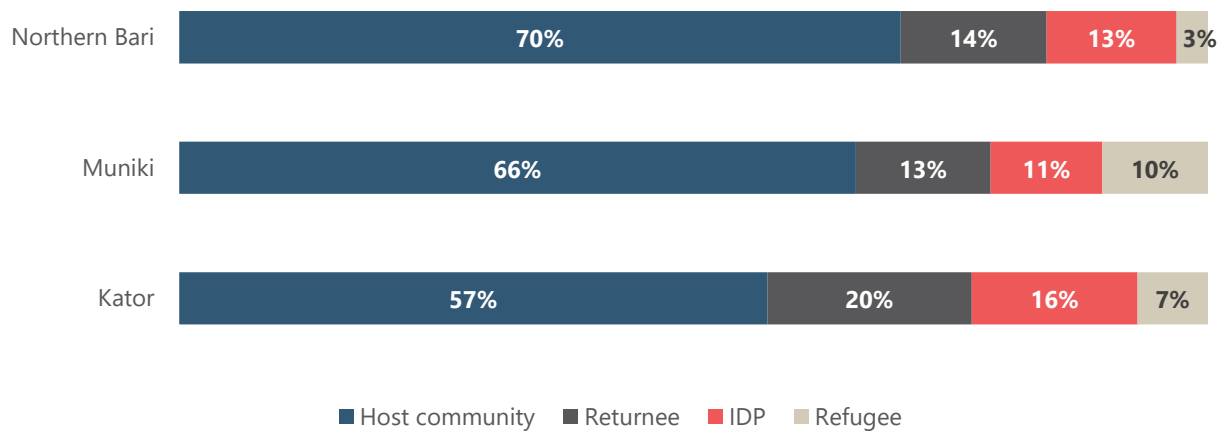
Figure 36: Top 5 hygiene practices observed in the household



4. Neighbourhoods – Kator, Munuki, and Northern Bari

This section outlines findings from households belonging to displaced groups (13% IDPS, 16% returnees, and 6% refugees), and the host community (65%) of the neighbourhoods Kator, Munuki, and Northern Bari. It covers areas of movement intentions, social cohesion, and access to basic services.

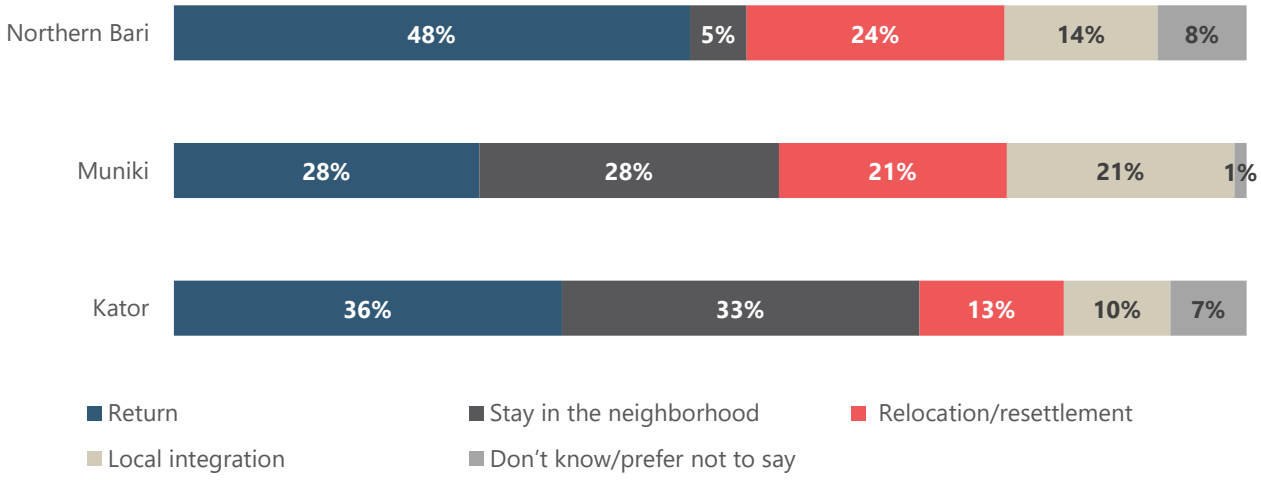
Figure 37: Demographic profile of respondents by location



4.1. Durable solution pathway and movement intentions

Across the three neighbourhoods, displaced households (35%) expressed mixed preferences for durable solutions. In Munuki, intentions were evenly distributed across the four options: return (28%), stay in place (28%), relocation (21%), and local integration (21%). In Kator, preferences were more polarised, with 36% opting for return and 33% preferring to remain in their current location. Northern Bari showed a stronger inclination toward relocation or local integration, and a lower preference for staying in place. These contrasts indicate that intentions were shaped more by neighbourhood-level conditions than by displacement category alone.

Figure 38: Preferred Durable Solution Pathway per location



Although only a minority reported feeling pressured to choose a particular solution (8–13%), the nature of this pressure varied. In Kator, households linked pressure mainly to poor living conditions. In Kator some households reported their current poor living conditions (9/15 responses). In Muniki, respondents referred to anticipated site closures (4/11) and pressure from their own community (3/11), while in Northern Bari pressure came mainly from the host community (5/12). Due to the sensitive nature of the question and small sample sizes, these findings are indicative rather than representative.

a. Sustainable return to areas of origin

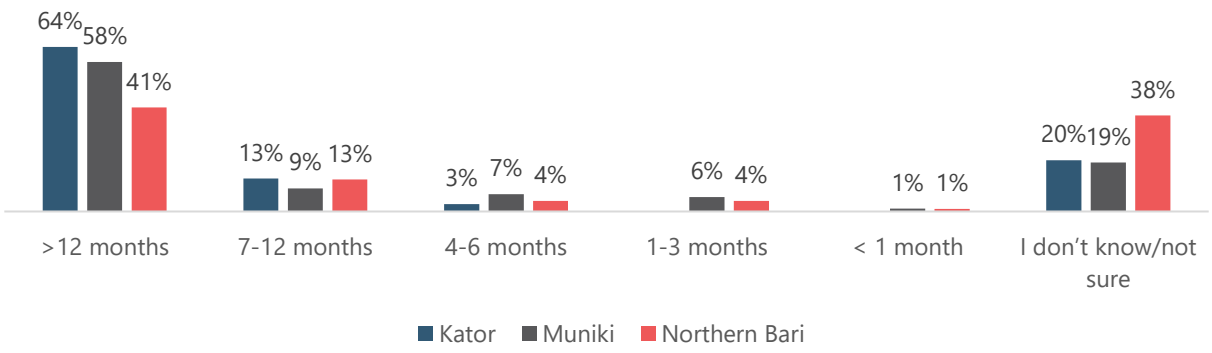
Return intentions were driven primarily by security, access to food, and functioning services, though needs differed slightly across neighbourhoods. In Kator, the most commonly reported need was physical access to areas of origin (55%), consistent with households originating from multiple counties across Central and Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei. In Muniki, availability of food (69%) was the top need, reflecting profiles of refugees from Khartoum and IDPs from Central Equatoria. In Northern Bari, households prioritised functional healthcare services (64%), aligning with the health-related vulnerabilities frequently reported in that area.

Table 9: Top 5 needs for sustainable returns

Kator		Muniki		Northern Bari	
Physical access	55%	Availability of food	69%	Functional health services	64%
Safety/security	51%	Functional health services	43%	Safety/security	56%
Functional health services	41%	Functional schools	41%	Physical access	44%
Availability of food	37%	Sustainable livelihood opportunities	39%	Functional schools	39%
Functional schools	37%	Safety/security	37%	Availability of food	34%

Information needs mirrored these priorities. Across all neighbourhoods, the most common requirement was updated security information (42–44%), followed by livelihood opportunities (24–32%), showing that households considering return were primarily seeking clarity on stability and economic prospects in their places of origin.

Figure 39: Reported time for planned returns, by location:



b. Local integration

This subsection presents the perspectives of displaced groups, returnees, and host communities on the needs within their area. By highlighting differences and gaps between these groups, it offers stakeholders working on durable solutions a clearer understanding of where support is needed to help bridge disparities between those who have experienced displacement and the host community.

b.1. Displaced groups' local integration

Some IDP and refugee households reported the desire to locally integrate, for which they identified several needs to support it such as livelihood opportunities, access to basic services, safety and security, and affordable housing.

Table 11: Most commonly reported needs to support local integration of displaced households in the area

Kator (n=14)		Muniki (n=38)		Northern Bari (n=19)	
Livelihood opportunities	14	Livelihood opportunities	32	Livelihood opportunities	16
Safety and security	8	Access to basic services	20	Safety and security	13
Access to basic services	6	Availability of (affordable) housing	15	Access to basic services	9

b.2. Returnees

Returnee households in the neighbourhoods reported mixed levels of support and continued vulnerability linked to incomplete family return and uneven access to services. Nearly half of returnees (41%) stated that they had received some form of support to return to their areas of origin, though this varied across locations: support was lower in Muniki (27%), where households relied more on family assistance (40%) than in Kator or Northern Bari, where NGOs provided most support (47–75%). This pattern suggests that returnees in Muniki may have had fewer institutional linkages or faced barriers in accessing formal support.

Return motivations were shaped chiefly by pull factors related to improvements in areas of origin. Returnees frequently cited improved security (57% in Kator; 68% in Northern Bari), better services (58% in Muniki; 40% in Northern Bari) and improved livelihoods (36% in Kator; 46% in Muniki) as reasons for returning. Smaller proportions also mentioned political developments (15% in Northern Bari) as creating favourable conditions. These patterns highlight that returnees were not returning only out of need but also because some areas had begun offering more viable conditions.

However, push factors from areas of displacement also played an important role. These included worsening security (24–47%) and reductions in aid (up to 29%). In FGDs, returnees in Kator described how reduced food rations in Ugandan refugee camps pushed them to return earlier than planned, indicating that changes in assistance in displacement locations outside South Sudan also influence mobility.

Table 13: Most common reasons that motivated returnee households to return

Kator		Muniki		Northern Bari	
Pull factors in area of return					
Security improved	57%	Services improved	58%	Security improved	68%
Livelihoods improved	36%	Livelihoods improved	46%	Services improved	40%
Services improved	23%	Security improved	39%	Livelihoods improved	32%

				Political developments*	15%
Push factors in area of displacement					
Security worsened	47%	Security worsened	36%	Security worsened	24%
Reduction in aid	20%	Reduction	29%		

Despite having already returned to Juba County, many households reported continuing needs at high levels (40–70%), particularly in food, livelihood support, services, and shelter. Needs differed slightly across neighbourhoods: for instance, WASH needs were highest in Muniki (59%), while Northern Bari reported stronger needs for education (46%) and health services (44%). Returnees' high need levels underline that return to Juba has not resolved the vulnerabilities they faced during displacement.

Family reunification remained incomplete. Over half of returnees said that at least one family member had not yet returned, mainly due to safety concerns (29% in Kator; 31% in Northern Bari), family members still living in displacement sites (26% in Kator; 30% in Muniki), and physical disability (18% in Northern Bari). These findings suggest that many returns were partial or fragmented, which can weaken household stability, increase dependency, and elevate the risk of being displaced again.

b.3. Host Community

Host community households also reported substantial needs, especially in sectors essential for sustaining integration and return in urban settings. Across the three neighbourhoods, the most commonly reported needs were functional health services (59–70%) and functional schools (54–62%), reflecting strain on public service delivery for both host and displaced populations. Food access was also a significant concern for hosts, reported by 41–53% of households.

Compared with returnees, the host community was less likely to prioritise livelihood support, except in Muniki (52%), where residents expressed concerns about job scarcity and rising living costs. This difference suggests that livelihood constraints are shared across population groups but felt more sharply by returnees who often lack assets, documentation, or stable income options.

These findings indicate that hosts and returnees experience overlapping needs in health, education, and food access, but returnees face additional structural barriers linked to their displacement history. This overlap reinforces the need for area-based, inclusive interventions in the neighbourhoods that strengthen services for everyone while still addressing displacement-specific vulnerabilities.

Table 15: Most commonly reported needs in the area according to host community

Kator		Muniki		Northern Bari	
Functional health services	64%	Functional health services	59%	Functional health services	70%
Functional school	62%	Functional school	54%	Functional school	58%
Availability of food in area	50%	Availability of food in area	53%	Availability of food in area	41%
Safety and security	26%	Sustainable livelihood opportunities	52%	Safety and security	25%
Sustainable livelihood opportunities	21%	Safety and security	18%	Basic infrastructure	23%

c. Relocation or resettlement

A relatively low number of displaced households reported preferring to relocate or resettle. Preferences for local integration or relocation were shaped by households' economic conditions and

expectations of services. Households considering local integration most often highlighted the need for livelihood opportunities, safety, basic services, and in some cases affordable housing. Those preferring relocation focused primarily on food availability, functional services, and physical access, indicating that decisions to relocate were closely linked to basic needs rather than social or cultural considerations.

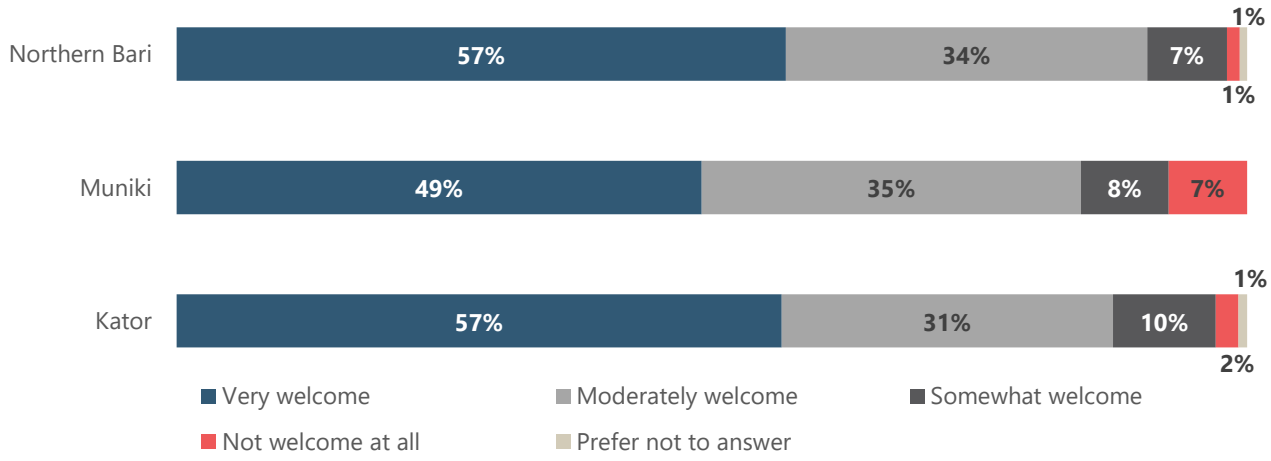
d. Stay at the current locations

Households who preferred to remain in their current location (more commonly in Kator and Muniki) often cited lack of services (up to 81%) and insecurity in their areas of origin (57–78%) as their main reasons. These push factors were far more influential than positive pull factors such as good conditions in the neighbourhood, which were mentioned by a smaller proportion. This aligns with qualitative accounts of insecurity and limited services outside Juba acting as major deterrents to return.

4.2. Living peacefully together

In terms of feelings of welcome from the host community, the vast majority of displaced groups felt very welcome or moderately welcome.

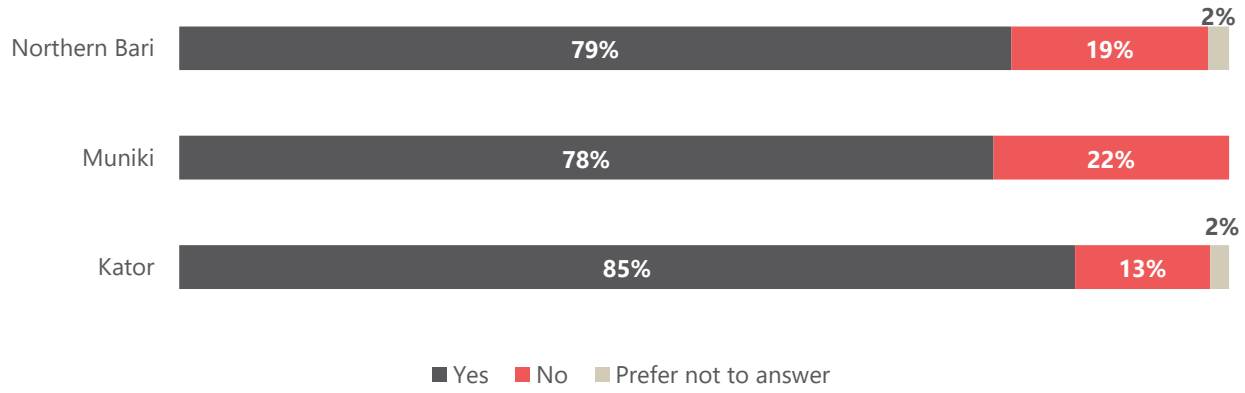
Figure 40: Reported feeling of welcome of displaced population groups by host community



In terms of reports of living peacefully with the community, the vast majority of households (host community and displaced households) reported to do so (93%), which was consistent with the feelings of welcome by the displaced households. Nonetheless, there was a small proportion of households reporting not to live peacefully together. Considering the difference in the sample size between host community and displaced, the proportion of households responding negatively was higher among the displaced groups (25/265) than the host community (21/536).

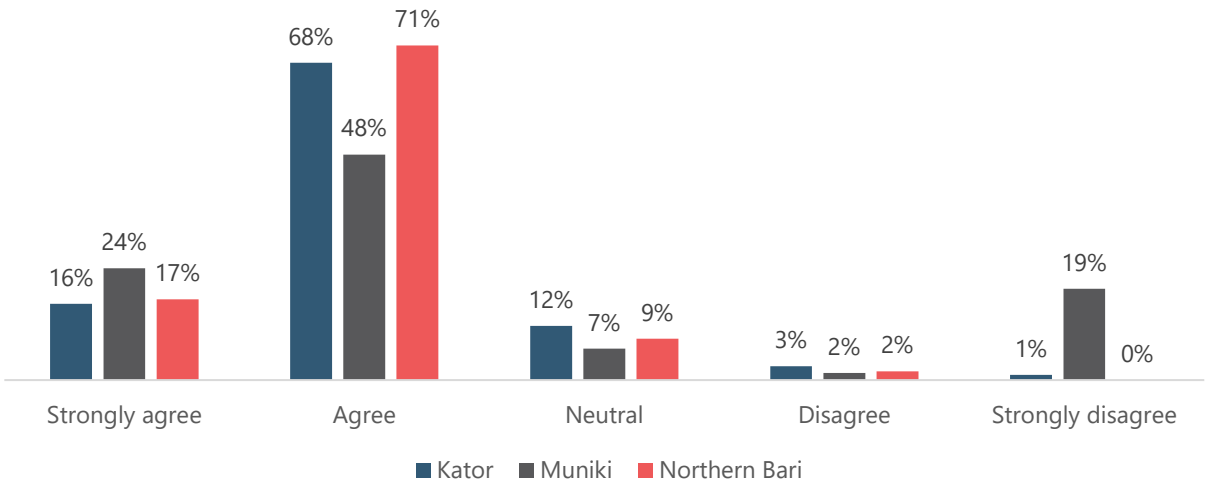
However, the proportion of households reporting to feel safe in the community was lower, indicating that the perceived safety risks likely came from outside the community. This aligns with findings from FGDs in Muniki and Kator neighbourhoods, in which participants highlighted the youth gangs as a threat to living peacefully and safely in the area.

Figure 41: Reported feelings of safety of households, by location



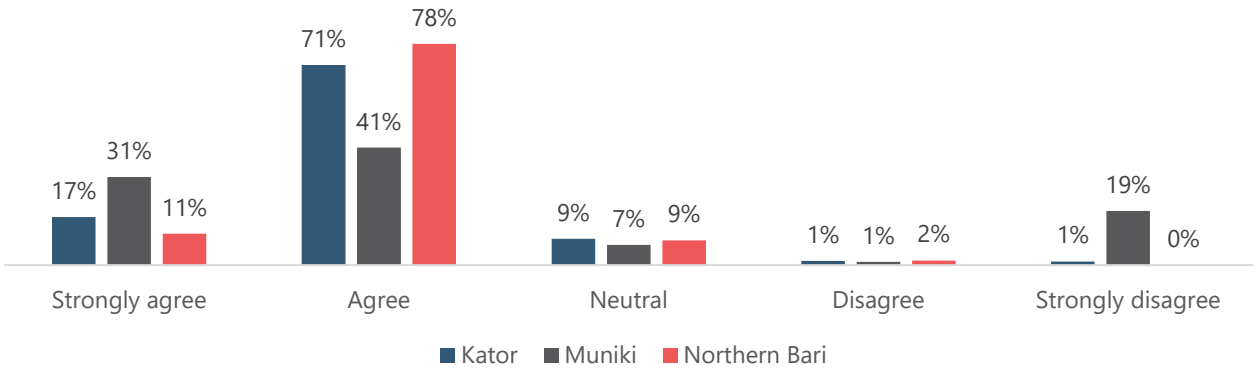
Generally, most households reported that in the community, they treat each other with respect. However, households in Muniki were divided, and had the highest proportion of households strongly disagreeing (19%).

Figure 42: Perceived respectful treatment among community members



Findings for how much households enjoyed living in a diverse community painted a similar picture, and households in Muniki were the most likely to strongly disagree. Those who strongly disagreed showed no obvious pattern. However, these results seemed to indicate that households in Muniki neighbourhood were experiencing more social cohesion issues compared to households in Kator and Northern Bari. This aligns with qualitative findings, in which KII and FGD participants in Muniki cited perceived cultural differences between the returnees and host community in terms of food sharing and adherence to societal norms, especially on greetings and dressings code.

Figure 43: Reported agreement of households with the statement that they enjoy living in a diverse community

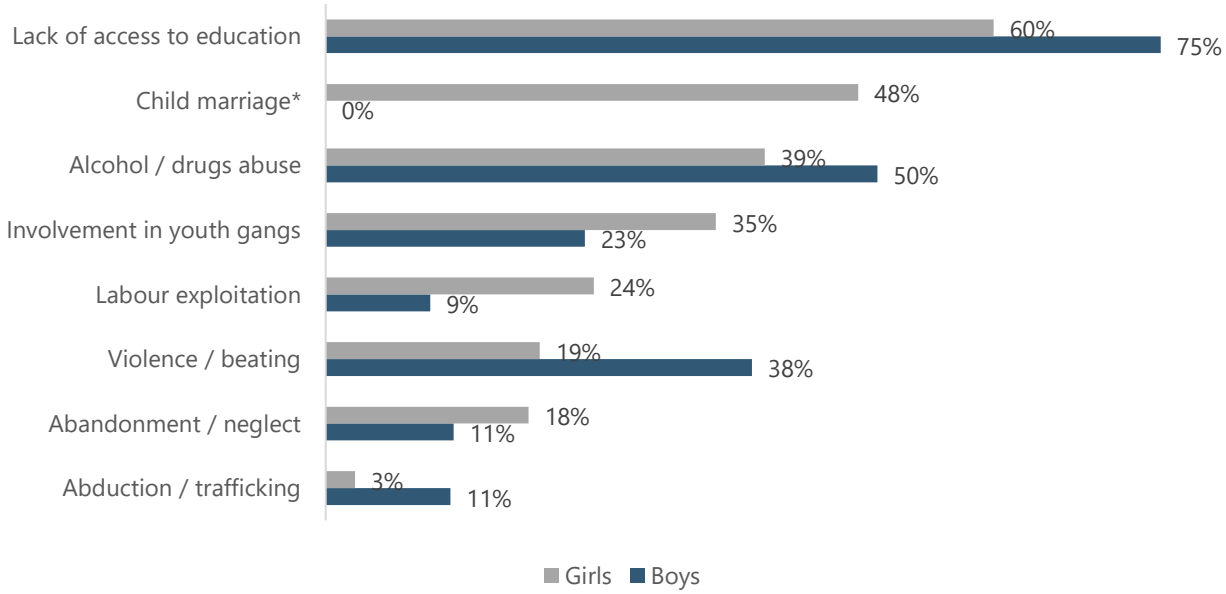


In terms of the protection concerns for girls and for boys, they shared several similarities. While both boys and girls were at risk of missing education, involvement with gangs, alcohol and drug use, girls were at much higher risk of child marriage. Moreover, more respondents showed concern for boys in terms of gang involvement and use of alcohol or drugs, while access to education was a more common concern for girls. The boys' involvement in gang activities aligns with qualitative findings from Kator and Muniki, in which participants described that boys from their communities join gang networks due to peer pressure and drug abuse. These findings, similarly to other locations, highlight that although both are highly vulnerable, gender norms result in a different exposure (perceived or real) to protections risks.

Table 18: Top 3 most reported protection concerns for boys and girls:

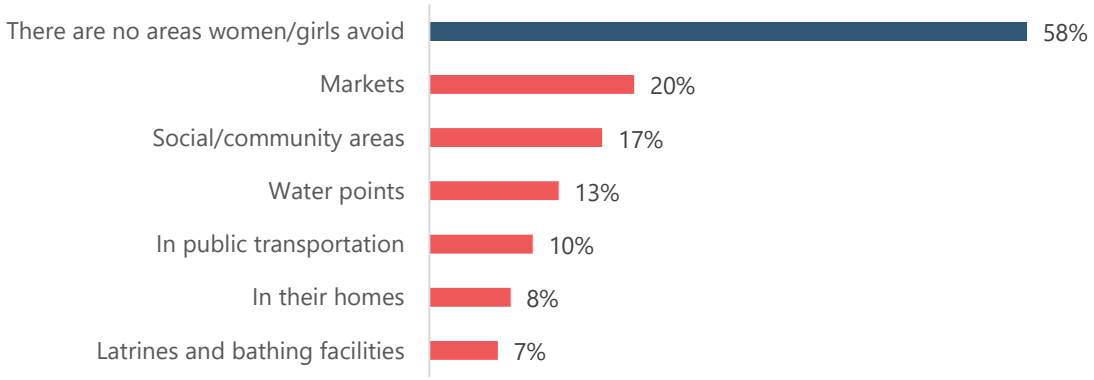
Kator		Muniki		Northern Bari	
Boys					
Lack of access to education	59%	Involvement in youth gangs	82%	Lack of access to education	57%
Alcohol / drugs abuse	56%	Alcohol / drugs abuse	81%	Involvement in youth gangs	53%
Involvement in youth gangs	36%	Lack of access to education	56%	Alcohol / drugs abuse	51%
Girls					
Lack of access to education	62%	Lack of access to education	59%	Lack of access to education	60%
Child marriage	52%	Involvement in youth gangs	54%	Child marriage	52%
Alcohol / drugs abuse	34%	Alcohol / drugs abuse	50%	Alcohol / drugs abuse	33%

Figure 44: Perceived protection risks for girls and boys by households living in neighbourhoods



There were several households reporting areas that women and girls avoid due to protection concerns (41%), such as markets, social gathering areas, and water points. It is relevant to highlight that 8% of households reported their own homes as areas women and girls prefer to avoid due to protection risks.

Figure 45: Reported areas that women and girls avoid in the community

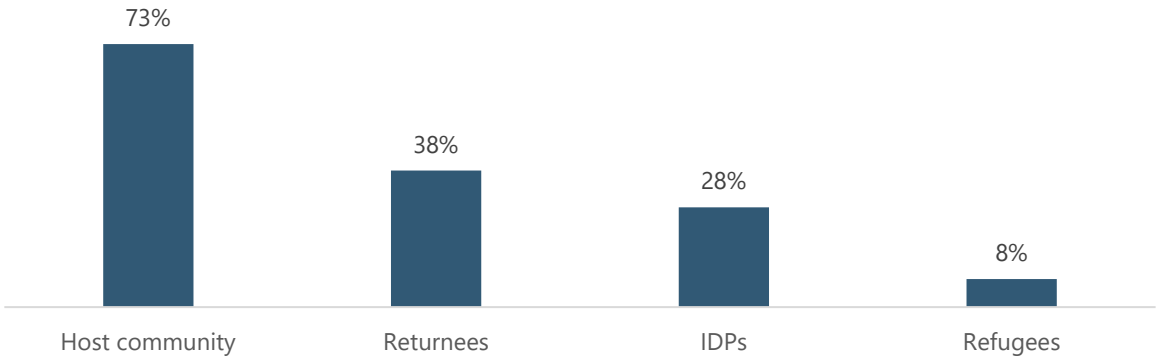


The majority of households in neighbourhoods (70%) reported protection services were available in their area, mostly police services (90%), counselling (15%), referral and linkage to services (11%), and health services for GBV (11%).

4.3. Housing, land, and property

Nearly half of the households living in the three neighbourhoods reported owning property. There were important differences between population groups: while most of the host community owned property (73%), displaced groups were less likely to do so, especially refugees (8%).

Figure 46: Proportion of HHs reporting owning property or a house, by population group:

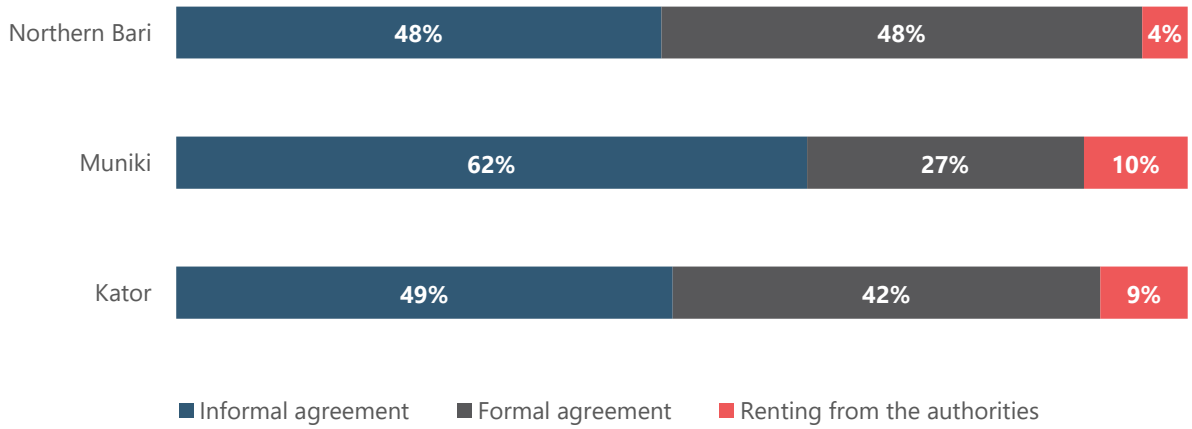


The majority of property owners reported having the property documents (90% in Muniki, 82% in Kator, and 84% in Northern Bari).

A majority of households reported no disputes over their owned property (86% in Muniki, 84% in Northern Bari, and 77% in Kator). Those reporting disputes reported mostly due to land grabbing and boundary disputes in Kator (18% and 16% respectively) and in Northern Bari (both 11%). The disputes over land correspond with findings from the qualitative data conducted in Muniki and Kator, in which participants cited multiple owners of a piece of land as a source of conflict in the community. Disputes were most commonly with the county courts or the community leaders/chiefs. County disputes were more common in Muniki (53%), and households were also more commonly dissatisfied with the resolution (44%) compared to households in the other neighbourhoods (approximately 60% satisfied when combined).

Among those who did not live in their own property (74% in Northern Bari, 69% in Muniki, and 64% in Kator), they reported different rental agreements. Informal rental agreements were very common across all locations and across all population groups.

Figure 47: Type of rental agreement, by location

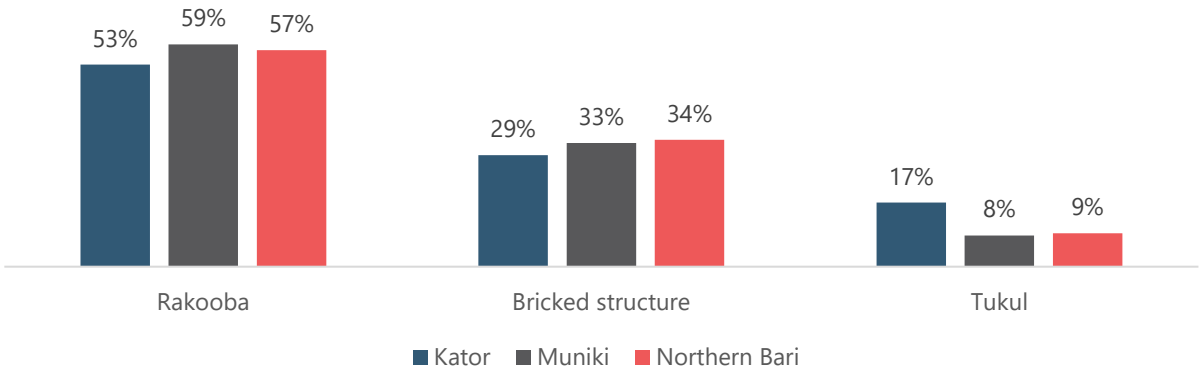


Among those who reported issues with their shelter (56% in Kator, 66% in Muniki, and 54%in Northern Bari), the top three most reported issues were related to key structural elements like roofing (73%), walls (72%), and doors or windows (44%).

In terms of the types of shelters, there were 3 shelter types that were the most common: Rakooba, bricked structure, and Tukul. Although Rakooba and Tukuls are local traditional structures, and tukuls

are adapted to the climate, they can carry some structural weakness and thus needing repairs more frequently than bricked structures.

Figure 48: Most commonly reported types of shelter where households live, by location



Most households reported needing support in obtaining materials to fix their shelters (79% in Kator, 86% in Muniki, and 76% in Northern Bari).

4.4. Access to livelihoods and markets

Households selected their main source of income commonly coming from the private sector, specially casual employment.

Table 19: Most commonly reported types of main income sources for households, by location

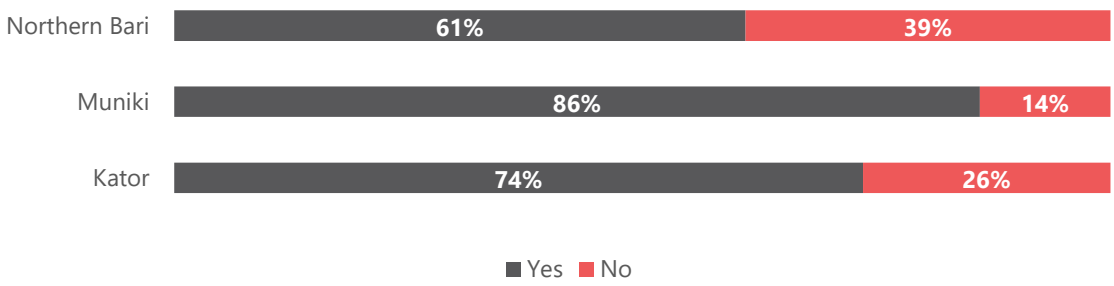
	Kator	Muniki	Northern Bari
Private sector daily casual employment	32%	42%	27%
Government	23%	17%	27%
Private sector (Services)	17%	10%	18%
Private sector (business owners)	9%	14%	6%
Private sector (Shops)	8%	5%	6%
None	2%	4%	4%

Most households did not practice any farming activities (92%), and those who did (8%) mostly reported doing mostly subsistence farming (73%), with some combining it with commercial farming (21%). Subsistence farming was more common among households living in informal IDP sites and refugee sites. Findings were similar for other typical subsistence activities, most households reporting not owning livestock (95%) or practicing fishing (99%). The high proportion of households not practicing farming and owning livestock aligns with qualitative findings in Muniki, Kator, and Northern Bari, in which participants described the lack of land for cultivation and grazing as a factor hindering farming and livestock ownership. In addition, participants from Kator cited insecurity limiting access to farming areas in the Juba outskirts.

Nonetheless, households living in neighbourhoods were more likely to report practicing small trade/business or forestry (31%) compared to formal and informal IDP sites (12% and 5% respectively), slightly more common among refugees in refugee sites (25%).

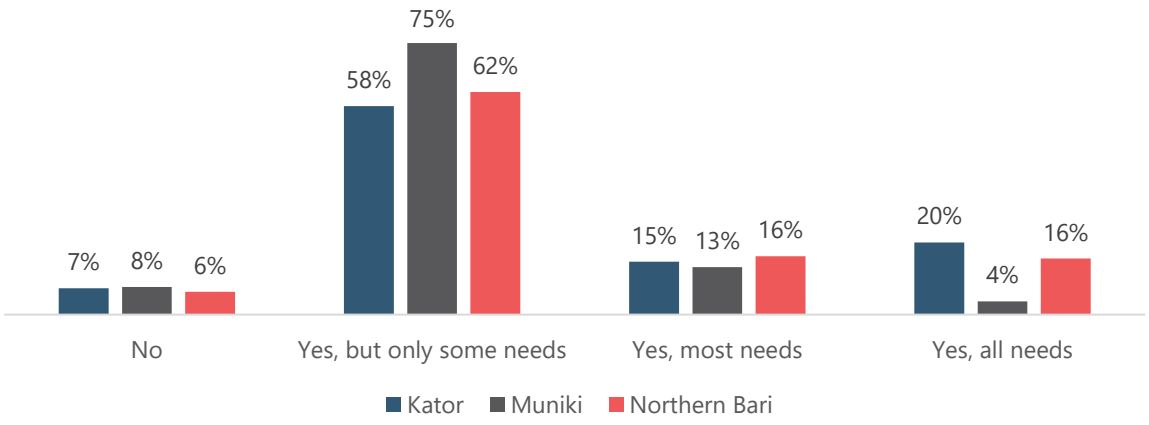
There was variation in the reported access to markets for basic household needs, more commonly reported as accessible in Muniki (86%) than in Northern Bari (61%).

Figure 49: Reported household access to major markets, by location



The markets that were available in their area mostly covered only some of their needs, especially for households in Muniki (75%).

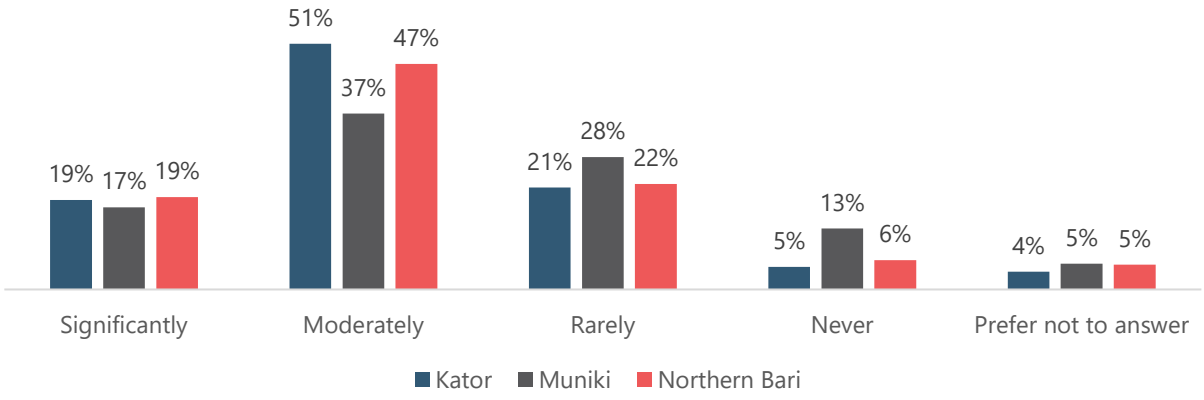
Figure 50: Reported ability to cover their basic needs through the markets available to households, by location



4.5. Participation in civic life

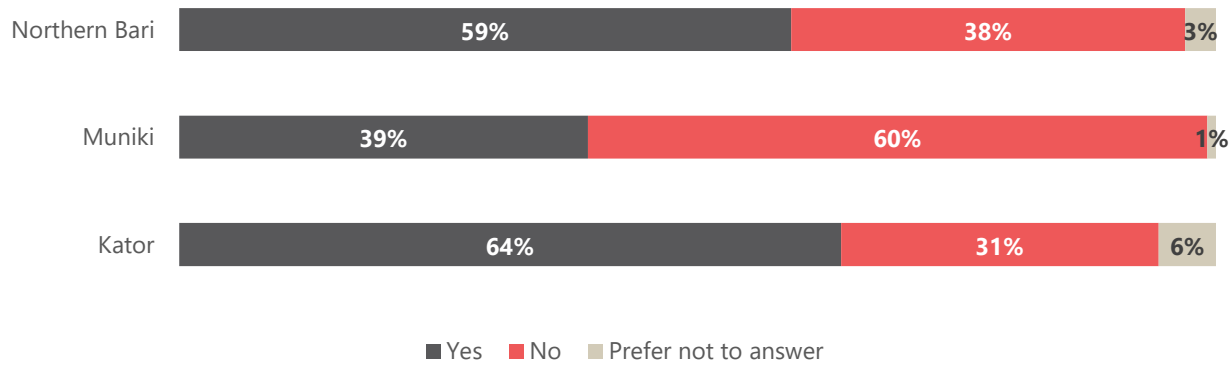
Overall, women were reportedly involved moderately or significantly in the community's decision making. Nonetheless, this perceived participation was rare (28%) or absent ('never' 23%) in Muniki compared to the other two neighbourhoods.

Figure 51: Perceived involvement of women in community decision-making, by location



While over half of respondents in Northern Bari (59%) and Kator (64%) reported feeling positively on the fairness by local government, in Muniki, it was more often perceived as unfair (60%). There were no apparent trends across locations. In Muniki host community (62%) and returnees (62%) seemed to feel local government was unfair compared to IDPs (57%) and refugees (48%). The perceived unfairness of the government reported by the host community aligns with findings from the FGDs in which participants from Muniki cited poor allocation of resources for service delivery, mainly the residential roads, access to electricity, water, and healthcare. In Northern Bari and Kator, IDPs, returnees, and host community tended to report similar feelings on the fairness of local government, but in both locations it was refugees who were more likely to report to believe the local government was fair (81% in Northern Bari and 67% in Kator).

Figure 52: Households perceived government fairness, by location



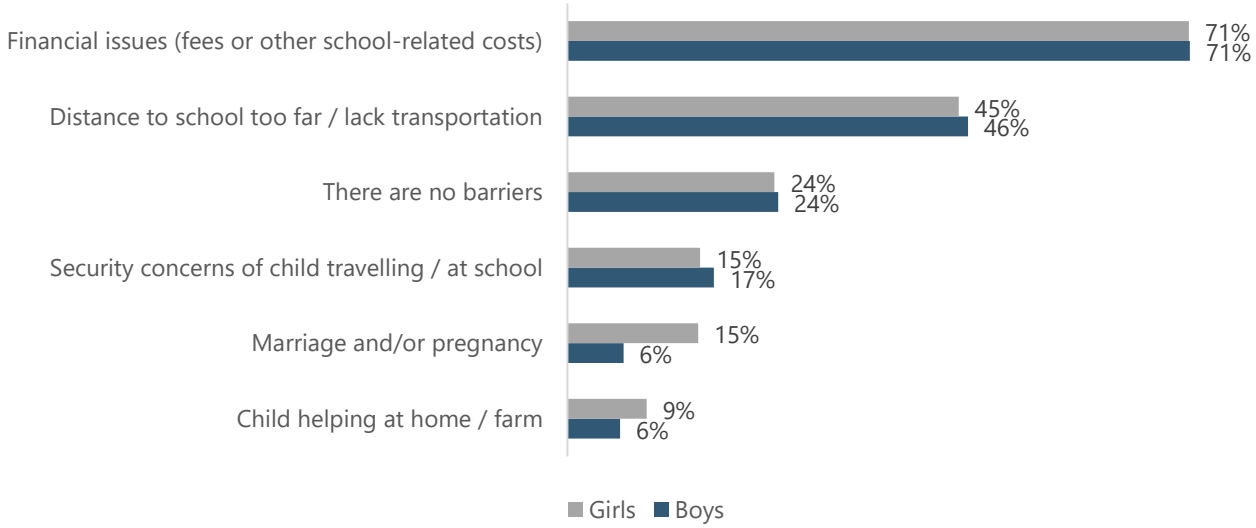
Nearly half of the respondents reported having limited access to basic services in their community. There were no noticeable differences between displaced populations and host community, suggesting that the lack of access is not caused by their displacement status but by availability and need. In terms of access to justice, a similar proportion perceived having limited access to justice systems in their community (44% in Kator, 44% in Muniki, 38% in Northern Bari).

4.6. Access to services

a. Access to education services

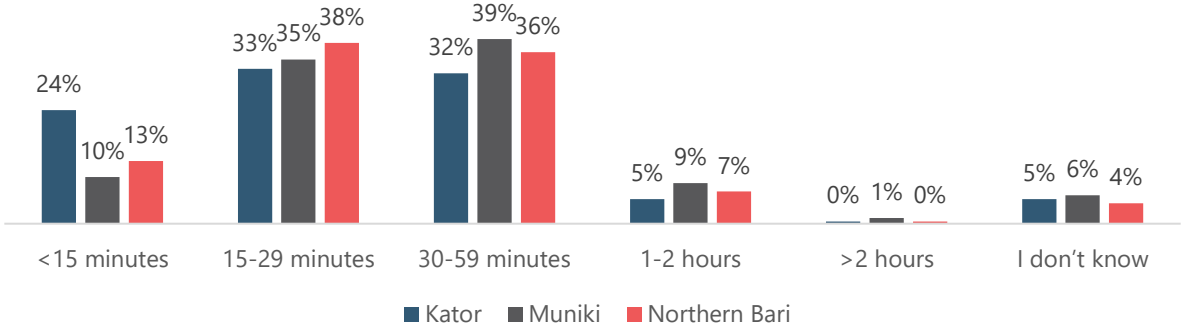
In terms of barriers to access education, both girls and boys reportedly face similar barriers, with girls being slightly more often reported to be at a higher risk of marriage/pregnancy (15%, while for boys this was reported by 9% of households). Curiously, considering marriage as a barrier or issue was more commonly reported when asked about protection risks than when asking about barriers to education for girls. This difference could be caused by the questionnaire design: while barriers to access education was asked at the household level (about the households' school aged children), protection risks were asked to be reported at the community level.

Figure 53: Reported barriers that households' children face to access education, by gender



Financial issues (71%) and distance to school (46% for boys and 45% for girls) were the most reported barriers to access education, with some differences across neighbourhoods, with a higher proportion of households reporting financial issues (89% for boys, and 88% for girls) and distance to school (61% for boys and 57% for girls) as barriers. When asked about traveling time to school, households reported a similar distribution across neighbourhoods, with the main difference that households in Muniki reported longer traveling times more often by a relatively small difference.

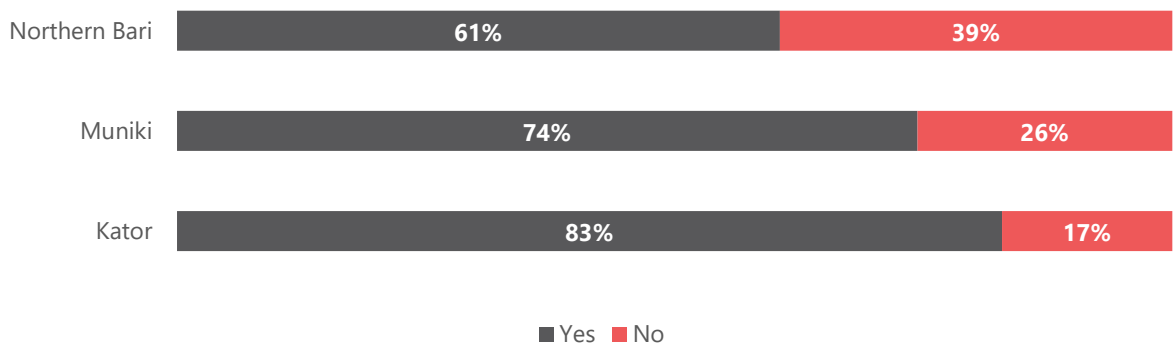
Figure 54: Households reported travelling time to the closest functional education facility for their children



b. Access to health services

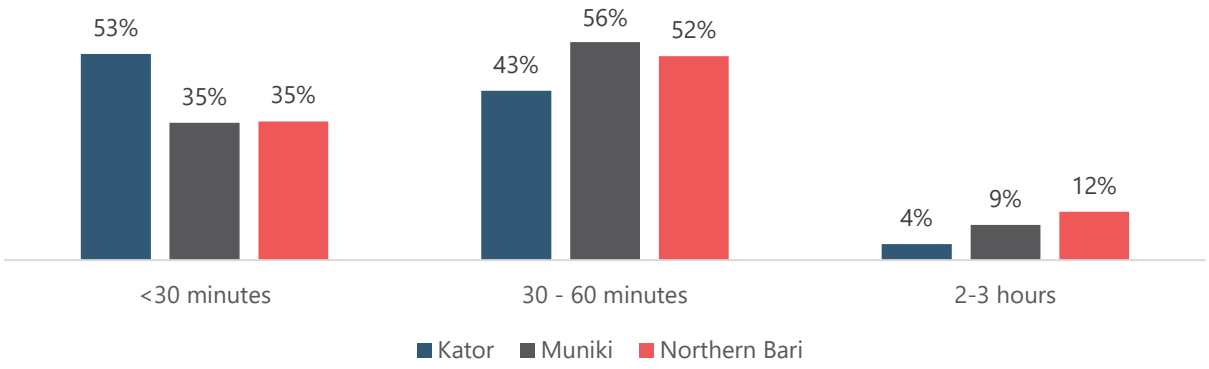
Access to healthcare facilities varied across neighbourhoods, but overall, a majority of households reported nearby access to a functional health facility. Nonetheless, 39% households in Northern Bari reported no availability.

Figure 55: Reported availability of a healthcare facility in the vicinity.



Primary healthcare centres were commonly reported to be available, especially in Kator (54%). Mobile clinics were more commonly reported in Muniki and Northern Bari (31% and 32% respectively), indicating weaker formal healthcare services as described by FGD participants in Muniki. For those reporting the availability of functional healthcare services nearby (73% for the three neighbourhoods), 84% reported being able to access it. A slightly higher proportion of households from Muniki and Northern Bari reportedly had to travel for longer periods of time to the closest healthcare service provider, mostly to healthcare clinics in the nearest town or Boma.

Figure 56: Households reported travelling time to their closest healthcare services



c. Access to WASH services

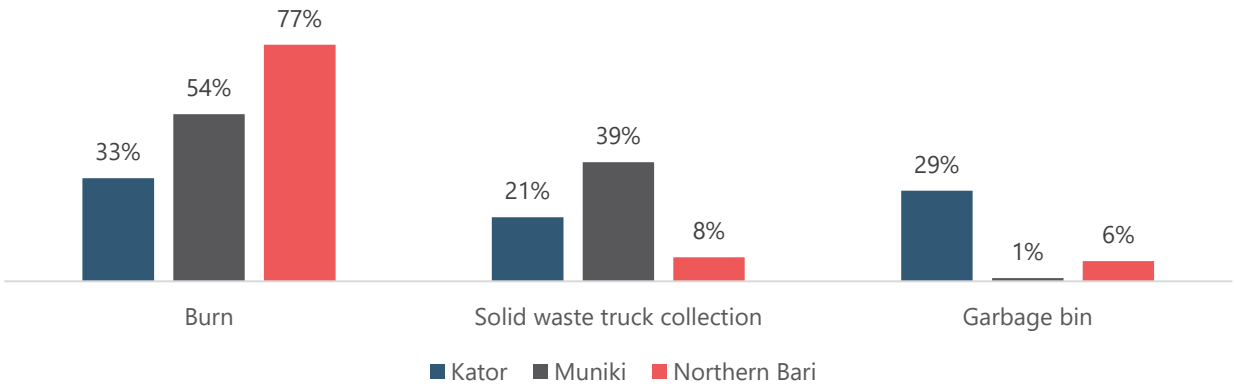
Their main source for drinking water was water trucking (74% in Kator, 72% in Northern Bari, and 66% in Muniki), borehole (15% in Muniki, 13% in Northern Bari, and 6% in Kator), and purchasing water from the store (10% in Kator, 8% in Muniki, 7% in Northern Bari). In terms of the time that it took to "fetch" drinking water, the majority of households reported less than 15 minutes (likely because of the water trucking) or between 15-30 minutes. A fifth of households in Muniki (21%) reported 30-59 minutes to fetch water, indicating that households in Muniki might be travelling longer than the average of the households living on the other two neighbourhoods.

In terms of latrine usage, most households used house latrines (9% in Muniki, 83% in Kator, 82% in Northern Bari), while others used communal latrines (% in Kator, 8% in Northern Bari, 6% in Muniki), a bush (6% in Northern Bari), or a drainage (4% in Kator).

On reported methods of waste disposal, there were several variations across neighbourhoods. In Northern Bari the dominant method was burning (77%), while for Muniki was burning (54%) and solid

waste truck collection (39%). Households in Kator reported with similar distribution to burn (33%), dispose into a garbage bin (29%), or use solid waste trick collection (21%). This made neighbourhoods the locations where waste was more often disposed through "official" means, compared to other locations.

Figure 57: Most commonly reported methods that households use to dispose of waste, by location



Households utilised several hygiene practices, but some key hygiene practices were not widely used such as handwashing with soap at key times or washing/covering the food.

Table 20: Common hygiene practices, by location

	Kator	Muniki	Northern Bari
Drink treated water	65%	56%	64%
Cover drinking water	47%	55%	44%
Use latrine for defecation	44%	57%	48%
Wash/cover food	37%	37%	38%
Handwashing with soap at key times	33%	22%	33%
Use water guard/aqua tab	18%	24%	15%

CONCLUSION

The findings of this assessment underscore that achieving durable solutions in Juba County requires more than addressing the needs of displaced populations alone. Households in every setting face many systemic constraints driven by the economic crisis, inflation and currency depreciation, escalating insecurity, low public investment in services and infrastructure, and the 2025–2026 reduction in humanitarian assistance. These pressures have severely limited access to services and increased the cost of living, shaping decisions related to return, local integration, and relocation. Despite these common challenges, displaced households consistently bear greater impacts due to fewer assets, less stable living arrangements, and higher exposure to protection risks.

This shared vulnerability highlights that integration challenges are not solely the result of social tensions or lack of acceptance but rather from underlying structural deficits. Displaced households therefore face a dual burden: like the host community, they are affected by high living costs, limited access to services, and recurrent insecurity, but they also shoulder additional displacement-related constraints, including loss of property, absence of land documentation, disrupted livelihoods, and higher exposure to protection risks such as gang activity and child marriage.

Across settlement types, the nature and drivers of vulnerability differ in important ways. Households in formal IDP sites face the most acute service gaps and insecurity, with overcrowded housing, limited livelihoods, and reduced humanitarian services. Those in Mangalla, the informal site, experience the most pronounced livelihood reliance on subsistence agriculture and face recurrent climate-related barriers such as flooding. Gorom Refugee Settlement presents a contrasting picture: refugees benefit from relatively better access to services due to NGO/UN presence, but social cohesion challenges—particularly between long-term residents and new arrivals—were more prominent. In urban neighbourhoods, households benefit from proximity to Juba's economy and services, but still face high costs, youth-related insecurity, and limited access to housing or land tenure. These differences are shaped by geography, cause of displacement, proximity to markets and services, and institutional presence, and should inform area-based planning.

Differences also emerged between population groups. Host community households often reported needs linked to overstretched services, while IDPs and returnees faced additional challenges linked to loss of assets, insecure housing, and higher barriers to livelihood opportunities. Returnees, even after coming back to Juba County, frequently continued to face high needs—especially food, livelihoods, and education—and many had yet to reunify with all family members. Refugees in Gorom had better service access but poorer social cohesion, shaped by tensions between longer-term residents and newly arrived groups. These patterns reflect how displacement history, legal status, and exposure to past shocks affect households' ability to integrate and build self-reliance.

In terms of vulnerabilities within the communities, girls were more affected by risks of child marriage and school dropout, while boys were more frequently associated with gang involvement and substance use. In several locations, women respondents were more likely to be unemployed, highlighting gendered economic barriers. Newly arrived displaced households—whether IDPs, returnees, or refugees—were more likely to report feeling pressured, less accepted, or disadvantaged in accessing support. These findings highlight the need for programming that targets specific groups facing the highest risks, rather than applying uniform approaches across population categories.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that **durable solutions in Juba County require addressing overlapping vulnerabilities while also responding to displacement-specific needs.** Strengthening area-based services in urban neighbourhoods, diversifying and expanding livelihood opportunities,

improving infrastructure and access to services in areas farther from Juba's centre, and expanding social protection mechanisms are critical steps. Without these combined efforts, displaced populations risk continued cycles of displacement, and host communities will remain under strain. This assessment provides a strong evidence base for designing inclusive, context-appropriate strategies that improve resilience and support sustainable progress toward durable solutions for all communities in Juba County.