



# South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

## Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

October 2022

### Overview

The continuation of conflict since December 2013 has created a complex humanitarian crisis in the country, restricting humanitarian access and hindering the flow of information required by aid partners to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need. To address information gaps faced by the humanitarian response in South Sudan, REACH employs its Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology to collect relevant information in hard-to-reach areas to inform humanitarian planning and interventions outside formal settlement sites.

Using the AoK methodology, REACH remotely monitors needs and access to services in the Greater

Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions. AoK data is collected monthly and through multi-sector interviews with the following typology of Key Informants (KIs):

- Newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month
- Persons who have been in contact with someone living in a hard-to-reach settlement, or have been visiting one in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)
- Persons who were remaining in hard-to-reach settlements, contacted through phone.

Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed have more than one KI reporting on the settlement. In these cases, data is aggregated at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#).

All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed with that specific response.

The findings presented in this factsheet are indicative of the broad trends relevant to population movement (displacement and returns) in assessed settlements in October 2022, and are not statistically generalisable.

### Assessment Coverage

**2,191** Key informants interviewed

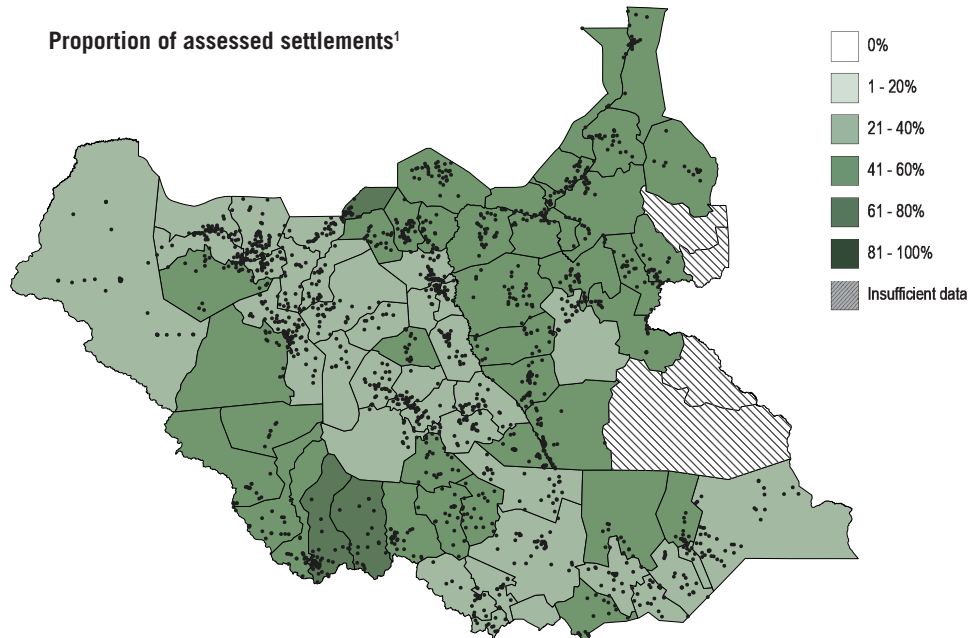
**1,874** Settlements assessed

**74** Counties assessed

**74** Counties with 5% or more coverage<sup>1</sup>

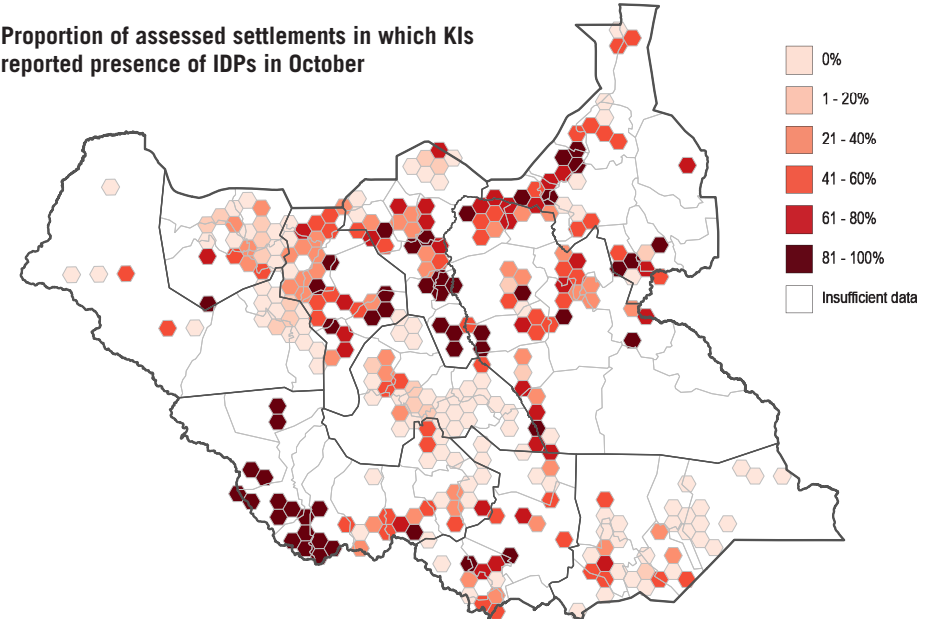
### Assessment coverage

Proportion of assessed settlements<sup>1</sup>



### IDP presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of IDPs in October



<sup>1</sup>Data is only represented for counties in which at least 5% of settlements have been assessed. The most [recent OCHA Common Operational Dataset \(COD\)](#) released in March 2019 has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and for the number of settlements in each county.

Given limitations in analysing data using sub-county administrative boundaries in South Sudan, the country was divided into a 500km<sup>2</sup> hexagon grid for analytical and display purposes. The distance between the opposite sides of each hexagon represents 15km, approximating one day's walking distance as well as the size of a basic service unit.



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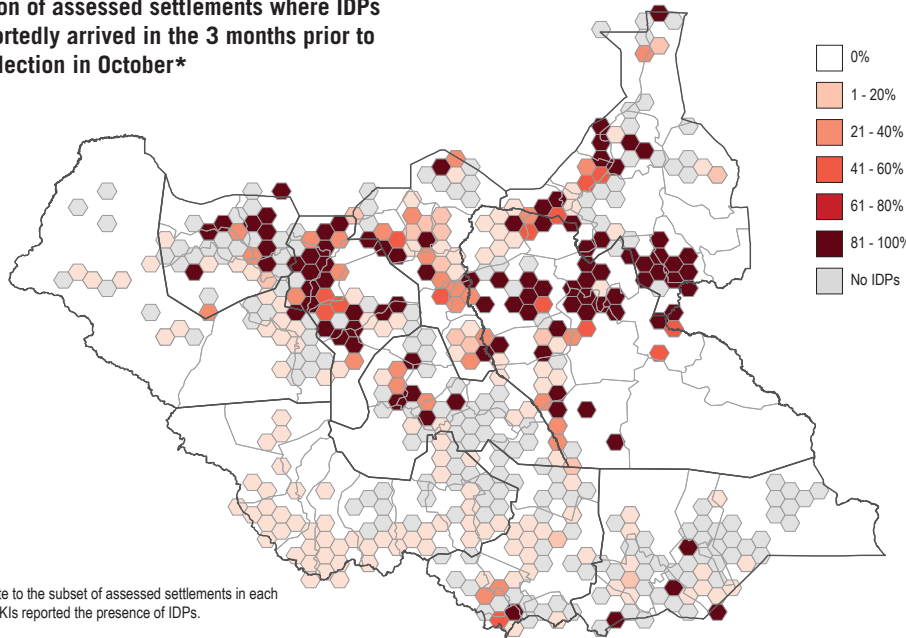
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### Displacement and population movement

Proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection in October\*



\*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements in each county where KIs reported the presence of IDPs.

### Key displacement trends

In addition to data collected through the Area-of-Knowledge (AoK) surveys, REACH tracks secondary sources on population movement to triangulate AoK findings and to track additional movements or drivers that are not well-reflected in AoK data.

- In August, heavy fighting was reported between armed factions in Tonga and surrounding areas in Panyikang County. Then an [estimated 15,000](#) people were displaced to Pakwa and Agunjuok while others crossed to Malakal town.
- Since July, Fashoda County has been experiencing flooding. Most of the population in Lul and Dethwoth payams were affected with [thousands](#) reportedly displaced to the high ground areas. This is coupled with insecurity, which caused an estimated [8,000](#) people to displace in October from Kodok town and other locations to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) compound in Kodok for safety.
- In a rapid assessment conducted in Uror in [October](#) 2022, participants reported that fewer people had displaced in 2022 compared to the previous years. While insecurity was reported to be a main driver of population movement,
- In Uror county in [September](#), flooding was reported to continue to cause displacement and destruction of homes and livelihood activities, and sections of the population were reportedly cut off by the flood from accessing the health or nutrition services.

### Recent IDPs<sup>2</sup>

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection

Panyikang (n=11)	79%	<div></div>
Uror (n=13)	68%	<div></div>
Ulang (n=15)	68%	<div></div>
Fashoda (n=21)	64%	<div></div>
LuakpinyNasir (n=13)	60%	<div></div>

### Main reason for movement (push factor)

In those top five counties, main reason for movement reported per county, by % of assessed settlements where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection

Insecurity (Panyikang) (n=9)	64%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Uror) (n=11)	58%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Ulang) (n=9)	41%	<div></div>
Flooding (Fashoda) (n=13)	39%	<div></div>
Insecurity (LuakpinyNasir) (n=6)	30%	<div></div>

### Counties of origin

In those top five counties, main county of origin reported per county, by % of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present

Panyikang (to Panyikang) (n=7)	50%	<div></div>
Uror (to Uror) <sup>3</sup> (n=4)	21%	<div></div>
Ulang (to Ulang) (n=9)	41%	<div></div>
Fashoda (to Fashoda) (n=28)	85%	<div></div>
Maiwut (to LuakpinyNasir) <sup>4</sup> (n=4)	20%	<div></div>

<sup>2</sup>Findings derived from the subset of (n) assessed settlements per county where IDPs were reportedly present.

<sup>3</sup>In addition, 21% also reported arrived from Duk county

<sup>4</sup>In addition, 20% reported to have come arrived from within LuakpinyNasir



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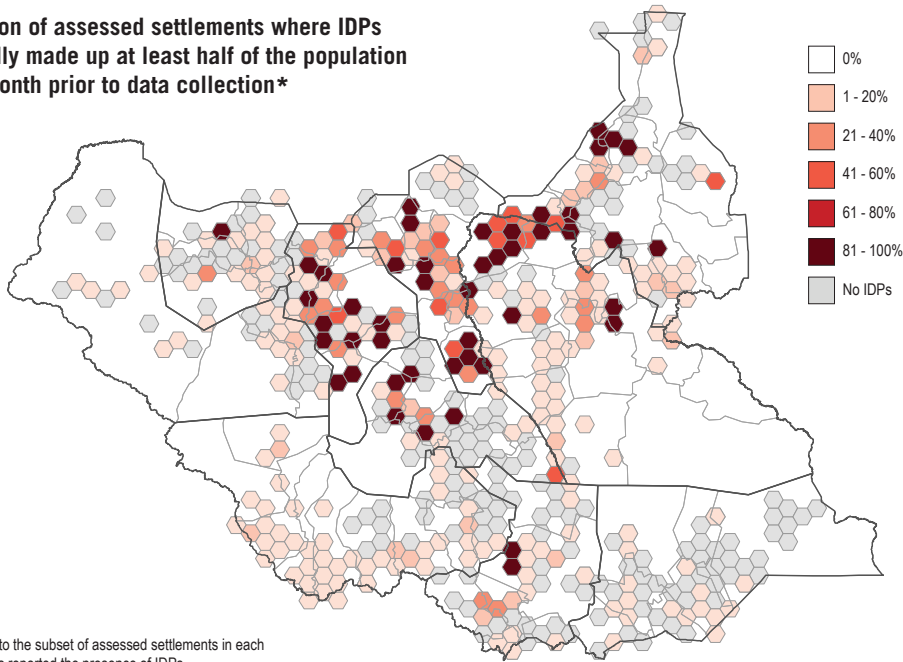
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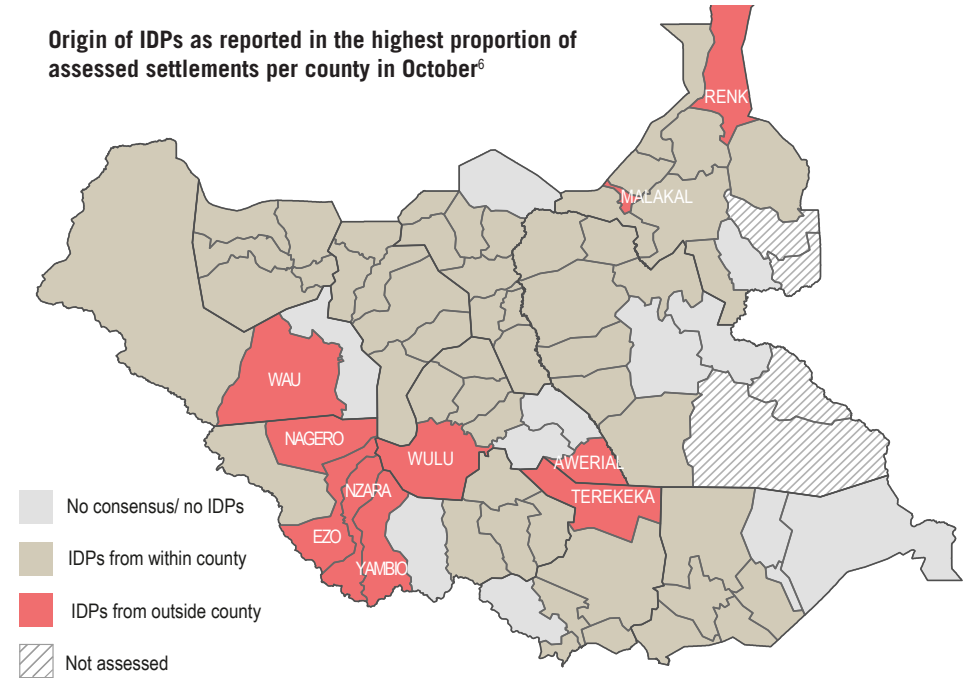
## Displacement and population movement

Proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population in the month prior to data collection\*



\*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements in each county where KIs reported the presence of IDPs.

Origin of IDPs as reported in the highest proportion of assessed settlements per county in October<sup>6</sup>



## Proportion of IDPs

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population in the month prior to data collection:

Panyijiar (n=25)	71%
Malakal (n=12)	67%
Panyikang (n=8)	57%
Mayendit (n=10)	52%
Fangak (n=18)	49%

## IDP arrival time

In those top 5 counties, % of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection:

Panyijiar (n=12)	34%
Malakal (n=2)	11%
Panyikang (n=11)	79%
Mayendit (n=11)	58%
Fangak (n=2)	5%

## Counties of origin

In those top 5 counties, % of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence by main country of origin:

Panyijiar (to Panyijiar) (n=26)	74%
Canal/Pigi (to Malakal) (n=8)	44%
Panyikang (to Panyikang) (n=7)	50%
Mayendit (to Mayendit) (n=15)	79%
Fangak (to Fangak) (n=23)	62%



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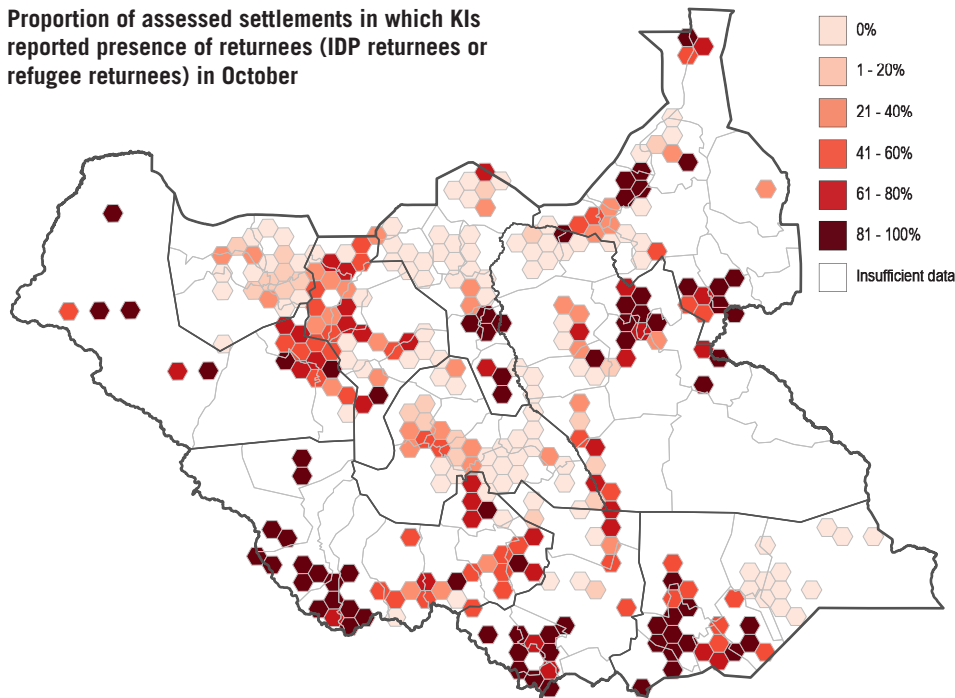
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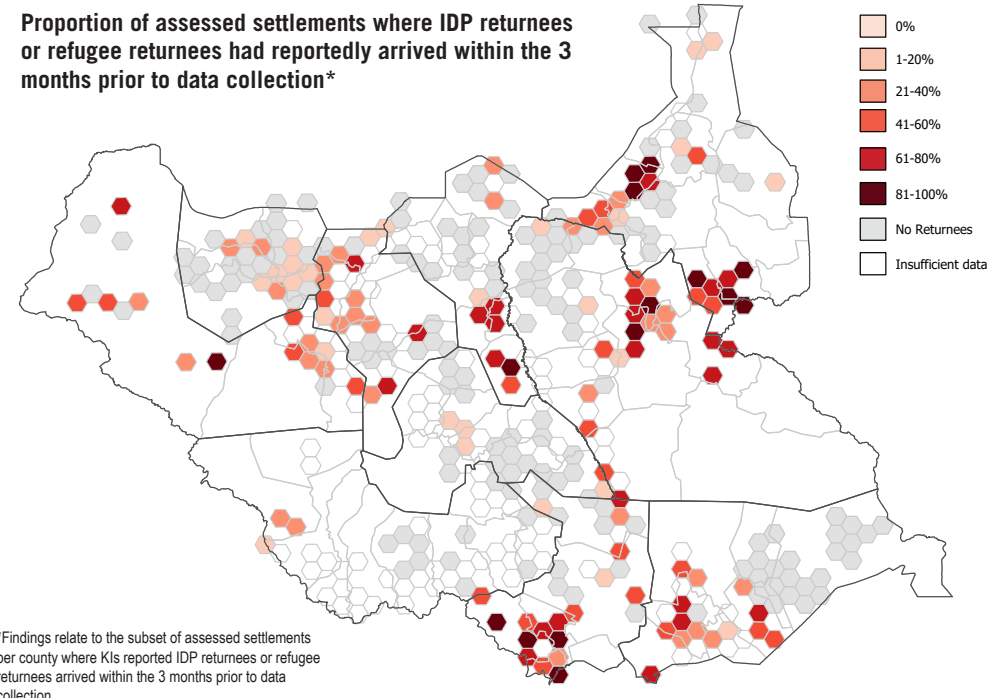
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### Returnee presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of returnees (IDP returnees or refugee returnees) in October



Proportion of assessed settlements where IDP returnees or refugee returnees had reportedly arrived within the 3 months prior to data collection\*



\*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements per county where KIs reported IDP returnees or refugee returnees arrived within the 3 months prior to data collection

### Presence of recent IDP returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where IDP returnees had reportedly been present in the 3 months prior to data collection

Fashoda (n=26)	79%	<div></div>
Mayendit (n=14)	74%	<div></div>
Panyijiar (n=25)	71%	<div></div>
Yei (n=16)	61%	<div></div>
Leer (n=13)	59%	<div></div>

### Counties of origin

In those top five counties (see chart on the far left), main county of origin reported by county

Fashoda (to Fashoda) (n=26)	79%	<div></div>
Rubkona (to Mayendit) <sup>7</sup> (n=5)	26%	<div></div>
Panyijiar (to Panyijiar) (n=13)	37%	<div></div>
Yei (to Yei) (n=13)	54%	<div></div>
Rubkona (to Leer) <sup>8</sup> (n=5)	22%	<div></div>

<sup>7</sup>In addition, KIs in 26% of those settlements reported IDP returnees had arrived from within Mayendit

<sup>8</sup>In addition, KIs in 22% of those settlements reported to have arrived from within Leer.

### Presence of recent refugee returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where refugee returnees had reportedly been present in the 3 months prior to data collection:

Yei (n=22)	92%	<div></div>
Fashoda (n=27)	82%	<div></div>
Kajo Keji (n=15)	75%	<div></div>
Lainya (n=12)	75%	<div></div>
Ulang (n=12)	55%	<div></div>

### Countries of origin

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main country of origin reported by county

Uganda (to Yei) (n=12)	50%	<div></div>
Sudan (to Fashoda) (n=27)	82%	<div></div>
Uganda (to Kajo Keji) (n=15)	75%	<div></div>
Uganda (to Lainya) (n=12)	75%	<div></div>
Ethiopia (to Ulang) (n=11)	55%	<div></div>





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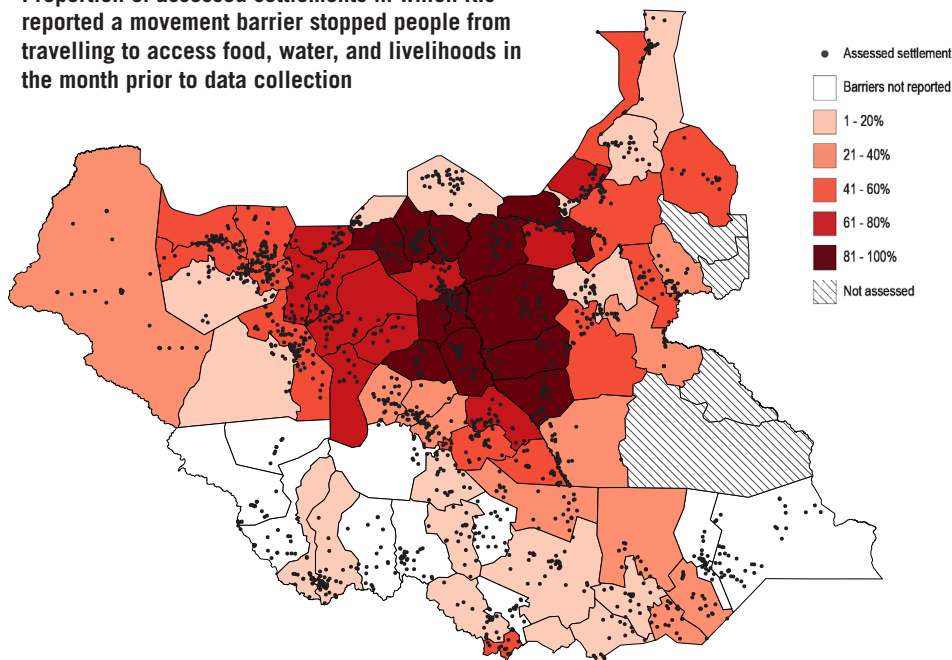
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### Movement barriers map

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported a movement barrier stopped people from travelling to access food, water, and livelihoods in the month prior to data collection



### Key trends related to movement barriers

In addition to data collected through the Area-of-Knowledge (AoK) surveys, REACH tracks secondary sources on movement barriers to triangulate AoK findings and to track additional barriers to movement that are not well-reflected in AoK data.

- In August and early [September](#), Fangak County received heavy rainfall causing massive floods. This resulted in displacement of the population, submergence and destruction of houses, loss of properties and livelihoods, and access became difficult for villages, which takes an average of 2-3 hours without a canoe.
- In Mayendit county, seasonal flooding has [reportedly](#) been increasing since 2019, with 2022 showing worse flooding compared to 2021. Access within Mayendit county was reportedly difficult both for humanitarian and local communities due to the extensive flood water.
- Consecutive years of flooding continued to impede population movement in Leer County. In [September](#) the floodwaters reportedly made it impossible to reach out to the population outside Leer Town. In addition, many people were reportedly unable to [access](#) any medical services, again as a consequence of the floods.

### Counties reporting movement barrier(s)

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where a movement barrier reportedly stopped people from travelling to access food, water, and livelihoods

Fangak	100%	<div></div>
Mayendit	100%	<div></div>
Guit	100%	<div></div>
Twic East	97%	<div></div>
Leer	96%	<div></div>

### Types of reported movement barriers<sup>9</sup>

In those five counties (see chart to the far left), main movement barrier reported by county

Flooding (Fangak) (n=37)	100%	<div></div>
Flooding (Mayendit) (n=19)	100%	<div></div>
Flooding (Guit) (n=18)	90%	<div></div>
Flooding (Twic East) (n=35)	90%	<div></div>
Flooding (Leer) (n=22)	100%	<div></div>

### Country-wide reported movement barriers

Overall, most reported movement barriers in the month prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements where barriers had been reported (n=775)<sup>10</sup>

Flooding	77%	<div></div>
Conflict	26%	<div></div>
Tension	20%	<div></div>
Environmental barriers	19%	<div></div>
Movement restrictions	5%	<div></div>

<sup>9</sup>Findings are reported for the subset of (n) assessed settlements where movement barriers preventing access to food, water, and livelihoods had been reported.

<sup>10</sup>Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported movement barriers. This was a multiple-choice question, hence findings may add up to more than 100%.



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	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	19
2	Akobo	23
3	Aweil Centre	31
4	Aweil East	61
5	Aweil North	33
6	Aweil South	29
7	Aweil West	32
8	Awerial	24
9	Ayod	33
10	Baliet	22
11	Bor South	50
12	Budi	19
13	Canal/Pigi	16
14	Cueibet	27
15	Duk	22
16	Ezo	20
17	Fangak	37
18	Fashoda	33
19	Gogrial East	28
20	Gogrial West	23
21	Guit	20
22	Ibba	19
23	Ikotos	19
24	Juba	32
25	Jur River	59
26	Kajo-keji	20
27	Kapoeta East	39
28	Kapoeta North	22
29	Kapoeta South	8
30	Koch	33

	County	No. of assessed settlements
31	Lafon	14
32	Lainya	16
33	Leer	22
34	Luakpiny/Nasir	20
35	Maban	16
36	Magwi	15
37	Malakal	18
38	Manyo	9
39	Maridi	27
40	Mayendit	19
41	Mayom	22
42	Melut	26
43	Morobo	11
44	Mundri East	20
45	Mundri West	20
46	Mvolo	22
47	Nagero	7
48	Nyirrol	28
49	Nzara	22
50	Panyijiar	35
51	Panyikang	14
52	Pariang	34
53	Raja	34
54	Renk	40
55	Rubkona	37
56	Rumbek Centre	29
57	Rumbek East	28
58	Rumbek North	13
59	Tambura	20
60	Terekeka	24

	County	No. of assessed settlements
61	Tonj East	10
62	Tonj North	26
63	Tonj South	10
64	Torit	24
65	Twic	30
66	Twic East	39
67	Ulang	22
68	Uror	19
69	Wau	39
70	Wulu	13
71	Yambio	45
72	Yei	24
73	Yirol East	30
74	Yirol West	28