

# Situation Overview: Unity State, South Sudan

April 2017

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

## Introduction

Displacement trends, population needs and humanitarian access have all been negatively affected by the insecurity resulting from the ongoing conflict in Unity State, which began in July 2016.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH is conducting assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. The data is being collected through interviews on a monthly basis from communities across the Greater Upper Nile region, Greater Equatoria region and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Between 7 and 28 April 2017, REACH interviewed a total of 462 Key Informants (KIs) from 256 settlements situated in 7 of the 9 counties in Unity State. In the Bentiu Protection of Civilians site (Bentiu PoC), 338 KIs were interviewed, and 124 were interviewed in Nyal. The findings were triangulated through six focus group discussions (FGDs), secondary data and previous REACH assessments of hard-to-reach areas of Unity State.

Since 88% of the respondents interviewed had arrived at their formal displacement site as recent as February or March, they had up-to-date information about the village of former residence. This information therefore provides an accurate understanding of the current

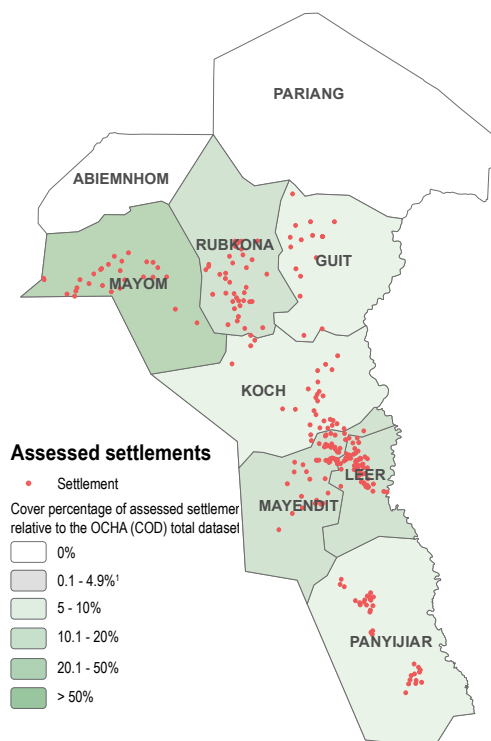
displacement and population dynamics. The remaining 14% had recent information about certain villages through contact with someone (usually a relative) that is currently living there.

This Situation Overview focuses on changes observed since the March Situation Overview for Unity State. The first section analyses displacement trends in March, and the second section evaluates the population dynamics in the assessed communities, as well as access to food and basic services for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local communities.

## Population Movement and Displacement

Depopulation of assessed settlements increased since the beginning of the year, indicative of intensification of displacement triggers. In April, 15% of assessed settlements reported that all members of the community had abandoned the settlement. REACH recorded the highest percentages of depopulation in conflict-affected Mayendit, where 44% of assessed villages are reportedly vacated, followed by Rubkona at 27%. As in previous months, continued displacement therefore remained a key concern in April.

Although population size of Bentiu PoC appears to have stabilised at 121,267 individuals at the end of April (compared to 121,225 at the end of



**Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Unity State, March 2017**

March<sup>2</sup>), PoC population is fluctuant and a few hundred people are moving in and out of the PoC every month according to IOM movement trend tracking data.<sup>3</sup> Most of the new arrivals to Bentiu PoC were from Mayom and Rubkona in April, which might be attributable to the fast deterioration in food security during the last months in these counties (see food security section below). Overall, main push

factor driving displacement continues to be insecurity for 51% of new arrivals in April, while the main reason for choosing the PoC over other displacement sites (pull factor) is access to food for 52%.

As illustrated by Map 2, REACH data further suggests that large proportion of movement takes place outside of formal displacement sites. Almost one-third (31%) of assessed settlements reported IDP presence in April, which is comparable to March (33%). According to FGDs, large numbers of people have been displaced by insecurity but are forced to remain in unsafe locations in the bush or on islands, with limited to no access to basic services. FGD respondents in April explained that populations were unwilling or unable to move by road to formal displacement sites because of alleged lootings and attacks on the main routes from Central Unity to Bentiu PoC. As exact locations and numbers of hidden populations are often unknown to humanitarian actors, these pockets of populations remain highly underserved.

On the other hand there has been a notable increase in recorded return movements in April. Half of the assessed settlements reported that members of the community have returned to the settlement of knowledge after previous displacement, a higher number than in March (36%) and February (35%). Out of these settlements, most of the displaced

1 IOM, Weekly Progress Updates for Bentiu PoC, 28-30 April.

2 IOM, Site Profile Bentiu PoC, 16-31 March 2017.

3 IOM DTM records, April 2017.



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## METHODOLOGY

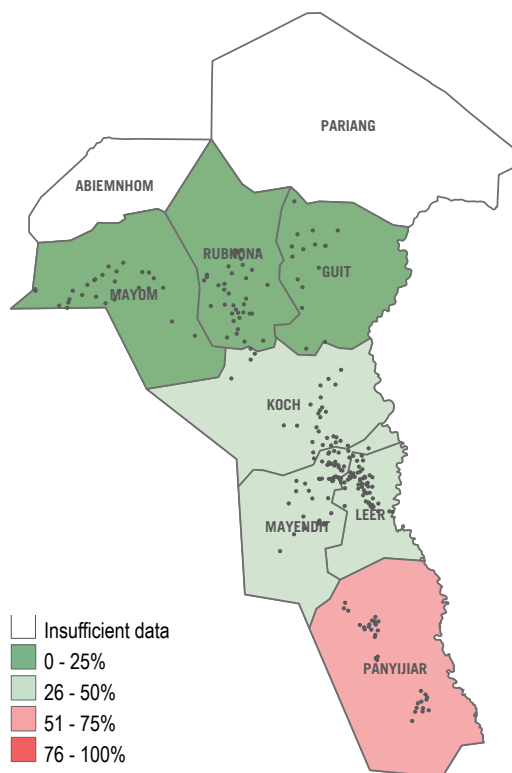
To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Unity State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site and Nyal in Unity State throughout April 2017.

The first phase of the assessment methodology comprised a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant settlements in Unity State. In-depth interviews were then conducted with selected participants using a standardised survey tool comprising questions on displacement trends, population needs, and access to basic services.

After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

It must be noted that this represents **a change in methodology as of December 2016**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with Situation Overviews from before December 2016**.



**Map 2: Proportion of settlements reporting an IDP presence, March 2017**

population returned as recent as March or April in 58% of assessed settlements. There are a couple leading explanations for the increase in returnees. First, an increase GFDs in central Unity could encourage certain members of households to return to their county of origin to access food that may be unavailable in their current settlement. This fairly plausible in locations where the family unable is currently unable to access GFDs due to registration issues, such as county specific distributions. Second, FGD participants from Rubkona and

Guit explained that there is hope to cultivate during this rainy season, as the security situation is considered to be more stable than the year before, when displacement due to fighting interrupted and prevented cultivation. However, perceived improved security in northern Unity State reportedly only applies to women, as there has been extensive forceful recruitment activity, especially in Rubkona and Guit (see protection section below). In northern Unity it is therefore mainly women that are leaving the PoC to their original settlements in order to prepare the land for cultivation; According to IOM DTM data out of a total of 3381 individuals exiting the PoC in April, 3151 (93%) have been female. As long as security situation allows for returns and as long as food distributions are accessible from areas outside of formal settlement sites, return movement trends are likely to continue throughout the beginning of the rainy season.

For more information about displacement trends, please refer to the REACH Nyal Port Monitoring factsheet<sup>4</sup> and February 2017<sup>5</sup> and March 2017<sup>6</sup> Situation Overviews.

## Situation in Assessed Communities

### Demographic profile

#### Remaining population in assessed villages

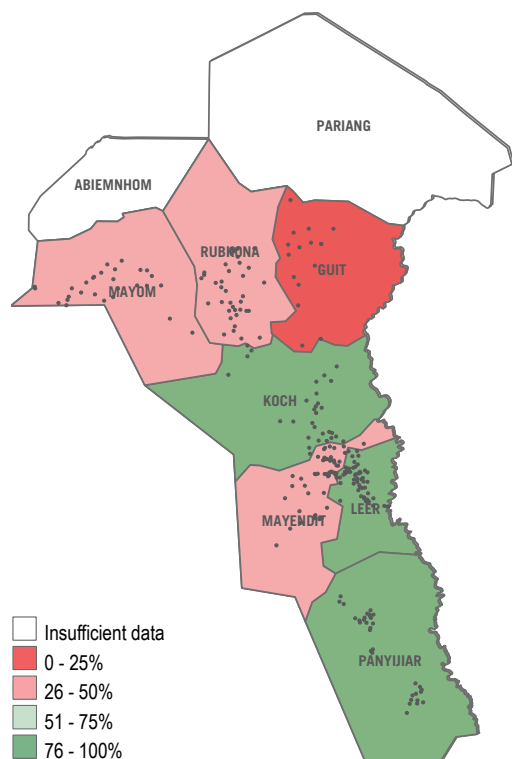
The demographics of assessed settlements remains relatively unchanged compared to previous months. Within 87% of the assessed settlements a host community was present. Its

suspected that insecurity and a drop in available resources, partially due to the lean season, continues to push host communities from their original settlements. In March, stemming from the outbreak in conflict, there was a large decrease of host communities within assessed settlements across Mayendit. While the percentage of host community remains unchanged compared to March, the percentage of host communities remains relatively low (61%) when compared to other counties (87%). Additionally, assessed settlements in Rubkona indicate a steady decline in host communities, falling from 100% in January to 80% in April.

According to quantitative data, 80%, of host communities located in assessed settlements continue to live in their own homes with only 3% living in the bush nearby, and the remaining 16% living in other homes within the same community, a similar trend to previous months.

### IDP population in assessed villages

The presence of IDPs in assessed settlements in April (30%) remained relatively unchanged compared to March (33%). However, there appears to be a shift in the presence of IDPs between counties. Areas that are relatively stable and have access to humanitarian aid, particularly GFDs, have a higher presence of IDPs than insecure areas with low humanitarian access. For example, Panyijar county remains the top location (59%) for IDPs among assessed settlements. Additionally Koch county which has been the location for a number of GFDs within central Unity has experienced an increase in the prevalence of



**Map 3: Proportion of settlements reporting adequate access to food, March 2017**

IDPs from 19% in March to 38% in April. On the contrary, assessed settlements within insecure counties, most notable in Mayendit county, have experienced an exodus of IDPs whom are seeking food and vital livelihood inputs. Overall, secure counties continue to attract IDPs for a multitude of reasons including: food, protection, livelihood inputs, and shelter materials. Further sections within the SO will elaborate the differences between counties, highlighting how continued insecurity is driving displacement access to services in assessed settlements.

## Food security

**As a likely reflection of huge upscale in humanitarian food aid distributions in parts of Unity State throughout March and April, access to food has notably improved.** Of settlements assessed, 57% reported adequate access to food, which represents a marked improvement since 45% in March and 39% in February. The main reason for unavailability of food in the remaining 55% of assessed settlements continued to be conflict (crops destroyed during fighting), which has been cited by 54% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food, a figure comparable to the preceding month (60%). Natural disaster, mainly flooding, has been the second most cited reason for food insecurity, as reported by 34% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food. According to FGD participants, seasonal floodings in northern Unity last year reportedly destroyed crops, which contributed to the overall low food production levels in 2016.

Humanitarian actors have scaled up efforts to respond to declared localized famine in central Unity State.<sup>4</sup> The effectiveness of the humanitarian responses seems to be reflected in the REACH data collected in April, which shows an improvement of access to food in two of the three worst affected counties in Unity State, namely Koch and Leer. In April, 80% of assessed settlements in Leer and 82% of assessed settlements in Koch reported adequate access to food, which represents a remarkable improvement from February (11% in Leer and 21% in Koch). At the same

time the percentage of settlements reporting food distributions by humanitarian actors as primary food source has increased in Leer and Koch from only 16% (Leer) and 8% (Koch) of assessed settlements reporting food aid as primary food source in February to 90% (Leer) and 60% (Koch) reporting the same in April. These figures show clearly the positive effect of genral food distributions (GFDs) on access to food in central Unity State. It also highlights, however, the high dependency on food aid that will likely increase throughout the continuing of the lean season. **Continued humanitarian assistance is vital to prevent access to food dropping to previous levels, however, programs to reduce dependence on GFDs are critical to improving overall food security.**

As shown by Map 3, levels of food security vary strongly between the counties. As opposed to Koch and Leer, where improvements in access to food have been most prevalent, the situation in Mayendit improved only slightly – still a very low proportion of only 32% of assessed settlement reported adequate access to food in April, compared to 21% in March. The relatively low levels of adequate access to food may be attributed to a few reasons including low access for humanitarian, and the inability of

settlements to travel safely to key distributions sites. It was not until the end of April that humanitarian access to Mayendit was secured and food distributions took place, the effect of which will likely be reflected in future AoK data. However, according to FGDs undertaken in Nyal, insecurity near distribution sites in Mayendit are forcing isolated settlements to cross into neighboring counties (Panyijiar, Rubkona, Leer and Koch) to access GFDs.

The food security situation in the northern part of Unity State appears to be rapidly deteriorating as demonstrated by Figure 1. **Especially in Guit, the percentage of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food dropped from 92% in February to 61% in March, down to only 14% in April - the lowest number for access to food ever recorded by REACH AoK for Guit and the lowest number among the counties in Unity in April.** Similarly, in Rubkona and Mayom the percentages of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food dropped from 78% (Rubkona) and 85% (Mayom) in February to only 28% (Rubkona) and 27% (Mayom) in April. This rapid deterioration of food security in the north of Unity State likely to be attributable to the continuation of the lean season when crops are not yet ready for harvest and food stock

	Guit	Koch	Leer	Mayendit	Mayom	Panyijiar	Rubkona	Total
Jan	81%	33%	16%	24%	83%	91%	71%	48%
Feb	92%	21%	11%	25%	85%	85%	78%	39%
March	61%	46%	38%	21%	41%	91%	46%	45%
April	14%	82%	80%	32%	27%	100%	28%	57%

**Figure 1: Proportion of settlements reporting access to food by counties, January-April 2017**

3 Voanews, Aidworkers Forced to Relocate From Famine-Stricken Area of South Sudan, March 2017.

4 IPC, IPC Global Alert - South Sudan - Localized famine and unprecedented levels of acute malnutrition in Greater Unity, February 2017.



is getting depleted. Focus group participants explained that fighting in the rainy season in late 2016, prevented usual levels of cultivation, which in turn has exacerbated the impact of the current lean season, with less food stocks available than usual. In Mayom, the reason for low food stocks has been mainly natural disaster (flooding), which destroyed harvests in 2016. As a result 0% of assessed settlements in Guit and only 18% in Rubkona reported cultivated food as main food source in April, a decrease from 26% (Guit) and 63% (Rubkona) in February. These developments indicate that the northern Unity is increasingly becoming dependent on food aid. To counter this negative food security trend humanitarian actors should design preemptive seed stock and agricultural tool distributions to mitigate the risk of negative external shocks, such as seasonal flooding.

To cope with lack of food or inadequate access to services across Unity, assessed settlements are undertaking various coping strategies. It is crucial that humanitarian actors understand the various strategies and its level of severity within the cultural context. Most notably, the consumption of water lilies, which is ranked as one of the most severe coping strategies by FGD participants, has increased from 25% in March to 41% in April. This practice is fairly common in naturally low resource settlements, such as islands. As a result, women spend long hour in swamp collecting food, exposing themselves to an increase risk of disease. Continued targeting of island populations in Unity through food distribution channels, and increasing market access for isolated areas is

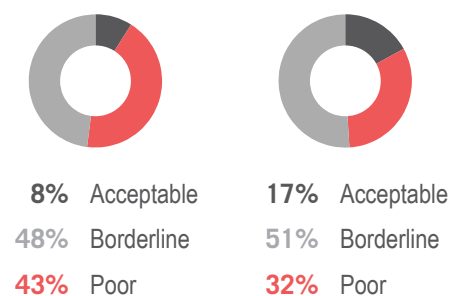
needed to reduce the dependence on medium to serve coping strategies.

### Rapid FSL assessment in Guit and Rubkona

In previous months data suggested that food security in Guit and Rubkona was rapidly deteriorating. In response, REACH lead a randomly sampled household level rapid assessment determined that 43% of households in Guit and 32% in Rubkona had poor food consumption scores<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, half of the households (48% in Guit and 51% in Rubkona) had been classified as borderline, as illustrated by figure 2. These high proportions of households scoring poor or borderline indicate severe food consumption gaps of the vast majority of the population in these two counties.

Other key indicators of food access, such as the Household Hunger Scale (HHS) and Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), give a strong indication that the majority of households within Rubkona and Guit have low access to food and inadequate diets. Approximately 87% of households scored a moderate or severe on the

**Figure 2: Food consumption score for Guit (left) and Rubkona (right), April/May 2017**



HHS, and 62% of households were considered to have low HDDS. A reliance on GFDs as the primary source of food and insufficient access to cultivation activities are likely contributors to low dietary scores.

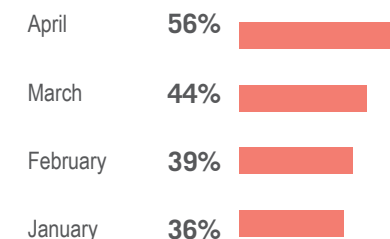
The assessment showed that almost all of the assessed households in Rubkona (99%) and the majority of households in Guit (73%) reported they had received food assistance during the three month prior to the assessment.

**The situation in which such high proportions of households reportedly received food assistance and still scored extremely low levels of food consumption indicators, suggests that food distribution has not been adequate in amounts and content.** This might be due to the fact that the food stocks of last cultivation season have been depleted faster than expected by humanitarian actors, which has subsequently not been considered in calculation of distributed amounts. Another factor could be, that families reportedly share their food rations with other family members that did not receive food distributions, which might not have been taken into consideration when calculating distribution amounts, which are usually based on family size as per registration.

### Livelihoods

Data collected in April indicates that overall access to land and agricultural inputs has been steadily increasing, however, there is a distinguishable difference between relatively stable regions and areas still experiencing high levels of insecurity. Assessed settlements continued to report high access to land

**Figure 3: Proportion of settlements reporting access to agricultural inputs, January-April 2017**



(89%) and moderate access to agricultural inputs (56%). Seasonality and an upscale of humanitarian aid are the prominent contributing factors to the overall increase in livelihood activities. In comparatively stable regions, such as Panyijiar county and most of northern Unity, assessed settlements have relatively high access to key livelihoods inputs. While in central Unity and Guit county access to land is on par with Unity as a whole, insecurity continues to negatively affect assessed settlements access to critical agricultural inputs, such as seed and tools.

Assessed settlements in Leer and Mayendit experienced the largest increase in access to land. Aggregating data from KIs suggest that land access in Leer increased from 57% in March to 75% in April. Furthermore, in Mayendit, where an outbreak of fighting in March caused a rapid decrease in access to land, there is a promising upward trend from 65% to 78%. Yet, data suggest that overall high access to land is not coupled with the ability to productively utilize the land.

<sup>5</sup> Food consumption scores represent both the quantity and quality of food eaten by populations

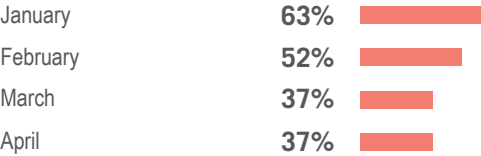
As figure 3 shows, agriculture inputs across Unity increased from 44% in March to 56% in April, yet, pockets of exceptionally low levels of access remain. Assessed settlements in Guit, Mayendit, and Leer reported the lowest levels of access to agricultural inputs, 19%, 21%, and 23% respectively. **In fact, assessed settlements in Guit county experienced a 70% decrease in access to agricultural inputs.** According to KI interviews from Leer, Mayendit, and Guit, 70% of agriculture inputs were either abandoned or looted. Suggesting that insecurity continues to inhibit assessed settlements from using their land productively.

KIs discussed that given the relative stability in northern Unity and in Panyijiar county households are eager to begin cultivating this year. However, there is still a need for agriculture inputs, including tools, in the local communities. Furthermore, increasing strain on resources at key IDP destinations, such as Nyal and Bentiu Town, could result in IDPs taking on riskier coping mechanisms if inputs are not available in settlement locations. Scenarios discussed in FGDs include moving to nearby islands or venturing into insecure areas to access needed resources. As the rainy season – traditionally the time for cultivation - begins it is critical that humanitarian actors continue to distribute vital agricultural inputs to settlements to promote sustainable livelihood activities in stable regions. Thus, allowing humanitarian actors to effectively distribute food in more isolated settlements, such as those located in Mayendit, Leer, and Guit.

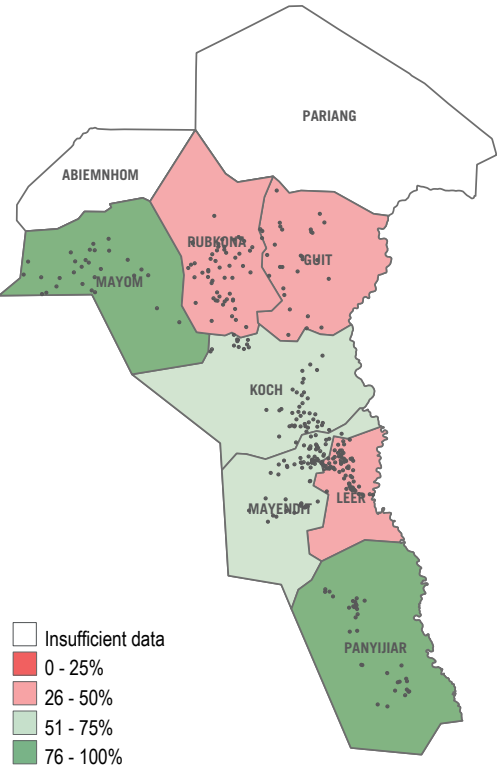
### Protection

Security situation in Unity State remained volatile during the month of April due to ongoing hostilities in central Unity State and forced recruitment in northern Unity state. This is likely the reason for the low levels of assessed settlements (37%) reporting perceived physical protection to be available, representing a steady deterioration in perceived security since February (46%) and January (63%). See Figure 4.

Reflective of ongoing hostilities, injury and killing continued to be reported as the most prevalent protection concern for men in 54% of assessed settlements, comparable to 61% in March. The second most common concern for men appears to be the forceful recruitment by armed actors in 31% of assessed settlements, compared to 24% in March. Forced recruitment seems to be increasing especially in the north of Unity State; In Guit, 94% of assessed settlements and 83% in Rubkona reported forceful recruitment as the primary protection concern for men, compared to 75% (Guit) and only 4% (Rubkona) in February. FGD



**Figure 4: Proportion of settlements reporting physical protection to be available, January-April 2017**



**Map 4: Proportion of settlements reporting access to safe water, March 2017**

participants from Rubkona and Guit explained that men and boys from age 15 onwards are at high risk of being forcefully recruited. As a result, men at the age of recruitment are reportedly hiding in the bush, where they tend to stay together in small groups. With limited to no access to food and basic services they rely on gathering of foraged food and untreated water from the river for subsistence. According to FGD discussants it is only occasionally that the men would return to the villages during the night for food due to fear of being

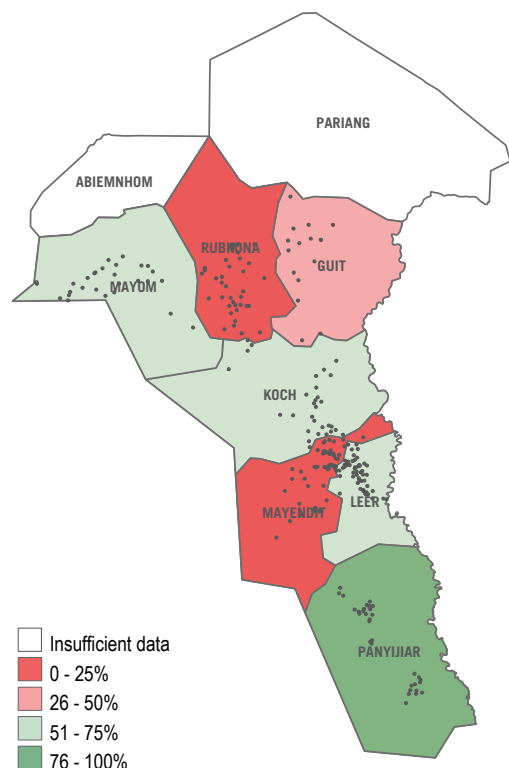
detected by armed actors. Humanitarian actors should therefore take these unregistered population into consideration when calculating target groups and distribution amounts in order to ensure they are adequately served. Livelihood and protection programming should furthermore consider vulnerabilities of men and boys who have deserted armed groups or are fleeing from forced recruitment.

As has been the case in previous months, for women, sexual violence was cited as most common protection issue, reported by 35% of assessed settlements. A large percentage (82%) of assessed settlements reported the perpetrators are most likely to be armed groups. Specialized support, notably psychological support should therefore be provided to women and girls that are victims of sexual violence.

### Water and Sanitation

From March to April, WASH indicators across assessed settlements have seen a mixture of improvements and setbacks. Overall access to safe drinking water remains moderate (62%). According to KIs, boreholes still contribute the highest proportion of safe drinking water (88%). However, insecurity in Mayendit is the primary reason for a reduction in borehole availability across assessed settlements, a decrease from 97% in March to 80% in April. Additionally, a majority (87%) of assessed settlements still do not use latrines, a proxy for open defecation.

Island settlements in particular are exposed to diseases associated with WASH services. Several of the island settlements are isolated



**Map 5: Proportion of settlements reporting access to health services, March 2017**

from basic provisions, such as markets for soap, tools to build latrines, and clean drinking water. Humanitarian actors need to continue to address WASH concerns on both mainland and island settlements by increasing access to clean water, reducing open defecation through advocacy campaigns, and the provision of soap to key IDP settlements.

### Health

With minimal WASH services, high food insecurity, and low access to health care facilities assessed settlements remain prone

to major disease outbreaks. Malaria (29%) remains the top disease reported by KIs, followed by typhoid (12%), cholera (10%), and pneumonia (9%). Access to health services among assessed settlements remained moderate (51%) across Unity. In previous months, insecurity was the leading cause for low access to health facilities; however, in April there was not a distinct leading cause. Lack of drugs (18%) and staff (18%) were at the top, closely followed by security (17%). According to discussions with health facility actors, the supply chain for drugs and cash is highly complex and it is regularly disrupted. As a result, PHCUs frequently run out of stock and their staff are unpaid, leading to staff shortages.

With the onset of the rainy season, the prevalent concern is the increase of Cholera case numbers, a disease directly linked to low access to clean drinking water, poor hygiene, and high levels of open defecation. Cholera has already been identified as a serious issue by humanitarian actors. Health facilities in Nyal are reporting an increase in number of patients diagnosed with cholera, and are concerned with the unusually high number of cases during the dry season. Health actors emphasize the need to push WASH and cholera advocacy campaigns in settlements with a high concentration of IDPs.

### Education

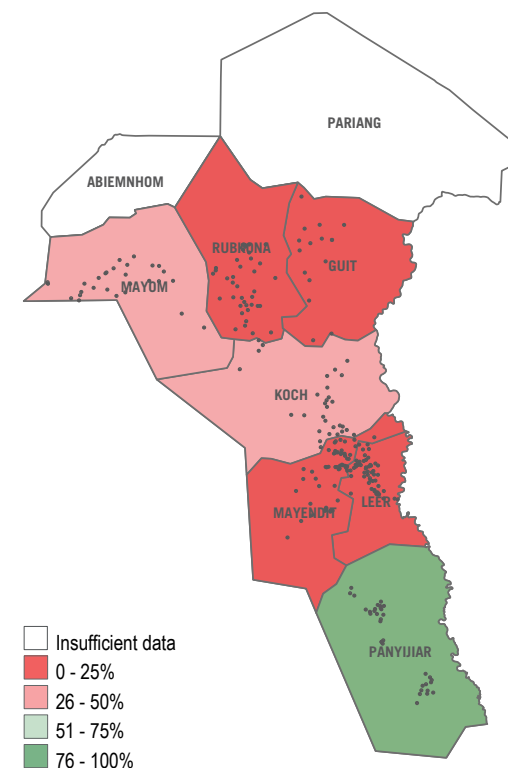
Overall access to education remained low in April. Only 29% of assessed settlements reported access to education services in April, which is comparable to the preceding

month (23%). Of the assessed settlements that reported no access to education, 70% cited direct or indirect impact of conflict to be the most important reason for low education services. These include insecurity (22%), abandonment of schools by teachers (23%) or the fact that school buildings had been destroyed by fighting (25%).

Education services remained lowest in Leer, where only 6% of assessed settlements reported access to education, followed by Rubkona (8%), Mayendit (13%) and Guit (13%). It must be noted that in Rubkona, where humanitarian education programmes have been most extensive, many educational services were not reflected in REACH data because they are concentrated in locations that are unlikely to be covered by survey respondents, such as Bentiu PoC and Bentiu Town.

Guit and Mayom, which still had comparatively high education rates in the beginning of the year – Mayom 80% and Guit 43% in February – have seen a rapid deterioration throughout the last months. In April only 41% of assessed villages in Mayom and only 13% in Guit reported access to education. This might be in part attributable to the breakdown of social structures due to movement and displacement caused by insecurity and food insecurity.

Generally, reported attendance rates are comparable to preceding months with far fewer girls reportedly attending school than boys.

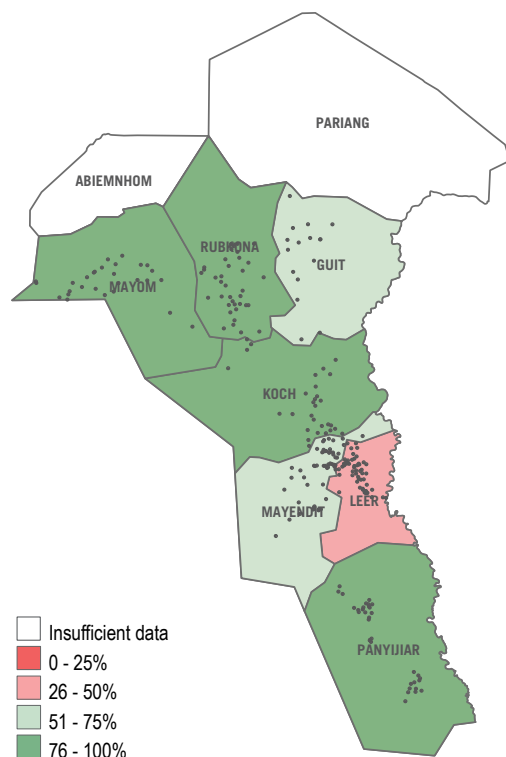


**Map 6: Proportion of settlements reporting access to education services, March 2017**

### Shelter

Throughout April, KIs interviews indicated that the majority of assessed settlements continue to live in rakoobas (48%) and tukuls (36%). Among those living in tukuls, 82% are from the local community. Data from the assessed villages do not suggest any major changes in the number people living together. Nearly half the shelters (47%) are accompanied by one to five people and 33% of shelters have six to ten people, a similar trend to previous months.





**Map 7: Proportion of settlements reporting tukuls as the primary shelter type for the local community, March 2017**

However, FGDs noted the lack shelter materials available for IDPs. According to discussions, isolated IDP settlements are struggling to find sufficient material to build shelter that will protect them during the rainy season. In Nyal - where IDPs come to gather important materials and resources - it has been difficult to source appropriate material for protection during the rainy season. As a result, IDPs are sleeping in inadequate shelters, which creates an increased risk of malaria and pneumonia cases during the



**Figure 5: Four main reason that education is not accessible, April 2017**

rainy season. Additionally, without sufficient shelter to store food and productive assets IDPs risk ruining key inputs they receive or purchase. Therefore, it is recommended that humanitarian actors carry on to working with local stakeholders to identify and distribute material to settlements associated with high volumes of IDP arrivals along with settlements that may be isolated from markets and other resources. It is equally important to increase material supply in townships. Through an increase of shelter material, IDPs can build sustainable structures to protect themselves and their assets during the rainy season.

## Conclusion

Access to FSL and health continue to be two biggest concerns in Unity. In April, a majority of assessed settlements showed signs of improvement in access to food and livelihood inputs. An increase in humanitarian aid, particularly the upscale of GFDs, has played a major role in increasing access to food in central Unity. In fact, Leer and Koch are experiencing the highest levels of access to food recorded since January 2017. However, quantitative

and qualitative data suggest food security and livelihoods in Mayendit continue to remain low, primarily due to low humanitarian access and continued insecurity concerns. Furthermore, access to food in assessed settlements in northern Unity is rapidly decreasing. According to a randomly sampled rapid assessment in Rubkona and Guit county, 86% of households are considered to have poor or borderline food consumption scores and an exceptionally high reliance on food distributions.

Although, malaria remains a prominent disease across all the assessed settlements in Unity, health actors highlight a growing concern with high caseloads of cholera during the dry season. Decreasing levels of access to safe drinking water coupled with high levels of open defecation is a leading cause of an increase in cholera caseloads. Furthermore, a number of IDPs remain without adequate shelter, which creates an increased risk of malaria and pneumonia as South Sudan enters the wet season.

In counties that are still experiencing high levels of insecurity, humanitarian actors need to continue to target isolated settlements and find innovative methods to distribute food and livelihood inputs to mitigate households from taking on risky strategies in order to access resources. Also, it is critical that humanitarian actors continue to implement food security programs in relatively stable regions that promote sustainable livelihoods through cultivation, which can help reduce dependence on GFDs and diversify diets. Preemptive seed distributions and land management training

could also lessen the impact of crop failures due to delayed rains or seasonal flooding. Lastly, an upscale of handwashing and cholera awareness campaigns along with continued distribution of shelter to IDPs will be critical to reducing disease outbreaks, particularly cholera caseloads during the wet season.

### About REACH Initiative

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