

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

January - March 2020

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

Reported humanitarian needs increased across Jonglei State throughout the first quarter of 2020. An early depletion of food stocks, limited access to livestock and increasing market prices resulted in widespread food insecurity. Moving forward, the existing humanitarian crisis could be exacerbated further by the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This Situation Overview analyses changes in observed humanitarian needs in Jonglei State in the first quarter of 2020.

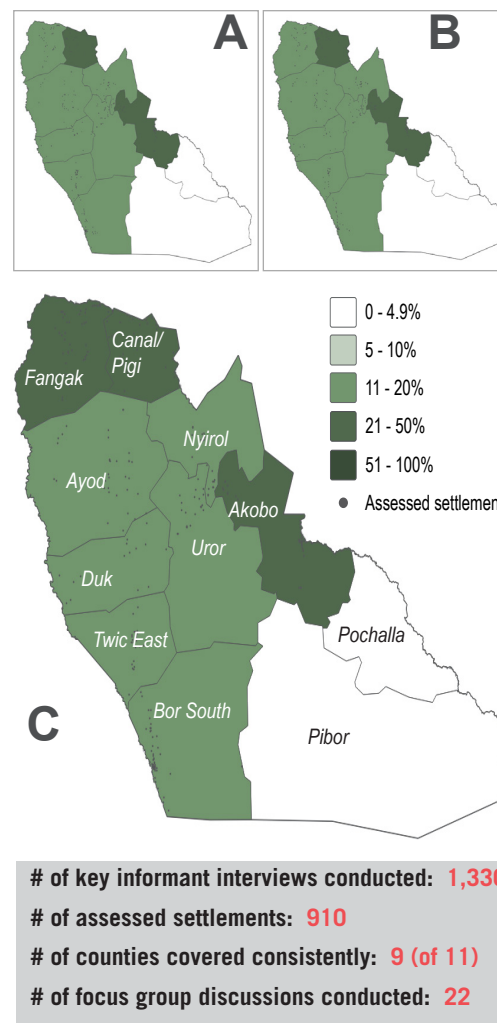
Key Findings

- The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of **internally displaced persons (IDPs)** remained stable this quarter (60% in March). This is probably related to the continuation of protracted intercommunal clashes.
- Food security** deteriorated further during the reporting period, with just 49% of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in March (68% in December 2019). This

is likely a consequence of severe flooding which appears to have brought forward the onset of the lean season from March to January.³ Moving forward, heavy rains in the coming months may further reduce humanitarian access to extremely vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas.

- The proportion of assessed settlements reporting **protection** concerns remained stable, with 79% reporting most people felt safe most of the time in March. However, the protection situation in Uror and Nyriol counties appeared to have worsened in March, likely due to an increase in intercommunal violence
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** needs remained high and may be further exacerbated by COVID-19 as reported barriers to accessing clean water sources and functional healthcare services pose challenges to both the widespread implementation of World Health Organisation (WHO)⁴ handwashing practices and the accessibility of healthcare services.
- Access to reliable **shelter** seemingly varied by population group: 24% of assessed settlements reported the main shelter type for IDPs to be less solid structures, such as rakoobas⁵ or improvised shelters, while host communities reportedly mainly used solid structures for shelter (95%).

Map 1: Assessment coverage in Jonglei State in January (A), February (B) and March (C), 2020:



METHODOLOGY

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data from key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). Information for this report was collected from KIs in Bor Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Bor Town and Akobo Town in January, February and March 2020.

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

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements¹ in a given month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam² coverage over the period.

Quantitative findings were triangulated by focus group discussions (FGDs) with participants displaced from across Jonglei State, and secondary sources.

More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK](#) ToRs.

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

2. Payams are the administrative unit at the sub-county level in South Sudan.

3. OCHA. [Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020](#). November 2019.

4. WHO. [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) advice for the public](#). March 2020.

5. Rakoobas are shelters constructed from poles and plastic tarpaulin.

- Though **education** reportedly remained accessible for most assessed settlements (85%), the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that half or more of boys were attending school in March (86%), remained higher than for girls (53%).

Population Movement and Displacement

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in Jonglei State remained high but stable between December (51%), and March (60%). Consistent with the previous reporting period, 59% of assessed settlements across Jonglei continued to report insecurity (which includes killing, rape, fighting and looting), as the main IDP push factor in March. The proportion of assessed settlement reporting this was particularly high in Fangak County (100%), Ayod County (96%) and Canal/Pigi County (84%). However, there were also sharp increases in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this in Uror and Nyriol counties between December and March, from 0% in both counties to 47% in Uror and 29% in Nyriol. This was likely related to the continuation and intensification of protracted intercommunal clashes throughout the reporting period.

In mid-February, intercommunal violence broke out in the settlements of Likuangole, Gumuruk, and Manyabol in Pibor County, between Murle and a broad coalition of armed youths, primarily from the Greater Akobo region, but also containing smaller contingents from Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties.⁶

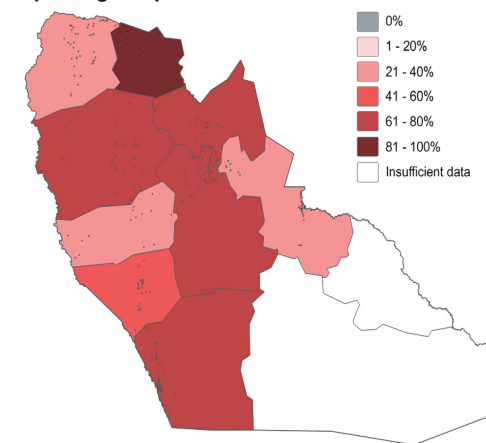
The conflict reportedly displaced over 8,000 people to the United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS) base in Pibor Town, simultaneously disrupting trade flows and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, resulting in ‘critical gaps’ in the delivery of water, relief commodities, shelter supplies, and WASH infrastructure.^{7,8} Frequent revenge attacks in the aftermath of the conflict may explain why, in March, 100% of assessed settlements in Uror, Nyriol and Akobo counties which reported the occurrence of a large-scale displacement reported conflict as the primary push factor.

Insecurity, rooted in the fear of potential revenge attacks, was a key driver of population movement in both February and March, according to FGD participants displaced from Duk,⁹ Twic East¹⁰ and Uror¹¹ counties. In Twic East County, the threat of Murle revenge attacks to rescue raided women, children and cattle reportedly displaced around half of the population of Maar and Paliu settlements to either Bor Town or Mingkaman (Lakes State).¹²

Insecurity also reportedly drove cross-border population movement. FGD participants displaced from Akobo County reported that most people from the settlements of Nyandit, Kony, Mer and Gakdong fled to the refugee camps in the Gambella region of Ethiopia.¹³

While driving displacement, findings suggest that insecurity also posed a barrier to population movement. FGD participants displaced from Uror County reported that the threat of ambush, abduction and killing prevented vulnerable populations from undertaking displacement

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in March 2020



journeys.¹⁴ In addition, insecurity also pushed up the cost of transportation which posed an additional barrier for the poorest and most vulnerable populations. For example, FGD participants displaced to Bor PoC from the settlements of Pieri, Padiak and Motot in Uror, reportedly paid 20,000 South Sudanese Pound (SSP) each for the two-day drive (the equivalent of between \$60 and \$70).¹⁵

Self-reported returns

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of refugee returnees remained stable between December (37%), and March (34%). REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) in Akobo Town tracks the movement of South Sudanese households travelling to, and returning from Ethiopia. The number of recorded inbound individuals fell from 570 in December¹⁶ to 317 in March.¹⁷ Consistent with PRM findings from December, the primary reported pull factor for returnees in

March was rejoining family and home (80%).¹⁸ This finding is supported by AoK data from March 2020, with 57% of assessed settlements that reported the presence of refugee returnees reporting family/home as the main pull factor.

Moving forward, the prevalence and geographical dynamics of COVID-19 are likely to act as key drivers of both internal and cross-border population movement. According to FGD participants displaced from Ethiopia, fear of COVID-19 and the closure of education facilities has encouraged large numbers of students to return to South Sudan.¹⁹ This is concerning because, although formal border crossings have remained operational in Akobo Town as of March, closure could result in a spike in informal crossings which raises protection concerns and could pose serious health risks if a COVID-19 vector enters the country unidentified. Furthermore, inbound population movements may place additional pressure on already limited food supplies. Of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees (both IDP and refugee) in Akobo County, 100% reported that returnees had had a negative impact on the ability of most people to access enough food in March. According to FGD participants displaced from Ethiopia, most returnees were not registered for general food distributions and had to rely on family and host community support which reportedly resulted in food shortages and increasing tensions between returnees and some communities.²⁰

6. USAID. [South Sudan - Crisis Fact Sheet #5](#). March 2020.

7. Ibid

8. FEWS NET. [South Sudan. Key Message Update](#). March 2020.

9. FGD with participants from Duk, displaced to Mingkaman, March 2020.

10. FGD with participants displaced from Twic East to Bor Town, March 2020.

11. FGD with participants from Uror displaced to Bor PoC, March 2020.

12. FGD with participants displaced from Twic East to Bor Town, March 2020.

13. FGD with participants displaced from Akobo County to Akobo Town, March 2020.

14. FGD with participants displaced from Uror to Bor PoC, March 2020.

15. Ibid

16. [REACH Port and Road Monitoring, Akobo, December 2019](#).

17. [REACH Port and Road Monitoring, Akobo, March 2020](#).

18. Ibid

19. FGD with participants displaced from Ethiopia to Akobo Town, April 2020.

20. Ibid

Situation in Assessed Settlements

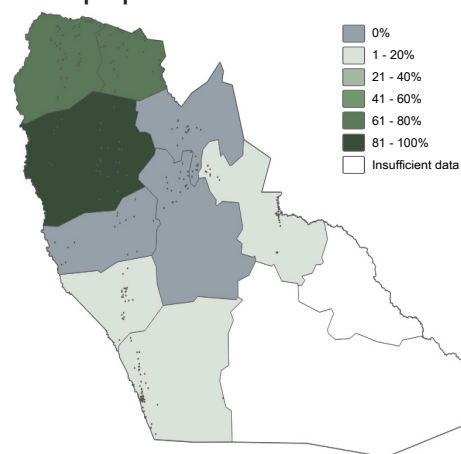
Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

The FSL situation across Jonglei State appeared to deteriorate further throughout the reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people had adequate access to food decreased from 68% in December, to just 49% in March. This was likely a consequence of severe flooding between June and December 2019 which destroyed crops, killed livestock and disrupted flows of trade and humanitarian assistance.²¹ The combined effects of flooding on access to food appear to have brought forward the onset of the lean season from March to January.²² IPC analysis from February projected that, between March and May, all counties across Jonglei State, bar Pochalla and Bor South, will be experiencing Emergency levels of acute food insecurity (Phase 4).²³ In addition, the increasing presence of COVID-19 in the region could further reduce access to food, exacerbating both the breadth and depth of acute food insecurity, potentially worsening the situation for already extremely vulnerable populations across the State.

Reduced harvest yields

The severe impact of flooding on harvest yields continued to be felt throughout the reporting period. Of the assessed settlements reporting that most people did not have adequate access to food, 25% reported that

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food for most people in March 2020



this was because flooding (between June and December 2019), destroyed crops (23% in December). FGD participants displaced from across Jonglei²⁴ consistently reported that flooding either severely limited harvest yields in their settlements, or prevented any harvest from taking place altogether. According to FGD participants displaced from Fangak County, the cultivation of crops including sorghum and maize would, in a normal year, provide farmers with sufficient food to survive until the following harvest. However, the flooding of 2019 reportedly destroyed almost all crops in the settlements of Rup-Mok, Keew, Toch, Koljaak, Rup-Kuai, Nyanine and Yuor-yuor.²⁵ In addition, FGD participants displaced from Duk Padiet reported that, while some farmers were able to harvest some crops, limited food stocks were fully exhausted by January.²⁶

Moving forward, locust swarms have the

potential to severely limit harvest yields. Widespread rainfall in March is expected to produce a dramatic increase in locust numbers in East Africa, with swarms expected to move from Kenya into South Sudan.²⁷ There is also a risk that eggs laid by locusts that passed through South Sudan in February, will hatch and mature, possibly devastating crop yields.²⁸

Access to livestock

Findings indicate that flooding, which severely limited the availability of grazing pastures, resulting in widespread livestock malnutrition, disease and death, continued to limit access to cattle throughout the reporting period. In March, 51% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported the occurrence of a disease outbreak which resulted in livestock death (31% in December). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this was particularly high in Ayod (100%), Fangak (78%), Canal/Pigi (65%) and Akobo (59%) counties. The effect of flooding on livestock disease was further reflected by FGD participants displaced from across Jonglei State.²⁹ According to FGD participants displaced from Ayod County, much of the cattle in the settlements of Torkey, Panaah, Mhaar, Padek and Woi, died because of disease.³⁰ Most of the remaining cattle reportedly suffered from malnutrition, as flooding limited the availability of grazing pastures. This reportedly resulted in the premature delivery of calves and the inability of cows to produce milk, contracting the market for cattle.³¹

Market access

Market access appeared to improve slightly between reporting periods, however access barriers remained. Of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of a functional market within walking distance in March, 65% reported the presence of an access barrier (81% in December). The primary reported barriers were high prices (79%), and unavailability of items (78%), (55% and 46% respectively, in December). Since the end of 2019/start of 2020, flood waters have dissipated and, as such, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting flooding as a physical barrier to market access decreased from 19% in December, to just 1% in March. However, according to FGD participants displaced from across Jonglei State,³² lasting damage done to road networks by flooding continued to limit market supply, which may explain reportedly high prices and limited availability of goods. For example, FGD participants displaced from Akobo County reported that a lack of road access forced some traders to fly in foodstuffs from Juba, pushing prices up.³³ In addition, although market access reportedly improved in Ayod County, the destruction of roads continued to limit supply.³⁴

High market prices and limited supply are concerning as the premature exhaustion of food stocks and limited access to cattle could increase both the extent and duration of market reliance for many flood-affected settlements across the State. For example, between December 2019 and March 2020, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting

21. FEWS NET. [South Sudan. Food Security Outlook](#). February 2020.

22. OCHA. [Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020](#). November 2019.

23. FEWS NET. [South Sudan. Food Security Outlook](#). February 2020.

24. FGDs with participants displaced from Akobo, Ayod, Uror, Fangak, Canal/Pigi and Duk.

25. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor PoC, January 2020.

26. FGD with participants displaced from Duk to Bor Town, February 2020.

27. Food and Agriculture Organisation. [Desert Locust Crisis](#). February 2020.

28. USAID. [South Sudan - Crisis Fact Sheet #5](#). March 2020.

29. FGDs with participants displaced from Twic East, Ayod, Uror, Fangak, Canal/Pigi and Duk.

30. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor PoC, January 2020.

31. Ibid

32. FGDs with participants displaced from Akobo, Twic East, Duk, Uror and Ayod.

33. FGD with participants displaced from Akobo County to Akobo Town. January 2020.

34. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor PoC. January 2020.

bought goods as the main source of food for most people increased in both Urur County (0% to 21%) and Nyirol County (0% to 17%). Increased market reliance could explain the high proportions of assessed settlements reporting the use of asset-depleting coping strategies in these counties, such as selling home assets (92% in Urur County and 88% in Nyirol County), and selling livestock (96% in Urur County and 100% in Nyirol County), which may erode long-term resilience to future shocks (see Coping Strategies section).

The presence of COVID-19 in the region could develop into a severe future shock, further restricting access to food. South Sudan is a net cereal importer and relies heavily on imports from Sudan and Uganda, however, border closures have limited the flows of cereals and other processed commodities such as sugar and maize flour.³⁵ As such, seasonal price increases are likely to occur at a much steeper rate than in previous years.³⁶

Existing supply bottlenecks, due to flooding, and emerging bottlenecks, due to border closures, will likely be compounded by seasonal rainfall, which usually begins in May, and results in over half of the country's already limited road network becoming inaccessible.³⁷ This may result in high levels of vulnerability, particularly in the months prior to the harvest, which raises important questions about the role of humanitarian food assistance in the coming months.

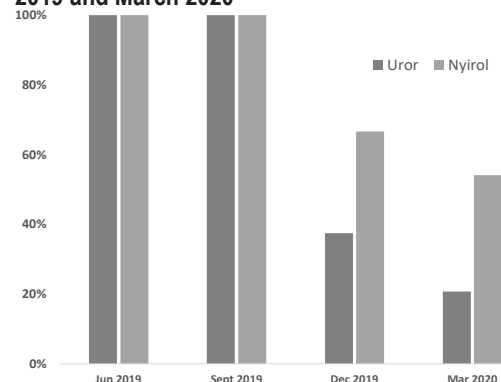
Humanitarian assistance

The negative effects of flooding on access to food appear to have brought forward the onset of the lean season, prolonging the period between which households run out of food stocks, and the next harvest (typically between March and August). This may result in an increased need for humanitarian food assistance for an extended period of time.³⁸

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as the main source of food for most people remained relatively low between December (21%), and March (13%). During this period, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this continued to decrease in Urur County (38% to 21%) and Nyirol County (67% to 54%). This is concerning given that, in March, no assessed settlements in either county reported cultivation as the main source of food for most people, suggesting that food stocks have been fully exhausted. The exhaustion of food stocks and a lack of alternative sources of food may explain why the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that half or more of all children were malnourished increased sharply between December and March, from 0% to 38% in Urur County and from 0% to 50% in Nyirol County.

Moving forward, seasonal rainfall could severely limit the delivery of humanitarian food assistance, which will likely be crucial to fill the hunger-gap for food-insecure populations across the State. For example, FGD participants displaced from Urur County reported that, during the previous rainy season, flooding

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as the main source of food for most people between June 2019 and March 2020



made the airstrip inaccessible, preventing the delivery of food assistance to vulnerable populations for several months.³⁹

Coping Strategies

Corresponding with the reported high levels of food insecurity, people across Jonglei State continued to adopt a range of coping strategies. In March, 73% and 63% of assessed settlements reported using livelihood or food consumption coping strategies respectively (65% and 46% in December).

Consistent with the previous reporting period, the most frequently reported food consumption coping strategies were limiting portion sizes (59% of assessed settlements), and consuming less expensive food (53%). This may be a consequence of depleting household food stocks and supply chain disruptions, which have limited the availability of market goods, pushing up prices (see Markets section).

Food consumption coping strategies were often reportedly implemented in conjunction with livelihood coping strategies, as reported by all assessed settlements in Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties in March. The most frequently reported livelihood coping strategies were selling home assets (69% of assessed settlements), and borrowing food (69%) (both up from 55% in December). The widespread implementation of asset depleting coping strategies throughout the reporting period is particularly concerning as such strategies are often employed as a last resort and can reduce the ability of households to overcome future barriers to food access. This is especially worrying given the potential for COVID-19 to develop into a severe future shock, further limiting access to food.

There was also an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting extreme food consumption coping strategies between December and March, indicative of increasingly severe food insecurity. For example, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that people had reduced the number of meals eaten in a day increased from 13% in December, to 42% in March. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this was particularly high in Canal/Pigi County (94%). In addition, between December and March, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that some residents did not eat for entire days increased sharply in Akobo County (14% to 49%), and Urur County (0% to 46%).

In some cases, the past exhaustion of coping

35. WFP. [COVID19 outbreak likely impact on markets and food security in South Sudan](#), March 2020.

36. Ibid

37. Logistics Cluster. [Concept of Operations](#), April 2020.

38. OCHA. [Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020](#), November 2019.

39. FGD with participants displaced from Urur to Akobo Town, February 2020.

40. FGD with participants displaced from Urur to Bor PoC, January 2020.

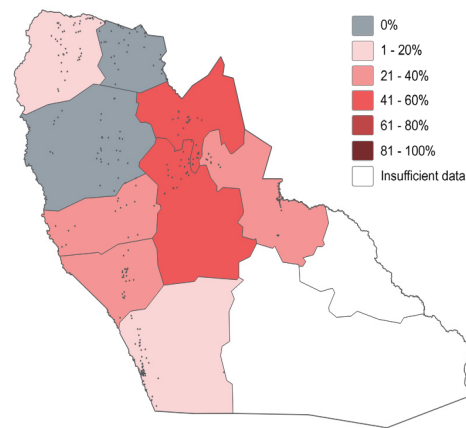
strategies may have negatively affected people's ability to resort to typical coping strategies. For example, FGD participants displaced from Uror County,⁴⁰ reported that people were not able to sell household goods or productive assets because they did not possess any goods or assets to sell. In both Uror and Ayod counties, severe flooding reportedly prevented most people from selling cattle to purchase food through markets, a common coping strategy across Jonglei State, because either all cattle had died, meaning there was none to sell,⁴¹ or because widespread livestock disease severely contracted the demand for cattle as less people were willing to purchase unhealthy cows.⁴² This reported inability to employ extreme asset-depleting coping strategies, often a last resort, likely has serious implications for future food insecurity.

Protection

The protection situation across Jonglei State appeared to remain relatively stable, with the reported exceptions of Uror and Nyirol counties. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported that most people felt safe most of the time in March, unchanged from December 2019. However, between December and March, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people felt safe most of the time fell sharply in both Uror County (83% to 42%), and Nyirol County (88% to 54%), likely due to a seasonal spike in intercommunal violence.

Intercommunal violence and associated insecurity have displaced thousands of people

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of a conflict which resulted in the death of a civilian in March 2020



and resulted in hundreds of casualties across Greater Akobo since mid-February.⁴³ This may explain why, between December and March, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of conflict which resulted in the death of a civilian increased sharply from 21% to 58% in Uror County, and from 13% to 46% in Nyirol County. FGD participants displaced from Uror County reported that the settlements of Pieri, Payai, Juet, Pamai, Tiam, Patuet and Motot were some of the worst-affected by fighting, however, intercommunal violence, killing, cattle raiding and child abduction were reportedly key protection concerns across the whole Greater Akobo region.⁴⁴

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting any protection concerns for women (62%) and girls (54%) remained higher than for men (40%) and boys (38%), consistent with the previous reporting period. Early marriage

remained the main protection concern for girls in March (26%). There were particularly large increases in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this in Duk County (80% to 93%), Twic East County (33% to 65%) and Bor South County (44% to 56%).

Assessed settlements across Jonglei State continued to report domestic violence as the main protection concern for women in March (25%). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this remained particularly high in Twic East (48%), Duk (47%), Bor South (42%) and Ayod (41%) counties. Globally, restrictive lock-down measures have reportedly resulted in a 'global surge in domestic violence',⁴⁵ and, moving forward, the existing threat of domestic violence across Jonglei State may be exacerbated as vulnerable women are forced to stay at home.⁴⁶

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Health

The proportion of assessed settlements across Jonglei reporting that no people were using latrines remained high but stable in March (53%). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this remained highest in Canal/Pigi County (97%), Fangak County (87%) and Duk County (67%). The primary reported reason for people not using latrines was that there were none available (42% of assessed settlements), likely a consequence of flooding; for example, FGD participants displaced from Duk County⁴⁷ reported that all the latrines in their settlements had been destroyed by flood water.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting boreholes as the main source of drinking water increased slightly from 57% in December to 70% in March. However, no assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi County and just 46% of assessed settlements in Fangak County reported the presence of any boreholes; this was unchanged from the previous reporting period, and likely led to the continued reliance on rivers as the primary source of drinking water, reported by 77% and 70% of assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi County and Fangak counties, respectively. Use of unprotected water sources can increase the likelihood of water borne diseases, this is supported by the high proportions of assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi and Fangak counties reporting drinking water as a cause of sickness in March (73% and 32% respectively).

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, unavailability of clean water will strongly influence the ability of communities to uphold WHO recommended handwashing practices.⁴⁸ In March, just 25% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported that most people were washing their hands with soap. This could be a consequence of high access barriers to clean water. For example, in Canal/Pigi County, 48% of assessed settlements reported people were not washing their hands, and FGD participants reported that, to access water, most people in their settlements were reliant on rivers and swamps, which could reportedly take up to 2 hours to walk to.⁴⁹

41. FGD with participants displaced from Uror to Akobo Town, February 2020.

42. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor PoC, February 2020.

43. USAID. [South Sudan - Crisis Fact Sheet #5](#). March 2020.

44. FGD with participants displaced from Uror to Bor PoC, March 2020.

45. United Nations. [COVID-19 Response](#). March 2020.

46. Ibid

47. FGD with participants displaced from Duk to Bor Town, February 2020.

48. WHO. [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) advice for the public](#). March 2020.

49. FGD with participants displaced from Canal/Pigi to Malakal, February 2020.

Healthcare

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of a functional primary healthcare facility within walking distance from their settlement remained stable between reporting quarters (68% in March). However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this remained extremely low in Canal/Pigi County (13%).

In March, 27% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported malaria as the perceived main cause of death in their settlement. This could be related to barriers limiting access to healthcare and a reported lack of medication in some settlements. For example, FGD participants displaced from Panyagor (Twic East), reported that there had not been any supply of medication to healthcare facilities since the onset of the rainy season in June 2019, forcing people to rely on herbal medicines.⁵⁰

The reported impact of malaria and other treatable diseases may be exacerbated moving forward, if, as has been seen in some countries, non-COVID medical care is temporarily deprioritised and unwell individuals become unwilling to seek medical attention due to the perceived risk of contracting the virus.⁵¹

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

IDPs reportedly continued to live in less permanent shelter types in comparison with members of the host community. In March, 95% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported that most host community members were living in tukuls. In comparison, just 24% of

assessed settlements with IDPs reported tukuls as the main shelter type for IDPs, with 58% reporting most were living in semi-permanent shelter types.

Reportedly poor IDP shelter conditions could be a legacy of flooding. According to FGD participants displaced from across Jonglei State⁵² flooding destroyed shelters and limited access to construction materials. For example, FGD participants displaced from Ayod County reported that most residents from Gorwai, Tuoh, Wau, Nyayin, Padek, Nyanepal, Luakuoth, Gany, Paghol and Duardeng settlements were displaced to Ayod Town by flooding.⁵³ Due to a reported lack of readily available construction materials and a limited humanitarian presence, many IDPs were reportedly forced to shelter in open spaces or under trees.⁵⁴

Flooding also reportedly destroyed or washed away many affected populations' NFIs. For example, FGD participants displaced from Duk County⁵⁵ reported that most residents were forced to prioritise the collection of food when evacuating their houses, meaning that most cooking utensils, agricultural tools, sleeping mats, and jerry cans were washed away.

Of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in March, cooking pots (19%), mosquito nets (17%), plastic sheets (15%), and sleeping mats (10%) were reported as the main IDP NFI needs. A lack of mosquito nets may explain why, in March, 37% of assessed settlements reported malaria as the main health concern for people in their settlement (see Health section).

Education

Access to education reportedly remained stable with 85% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reporting that education services were available within walking distance in March. Reporting remained particularly low in assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi County (16%). Of the assessed settlements reporting that no education services were available within walking distance, the primary reported reason was that school teachers had been displaced (55% of assessed settlements). This may be a consequence of flooding; for example, FGD participants displaced from Duk County, reported that flooding forced schools to close and most teachers left in search of other livelihood opportunities.⁵⁶

Boys between the ages of 6 and 17 continued to have higher reported rates of education access compared to girls of the same age. Of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of education facilities within walking distance, 86% reported that half or more of boys were attending school in March. However, just 53% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported the same for girls.

Consistent with findings from December, the primary reported reasons for girls not attending school continued to be the need to work in the home (22% of assessed settlements), and early marriage (21%). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting early marriage as the main barrier to accessing education services was particularly high in Akobo County (54%). FGD participants displaced from Akobo West

reported that, while primary education services do exist, cultural expectations, (primarily of household work and of early marriage), prevent most girls from receiving an education.⁵⁷

Lockdown measures may further embed existing gender inequalities. The closure of schools could have a differential effect on women, who provide most informal care, with the consequence of further limiting work and economic opportunities, and also on girls, who often don't have access to an education at all.⁵⁸

Conclusion

The situation across Jonglei appears to have deteriorated throughout the reporting quarter. The combined impacts of flooding on access to food stocks, livestock and functioning markets has seemingly brought forward the onset of the lean season which may be further exacerbated by COVID-19. Humanitarian access is likely to decrease as the rainy season starts, which may have serious consequences for food security, WASH and health conditions across Jonglei.

About REACH Initiative

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). Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @ REACH_info.

50. FGD with participants displaced from Twic East to Bor Town. January 2020.

51. The Guardian. [Lockdowns around the world bring rise in domestic violence](#). March 2020.

52. FGDs with participants displaced from Akobo, Twic East, Canal/Pigi, Duk, Uror and Ayod.

53. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor PoC, February 2020.

54. Ibid

55. FGD with participants displaced from Duk to Bor Town, February 2020.

56. Ibid

57. FGD with participants displaced from Akobo County to Akobo Town. January 2020.

58. Lancet. [COVID-19: the gendered impacts of the outbreak](#). March 2020.