

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Upper Nile State

South Sudan January - March 2021

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Introduction

Findings reported in this situation overview highlight humanitarian needs across Upper Nile State (UNS) over the reporting period January to March 2021. Most notably, high levels of severe hunger reported in Melut, Maban and Manyo, combined with limited access to permanent shelter and almost no reported access to humanitarian assistance, suggest urgent humanitarian needs¹ in these areas. Reports of displacement and limited access to clean drinking water, functioning latrines, education services and permanent shelter suggest high levels of humanitarian need in flood-affected² western-bank counties, Panyikang and Fashoda. Additional findings highlight protection concerns, displacement and reliance on humanitarian food assistance amid ongoing reports of both flooding and inter-communal violence in south-eastern counties, Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir.³

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This situation overview uses data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across UNS between January and March 2021.

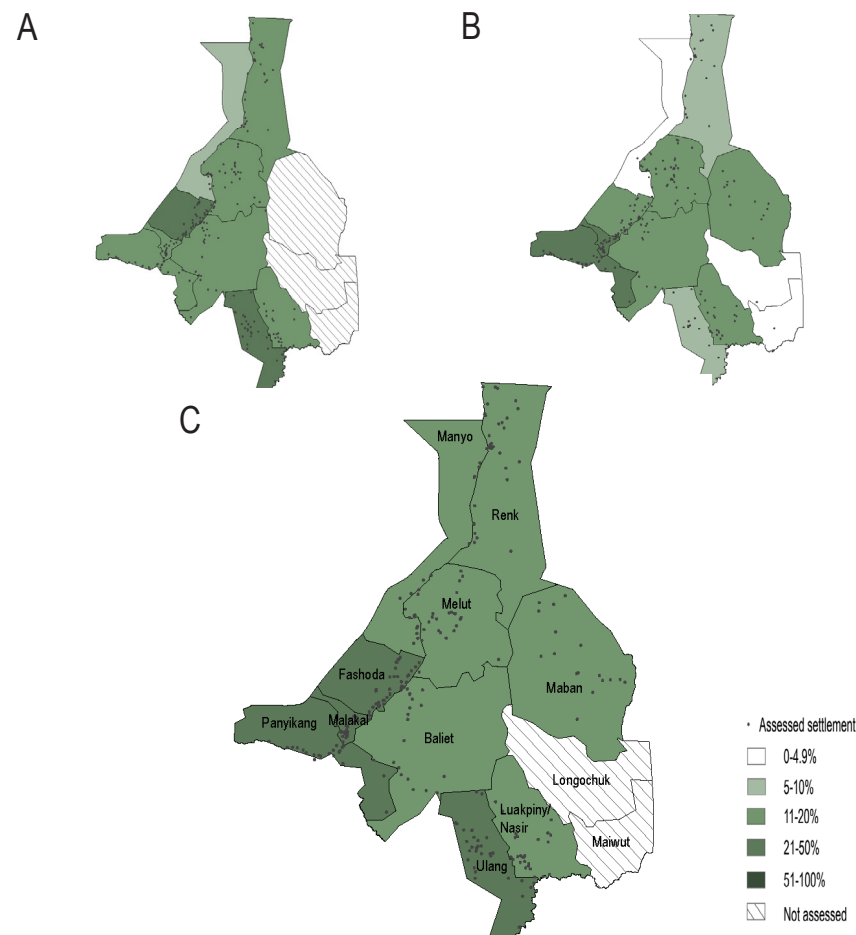
Methodology

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of UNS, REACH conducts interviews with KIs who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). Interviews were conducted in the Malakal town, Protection of Civilian (PoC) site and Renk town in UNS throughout the reporting period of January to March 2021. Findings should be considered indicative only of the situation in assessed settlements.

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

Only counties with interview coverage⁴ of at least 5% of all settlements in a given month were included in the analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month may vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses we only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam⁵ coverage over the period. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToR](#).

Figure 1: REACH Area of Knowledge (AoK) Settlement Coverage in January (A), February (B) & March (C)



of key informant interviews conducted: **803**

of assessed settlements: **287**

of counties covered: **10 (of 12)**

of focus group discussions conducted: **8**

1. Humanitarian Response Plan, South Sudan, March 2021

2. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2021

3. ADRA, Nasir - Rapid Needs Assessment, May 2021.

4. 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.

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



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Key Findings



Population Movement and Displacement: Whilst internal population movement appears to have broadly decreased across UNS during this reporting period, reports of IDP displacement remain relatively high in areas effected by flooding⁶ or inter-communal violence.⁷ In particular, reports of IDP presence were highest in flood-affected Panyikang⁸ and Fashoda⁹ in the western-bank region and most recent IDP movement was reported in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir amid reports of both flooding and protracted inter-communal violence¹⁰ in south-eastern UNS.



Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL): FSL findings indicated severe hunger in Melut,¹¹ Maban and Manyo amid reports of pest and flood related crop damage and limited access to humanitarian food distributions as well as persistent reports of armed violence in Maban.¹² Across the rest of UNS (excluding Melut, Maban and Manyo), the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people do not have enough food decreased from 62% in December to 51% in March whilst the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people faced severe hunger also decreased from 34% in December to 11% in March.



Protection: Findings suggest that south-eastern UNS¹³ continues to face protection concerns. In March, KIs from 85% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 79% in Ulang reported incidences of violence resulting in civilian death within 30 days prior to data collection. Protection findings also highlighted domestic violence and early marriage as protection concerns amongst women and children in south-eastern UNS. Elsewhere in UNS, inter-communal violence in Akoka, Baliet¹⁴ coincided with a temporary increase in reported security concerns in February. It is important to highlight that the suspension of humanitarian activity in Renk¹⁵ limited data coverage in Maban. As a result, our findings do not capture protection concerns in Maban. Protection concerns in Maban should not be overlooked as violence reportedly continues.¹⁶



Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): AAP findings suggest that access to humanitarian assistance decreased across UNS during this reporting period and was particularly low in areas such as Melut, Maban and Manyo, where food security findings highlighted reports of severe hunger. KIs from only 9% of assessed settlements in Melut, 7% in Manyo, and 0% in Maban reported that people in their settlement had accessed humanitarian assistance within six months prior to data collection in March.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): WASH findings suggest that people in over half (54%) of assessed settlements across UNS do not have access to functioning

boreholes, leaving many to rely on rivers for drinking water, particularly in the flood-affected counties on the western-bank of the Nile, Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo. Sanitation findings suggest latrine usage also remains low across much of UNS. In March, KIs from 82% of assessed settlements across UNS reported most people in their settlement used latrines half of the time or less.



Health: Health findings suggested that, whilst malaria remained the main perceived health problem reported across most of UNS, reports of typhoid as the perceived main health problem also increased. This may be connected to limited access to clean drinking water¹⁷ highlighted in the WASH findings.



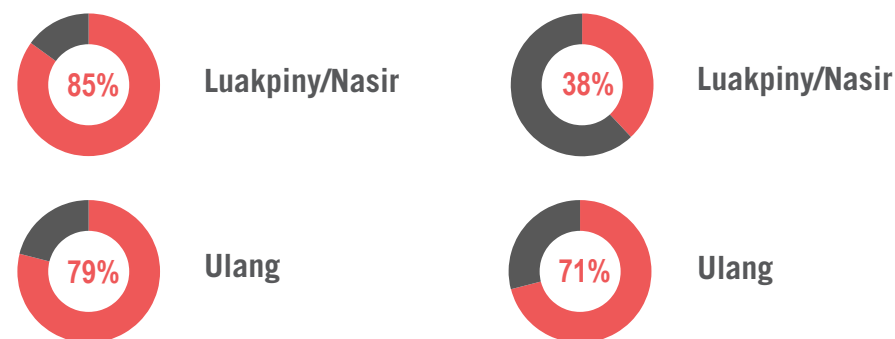
Education: Whilst findings suggested access to education services generally increased across UNS amid the easing of COVID-19 temporary restrictions,¹⁸ reported access to education services was comparably low in Melut and Panyikang.



Shelter: Shelter findings suggest that flooding¹⁹ continued to negatively impact access to permanent shelter in Panyikang. In March, KIs from 100% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported flooding forced people to leave their homes and sleep elsewhere. Findings also suggested that access to permanent shelter types decreased across UNS. In particular, KIs from 55% of assessed settlements in Melut, 47% in Maban and 27% in Manyo reported abandoned buildings as the main shelter type in their settlements in March. Limited access to permanent shelter in Melut, Maban, and Manyo coincided with lack of access to humanitarian assistance highlighted in the AAP findings.

Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported incidences of violence resulting in civilian death within 30 days prior to data collection (March 2021)

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported 'insecurity/killing' as the main push factor for recent IDPs arriving in their settlement (March 2021)



6. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2021

7. REACH, Situation Overview: Upper Nile State, September to December 2020

8. Radio Tamzuj, Floods Hit Panyikang, January 2021

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

10. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang County

11. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021

12. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

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

14. IRNA Akoka Report, April 2021

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

16. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

17. World Health Organisation, Drinking Water Factsheet.

18. UNICEF, Open the school gates! April 2021

19. NAWG, Update on Fangak & Panyikang flood-affected people and conflict related displacement in central Upper Nile, February 2021

Population Movement and Displacement

Internal Movements

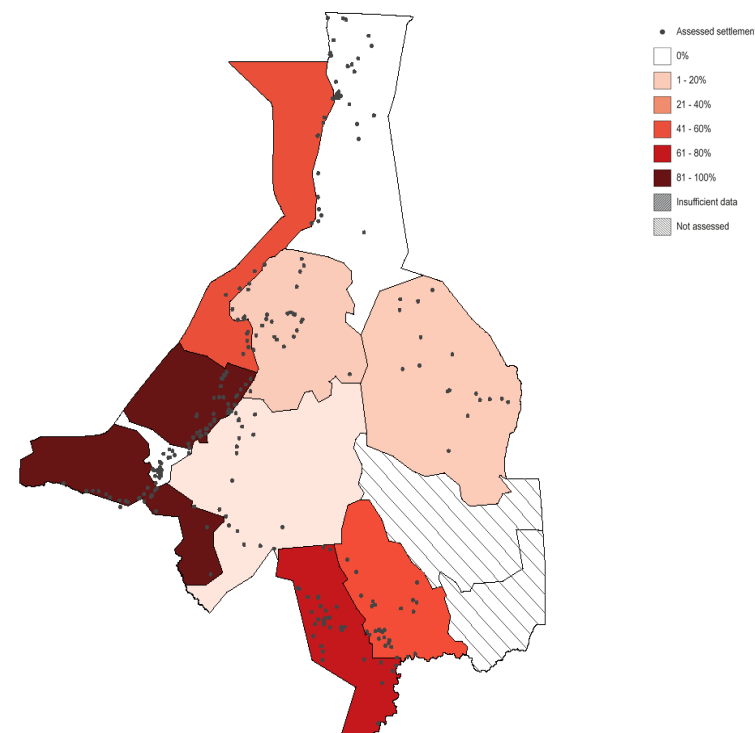
Whilst internal population movement appears to have broadly decreased across UNS during this reporting period, reports of IDP presence remained relatively high in areas effected by flooding²⁰ or armed violence.²¹ In particular, reported presence of IDPs was highest in flood-affected Panyikang and Fashoda²² in the western-bank region and most recent IDP movement was reported in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir amid reports of protracted inter-communal violence in south-eastern UNS.

Reporting of internal population displacement seemingly remained high in the flood-affected western-bank region of Panyikang and Fashoda. In March, KIs from 95% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 100% in Fashoda reported the presence of IDPs in their settlement, compared to 56% across UNS. Despite this, recent IDP movement appears to have decreased; the proportion of KIs from assessed settlements in Panyikang who reported the most recent IDPs arrived within 6 months prior to data collection decreased from 65% in December to 29% in March and from 34% to 23% in Fashoda. This population movement coincides with widespread flooding, which peaked in late 2020.²³ With rainy season due to begin between May and July in UNS²⁴ it is important to highlight humanitarian needs of these displaced people covered in the Food Security, WASH, Health, and Shelter findings of this situation overview.

KIs from a comparatively high proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir reported IDP arrivals within 6 months prior to data collection amid ongoing reports of protracted inter-communal violence highlighted in the protection findings of this situation overview. In March, KIs from 79% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 78% in Luakpiny/Nasir reported the presence of IDPs within their settlement, with KIs from 56% of assessed settlements in both Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir reporting that the most recent IDPs had arrived within 6 months prior to data collection. In 71% and 38% of assessed settlements where recent arrivals had been reported in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir, respectively, KIs reported insecurity/killings as the main push factor, while in 14% of assessed settlements with recent arrivals in Ulang and 23% in Luakpiny/Nasir, KIs attributed displacement to local tensions. Humanitarian needs of displaced people amid reports of flooding and protracted inter-communal violence in south-eastern UNS are highlighted in the Food Security and Protection findings.

In January, population movement findings highlighted displacement from Canal Pigi in Jonglei to Malakal²⁵ amid flooding.²⁶ In recent findings, the proportion of assessed settlements in Malakal where KIs reported recent IDP arrivals from Canal Pigi to Malakal decreased from 50% in December to 20% in March. Whilst the proportion appears to be declining, it is particularly important to highlight the humanitarian needs of people displaced by flooding and to continue to monitor population movement given the upcoming rainy season.

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported IDP arrivals in the 6-months prior to data collection in March.



Cross-border Movements

Cross-border movement was also most commonly reported in the flood-affected counties such as Panyikang and Fashoda.²⁷ In March, KIs from 100% of assessed settlements in both Panyikang and Fashoda reported refugees had returned to their settlement after having been displaced to Sudan, in comparison to an average of 55% across UNS. Meanwhile, KIs from 52% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 58% in Fashoda reported that returning refugees had arrived within 3 months prior to data collection. Furthermore, KIs from 43% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 37% in Fashoda reported that a lack of access to income generating activities was the main push factor motivating refugee returns, suggesting displaced people may have faced less favorable conditions in their host location.

20. NAWG, Update on Fangak & Panyikang flood-affected people and conflict related displacement in central Upper Nile, February 2021

21. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang County

22. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2021

23. OCHA, Flooding Snapshot, December 2020

24. FEWS NET East Africa: South Sudan Seasonal Calendar

25. REACH, Situation Overview: Upper Nile State, September to December 2020

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

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



Food Security and Livelihoods

Food security and Livelihoods (FSL) findings indicate severe hunger in Melut, Maban, and Manyo amid reports of pest and flood related crop damage and limited access to humanitarian food assistance as well as persistent reports of armed violence in Maban.²⁸ Across the rest of UNS (excluding Melut, Maban and Manyo), the proportion of assessed settlements where people reportedly did not have enough food decreased from 62% in December to 51% in March. The proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people faced severe hunger also decreased from 34% in December to 11% in March.

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

Findings suggest reported crop damage and limited access to humanitarian food assistance may have contributed to worsened levels of hunger in Melut since flooding in late 2020.²⁹ The proportion of assessed settlements in Melut where KIs reported hunger was severe initially increased from 0% in September to 88% in December and continued in March when KIs from 21% of assessed settlements in Melut reported severe hunger, and in 45%, hunger levels were reportedly the worst they could be. Furthermore, KIs from 28% of assessed settlements in Maban reported that having only children eating most of the time was a common coping mechanism in their settlement. Meanwhile, KIs from 94% of assessed settlements in Melut reported not having accessed humanitarian food assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection in March. Additionally, flooding in late 2020 and early 2021³⁰ and pest-related crop destruction (reported by KIs from 52% of assessed settlements in Melut in March) may also have contributed to reported severe hunger. Melut was classified as facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in October/November 2020 and was projected to deteriorate to emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity in April-July 2021.³¹

Findings also indicate severe levels of hunger in Maban amid a combination of armed violence, pest and flood related crop damage, and limited access to humanitarian food assistance. In March, KIs from 24% of assessed settlements in Maban reported most people in their settlement faced severe hunger, and in 47%, KIs reported hunger was the worst it could possibly be. Furthermore, KIs from 39% of assessed settlements in Maban reported only children were able to eat most of the time as a coping mechanism. KIs from 94% of assessed settlements in Maban reported not having accessed humanitarian food assistance within three months prior to data collection. KIs from a further 29% of assessed settlements reported pests destroyed crops and KIs from 18% of assessed settlements reported flood-related crop destruction in their settlement. Meanwhile, reports of conflict and incidences of violence persisted throughout the reporting period.³² Maban was classified as crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in October/November 2020 and was projected to remain at crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in April-July 2021.³³

Elsewhere in central and north-eastern UNS, findings suggest that access to food in Renk and Baliet is also impeded by pests destroying crops. In March, KIs from 100% of assessed settlements in Renk and 78% in Baliet reported most people in their settlement did not have enough food. In 68% and 58% of assessed

settlements where inadequate access to food was reported in Renk and Baliet, respectively, KIs attributed the lack of food to crops having been destroyed by pests. KIs from 25% of assessed settlements in Renk³⁴ reported most people in their settlement faced severe hunger in March. The proportion of KIs in Baliet who reported most people in their settlement faced severe hunger decreased from 56% in December to 5% in March. This finding highlights that pests destroying crops appears to be an impediment to food access across much of central and north-eastern UNS.

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

Findings indicate a general decrease in reports of severe hunger in Fashoda, Malakal, and Panyikang during this reporting period; reports of severe hunger increased in Manyo seemingly due to pest related crop damage, insufficient rainfall, high prices and limited access to humanitarian food assistance. In March, KIs from 13% of assessed settlements in Manyo reported most people in their settlements faced severe hunger and in 40% of assessed settlements, hunger levels were reportedly the worst they could possibly be. Meanwhile, KIs from 87% of assessed settlements in Manyo reported that people in their settlement had not accessed humanitarian food assistance in the 3 months prior to data collection. In March, KIs from 27% of assessed settlements in Manyo reported pests-related crops destruction, in 20% KIs reported insufficient rain to grow crops, and KIs in 13% of assessed settlements reported high food prices. KIs from 40% of assessed settlements in Manyo reported that the arrival of IDPs or returning refugees had a small impact on the ability for most people in their settlement to access enough food. These findings substantiate the classification of Manyo as projected emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity for April-July 2021.³⁵

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

Food security appeared stable in south-eastern UNS but was again closely related to access to humanitarian food assistance amid ongoing inter-communal violence highlighted in the Protection findings of this report. In March, KIs from 63% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 47% in Ulang reported humanitarian food assistance was the main food source for most people in their settlement in comparison to only 2% across the remainder of UNS (excluding Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang). Meanwhile, KIs from 85% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 79% in Ulang reported conflict had some impact on the ability to access food for most people in their settlement. In Luakpiny/Nasir, the proportion assessed settlements where KIs reported most people having accessed humanitarian food assistance remained stable at 78% (77% in December) whilst those who reported most people in their settlement not having enough food also remained stable at 41% in March (38% in December). The proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang where KIs reported most people had accessed humanitarian food assistance decreased from 69% in December to 53% in March, whilst the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people in their settlement did not have enough food increased from 41% in December to 53% in March. Whilst overall food security in south-eastern UNS appears reasonably stable, dependence on humanitarian food assistance could make access to food vulnerable to shocks preventing humanitarian food distributions, such as escalating violence or further flooding.

28. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

29. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021

30. NAWG, Update on Fangak & Panyikang flood-affected people and conflict related displacement in central Upper Nile, February 2021

31. IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

32. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

33. IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

34. Analysis relating to Renk is limited to data collected in March due to insufficient data coverage in December.

35. IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

Protection

Findings indicate that south-eastern UNS³⁶ continued to face protection concerns during this reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people in their settlement felt unsafe most of the time increased from 73% in December to 85% in March in Luakpiny/Nasir, and from 52% in December to 79% in March in Ulang. Furthermore, the proportion assessed settlements where KIs reported incidences of violence resulting in civilian death within 30 days prior to data collection remained high between December (77%) and March (85%) in Luakpiny/Nasir, and increased from 66% in December to 79% in March in Ulang. FSL findings suggest protracted insecurity may impede food access, increasing dependence on humanitarian food assistance.

Findings also suggest that, whilst security concerns in both Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir were reportedly notably higher for men, women, and children than elsewhere in UNS, they impacted each demographic differently. In March, KIs from 85% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 76% in Ulang reported some form of security concern for men, women, and children in comparison to 9% across the rest of UNS. For men, KIs from 67% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 68% in Ulang reported killing or physical injury as main protection concern in their settlement. For women, the most commonly reported main protection concern was family separation (reported in 30% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 35% in Ulang), followed by domestic violence (22% in Luakpiny/Nasir and 15% in Ulang). For girls, KIs reported concerns of early marriage in 41% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 35% in Ulang and for boys in 26% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 12% in Ulang. This finding highlights that, in addition to direct concerns of physical violence or death, reports of domestic violence and early marriage also increased amid reports of protracted inter-communal violence³⁷.

Inter-communal violence in Akoka, Baliet county³⁸ coincided with an increase in reports of security concerns in February. KIs from 13% of assessed settlements in Baliet reported both an incidence of violence resulting in civilian death in their settlement in month prior to data collection in February and (also 13%) that most people in their settlement felt unsafe most of the time.

Limited coverage of Maban means that our findings do not capture protection concerns in this county, despite consistent reports of widespread violence.³⁹ The security situation in Maban has reportedly deteriorated since late 2020 and the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) security status in Maban was elevated from green to grey in January 2021.⁴⁰

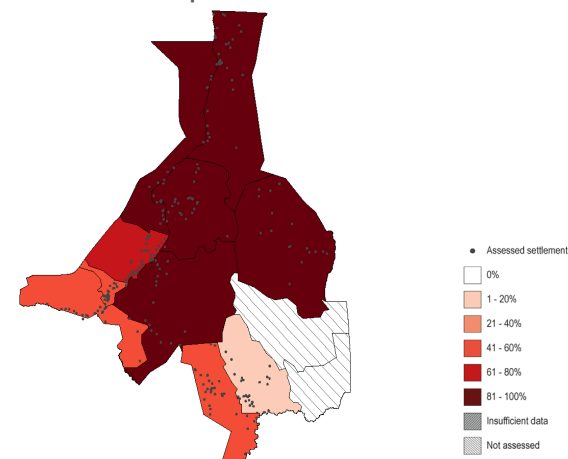
Accountability to Affected Populations

Findings suggest that access to humanitarian assistance decreased across UNS during this reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported people in their settlement accessed humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection decreased from 54% in December to 29% in March. In particular, KIs from only 9% of assessed settlements in Melut, 0% in Maban and 7% in Manyo reported people in their settlement had accessed humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection in March. Meanwhile, food security findings highlighted reports of severe hunger, extreme coping mechanisms, and limited access to humanitarian food distribution in these areas.

Reported access to humanitarian assistance appeared highest in flood and conflict affected south-eastern UNS. In particular, KIs from 53% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 81% in Luakpiny/Nasir reported that people in their settlement had received humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection in March. This is particularly important given that KIs from 47% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 63% in Luakpiny/Nasir reported that humanitarian food distributions were the main source of food for most people in their settlement.

Humanitarian activity has been suspended in Renk since October, following a dispute with local youth groups over humanitarian employment practices.⁴¹ Correspondingly, KIs from none of the assessed settlements in Renk reported that people in their settlement had accessed any form of humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection in March. At the time of writing, humanitarian activity is set to resume in April and the impact of the suspension remains uncertain.

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people in their settlement had not accessed humanitarian assistance in the 6 months prior to data collection in March.



36. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang County

37. Girls not Brides, Child Marriage in Humanitarian Contexts, August 2020.

38. IRNA Akoka Report, April 2021

39. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

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

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

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Findings indicate that people in the majority of the assessed settlements across UNS do not have access to functioning boreholes, leaving many to rely on rivers for drinking water, particularly the flood-affected counties on the western-bank of the Nile, Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo. In March, KIs from 54% of assessed settlements across UNS reported there were no functioning boreholes in their settlement. Meanwhile, KIs from 47% of assessed settlements across UNS reported rivers as the main source of drinking water for most people in their settlement. In particular, KIs from all assessed settlements in Panyikang, 91% in Fashoda and 80% in Manyo reported there were no functioning boreholes in their settlement. This might be reflected in the high proportion of assessed settlements where rivers were reported as the main source of drinking water (95% in Panyikang, 77% in Fashoda, and 93% in Manyo), and can be further triangulated by FGD findings,⁴² with participants from Fashoda mentioning drinking water from rivers due to not having access to clean drinking water. These findings highlight the urgent need for access to clean drinking water across much of UNS, and particularly in the western-bank counties (Panyikang, Fashoda and Manyo).

Sanitation findings suggest latrine usage also remained low across much of UNS. In March, KIs from 82% of assessed settlements across UNS reported most people in their settlement used latrines half of the time or less. Conversely, most people using latrines more than half of the time was only reported in 65% of assessed settlements in Renk, 42% in Melut, 32% in Baliet, and 24% in Maban. Additionally, KIs from all assessed settlements in Panyikang, Fashoda, Manyo, Ulang and Nasir and 94% in Malakal reported most people in their settlement used latrines half of the time or less. In particular, KIs from 86% of assessed settlements in Panyikang, 81% in Fashoda and 65% in Malakal reported most people in their settlements did not use latrines at all. In those settlements where most people reportedly did not use latrines, the unavailability of latrines was the most commonly reported reason (in 86% of assessed settlements with low latrine use in Panyikang, 81% in Fashoda, and 100% in Manyo), followed by overcrowding of the available latrines. Furthermore, FGD participants from Fashoda reported that only older people or persons with disabilities had access to latrines in their settlement.⁴³

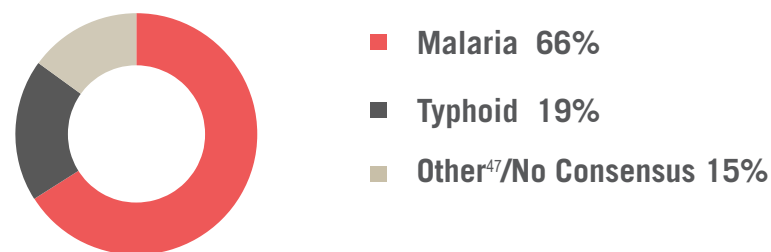
Hygiene findings indicate that hand washing practices varied across UNS. KIs from 40% of assessed settlements across UNS reported that most people in their settlement used only water to wash their hands, while people reportedly used soap in only 24% of assessed settlements. In 13% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that most people did not wash their hands at all. In particular, KIs from 38% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 35% in Fashoda reported most people did not wash their hands. This finding stands out given the importance of washing hands with soap in preventing the spread of COVID-19.⁴⁴

Health

Health findings suggest that, whilst malaria remained the main perceived health problem across most of UNS, reported concerns about typhoid also increased; perhaps connected to limited access to clean drinking water highlighted in the WASH findings. In March, KIs from 66% of assessed settlements across UNS reported malaria as the main perceived health problem for people in their settlement. Malaria was reported most commonly in counties on the western-bank of the Nile, with KIs from all assessed settlements in Panyikang and Fashoda, 94% in Malakal and 84% in Baliet all reporting malaria as the main perceived health problem in their settlement. The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported typhoid as the main perceived health problem for people in their settlement increased from 7% in December to 19% in March. In particular, the proportion of assessed settlements in Melut where KIs reported typhoid as the main perceived health concern for people in their settlement increased from 32% in December to 85% in March, from 0% in December to 47% in March in Manyo and was 59% in Maban in March.⁴⁵ Since typhoid can be transmitted through unclean drinking water,⁴⁶ increased concerns about typhoid may be connected to a lack of access to clean drinking water, which was commonly reported in these counties. With the rainy season typically commencing in May, the incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases, such as typhoid and malaria, might be expected to increase over the coming months.

Findings also indicate that, in most assessed settlements across UNS, people had access to some kind of functioning healthcare facility within walking distance of their settlement, which was reported in 95% of assessed settlements. KIs from 70% of assessed settlements across UNS reported most people had access to a primary healthcare facility, KIs from 12% of assessed settlements reported access to a pharmacy and KIs from 11% of assessed settlements reported access to a hospital.

Figure 4: Main perceived health problems reported in assessed settlements across UNS



42. FGD with participants from Fashoda, conducted in Malakal in January 2021.

43. FGD with participants from Fashoda, conducted in Malakal in January 2021.

44. World Health Organisation, Save Lives, Clean Your Hands campaign

45. Analysis relating to Maban is limited to data collected in March due to insufficient data coverage in December.

46. World Health Organisation, Drinking Water Factsheet.

47. Other perceived health concerns were malnutrition and diarrheal.

Education

Findings suggest that access to education services generally increased across UNS amid the easing of COVID-19 temporary restrictions.⁴⁸ The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported access to some form of education service within walking distance increased from 37% in December to 54% in March. However, in March, KIs from only 21% of assessed settlements in Melut and 5% in Panyikang reported access to education services within walking distance of their settlement, which was commonly contributed to the destruction of facilities due to flooding in Panyikang (in 60% of assessed settlements with no access to education in Panyikang) or, in Melut, to the fact that there were no facilities present (62%).

Shelter

Findings indicate that flooding⁴⁹ continued to negatively impact access to permanent shelter in Panyikang. In March, KIs from 100% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported that flooding had forced people to leave their homes and sleep elsewhere. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported community buildings as the main form of shelter decreased in favour of rakoobas, but many remain without access to permanent shelter. Findings from the last round of the AoK assessment in UNS⁵⁰ indicated that community buildings as a main form of shelter type had increased, from being reported in 5% of assessed settlements in March 2020 to 30% in December 2020. This figure gradually decreased to 5% in March, whilst the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported rakoobas⁵¹ as the main shelter type increased from 5% in December to 57% in March. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported tukuls or a permanent shelter as the main shelter type continued to decrease from 95% in September, to 55% in December and 38% in March, suggesting increasing shelter-related needs in Panyikang amid protracted flooding, which might be further aggravated during the upcoming rainy season.

More broadly, across UNS, findings also suggest that access to permanent shelters decreased since December, particularly in Melut, Maban, and Manyo. The proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported tukuls⁵² or permanent shelter as the main shelter in their settlement decreased from 95% in September to 82% in December, and continued to decrease to 64% in March. In particular, KIs from 55% of assessed settlements in Melut, 47% in Maban and 27% in Manyo reported abandoned buildings as the main shelter type in their settlements in March.

Conclusion

Findings reported in this situation overview highlight humanitarian needs across UNS over the reporting period January to March 2021. Most notably, reports of severe hunger in Melut, Maban and Manyo, combined with limited access to permanent shelter and almost no reported access to humanitarian assistance, suggest urgent humanitarian needs⁵³ in these areas. Reports of population displacement and limited access to clean drinking water, functioning latrines, education services and permanent shelter suggest that the situation might be particularly severe in the flood-affected western bank counties of Panyikang and Fashoda. While, in the south-eastern counties of Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir, findings suggest persisting protection concerns, population displacement, and reliance on humanitarian food assistance amid ongoing reports of inter-communal violence.

Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people in their settlement face 'severe' or 'worst' levels of hunger (March 2021)

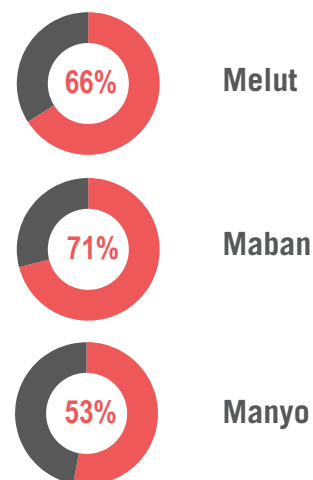
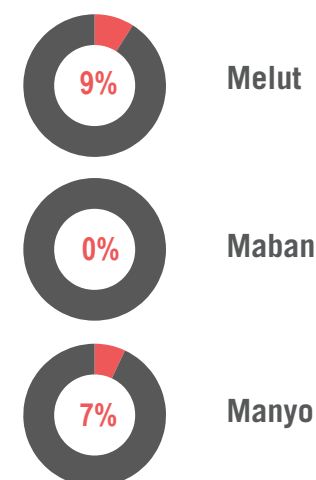


Figure 6: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported having accessed any humanitarian assistance within six months prior to data collection (March 2021)



About REACH Initiative

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

48. UNICEF, Open the school gates! April 2021

49. Floods hit Panyikang, March 2021

50. REACH Situation Overview, Upper Nile State, September to December 2020

51. Rakoobas are temporary shelters made from poles and plastic tarpaulin.

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

53. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021