

Situation Overview: Unity State, South Sudan

July - September 2018

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

In the third quarter of 2018, Unity State only partially recovered from the wave of violence that began in late April and continued through July 2018.¹ Reports of conflict incidents decreased; however, persistent criminality, environmental and health challenges, and resultant food insecurity continued to imperil lives, stress livelihoods, and spur displacement. Access to services in the counties most affected by the recent violence (Leer, Mayendit, Koch and, to a lesser extent, Guit and Rubkona) returned to early 2018 levels, but structural challenges that limited reported access to health, WASH, and education services remained. In the far north of the state, Abiemnhom and Pariang counties were outliers to many state trends, reflecting their relative insulation from conflict and displacement dynamics affecting the rest of Unity.

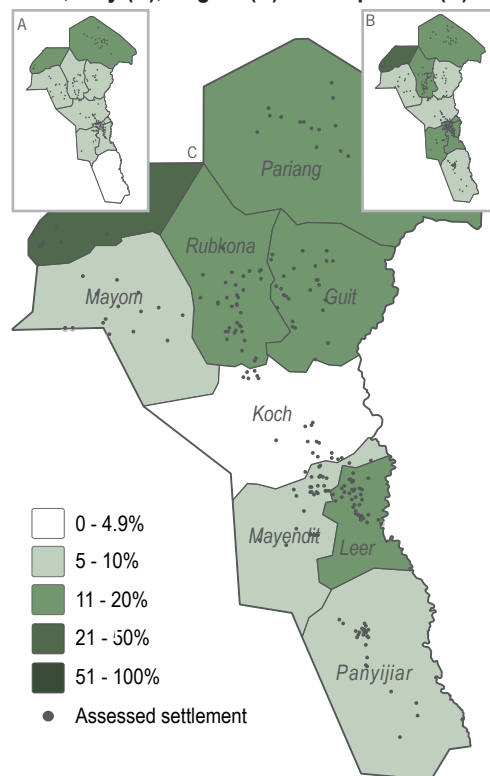
To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected through interviews on a monthly basis from settlements across the country.

of key informant interviews conducted: **770**

of assessed settlements: **598**

of focus group discussions conducted: **9**

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Unity State, July (A), August (B) and Sept 2018 (C)



In Unity State, REACH interviewed 770 Key Informants (KIs) in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Nyal, and Ajuong Thok in the third quarter of 2018 (July, August, and September). The KIs were from 598 unique settlements situated in all 9 counties in the state. Survey findings were triangulated

through 9 food security and livelihoods (FSL) focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in Bentiu and Nyal, and with secondary data.

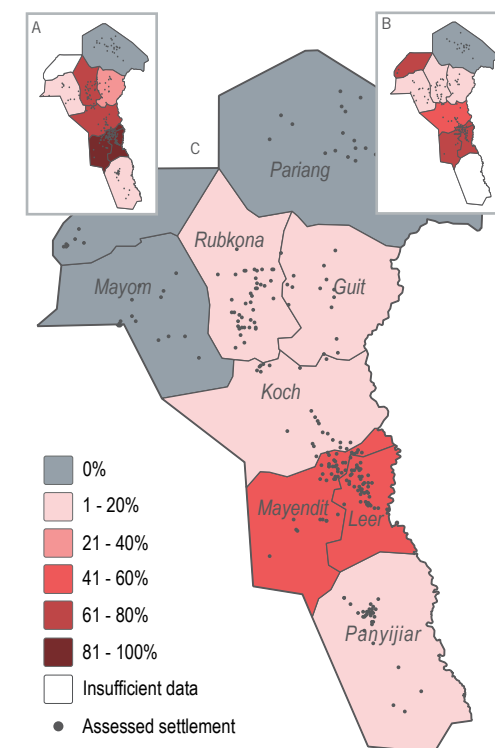
This Situation Overview focuses on changes in observed humanitarian needs across Unity State in the third quarter of 2018. The first section analyses protection challenges, displacement and population movement, and the second evaluates access to food and basic services.

Protection, Displacement, and Population Movements

Protection

In the most conflict-affected parts of Unity State, reports of violent conflict decreased as the rainy season advanced (see Map 2).² At the peak of violence in June, more than 70% of assessed settlements in Leer (96%), Mayendit (92%), Koch (71%) and Rubkona (80%) had reported the occurrence of a deadly conflict incident within the last month. By September, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the same dropped to 43% in Leer, 54% in Mayendit, 30% in Koch, and 19% in Rubkona. Two outliers from this general trend were Guit and Mayom counties, where reported incidents of deadly conflict increased in the quarter's final reporting month, rising

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of deadly conflict in past month, June (A), July (B), and August 2018 (C)



from 7% to 38% of assessed settlements in Guit and from 0% to 25% in Mayendit. These increases reflect local-level cattle raiding and armed group dynamics.

Despite the reduction in reported deadly conflict, widespread insecurity remained. The

1. See REACH. Situational Overview: Unity State, April- June 2018. July 2018. See also UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Human Rights Division (HRD). Indiscriminate attacks against civilians in Southern Unity. April-May 2018. May 2018.

OCHA. Humanitarian Bulletin. July 2018.

2. See also ACLED. Political Violence and Protest Data - South Sudan. April - October 2018.

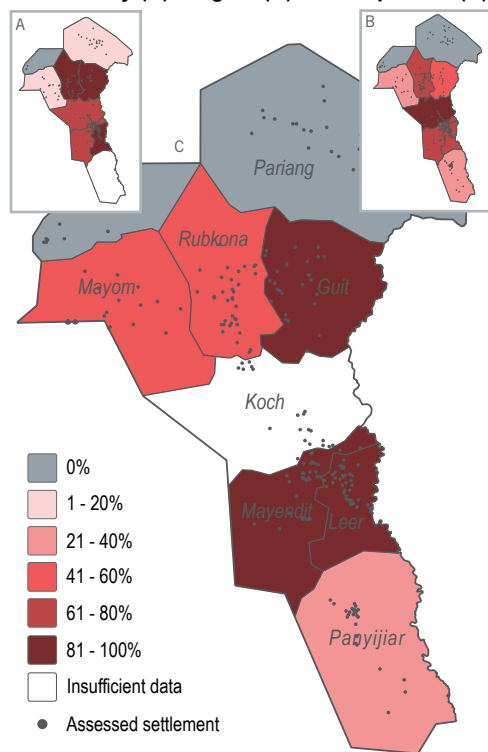
METHODOLOGY

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 from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a location or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Bentiu PoC site, Nyal town and Jamjang town in July, August, and September 2018.

In-depth interviews were conducted over the first three weeks of each month. The standardised survey tool includes questions on displacement trends, population needs, food security and livelihoods, and access to basic services. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated 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.

Data was analyzed at the county level using descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis. Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of settlements for a given month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. Thus, some changes over time reported in this situation overview might be due to variations in coverage.

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of looting in the previous month, July (A), August (B), and Sept 2018 (C)



violence in the previous quarter. Indeed, 50% or more of assessed settlements in Leer, Mayendit, Koch,³ Guit and Rubkona counties reported an incident of looting in every month of the third quarter. This persistent human insecurity negatively impacted displacement, food security and access to services throughout July, August and September.

Displacement and Population Movements

Population movement and displacement trends in Unity reflect counterbalancing

physical and food security trends. The reduction of armed conflict and start of the rainy season encouraged some to return home to cultivate. At the same time, persistent crime-related insecurity, environmental and health challenges, and the resultant food insecurity pushed others to search for food elsewhere. Overall, populations remained highly mobile with evidences of substantial, and often cyclical, movement within and across counties.

Host community

The majority of assessed settlements across the State continued to report that at least some portion of the host community remained in the settlement. Changes in the proportion of the host populations that remained, however, provide evidence of divergent displacement patterns (see Figure 1). In Mayendit, for example, the majority of assessed settlements in July reported that **less** than half of the population remained. By September, the majority reported that **half or more** of the population now lived in the settlement. Mayendit was one of the most conflict-affected areas in the previous quarter. The partial return of individuals likely reflects the reduction of conflict incidents, tempered by still persistent crime-related insecurity. A similar trend was observed in Leer county as well.

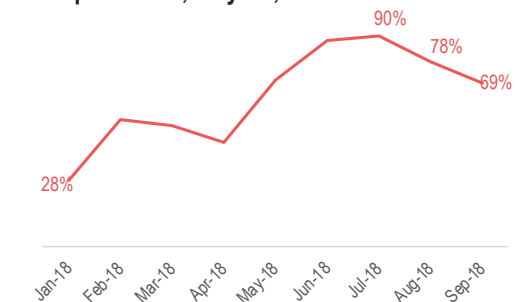
Conversely, in Rubkona county, an **increasing** proportion of assessed settlements reported that a **decreasing** proportion of the host population remained. Similar trends were observed in neighbouring Guit and Mayom counties, and likely reflect adverse food

Figure 1: Proportion of host community remaining, % of assessed settlements, Sept

		< Half	Half	> Half	All
Mayendit	July	56%	24%	12%	0%
	August	23%	53%	13%	0%
	Sept	29%	44%	24%	0%
Rubkona	July	0%	43%	43%	0%
	August	24%	49%	27%	0%
	Sept	34%	29%	20%	0%

security dynamics. As further evidence, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that individuals had moved to a displacement camp to find new sources of food remained high in these counties throughout the third quarter of 2018 (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting people moving to a displacement camp for food, Mayom, Rubkona and Guit



3. Koch county is not included in September averages because of insufficient coverage. That said, adding in the 36 settlements that were covered during this missing month

suggests that the numbers would be higher but only marginally so.

Figure 3: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting presence of IDPs, September 2018

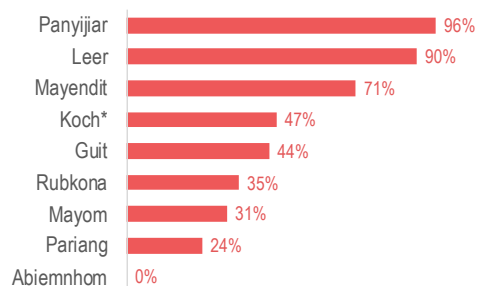


Figure 4: County from which most recent of IDPs came, % of assessed settlements reporting, September 2018

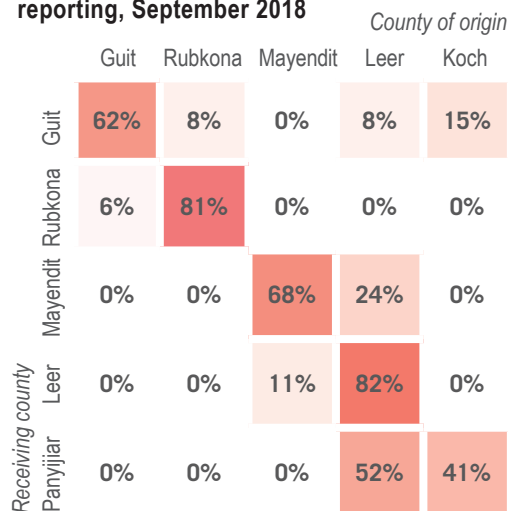
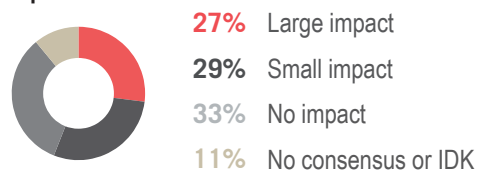


Figure 5: Impact of IDPs or returnees on the ability to access enough food, proportion of assessed settlements reporting, Unity State, September 2018⁴



Internally displaced persons and returnees

The recent displacements add to substantial protracted displacements throughout Unity State, with the result that a large proportion of assessed settlements continued to report the presence of IDPs throughout the third quarter (see Figure 3). There is some evidence that much of the displacement was relatively localized. As Figure 4 illustrates, the majority of assessed settlements consistently reported that recent IDPs came from locations within the same county. The exception is Panyijiar, which continued to receive substantial numbers of IDPs from the neighbouring, conflict-affected counties - Mayendit and Leer. Across the state, more than half of assessed settlements reported that the presence of IDPs or returnees had had an impact on the ability to access enough food (see Figure 5).

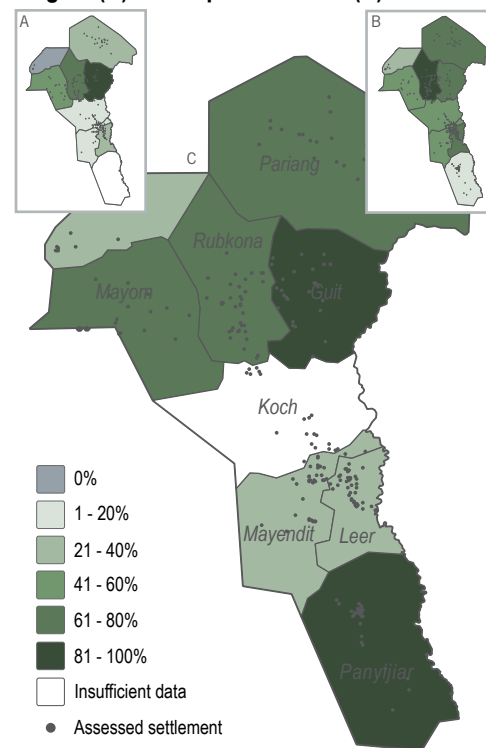
Situation in Assessed Settlements

Even as armed conflict decreased, persistent insecurity, environmental challenges and seasonal health concerns undermined food security, while structural challenges to access to services remained.

Food Security and Livelihoods

On the one hand, food security across Unity State generally improved in the third quarter of 2018, rebounding from the severe decline observed following the wave of violence in recent months. At the same time, however, reported adequate access to food oscillated throughout July, August, and September, as

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food, July (A), August (B) and September 2018 (C)



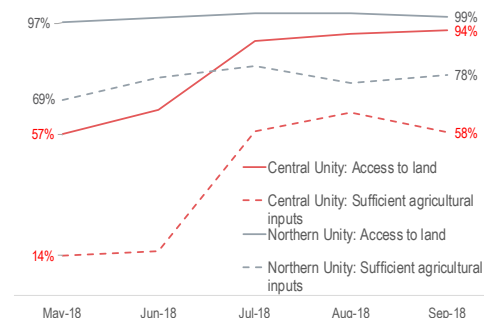
initial reports of improved access were not always sustained (see Map 4). For example, in the especially conflict-affected counties of Central Unity - Koch, Mayendit and Leer - the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food increased from less than a quarter in July (18%, 12%, and 24%, respectively) to about half in August (48%, 58% and 65%), only to fall again to about a third in September (37% in Mayendit and 36% in Leer). Similar volatility was observed across the State, reflecting challenging food security

and livelihood dynamics that were only partially ameliorated by humanitarian assistance. The following outlines four important dynamics in greater detail.

Insecurity's effect on livelihoods⁵

FGD participants from Koch, Mayendit, Guit, Rubkona, and Mayom counties all stressed the negative impact of past conflict and persistent insecurity on livelihood activities, especially cultivation. First, the wave of violence in Central Unity from late April through July included the burning of crops and seed stocks and led to widespread displacement throughout the state. Figure 6 illustrates the limited availability of sufficient agricultural inputs in parts of the state, even as the rate of conflict events have subsided.

Figure 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to land versus access to sufficient agricultural inputs, Central and Northern Unity Counties



At the same time, FGD participants from Mayendit and Koch explained that continued concerns about crime-related insecurity meant that, in many places, only a few individuals remained in settlements to cultivate - usually

4. This analysis excludes settlements that did not report the presence of any IDPs.

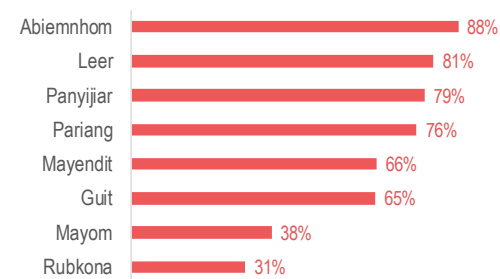
5. The following four sections are heavily informed by nine FGDs conducted in Bentiu

PoC and Nyal over a three week period in late September and early October 2018. FSL: Rubkona (2). FSL: Guit (2). FSL: Mayom (2). FSL: Koch. FSL: Mayendit. FSL: Panyijiar.

elders who cannot travel or men who return in the day but sleep in the bush. This limited the amount of land that could be cultivated. Similarly, participants from Mayom, Rubkona and Guit described how security considerations led many to cultivate in fewer and often less desirable locations. Rather than cultivating two or three “gardens”⁶ on the best available land, participants reported the households this year may have only one garden either very close to the home or hidden in the bush. Participants further explained that locations perceived as “safe” may be too low (risking flooding) or too high (with poor water retention). In Guit, for example, these dynamics may help to explain the substantially smaller proportion of assessed settlements reporting engagement in cultivation this rainy season (60% in August and 54% in September) compared to last year (89% and 92%, respectively).

Insecurity impacted other livelihood activities as well. FGD participants in Mayendit explained that perceived risks of crime along main routes limited individuals’ ability to start a business, i.e. buying and selling goods between markets. It also limited safe access to hunting, fishing, and gathering wild foods as coping strategies. Participants from Rubkona, Guit and Koch also stressed the dangers of fishing, but reported engagement in the livelihood activity remained high (Figure 7). This more accurately reflected a dearth of productive alternatives, especially as widespread reports of the destruction or abandonment of fishing gear in the recent violence further limited the efficacy of fishing as a coping strategy. Finally, FGD participants from Mayendit, Guit and Koch explained how

Figure 7: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting fishing as a livelihood activity, September 2018



the presence of armed actors or looters along main - and even informal - routes limited ability to access cattle (Guit, Koch) and food distributions (Mayendit, Koch), cutting off two further coping strategies

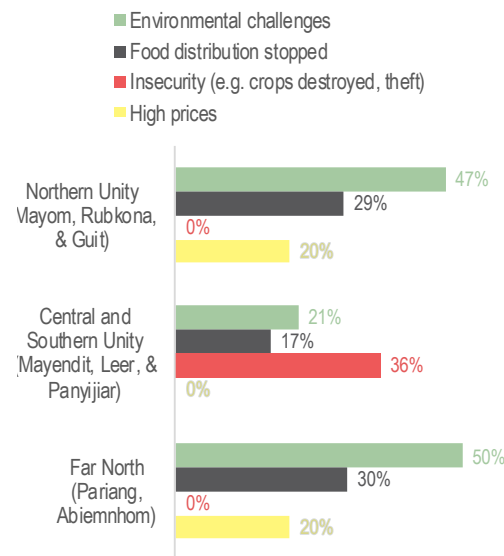
Insecurity thus continued to have a profound and negative impact on productive engagement of livelihood activities and the availability of coping strategies throughout much of Unity State in the third quarter of 2018.

Poor environmental conditions

Second, environmental challenges further limited cultivation and other livelihood activities in Unity State. Poor rains, a short growing season, and the destruction of crops by flood or pests were all commonly reported as main reasons for inadequate access to food throughout the reporting period (see Figure 8).

FGD participants from Rubkona, Guit, Mayendit and Panyijiar all explained how an early dry spell during crops’ primary development period had been followed by heavy rains later in the season. Subsequent flooding destroyed what crops had survived.

Figure 8: Main cause of inadequate access to food, proportion of assessed settlements reporting, September 2018

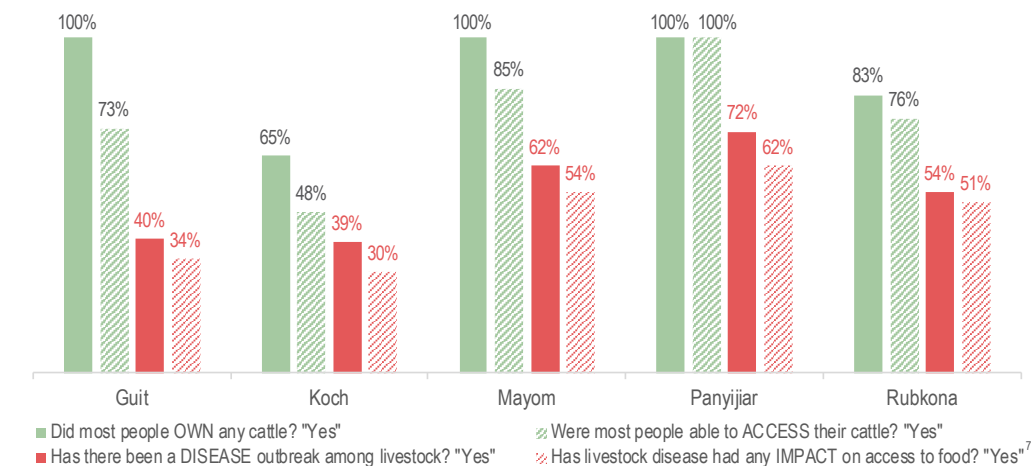


In Panyijiar, FGD participants reported that September floods had also ruined attempts

at a second harvest after the first failed. Supporting these claims, more than a quarter (28%) of assessed settlements state-wide reported that flooding had forced people to leave their homes in September. Participants from Rubkona explained that many people who had returned to rural areas to cultivate came back to the PoC site after the crops repeatedly failed.

Poor rains also affected other livelihoods. FGD participants from Guit explained that fishing only belatedly became a viable coping strategy in September as water levels were too low in prior months. Conversely, participants from Panyijiar explained that floods had led to cattle disease. Indeed, 72% of assessed settlements reported a disease outbreak among livestock in September, and 62% reported that this had impacted the settlement’s ability to access food (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Livestock as a livelihood activity and coping strategy, and the challenges therein, proportion of assessed settlements reporting, September 2018



6. A small patch of land for growing sustenance crops.

7. Figures based on the subset of settlements in which an outbreak was reported.

Impact of health concerns

Third, with the onset of the rainy season, health concerns and especially malaria, had a reportedly high impact on access to food across Unity. In August, more than half of assessed settlements state-wide reported malaria was the main health problem (see Figure 10). More than 60% of these settlements further reported that malaria had impacted the ability to access enough food in the settlement (see Figure 11). As many as 91% of assessed settlements in

Figure 10: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting malaria as main health problem, August 2018

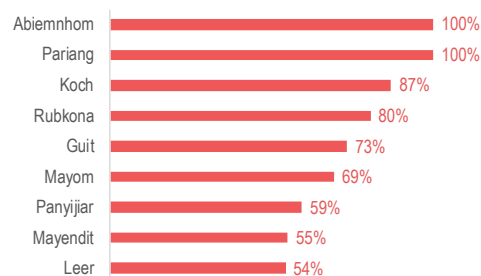
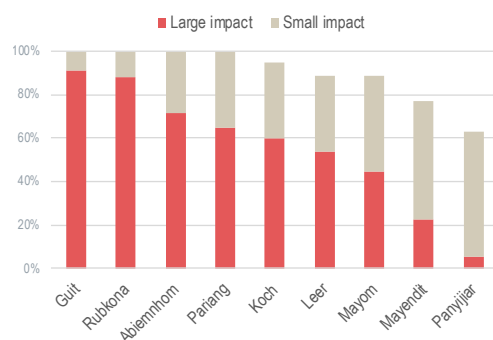


Figure 11: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that malaria had an impact on access to adequate food, August 2018



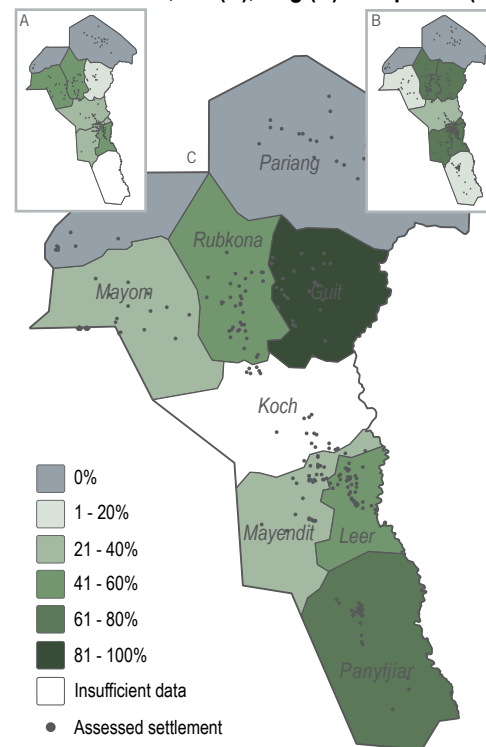
Guit and 88% in Rubkona reported that the impact had been large. FGD participants from both counties independently also stressed the negative effect of widespread malaria, exacerbated by the challenges of accessing health care facilities. When a person becomes ill, participants explained, patients must be brought to Bentiu PoC to access necessary medicine and health services. This often takes the strongest members of the household away from other productive livelihood activities (to transport the sick) and, upon return, one might find one's garden flooded or overgrown.

Reliance on humanitarian assistance

Given these security, environmental and health challenges, much of Unity State continued to rely on humanitarian assistance as a main source of food throughout the third quarter of 2018. In September, nearly half (47%) of assessed settlements state-wide reported that the main source of food for most of the population was humanitarian assistance.

In the same month, the IPC highlighted both the high levels of food insecurity and the critical role of humanitarian assistance in Unity State. Koch, Mayendit, Leer, Rubkona and Guit counties were all classified as experiencing Phase 4 Emergency levels of food insecurity, with 19,000 individuals predicted to be in Phase 5 Catastrophe in Leer and Mayendit Counties.⁹ A key message was the importance of large-scale humanitarian food assistance, which has "prevented more Catastrophic outcomes" throughout the country. Leer and Mayendit counties were especially flagged as

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as main source of food, Jul (A), Aug (B) & Sep 2018 (C)



potentially entering Phase 5 Catastrophe in entirety, if sufficient humanitarian assistance is unavailable.

Reports of access to humanitarian assistance as a main source of food, however, varied substantially across the state (see Map 5). In September, for example, all assessed counties in Abiemnhom and Pariang reported cultivation - not humanitarian assistance - was the main source of food, while nearly all (96%) in Guit reported relying primarily

on humanitarian assistance. Access also varied within individual counties across time. Increases in reported reliance on food aid tracked closely with general food distributions (GFDs) - e.g. WFP distributions in Mayom county in July and Panyijiar County in late August/early September.⁸ Seeming reductions in reported reliance on humanitarian assistance as the main source of food more likely reflect challenges to households' ability to make received assistance last the full distribution cycle, rather than the adoption of more productive livelihood activities. The challenges outlined in above sections make clear the dearth of real alternatives.

FGD participants flagged ongoing challenges to accessing available humanitarian assistance, including persistent insecurity, lost and burnt cards (needed to access distributions), and insufficient registration.¹⁰ Many reported that provided assistance was frequently shared amongst large family and social networks and thus did not last for the intended periods. Almost all participants reported the dangers of transporting received provisions, as crime-related insecurity extended beyond main roads to also include informal routes.¹¹

Looking forward, the September IPC reported that food security is expected to improve marginally in the final quarter of 2018, due to coming harvests and the seasonal increases in access to additional livelihoods (e.g. fishing, milk, markets). As the dry season advances, however, the IPC expects food security to deteriorate again in the first quarter of 2019

8. WFP. "Rapid Response Mission Plan" and "IRRM Site Lists". 23 July, 30 July, 6 Aug, 27 Aug, 10 Sept 2018.

9. IPC. Key Messages. September 2018.

10. While our survey does not currently allow for "insufficient humanitarian assistance" as

a response to the question of why there was not enough food in a settlement, variations of this were a repeatedly reported "other" response throughout the third quarter.

11. FGD participants from Mayom explained unique dynamics. On the one hand, the biometric registration conducted earlier this year failed to fully register substantial portions

with the predicted early onset of the lean season.

In sum, while reported access to food in Unity State improved marginally in the third quarter of 2018, ongoing challenges to food security remained, including persistent insecurity, adverse environmental factors, and health concerns. With both livelihood options and coping strategies limited, humanitarian assistance remains critically important throughout the state.

Access to Services: Shelter, WASH, Health, and Education

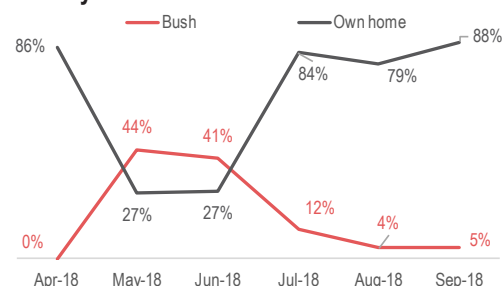
Reported access to services largely rebounded in the third quarter of 2018 as conflict incidents decreased throughout Unity State. Nonetheless, legacy and structural challenges remained throughout the state.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter conditions in conflict-affected areas of Unity State have improved as the number of armed incidents decreased in the third quarter of 2018. In June, a substantial proportion of assessed settlements in Mayendit (45%), Leer (41%) and Koch (21%) reported that the majority of the host community was living in the bush. By September, the plurality were again reporting that most of the (remaining) host community was living in their own homes (88% Leer and 79% Mayendit) (see Figure 12). Only 2 of 42 assessed settlements in Leer continued to report that the majority of the remaining host community lived in the bush.

At the same time, the proportion of assessed

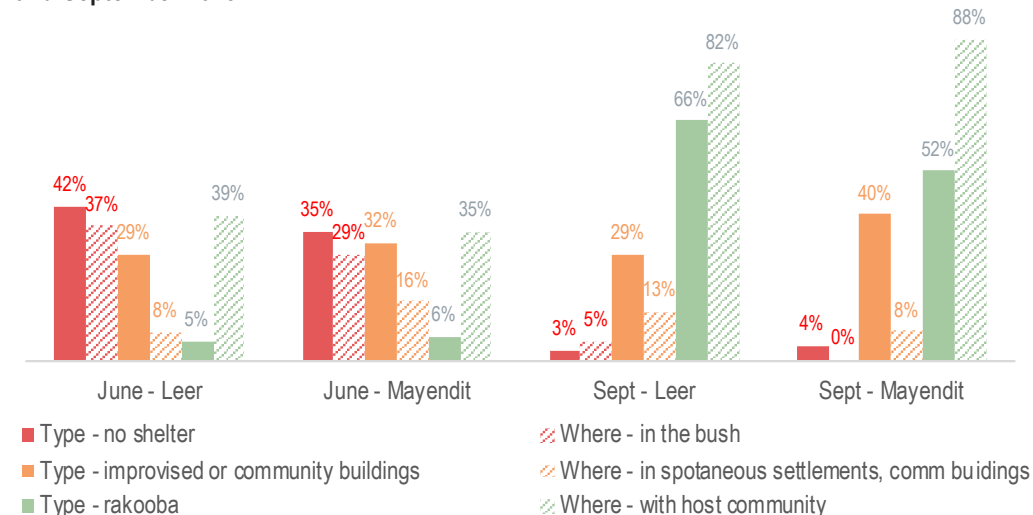
Figure 12: Shelter location where most of the host community living, proportion, Mayendit County



settlements reporting new shelter damage decreased from nearly all settlements in Leer (98%) and Mayendit (98%) and 63% in Koch in June to less than a third in Leer (29%) and Mayendit (20%) in September. This metric does not, however, account for past damage and the need for rebuilding.

Reported shelter conditions for IDPs also

Figure 13: IDP shelter type and location, proportion of assessed settlements reporting, June and September 2018

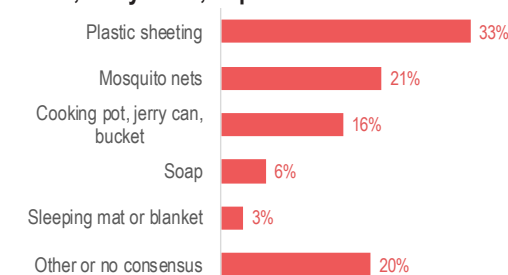


improved in this period. Figure 13 illustrates the decreasing proportion of assessed settlements in Leer and Mayendit reporting that the majority of IDPs were living without shelter in the bush and the increasing proportion reportedly living in rakoobas with the host community. All other counties continued to report relatively permanent shelter conditions for IDPs, with the vast majority (92%) of assessed settlements with IDPs present in September reporting that the majority lived in a rakooba or tukul.

The most needed non-food items (NFIs) reported by settlements with IDP populations reflect the ongoing rainy season (see Figure 14). The majority of assessed settlements state-wide reported that plastic sheeting (33%) or mosquito nets (21%) were the most needed items. FGD participants also flagged items not captured by the AoK survey including the need for fishing tools (in Mayom,

Guit, and Mayendit) lost or burnt in the recent violence or simply unavailable in markets, and for torches (multiple counties) to avoid the seasonal increase in snakes. About a third of assessed settlements state-wide reported that a distribution of NFIs had occurred in the settlement in the previous three months -- ranging from half of settlements in Panyijiar to consistently none in Abiemnhom and Pariang.

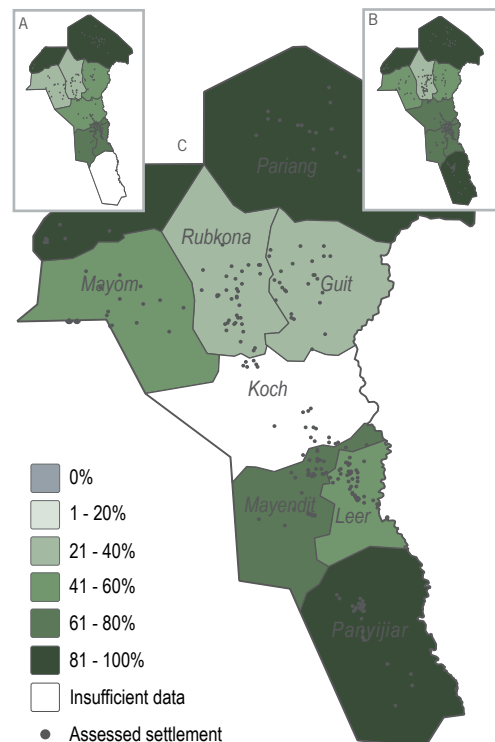
Figure 14: Main NFI need of IDP population, proportion of assessed settlements reporting each, Unity State, September 2018



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Reported access to improved water sources (e.g., boreholes, tap stands, or water yards) continued to vary substantially across Unity State in the third quarter of 2018 (see Map 6). The vast majority of assessed settlements in Abiemnhom, Pariang and Panyijiar reported that a borehole was the primary source of drinking water for people in the settlement (>90% for all reporting months this quarter). In contrast, only about a third (33-37%) of assessed settlements in Northern Unity (Mayom, Rubkona, and Guit) counties reported the primary use of an improved water source. Rather, settlements frequently reported that

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to a improved water source, July (A), August (B) and September 2018 (C)



the majority of the population received water from nearby rivers, swamps, and ponds.

In Central Unity, reported access to improved water rebounded from the main conflict months. In September, 60% of assessed settlements in Leer and 74% in Mayendit reported an improved water source as the main source of water, which is similar to the proportions reported in April (52% and 69%, respectively). That said, a substantial proportion of assessed settlements in Leer (38%) and Mayendit (46%) counties continue to report in September that they were not able to access their preferred

water point for safety concerns.

Statewide, more than a third of assessed settlements continued to report that livestock currently used the same source of water as people. This trend was especially prominent in the northern counties of Mayom, Rubkona, Guit, and Abiemnhom. Also contributing to poor hygiene and sanitation, open defecation remained a common practice within assessed settlements throughout the second quarter of 2018. Consistently more than 75% of assessed settlements reported that none of the community used latrines. The one exceptional case is Panyijiar. In September 82% of assessed settlements in the county reported the use of latrines; however, among these settlements, the vast majority (95%) also reported that less than half of the population were using them. Poor hygiene and sanitation practices increase the potential transmission of parasitic water-borne diarrhoeal diseases, including cholera.

The combination of minimal access to improved water sources, frequency of shared water sources, and open defecation is a cause for concern; in particular, during the rainy season when waterborne disease outbreaks seasonally increase.

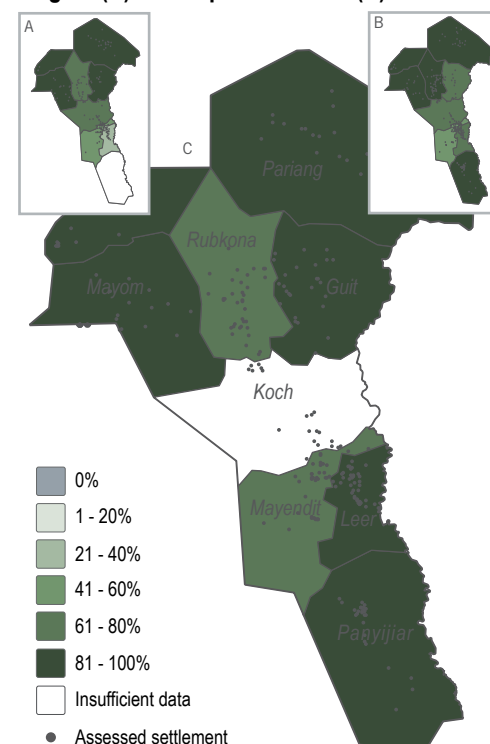
Health

Reported access to health facilities was high in much of Unity state and improved in the counties most affected by conflict in the previous quarter. Overall, 89% of assessed settlements statewide reported access to health facilities in September, ranging from almost three-quarters of assessed settlements in Rubkona (72%) and Mayendit (74%) to all

in Pariang, Abiemnhom, Mayom and Guit (see Map 7). Notably, reported access to facilities in Leer and Mayendit rebounded after the wave of violence in the second quarter. Where less than 10% of assessed settlements reported access to health facilities in either county in June, 93% of assessed settlements in Leer and 74% in Mayendit reported access in September.

At the same time, however, substantial differences between counties persisted in terms of the time required to access health facilities. At the positive end, the vast majority

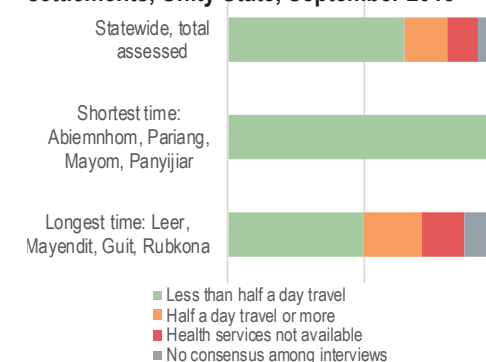
Map 7: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health facilities, July (A), August (B) and September 2018 (C)



of assessed settlements in Abiemnhom, Pariang, Mayom and Panyijiar consistently reported that health facilities were less than a half a day's journey (see Figure 15 for September figures). In contrast, only half of assessed settlements in Leer, Mayendit, Guit and Rubkona reported the same in September. Twenty-one percent of assessed settlements reported that it took half a day or more to reach health facilities and 16% reported that health facilities were not accessible.

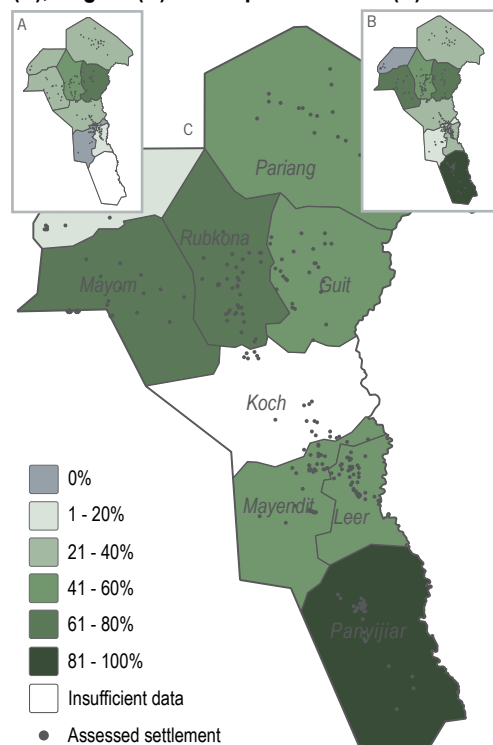
Education

Figure 15: Length of time it takes to access health care services, proportion of assessed settlements, Unity State, September 2018



Reported access to education increased in Central Unity counties after substantial drops during the wave of violence in the prior reporting period (see Map 8). In July, few or no assessed settlements in Leer (4%) and Mayendit (0%) and only about one-third in Koch (36%) reported that education services were available. By September, these proportions had increased to about half of assessed

Map 8: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education facilities, July (A), August (B) and September 2018 (C)



settlements in Leer (50%) and Mayendit (43%) reporting that education services were now available.¹² Nonetheless, past and present security concerns remained a limiting factor. In September, the two most commonly reported main reasons that services were not available in Leer and Mayendit counties were the destruction of facilities in conflict (42% of assessed settlements reporting lack of access) and continued insecurity (28%).

Elsewhere in Unity State, reported access to education remained largely similar to prior

quarters. Panyijiar county continued to have the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education services (100% in September), followed by the Northern Unity counties of Mayom, Rubkona, and Guit (50-70% in September), and then Pariang and Abiemnhom (<50%). Among these counties, the dearth of educational infrastructure appeared the main limiting factor. The most commonly reported main reasons that educational services were not available were the lack of facilities (33% of assessed settlements), excessive distance of present facilities (36%), and teachers stopping work (13%), mostly likely out of lack of payment.

Conclusion

In the third quarter of 2018, the most conflicted-affected areas of Unity State reported initial recovery from the drastic decreases in food security and services of the previous quarter. Statewide, however, persistent insecurity, environmental and health challenges, and obstacles to the access of sufficient humanitarian assistances continued to imperil livelihoods and spur displacement. Humanitarian assistance remained an important source of food for much of the state and, given expectations of meagre harvests, it is expected to remain crucial to staving off the projected potential for Level 5 Catastrophic food insecurity in parts of the state in the coming lean season.

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

For more information, you can write to our in-country office: southsudan@reach-initiative.org or to our global office: geneva@reach-initiative.org.

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12. Similar marginal improvements were reported in Koch – 30% of assessed settlements in Koch reported access to education in August. Insufficient settlements were assessed

in September to meet the 5% threshold and thus to report on whether this trend continued to follow that of neighbouring counties.