

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Jonglei State

South Sudan April - August 2021

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian needs remained high across Jonglei State in the period between April and August 2021. Persistent and unseasonal flooding, a lack of livelihood opportunities and a lack of access to food continued to cause widespread displacement across Jonglei State.¹ In addition to flooding, macroeconomic shocks and insecurity have reportedly led to the early exhaustion of food stocks creating a particularly long lean season for many people across Jonglei State. Humanitarian needs were particularly high in Ayod, Bor South, Canal-Pigi and Fangak Counties, which were severely affected by flooding that resulted in widespread displacement and food insecurity. Moving forward, considering limited availability of land and the disruption of cultivation, the 2021 harvest is unlikely to result in long-term improvement in the food security situation.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlements, 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 between April and August 2021.

METHODOLOGY

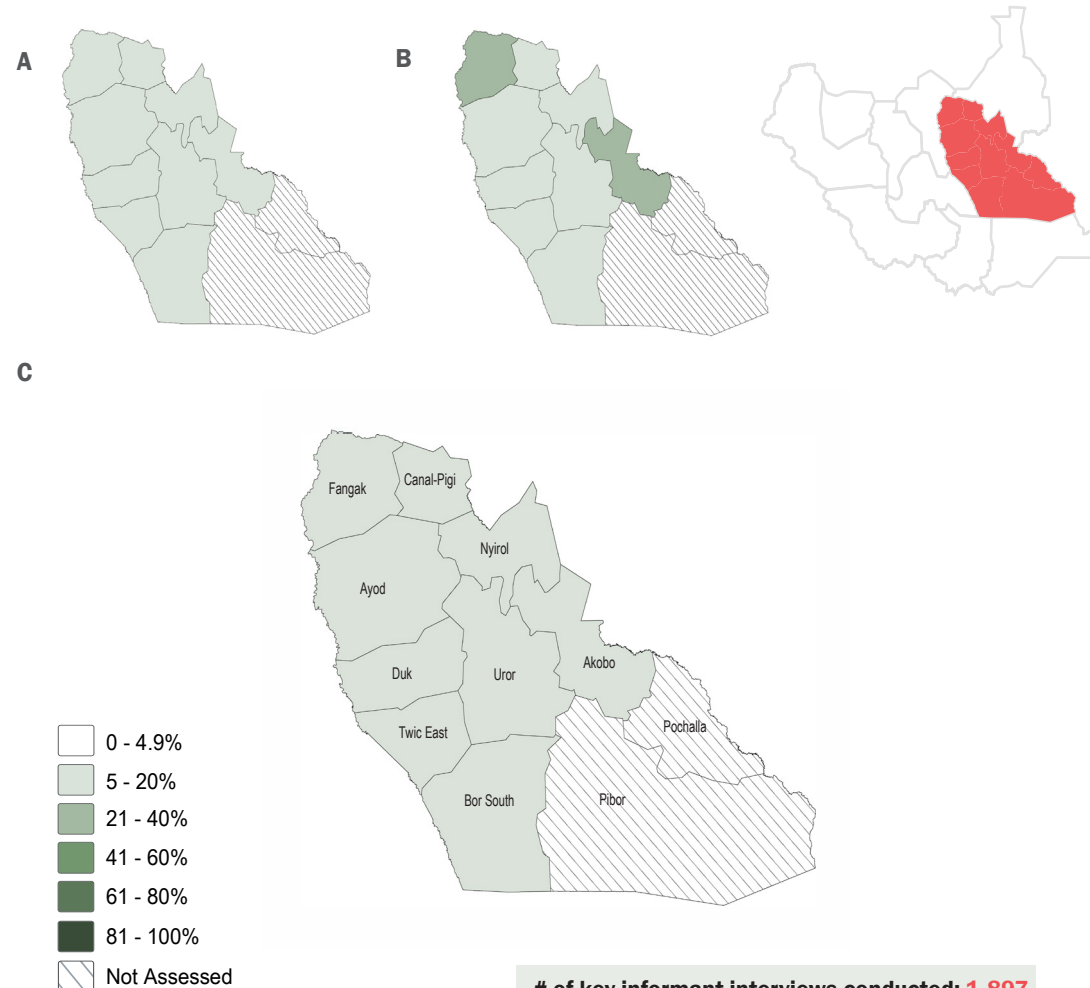
To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Jonglei State, REACH conducts interviews with key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). These interviews were conducted with KIs in Bor internally displaced person (IDP) camp, Bor Town, and Akobo Town throughout the reporting period. 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 coverage of at least 5% of all settlements² 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 were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam³ coverage throughout the analysis period. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. FGDs with people displaced from hard-to-reach areas in Jonglei State took place throughout April - August 2021.

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

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State in April (A), June (B), and August (C) 2021



of key informant interviews conducted: **1,897**

of assessed settlements: **524**

of counties covered: **9 (of 11)**

of focus group discussions conducted: **8**

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

3. UNOCHA. [South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot](#). September 2021.

KEY FINDINGS

Displacement: Throughout the reporting period, displacement, mainly driven by flooding, remained high and widespread across Jonglei State.⁴ In August, in 46% of assessed settlements where people had reportedly left the settlement in the month prior to data collection (34%) KIs reported flooding to be the main reason, compared to 27% in April. Flood-driven displacement, was likely strongly connected with livelihood-driven displacement as livelihood collapse was presumably a direct consequence of flooding. In August, reporting of people leaving their settlement as a consequence of flooding was particularly high in Ayod (100%), Canal-Pigi (100%), and Fangak (97%) Counties.

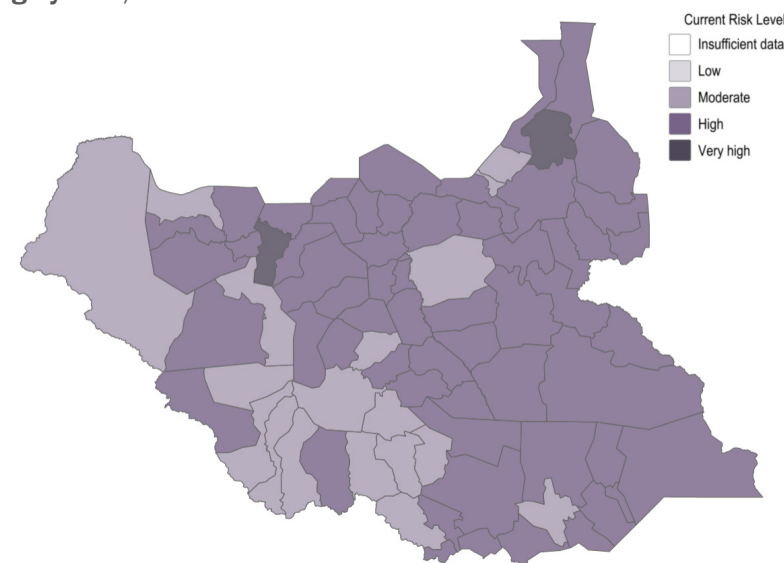
Food Security and Livelihood (FSL): Although findings indicate that high levels of food insecurity continued across Jonglei State, particularly high reporting of inadequate access to food and severe hunger was found in flood-affected counties. In line with this, in August, in Fangak and Ayod Counties, reporting of severe hunger was found to be especially high (100% and 53% of assessed settlements, respectively) and severe hunger was also commonly reported in Canal-Pigi county (7% of assessed settlements). These findings indicate that flooding severely affected access to food and livelihood opportunities and suggest a continued need for humanitarian food assistance in Jonglei State, especially in flood-affected counties.

Health and Nutrition: The high proportion of assessed settlements where access barriers to healthcare services were reported (82% of assessed settlements in August), compounded with limited access to WASH infrastructure (see WASH section), and high levels of food insecurity (see FSL section) suggest that the health and nutritional status of populations across Jonglei State remained poor. Based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) analysis of December 2020, all counties in Jonglei State were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 4 (critical) except for Twic East and Pochalla Counties which were classified in IPC AMN Phase 3 (serious) from April to July 2021.⁵

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Although WASH needs remained high across Jonglei State, findings indicate that access to WASH infrastructure was particularly poor in counties affected by flooding, throughout the reporting period. In August, in Ayod, Duk, Fangak, Twic East, and Canal-Pigi Counties, which includes some of the counties severely affected by flooding, reporting of no people using latrines (76% of assessed settlements) and people using open water as a main source of drinking water (48%) was particularly high. According to the WASH severity classification (WSC)⁶ from May, flooding has resulted in direct damage to WASH infrastructure as well as disruption of supply chains, reducing the availability of repair materials and hygiene non-food items (NFIs) in Jonglei State.⁷

Protection: Across Jonglei State, the proportion of assessed settlements where most where

Map 2: Overall need severity in South Sudan according to Integrated Needs Tracking System, June 2021.⁸



most people reportedly felt safe most of the time remained high (88% in August, compared to 91% in April), although women, men, and children reportedly were facing a wide range of protection concerns. Commonly reported protection concerns included armed attacks, gender based violence, early marriage, and child abduction.

Education: Across South Sudan, including in Jonglei State, all educational facilities reopened in May 2021, after a 14-month period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁹ In June, KIs in 72% of assessed settlements reported access to a functional educational facility within walking distance of the settlement, compared to 44% in March. Likely due to flooding, reporting of no available educational facilities within walking distance remained particularly high in assessed settlements in Twic East County (86% of assessed settlements) and was also commonly reported in Duk (52%) and Fangak (52%) Counties.

Shelter/Non Food Items (NFI): Despite improvements in shelter conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the state, IDPs in flood affected counties in August reportedly continued to mainly live in improvised shelter types. Reflective of this, although decreasing, reporting of improvised shelter types as the main reported shelter type for IDPs remained high in assessed settlements in Twic East (67%) and Bor South (50%) Counties (compared to 100% and 100%, respectively, in April). In addition to shelter needs remaining high in flood-affected counties, findings suggest the need for NFIs has remained high as well.

4. UNOCHA. [South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot](#). September 2021.
5. IPC. [South Sudan TWG Key Messages Oct 2020-July 2021](#). December 2020.
6. [The WASH severity classification \(WSC\)](#) aims to build a standardized approach to classifying the severity of WASH needs and vulnerabilities across contexts.
7. REACH, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Global WASH cluster. [Wash Severity Classification \(WSC\): South Sudan](#). May 2021.
8. REACH. [South Sudan Integrated Needs Tracking System](#). June 2021.

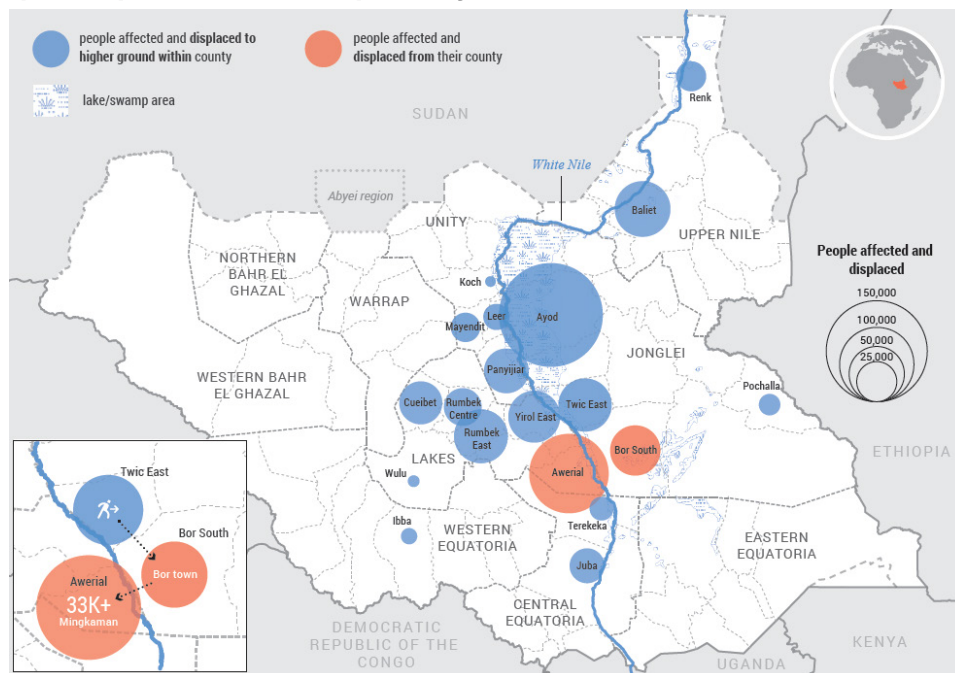
9. United Nations. [Joy in South Sudan, as schools reopen after 14-month COVID lockdown](#). May 2021.

POPULATION MOVEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

Findings suggest that, across Jonglei State, the reporting period was characterised by displacement that was mainly driven by flooding and a lack of livelihood opportunities. In assessed settlements in Jonglei State where KIs reported that people had left the settlement in August (34%), the main reported reason was flooding in 46% of assessed settlements, which indicates an increase in flood-driven displacement when compared to 27% in April. Reflective of this, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported an estimated 240,000 people were affected by flooding in Jonglei State, since July.¹⁰

In August, in settlements where people had reportedly left the settlement, reporting of people leaving their settlement as a consequence of flooding was particularly high in Ayod (100%), Canal-Pigi (100%), and Fangak (97%) Counties. In line with this, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), in August, local authorities in Ayod County reported that around 30,000 flood-displaced people had recently arrived in Ayod town.¹¹ The most recent Inter-Cluster Rapid Assessment (IRNA) conducted in Fangak and Bor South Counties suggests that the humanitarian situation has been deteriorating due to flooding across the county resulting in mass displacement.^{12,13} In addition,

Map 3: People affected and displaced by floods in South Sudan¹⁴



according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Dekadal Weather Update of 11 to 20 June, above average rainfall was experienced in eastern Pibor and parts of Akobo Counties.¹⁵ Reflective of this, FGD participants displaced within Akobo county expressed that flooding had led to cross border displacement to Ethiopia in May.¹⁶

Flood-driven displacement was likely strongly connected with livelihood-driven displacement as livelihood collapse was presumably a direct consequence of flooding. In August, in 17% of assessed settlements across Jonglei State where people had reportedly left the settlement, KIs reported that the main reason people left their settlement was a lack of livelihood opportunities. Reflective of this, in FGDs with participants displaced from within Bor South County¹⁷, participants expressed that in traditionally pastoralist areas relying on cattle being close to the settlement, cattle keepers were forced to drive their herds away due to the flooding, which consequently altered cattle migration routes.¹⁸ In addition, participants expressed that people were not able to engage in livelihood activities due to flooding, with poor road conditions impeding access to income-generating activities.

Conflict emerged as another driver of displacement; it was reported across several counties in Jonglei State, including Uror (50% of assessed settlements where people had reportedly left), Nyriol (40%), and Duk (20%) Counties. This is likely due to sub-national violence in these counties throughout the reporting period. In addition, findings from an IRNA conducted in Twic East County, in August, indicate that over 1,500 individuals were displaced by insecurity.¹⁹ Although AoK data is not collected in Pibor County, findings from other sources such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) suggest that episodes of localised conflict in Pibor County resulted in widespread displacement across the county in May.²⁰

Reporting of the arrival of refugee and IDP returnees remained steady, but findings suggest that, due to the floods, returnees faced particular challenges when re-establishing shelters and livelihoods. In August, KIs in half (52%) of assessed settlements in Jonglei State reported the presence of refugee or IDP returnees (42% in April). Reporting of the presence of refugee and IDP returnees was particularly high in assessed settlements in Ayod (97%), Fangak (86%), and Akobo (65%) Counties. In FGDs with participants displaced from Ayod²¹ County in April, participants expressed that those that returned to their settlements in Ayod County were unable to resettle as flooding continued to impede their access to shelter. In addition to refugee and IDP returns reported by KIs during AoK data collection, according to findings from an IRNA conducted in July, over 2,000 people returned to Canal-Pigi County from Upper Nile state, supported by relatives, after being displaced in the December 2013 political crisis.²²

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

People reportedly continued to face high levels of food insecurity across county lines in Jonglei State, likely mainly due to seasonal (as well as exceptional) flooding impeding access to crops, livestock

10. UNOCHA. [South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot](#). September 2021.

11. World Food Programme. [WFP South Sudan: Situation Report #294](#). August 2021.

12. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Fangak County, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.

13. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA \(Low Profile\) Report: Bor town, Bor South County, Jonglei State](#). July 2021.

14. UNOCHA. [South Sudan: Flooding Snapshot](#). September 2021.

15. FGD with participants displaced from within Akobo to Akobo town. May 2021.

16. Food and Agriculture Organisation. [South Sudan: Dekadal Weather Update](#). July 2021.

17. FGD with participants displaced from within Bor South to Bor town. April 2021.

18. FEWS NET. [South Sudan Livelihood Zones and Descriptions](#). August 2013.

19. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Floods and conflict Affected Residents/IDPs in Twic East county, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.

20. International Organisation for Migration. [Pibor Event Tracking and Rapid Assessment Report](#). May 2021.

21. FGDs with participants displaced from within Ayod to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.

22. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Returnee Assessment in Khorfulus Canal/Pigi County, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.

and markets. Findings suggests a continued need for humanitarian food assistance in Jonglei State, especially in flood-affected counties.

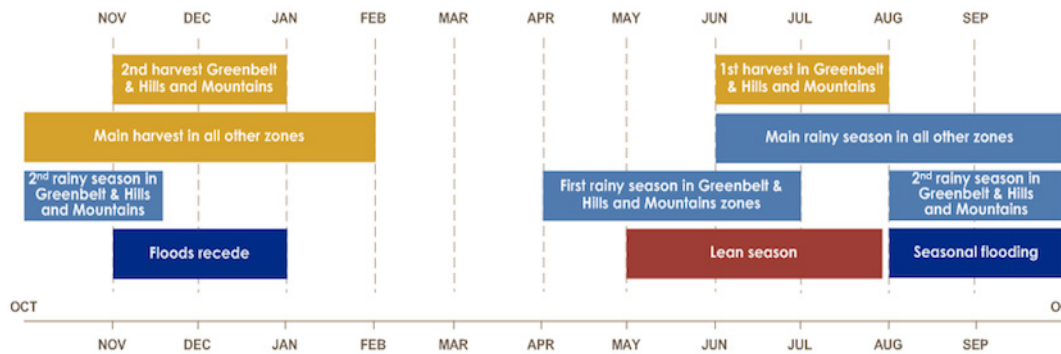
ACCESS TO CROPS

Findings indicate that flooding limited the ability of populations in Jonglei State to access land for cultivation throughout the reporting period. Reflective of this, reporting of people not being able to access enough food in assessed settlements due to a lack of land was particularly high in Bor South (33%) and Twic East (15%) Counties in August. In counties where flooding was reported as the main reason that people were not able to access enough food (26% of assessed settlements), it was likely a result of flooding disrupting cultivation, which usually starts in May and June leading to a likely extension of the lean season. In FGDs conducted in April with participants displaced from Bor South²³, Ayod²⁴ and Fangak²⁵ Counties, participants commonly expressed that people were either unable to cultivate or not planning to cultivate in the coming cultivation season due to flooding.

In addition to a lack of land for cultivation, findings indicate that flooding is also likely to result in limited harvest yields in the coming months. Out of the 76% of assessed settlements across Jonglei State, where reportedly people normally engage in cultivation in August, in 31% of assessed settlements KIs reported that this growing seasons harvest was predicted to be worse than that of last year. Considering that last year's harvest was also severely impacted by flooding, this finding points to particularly low expected harvest yields. In August, KIs reported that worse harvest are predicted due to flooding (97% of assessed settlements), displacement from the settlement (40%), and heavy, as well as too much, rain (23%). In addition, according to findings from a Shocks Verification Mission in Fangak County conducted by REACH in June, flooding has prevented people from cultivating since 2020 as the extent and severity of observed flooding was much higher in 2020 and 2021 compared to previous years.²⁶

Similar to reporting in the Situation Overview of the last quarter of 2020, considering the disruption in

Figure 1: Famine Early Warning Systems Network Seasonal Calendar South Sudan²⁸



23. IPC. [South Sudan TWG Key Messages Oct 2020-July 2021](#). December 2020.
24. Ibid.
25. IPC. [Technical Manual V 3.0](#). 2019.
26. REACH. [Fangak Shocks Verification Mission](#). June 2021.
27. REACH. [Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Jonglei State](#). October - December 2020.

cultivation and the limited expected harvest yields due to flooding, it is likely that the last quarter of 2021 will be marked by an increased and atypical dependency on humanitarian food assistance and asset-depleting coping strategies for many households across Jonglei State.²⁷

ACCESS TO LIVESTOCK

Access to livestock remained stable but low across Jonglei State, illustrating the continued impact of flooding on livestock death, disease, and migration patterns. In August, in 31% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that most people did not own any cattle (24% in April). Reporting of this was particularly high Twic East (100% of assessed settlements) County and it was also commonly reported in Fangak (64%), Duk (48%) and Canal-Pigi (43%) Counties, which are traditionally agro-pastoralist counties where reliance on cattle is high. In line with this, according to the most recent findings of the REACH Integrated Needs Tracking system²⁹, Bor South, Duk, and Fangak Counties were facing high levels of risk when it comes to needs severity related to livestock access.³⁰

Low reported access to livestock was likely a result of flooding leading to livestock disease and death. Despite slightly decreasing since April, reporting of the occurrence of disease outbreak resulting in livestock death remained high across Jonglei State in August (69% and 52% in April and August, respectively). Reflective of this, in April and May, FGD participants displaced from across Jonglei state^{31,32,33,34}, reported that flooding had resulted in livestock disease and death.

In addition, findings suggest that access to livestock was limited by flooding limiting pastures, which likely altered cattle migration routes and led to increased conflict over grazing pastures. FGD participants displaced from Fangak³⁵ and Ayod³⁶ Counties mentioned that flooding had resulted in a lack of grazing pastures and cattle had consequently migrated to Central Equatoria. Finally, according to findings from an IRNA conducted in July 2021, access to livestock in Twic East County was further impeded by cattle raiding.³⁷

Moving forward, the mentioned access barriers to livestock, especially in those counties affected by (atypical) flooding, such as Fangak County, combined with limited access to crops point to a deterioration of the overall FSL situation in Jonglei State.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

Finding suggest that even though markets were present, there were reportedly significant barriers preventing people from accessing markets. The presence of a market within walking distance from the settlement was reported in 91% of assessed settlements in August (95% in April). However, KIs from 62% of those settlements reported people face barriers, preventing them from accessing these markets (66% in April). In August, the main reported barriers were that items were too expensive or unavailable and that the distance to markets was too long. In line with this, high prices were reported as the main reason people could not access enough food in 8% of assessed settlements where

28. FEWS NET. [South Sudan Seasonal Calendar](#). August 2021.
29. The REACH Integrated Needs Tracking system aims to monitor needs severity and identify areas requiring further humanitarian support.
30. REACH. [South Sudan Integrated Needs Tracking System](#). June 2021.
31. FGD with participants displaced from within Bor South to Bor town. April 2021.
32. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.
33. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.
34. FGD with participants displaced from Duk to Bor town. May 2021.
35. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.
36. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.
37. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Floods and conflict Affected Residents /IDPs in Twic East county, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.

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inadequate access to food had been reported in August.

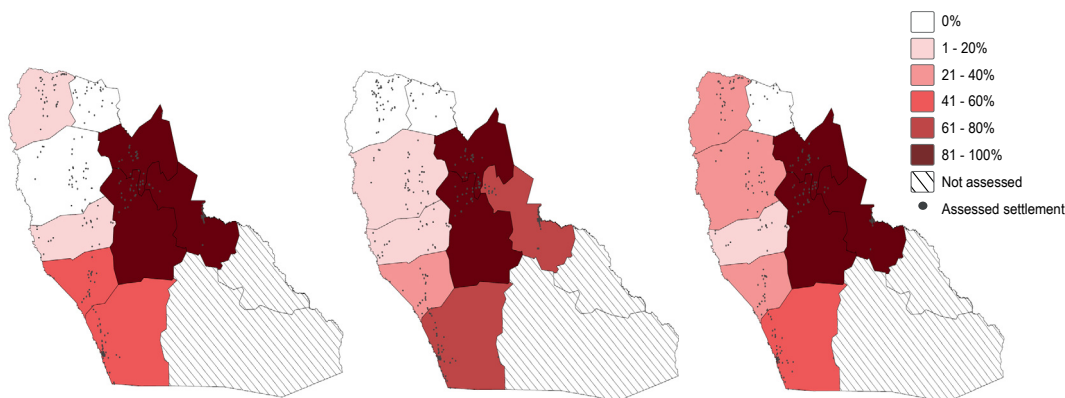
FGD participants displaced from within Bor South³⁸ County reported that prices in the market had increased faster this year than in previous year. In addition, FGD participants displaced from Fangak³⁹ and Ayod⁴⁰ Counties reported that transportation costs had increased due to flooding as people had to pay in order to use canoes to access the market. According to the The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)⁴¹, in August 2021 the price of the of the Multi-Sectoral Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MSSMEB)⁴² had increased by 58% since August 2020 in Jonglei state.⁴³ In addition, the ongoing events in the Tigray region of Ethiopia have led to inflation of the Ethiopian Birr.⁴⁴ This has likely resulted in higher prices on markets in Jonglei State of goods imported from Ethiopia, such as in Akobo County, throughout the reporting period. In line with this, FGD participants displaced from within Akobo⁴⁵ County expressed that an increase in prices due to inflation in Ethiopia resulted in increased prices for items on the market in Akobo County.

Moving forward, flooding and macro-economic shocks, and the resulting financial barriers faced by populations across Jonglei State to market access are likely to be further compounded by limited harvest yields and access to livestock. Therefore, similar to 2020, but not usual for this time of the year, the last quarter of 2021 will likely be marked by increased employment of more severe coping strategies and a deepening need for humanitarian food assistance.

HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE (HFA)

As mentioned in the previous sections, limited access to crops, livestock and markets in addition to widespread displacement suggest a high dependency on humanitarian food assistance (HFA), across Jonglei State, throughout the reporting period. KIs from 47% of assessed settlements in Jonglei State reported that the main food source for most people in the settlement was humanitarian

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported HFA as a main source of food for most people in the settlement in i) April, ii) June, and iii) August 2021



assistance in August (45% in April). Reporting of this was particularly high in assessed settlements in Akobo (95%), Nyirol (93%) and Uror (86%) Counties.

Notably, in August reporting of HFA as a main food source for most people was significantly lower in Bor South (45% of assessed settlements), Fangak (33%), and Ayod (31%) Counties, which were counties where populations were severely affected by flooding. Although, findings indicated a deepening need for HFA in these counties, with high reporting of severe hunger, it is likely that access barriers faced both by distributors and receivers of HFA in distributing and accessing HFA, respectively, have impeded the ability of populations in these counties to rely on HFA.

FGD participants displaced from within Bor South⁴⁶ County expressed that they were facing physical challenges to accessing HFA as distribution points were more than a day away from the settlement. In addition, participants expressed that people were facing insecurity on the way to distribution points and women would therefore go to distribution points accompanied by armed groups. Moreover, humanitarian organisations were likely impeded by logistical, physical and security barriers when transporting food to distribution points. Findings from UNOCHA suggest that poor road conditions, in addition to heavy rain and floods led to access challenges and slowed the response to flood-affected communities in Ayod, Fangak and Canal Counties, from July to September.⁴⁷

Moving forward, low expected harvest yields and limited access to livestock and markets suggest an increased dependency on HFA. This points to a deteriorating FSL situation, considering the access barriers to HFA and the usual suspension of food distributions by humanitarian agencies in the last three months of the year.

COPING STRATEGIES

Likely a reflection of the high levels of food insecurity faced across Jonglei State, people reportedly continued to adopt a range of food consumption⁴⁸ and livelihood coping strategies⁴⁹. However, findings indicate that more traditional coping strategies were exhausted in parts of Jonglei State affected by flooding and people therefore adopted more severe and asset depleting coping strategies.

In August, KIs in 72% of assessed settlements reported that people adopted food consumption coping strategies (consistent with April). The most frequently reported severe food consumption coping strategy in assessed settlements was adults not eating so children could eat (23%) in August. Flooding and severe hunger in Ayod County likely resulted in particularly high reporting of only children eating in assessed settlements (94%) in August. In line with this, FGD participants displaced from Ayod⁵⁰ County mentioned that traditional coping strategies had been exhausted and people were resorting to more severe coping strategies in April.

Moreover, findings indicate that, similar to food consumption coping strategies, the adoption of more severe livelihood coping strategies was particularly high in parts of Jonglei State affected by flooding.

38. FGD with participants displaced from within Bor South to Bor town. April 2021.

39. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor IDP camp. April 2021

40. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.

41. The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) provides indicative information on key commodities sold in local market places.

42. The Multi-Sectoral Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MSSMEB) represents the

minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person South Sudanese household for one month.

43. REACH. South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative. [Factsheet August 2021](#). August 2021.

44. BBC. [Ethiopia's economy battered by Tigray war](#). August 2021.

45. FGD with participants displaced from within Akobo to Akobo town. May 2021.

46. FGD with participants displaced from within Bor South to Bor town. April 2021.

47. UNOCHA. [South Sudan: Quarterly Humanitarian Access Snapshot](#). September 2021.

48. Here food consumption coping strategies are strategies that are used to make food last longer when there is not enough food in the settlement.

49. Here livelihood coping strategies are strategies that are used to find new sources of food when there is not enough food in the settlement.

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KIs in 95% of assessed settlements reported that people adopted livelihood coping strategies in August (93% in April). The most frequently reported severe livelihood coping strategies in assessed settlements in Jonglei State was selling productive assets (e.g. fishing nets, tools, and land) (26%), and selling/slaughtering more livestock than usual (26%) and more family members moving to cattle or fishing camps than normal (23%). Reporting of the adoption of these livelihood coping strategies was particularly high in flood-affected counties, including Twic East, Bor South, and Ayod Counties.

The adoption of these asset-depleting coping strategies and low expected crop yields in the harvesting season suggest a general deterioration in the FSL situation and an increased dependency on HFA in the coming months.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Findings indicate that flooding likely continued to impede access to healthcare services for populations across Jonglei State. In August, while the presence of a functional health facility within walking distance was reported in 87% of assessed settlements (93% in April), KIs in 82% of assessed settlements reported that people were facing barriers accessing health services (74% in April). Insufficient medicine available at the healthcare facility (76% of assessed settlements), distance to healthcare facilities (37%), and insufficient healthcare staff available at healthcare facilities (33%) were the most commonly reported barriers faced by people trying to access healthcare facilities in August. This is likely a reflection of (atypical) flooding disrupting supply of medicines to healthcare facilities while also limiting accessibility for healthcare staff.

In addition to barriers in accessing healthcare services, based on the IPC AMN analysis, from April to July, all counties in Jonglei State were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 4 (critical) except for Twic East and Pochalla Counties, which were classified in IPC AMN Phase 3 (serious).⁵¹ According to the IPC AMN analysis, the major contributors to the levels of acute malnutrition faced include high prevalence of diseases, poor quality and diversity of food, and elevated level of food insecurity.⁵² This is in line with AoK findings on food insecurity outlined in the FSL section of this report.

These elevated levels of food insecurity, in addition to limited access to healthcare services and a poor nutritional status highlight a deteriorating humanitarian situation and increased vulnerabilities throughout the reporting period.

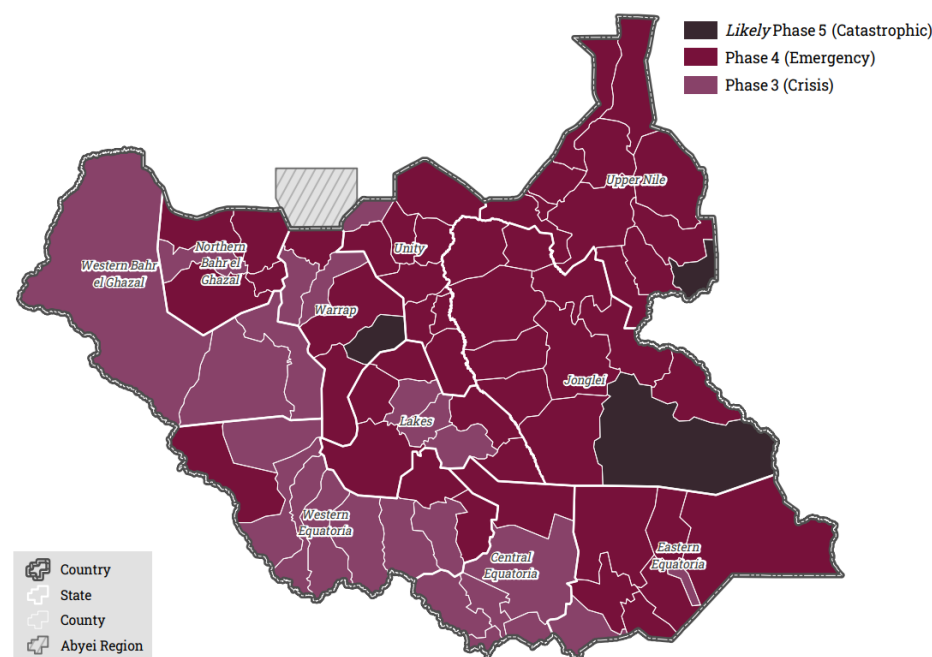
WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Findings indicate that WASH needs remained high across Jonglei State, with particularly high needs in flood-affected counties. According to the WASH severity classification (WSC)⁵³, WASH conditions were found to be severe in Jonglei State, in May, as flooding had resulted in damage and destruction

of WASH infrastructure.⁵⁴

Latrine usage seems to have remained low but stable throughout the reporting period as KIs in 52% of assessed settlements across Jonglei State reported that no people were using latrines in August, compared to 45% in April, which suggests widespread open defecation across Jonglei State. Counties where no people using latrines was particularly commonly reported in August included Duk (81% of assessed settlements), Fangak (81%), Twic East (76%), Canal-Pigi (71%), and Ayod (69%) Counties. This is likely due to flood waters submerging WASH infrastructure in parts of these counties. In August, in those settlements where no one was reportedly using latrines, the main reasons were that there were no latrines available (38%), that latrines were overcrowded (27%) (and people therefore preferred not using the latrines), and because of cultural norms (13%).

Map 5: WASH Severity Classification, South Sudan, May 2021.⁵⁵



While the proportion of settlements where KIs reported presence of a functional borehole was relatively high across Jonglei State (71%), open water was commonly reported as a main drinking water source in the flood-affected counties. In August, reporting of people using open water as a main source of drinking water was particularly high in Fangak (100% of assessed settlements) and Canal-Pigi (79%) Counties, while it was also commonly reported in assessed settlements Duk (43%) and Twic East (21%) Counties. In line with latrine usage, this is likely also related to flooding submerging WASH

50. FGD with participants displaced from Ayod to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.

51. IPC South Sudan TWG Key Messages Oct 2020-July 2021. December 2020.

52. Ibid.

53. The WASH severity classification (WSC) aims to build a standardized approach to classifying the severity of WASH needs and vulnerabilities across contexts.

54. REACH, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Global WASH cluster.

Wash Severity Classification (WSC): South Sudan, May 2021.

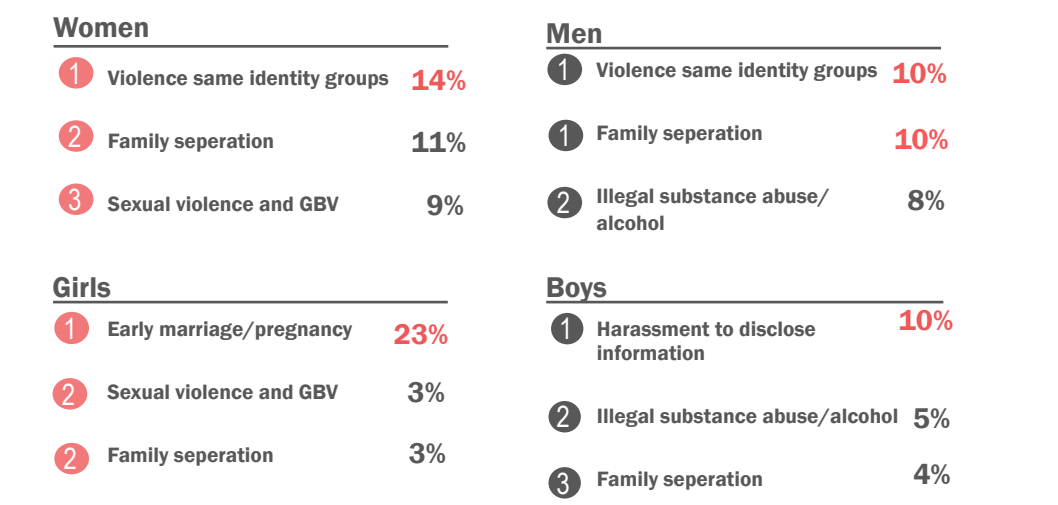
55. Ibid.

infrastructure in these counties. Reflective of this, FGD participants displaced from Fangak⁵⁶ County mentioned that they were using flood waters as a source of drinking water in April. This is likely a consequence of unseasonal flooding in Fangak County in the beginning of the year.⁵⁷ The reported use of unclean water sources was presumably a cause of water-borne diseases in counties across Jonglei State throughout the reporting period. With regards to hand washing practices, across Jonglei State, in over half of assessed settlements (58%), KIs reported that most people washed their hands either only with water (38%) or soap and water (20%) in August.

PROTECTION

Although most people reportedly felt safe most of the time, findings suggest that women, men and children continued to face a wide range of protection concerns. KIs in 88% of assessed settlements reported that most people felt safe most of the time in August, compared to 91% in April. In August, the proportion of assessed settlements across Jonglei State where KIs reported any protection concerns for women and girls was 31% and 25%, respectively (consistent with finding from April). Findings from an IRNA conducted in Fangak County in August indicated that women and girls were facing protection concerns related to Gender-based Violence (GBV) when going to collect firewood as well as cases of early marriage.⁵⁸ Reflective of this, KIs in 23% of assessed settlements reported that the main protection concern for girls was early marriage or pregnancy in August.

Figure 2: Most commonly reported protection concerns in assessed settlements in August 2021.



In line with reports of severe food insecurity and depletion of livestock, people across Jonglei State reportedly faced protection concerns as a result of cattle raiding. Indeed, FGD participants displaced from within Akobo⁵⁹ County expressed that people were facing protection concerns related to cattle raiding and child abduction in May, which is likely related to resource scarcity. In line with this, findings of a protection assessment conduct by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in April indicate that people were facing a wide range of protection concerns in Buong payam and Walgak payam of Akobo County, ranging from GBV, abduction of children and women, cattle raiding, and armed attacks.^{60,61} In addition, findings from a rapid needs assessment conducted in Pibor County indicates that there were protection concerns related to potential attacks by armed groups.⁶²

These findings highlight that the impact of resource scarcity, compounded by climatic shocks, likely extends beyond high levels of food insecurity and directly contributes to the levels of insecurity faced across Jonglei State, as some of the aforementioned protection concerns (e.g. cattle raiding and abduction) are likely directly linked with resouce scarcity.

EDUCATION

Across South Sudan, including in Jonglei State, all educational facilities reopened on the 3rd of May 2021, after a 14-month period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶³ In June, KIs in 72% of assessed settlements reported that there was a functional educational facility available within walking distance of the settlement, compared to 44% in March. Reporting of no available educational facilities within walking distance remained particularly high in assessed settlements in Twic East (86% of assessed settlements) County and was also commonly reported in Duk (52%) and Fangak (52%) Counties. This is likely partly due to flooding and insecurity continuing to impede availability of education facilities in these counties. In line with this, KIs in 100% of assessed settlements in Fangak and Twic East Counties reported that education services were not available as a result of the destruction of facilities due to natural disasters.

Although the reopening of schools reportedly resulted in a general increase in school attendance rates across Jonglei State, education access was still more commonly reported for boys between the ages of 6-17 than for girls of the same age range. In June, KIs in 88% of assessed settlements from where education facilities were reportedly accessible reported that half or more of the community's boys were attending school, while the same was reported for girls in just 48% of assessed settlements. In June, the primary reported reason for girls not attending school was the need to work in the household (32% of assessed settlements) and early marriage (26%). The apparent discrepancy between school attendance for boys and girls might have been further compounded by the fact that early marriage, which was relatively commonly reported as a protection concern for girls, might have been used as a coping strategy following flooding and livelihoods collapse.

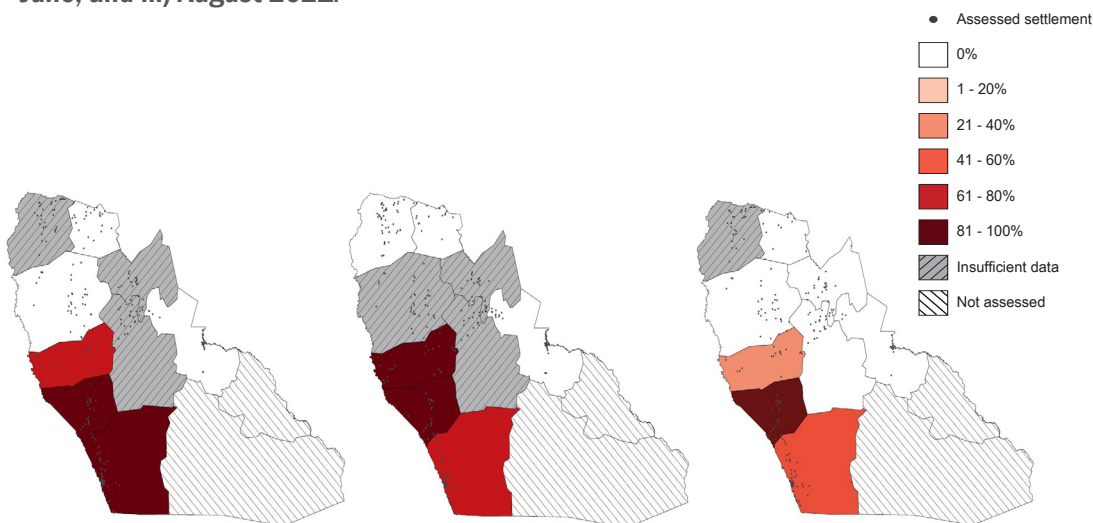
56. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.
57. REACH. [Fangak Shocks Verification Mission](#). June 2021.
58. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Fangak County, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.
59. FGD with participants displaced from within Akobo to Akobo town. May 2021.
60. DRC. Rapid Protection Assessment: Buong Payam, Akobo County. April 2021.
61. DRC. Rapid Protection Assessment: Walgak Payam, Akobo County. April 2021.
62. WFP. [Rapid Needs Assessment in Lokoromach and Moloktoch, GPAA, Jonglei State](#). May 2021.
63. United Nations. [Joy in South Sudan, as schools reopen after 14-month COVID lockdown](#). May 2021.



SHELTER/NON FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

Across Jonglei State, findings suggest that IDPs continued to live in less permanent shelter types (e.g. rakoobas⁶⁴, improvised shelter, tents) compared to the host community, although there appeared to be an increase in the use of more permanent shelter types (e.g. tukuls⁶⁵) among IDPs. In August, in 73% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that the main shelter type used by host community members was tukuls (72% in April). The proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence (42%) where KIs reported that tukuls were the main shelter type for IDPs increased from 9% in April to 20% in August, while the proportion of assessed settlements with IDP presence where rakoobas reportedly were the main shelter type decreased from 59% to 39%. The apparent shift from less permanent shelter types to more permanent shelter types for IDPs is likely due to flood waters from 2020 flooding receding in parts of Jonglei State in the first months of the reporting period, allowing people to acquire the necessary material and land for construction of more permanent shelter types.

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence (42%) where KIs reported improvised shelter as a main shelter type for IDPs in the settlement in i) April, ii) June, and iii) August 2021.



Although these findings suggest an overall improvement in shelter conditions in Jonglei State, reporting of improvised shelter types as the main shelter type remained high, likely due to (unseasonal) flooding. In line with this, KIs in 67% and 50% of assessed settlements in Twic East

and Bor South counties, respectively, reported that the main shelter type for IDPs was improvised. Moreover, in 94% of assessed settlements in Fangak County, KIs reported that people's shelter had been damaged by flooding. In addition, in April, FGD participants displaced from Fangak⁶⁶ County mentioned that the lack of shelter due to unseasonal flooding in Fangak County resulted in people seeking shelter in public buildings (e.g. churches and schools).

In addition to shelter needs remaining high in some counties, findings suggest the need for NFIs has remained high as well across Jonglei State. In FGDs with participants displaced from Fangak⁶⁷ and Bor South⁶⁸ Counties, in April, participants commonly expressed the lack of NFIs such as construction materials as well as fishing equipment and hunting equipment. In addition, an IRNA conducted in Fangak County indicated that there was a need of water treatment kits, as access to clean drinking water was very limited in flooded areas (see Water, Sanitation and Hygiene section).⁶⁹

CONCLUSION

While overall humanitarian needs appeared to have remained high throughout Jonglei State, findings suggest that needs were particularly high in parts of Ayod, Bor South, Canal Pigi, Fangak, and Twic East Counties, as these areas were more severely affected by flooding and insecurity. Persistent flooding in these counties, as well as a lack of livelihood opportunities and food, continued to cause widespread displacement across the State. In addition, findings indicate that the impact of flooding on access to livestock and functioning markets, combined with limited access to humanitarian food assistance, resulted in high levels of food insecurity. Moving forward, considering the limited availability of land and the disruption of cultivation due to flooding, the 2021 harvest is unlikely to result in long-term improvement in the food security situation. It is therefore likely that the last quarter of 2021 will be marked by an early depletion of food stocks and thus a higher dependency on humanitarian food assistance, which is usually suspended in the last quarter of the year, across Jonglei State.

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).

64. Here rakooba refers to a temporary shelter made from straw.

65. Here tukul refers to a cone-shaped mud hut with a thatched roof.

66. FGD with participants displaced from Fangak to Bor IDP camp. April 2021.

67. Ibid.

68. FGD with participants displaced from within Bor South to Bor town. April 2021.

69. Inter-Agency Assessment mission. [IRNA Report: Fangak County, Jonglei State](#). August 2021.