

Situation Overview: Greater Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan

April - June 2019

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

The protracted humanitarian crisis in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal (GBeG) region continued into the second quarter. Intercommunal conflict and environmental shocks created security and logistical constraints, which limited the ability of humanitarian agencies to gather information on needs in many parts of the region.

To ensure an up-to-date understanding of current humanitarian conditions and displacement dynamics in settlements across South Sudan, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas since December 2015. REACH has been assessing hard-to-reach areas in Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeG) State since April 2017, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) State since March 2018, and parts of Warrap State since January 2018. This is the second quarter that REACH has achieved full, consistent, coverage

of Warrap State. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs).¹ Findings were supplemented with secondary data sources and past REACH assessments of hard-to-reach areas. This situation overview used this data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs and displacement dynamics across the GBeG region from April to June 2019.

Key Findings

- WBeG experienced large-scale **displacement** from Jur River County due to intercommunal violence while also experiencing steady returns in Raja County.¹ Fire and floods have driven displacement in NBeG, while parts of Warrap State also experienced flooding as well as cattle raiding which caused displacement.

- Food security and livelihoods (FSL)** needs remained high in the second quarter of the year, with environmental shocks and conflict limiting communities' ability to access enough food. Eighty-three percent (83%) of assessed settlements reported inadequate access to food in June. The counties with the worse reported access to food this quarter were Gogrial West, Gogrial East, Twic, and all six counties in NBeG.
- Over three quarters (78%) of assessed settlements across GBeG reported that most people felt unsafe. Ongoing conflict in Jur River and cattle raids in Warrap State drove persistent **protection** concerns with a considerable increase (6% of assessed

METHODOLOGY

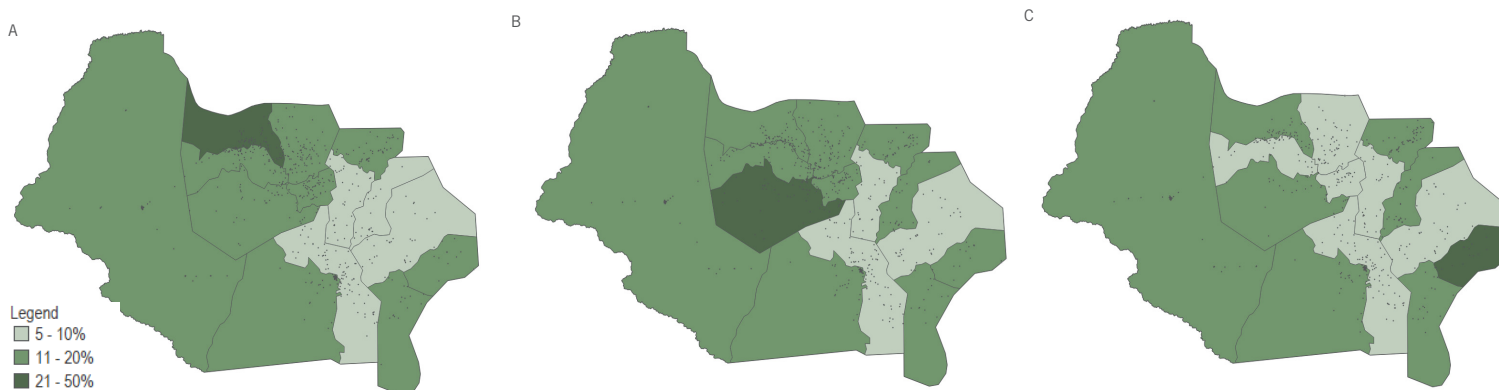
To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, and Warrap State, REACH uses primary data from key informants who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). Information for this report was collected from PoC site, collective centres, and through phone calling in April, May, and June 2019.

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

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements² in a given month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam³ coverage over the period.

Quantitative findings were triangulated with FGDs and secondary sources. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToRs](#).

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of the GBeG region, April (A), May (B) and June 2019 (C)



1. Wau Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF) Meeting Minutes - 9 May 2019
2. 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

REACH
3. A payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

settlements in March to 66% in May) in the number of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict which has killed a civilian in Jur River.

- Primary **health** concerns across all three states included waterborne and vectorborne diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria, and typhoid, which are compounded by poor **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** conditions and limited access to health services across GBeG, particularly in insecure areas such as Jur River. Access to WASH continued to be a challenge across all three states, as only 36% of assessed settlements reported latrine use in June and less than a quarter (24%) of assessed settlements reported that most people use soap to wash their hands.
- Floods and fires have destroyed **shelters** throughout NBeG State, resulting in many living with host families or in open spaces. Continued displacement from Jur River County to the Wau PoC site, collective centres, and surrounding settlements left many IDPs without access to essential **non-food-items (NFIs)**. Primary NFI needs included plastic sheets, torches, soap, and mosquito nets.
- The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to **education** services remained largely the same (79%, June) across all three states, with the exception of Jur River County where conflict has increasingly prevented access (55% of assessed settlements reported no access in March, 78% in June). The primary reported

reason in assessed settlements for lack of access in NBeG and most of Warrap State was lack of facilities. Access challenges in WBeG and Twic County, while also included lack of facilities, were mainly related to insecurity: teachers having fled, teachers stopping work, and no teachers to start with.

Population Movement and Displacement

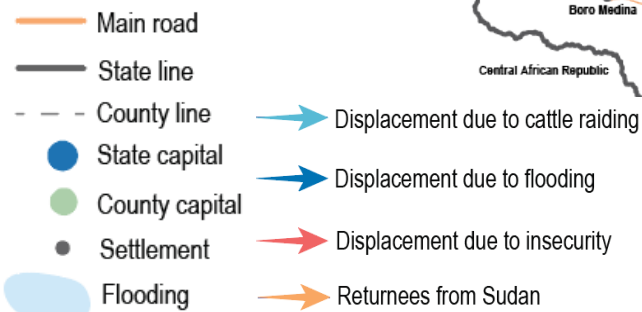
Displacement in parts of WBeG continued due to the intercommunal violence in Jur River County, whereas Raja County continued to see increased stability and steady returns.⁴ Displacement in NBeG was driven by fires and large-scale flooding,^{5,6} while parts of Warrap State also experienced flooding that caused displacement.⁷

Displacement in WBeG State

Continued Displacement in Jur River County

Intercommunal violence continued to drive displacement in Rocrocdong Payam and

Map 2: Displacement and population movement in Greater Bahr el Ghazal, April-June 2019

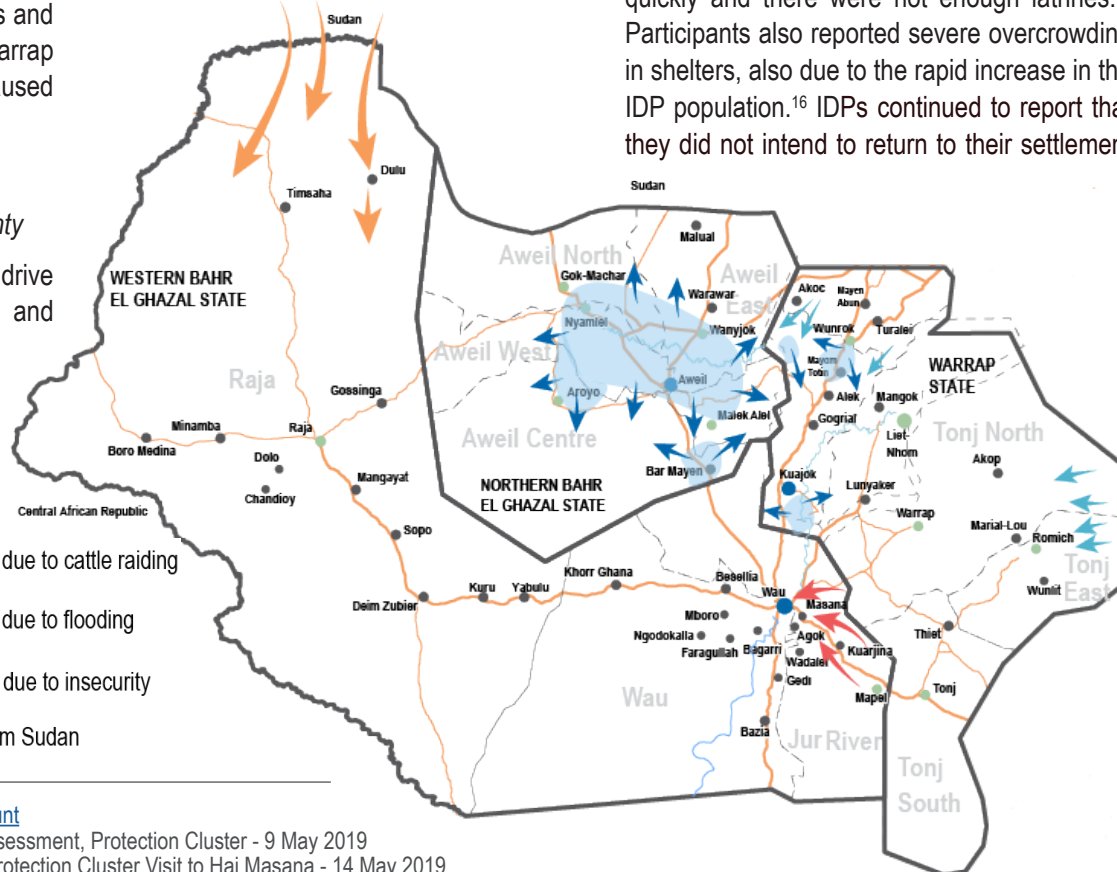


Kuarjena Payam of Jur River County throughout the second quarter of 2019.⁸

The population in the PoC site and collective centres had been steadily decreasing until the intercommunal violence in Jur River began in March.⁹ Since then, population numbers have increased considerably from 23,781 people in both the PoC site and all five collective centres in March¹⁰ to 32,449 in June.¹¹ This increase can largely be attributed to the violence in Rocrocdong Payam and Kuarjena Payam.⁸

New arrivals at the PoC site, primarily women and children, reported loss of property,

intercommunal violence, looting, and burning of houses.¹² While people reported feeling safe within Hai Masana, security fears reportedly limited movement outside of the camp.¹³ NFIs (specifically, soap, blankets, cooking utensils, lights) have been reported as a primary need for women in Hai Masana¹³ along with food, hygiene and sanitation, and education.¹⁴ The influx of IDPs into camps has created challenges in building and maintaining enough shelter and WASH infrastructure.¹³ FGD participants reported children were openly defecating because the number of IDPs was increasing so quickly and there were not enough latrines.¹⁵ Participants also reported severe overcrowding in shelters, also due to the rapid increase in the IDP population.¹⁶ IDPs continued to report that they did not intend to return to their settlement



4. Wau HCF Meeting Minutes - 9 May 2019

5. SSD Red Cross, Multi-sectoral needs assessment of Aweil Flooding - June 2019

6. WunAtemmei inter-agencies assessment finding - May 2019

7. Key informant in Wau town

8. IOM DTM Event Tracking Report - 14 May 2019

9. IOM DTM March Headcount

10. IOM DTM April Headcount

11. IOM DTM June Headcount

12. Marial Bai Protection Assessment, Protection Cluster - 9 May 2019

13. Key Findings from the Protection Cluster Visit to Hai Masana - 14 May 2019

14. FGD in Hai Masana - 27 June 2019

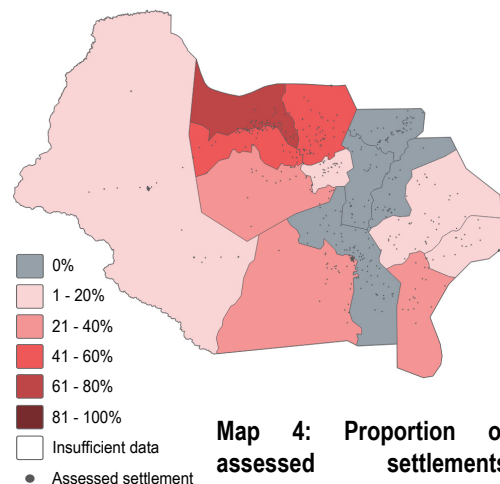
15. FGD in Hai Masana - 27 June 2019

16. FGD in Hai Masana - 27 June 2019

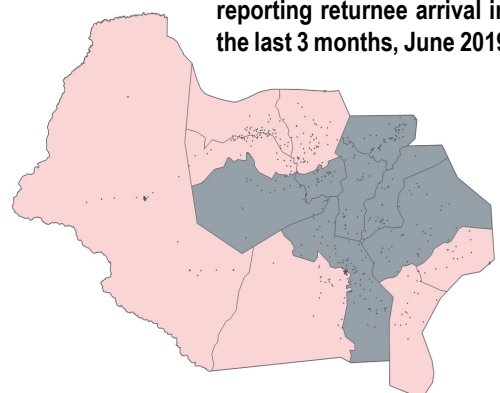
17. Key Findings from the Protection Cluster Visit to Hai Masana - 14 May 2019

16. FGD in Hai Masana - 27 June 2019

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees in the settlement, June 2019



Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting returnee arrival in the last 3 months, June 2019



of origin until there was assurance of security.¹⁷ While most IDPs reportedly fled to the PoC site and collective centres in Wau, there were also reports of over 8,500 IDPs in Marial Bai and neighbouring settlements as well as IDPs residing in Kuarjena town and Eastern Bank.¹⁸ Following reported violence on 19 June 2019, many remaining families in Rocrocdong town

reportedly fled to Marial Bai, leaving very few households in Rocrocdong town.¹⁹

In these places, existing infrastructure is often not sufficient to support the increase in population. Households in Kuarjena town were reportedly living under trees during the day and sleeping in a school at night.²⁰ There were reports of few functioning boreholes, a health centre with inadequate drugs and staffing, and limited school materials in Kuarjena town.²¹ IDPs in Marial Bai and surrounding settlements were reportedly living under trees, in health facilities, and in schools.²¹ Some host communities reported feeding and supporting IDPs, increasing their vulnerability.²¹ Primary needs of IDPs in Kuarjena town reportedly included food, plastic sheets, cooking utensils, and jerry-cans.²⁰ Humanitarian needs in Marial Bai and other host communities were reported as shelter, food, water, and sanitary materials.²¹

Raja County Displacement

According to a United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report from a long distance patrol in Raja County between 29 April and 4 May 2019, an estimated majority of the Raja population remained displaced in Sudan and about one fifth of the population remained displaced within Wau town and surrounding counties.²² It was reported that roughly half of the shelters were burnt or looted, though some were inhabited, and only 3 of the 16 schools were reported to be operational.²² Despite these reports, the security situation reportedly improved and the

population continued to return in the second quarter of the year.²² This is supported by AoK data, as an 18 percentage point reduction was observed in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting any incident of property looting between March (71%) and June (53%). The continued returns have also been reflected in AoK assessment data with 92% of assessed settlements in Raja County reporting returnees. These reports have remained consistently high since December 2018 (90%). Of the assessed settlements reporting returnees in Raja, almost half (48%) reported returnees arriving within the last 6 months.

Displacement in NBeG State

Displacement Due to Flooding

Aweil town and the surrounding settlements experienced heavy rainfall in early June resulting in severe flooding and subsequently widespread displacement and destruction.²³ About 3,000 households across 17 settlements were reported to have been affected.²³ People reportedly fled their homes and sought refuge in highland areas with host communities, which put a strain on local resources, increasing vulnerability.²³ Those not hosted by friends or relatives were living in open places or in schools.²⁴

Displacement Due to Fire

In early May, an inter-agency assessment reported 23 shelters to have burned down in WunAtemmei of Aweil East due to fire spread by strong winds.²⁵ On top of two fatalities and many injuries, households lost livestock, food, and non-food items in the fire. While some displaced

families were reportedly staying with friends and relatives, others were without shelter and were staying in the open, where their houses were burned.²⁵

There were also a number of fire outbreaks reported in Rumaker of Aweil East due to unknown causes.²⁵

Displacement in Warrap State

Displacement Due to Flooding

While there is no evidence of any ongoing large-scale displacements, key informants²⁶ reported some displacement due to flooding in Gogrial West, boarding Aweil East County in June. This is consistent with the reports of heavy rainfall in the county.²⁷ The first 10 days of June had 21.4mm more rain than the yearly average for the county.²⁷ Of assessed settlements reporting IDPs in both Aweil East and Gogrial West in June, 67% reported the IDPs were from within the same county, likely a result of the flooding that displaced people to settlements in the highlands.

The proportions of assessed settlements reporting IDP presence in Warrap State remained largely the same between March (31%) and June (36%). However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the arrival of IDPs in the last 3 months increased (22% in March, 74% in June). Fifty-seven percent (57%) of settlements that reported IDPs reported that the most recent IDPs were from Twic County. This may be due to resource constraints in Twic or insecurity due to cattle raiding reportedly occurring in the area.²⁸ Cattle raiding was also reported in Tonj East²⁹ and Tonj North,³⁰ driving displacement within those counties.

17. Key Findings from the Protection Cluster Visit to Hai Masana - 14 May 2019

18. Wau ICWG Meeting Minutes - 10 May 2019

19. Wau ICWG Meeting Minutes - 21 June 2019

20. Wau ICWG Meeting Minutes - 14 June 2019

21. Marial Bai Protection Assessment, Protection Cluster - 9 May 2019

22. Wau HCF Meeting Minutes - 9 May 2019

23. Aweil town Inter-Cluster Flood Response Plan - 8 June 2019

24. South Sudan Red Cross, Multi-sectoral needs assessment of Aweil Flooding - June 2019

25. WunAtemmei inter-agencies assessment finding - May 2019

26. Key informant in Wau town

27. [VAM Food Security Analysis - Seasonal Explorer](#)

28. [OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot - June 2019](#)

29. Key informant in Wau town

30. [OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot - April 2019](#)

Situation in Assessed Settlements

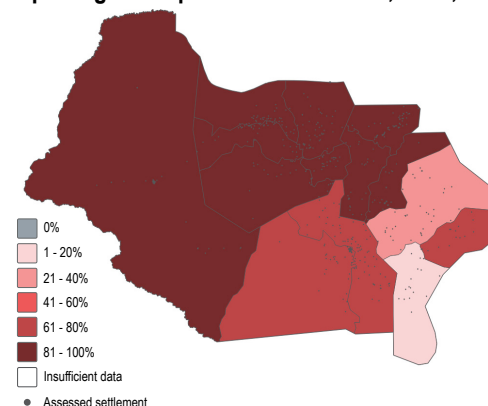
Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

In GBeG, limited access to food continued into the second quarter of 2019, with 83% of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in June. Environmental shocks, such as flooding, in parts of NBeG and Warrap, as well as conflict in Jur River exacerbated already challenging food access issues. The use of coping mechanisms across GBeG remained largely the same, with 73% of assessed settlements reporting limiting portion sizes, 69% reducing number of meals, 53% buying less expensive food, and 49% reporting only children eating some meals. The persistence of food insecurity and continued use of extreme coping mechanisms, whilst typical of the lean season, were worsened by insecurity and environmental shocks.

Western Bahr el Ghazal State

Lack of adequate access to food in WBeG persisted into the second quarter. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of assessed settlements reported inadequate access to food in June and 27% reported most people were experiencing severe hunger. The vast majority (96%) of assessed settlements across all three counties in WBeG reported that most people ate wild foods as part of their main meal. While this has been reported fairly consistently since January and is not uncommon during the lean season, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that meals were more than half wild foods has more than doubled, increasing from 8% in March to 21% in June.

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food, June, 2019



Assessed settlements reported limiting portion size (81%) or adults not eating some meals (60%) in order to prolong food access, as well as gathering wild foods (70%) and borrowing food (54%) to compensate for poor food access. The minimal variation in high levels of food-related coping mechanisms over the last six months reflects the persistent food insecurity occurring in the state.

Jur River was found to experience hunger the most acutely, with 43% of assessed settlements reporting hunger as severe for most residents in June. Of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in Jur River, 40% reported the main reason was that it was unsafe to access land. Market access in Jur River decreased among assessed settlements with only 67% of assessed settlements having access to markets in June compared to the 92% that reported access in March. Decreased land and market access were likely related to the ongoing conflict. Overall, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in Jur River has decreased by

10 percentage points from 31% of assessed settlements in March, to 21% in June. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting severe hunger has also more than doubled between March (20%) and June (43%) in Jur River. The insecurity in Jur River likely had a negative impact on food security and livelihoods throughout the county. With the vast majority of the Kuariena Payam population displaced, many to the Wau PoC site or collective centres, with no ability to cultivate or any immediate plans to return, planting and cultivation are not likely to have occurred.

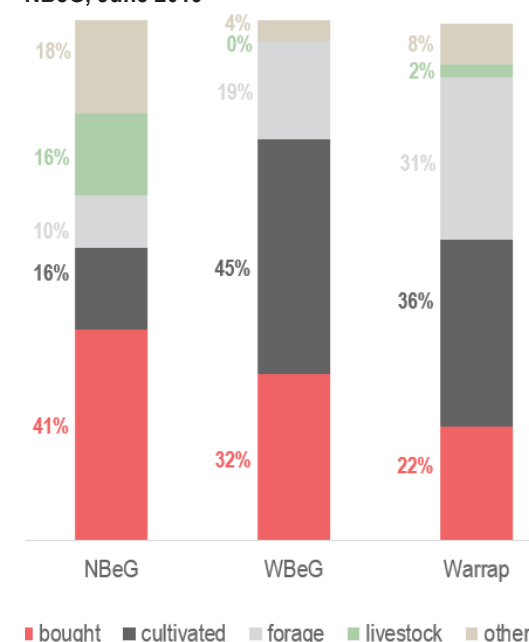
Raja County also had very low access to food, with only 16% of assessed settlements reporting adequate food access. However, there were slight improvements, with an 11 percentage point increase since March. This may be attributable to increased humanitarian food assistance reported in assessed settlements, with an 18 percentage point increase (from 31% in February to 49% in May). Of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food, 27% reported high prices as the main reason in June. This may be related to the increased cereal prices that were reported in 55% (June 2019) of these assessed settlements. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of assessed settlements reported that this increase in cereal prices had a large impact on their ability to access food in June and 43% reported it had a small impact.

The situation in Wau County was diverse with various reported drivers of food inaccessibility among assessed settlements in June. These included high food prices (18% of assessed settlements), lack of rain (16%), presumably in the last harvest leaving limited stocks to last

through the lean season, and perceived lack of safety in land access (16%). Cereal prices also played a role, with 61% of assessed settlements reporting increases in cereal prices in June (up from 51% in January); of these, 85% of assessed settlements reported this had a small impact on their ability to access food.

The GBeG situation overview covering the first quarter of 2019 (January to March) discussed IDPs returning from the bush to the Greater Bagarri Area (Wau County) as the security situation stabilised.³¹ In a more recent assessment at the end of April, humanitarian partners found that food security had worsened since the return of IDPs.³² This was reportedly due to a lack of quality food in the market.³²

Figure 2. Reported main source of food in assessed settlements in WBeG, Warrap, and NBeG, June 2019



31. REACH Situation Overview - January-March 2019

32. Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment, Bagarri, WBeG – 24-26 April 2019

Households were reportedly not cultivating due to fears of insecurity, as well as due to a lack of seeds and farming tools. As a result, reports indicated that settlements were planting on a much smaller scale.³³

Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

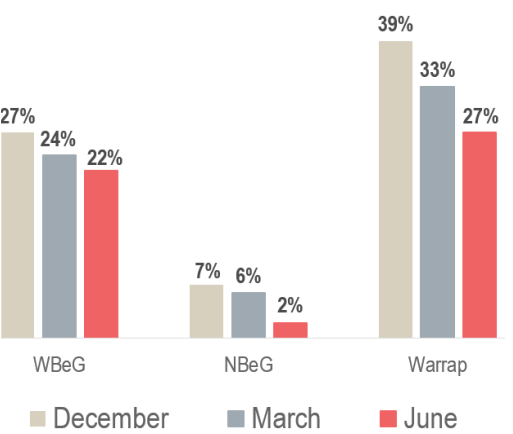
Of all three states, NBeG had the worst reported access to food with only 2% of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food. This limited access has remained constant since December 2018. While cultivation for the next harvest had begun, many settlements, primarily those surrounding Aweil town and in Aweil East County, were affected by severe flooding. The floods reportedly caused widespread infrastructure damage to schools, shops, churches, water sources (wells and hand pumps submerged in water), and roads, as well as destroyed food stores and NFIs.³⁴ FGD participants reported that over 90% of crops in low-lying areas were destroyed by the flooding.³⁵ Much of the lower land areas were still flooded as of June 2019, so anything that might have survived is likely rotten.³⁶

Figure 3: Primary reported livelihood sources in the GBeG region, June 2019

	WBeG	Warrap	NBeG
Casual labour	93%	65%	55%
Crops for sustenance	44%	43%	30%
Market	23%	21%	68%
Livestock	5%	47%	45%
Poultry	6%	35%	44%

33. Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment, Bagarri, WBeG – 24-26 April 2019
34. South Sudan Red Cross, Multi-sectoral needs assessment of Aweil Flooding - June 2019
35. FGD in Kabaat, Aweil town - 12 July 2019 (Additional FGDs were conducted in July regarding the situation in June in areas affected by flooding.)

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in GBeG Region, December 2018, March 2019, June 2019



The flooding will also likely have a long-term negative impact on livelihoods, as crops were washed away, livestock were killed, and most livelihood activities were stopped due to displacement.^{34,37} There has been a decrease in cultivation as a livelihood source month on month in 2019, compared to 2018, indicating poorer access to cultivation this year. While there is no data from June 2018 for comparison, 52% of assessed settlements reported crops for sustenance as a livelihood source in July 2018, suggesting this decrease in cultivation in April (35%), May (30%), and June (30%) 2019, when we expect planting to take place, may be abnormal for that time of year. This is particularly worrying given the low-resilience to shocks in NBeG.³⁸

Flooding may have also negatively affected livestock keeping. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting livestock rearing reduced in NBeG from 77% in March to 45% in June, 2019. The reduction in reports of livestock

rearing may also be related to an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting a disease outbreak between February (53% of assessed settlements) and June (71%) or the severe flooding that killed livestock in many communities. Thirty-four percent (34%) of assessed settlements in NBeG that reported disease outbreaks among livestock, reported that they had a large impact on their ability to access food. The impact of this was highest in Aweil South at 69% of assessed settlements reporting a severe impact.

Although it is normal for hunting to take place during the lean seasons, food insecurity may be responsible for the increased reports of hunting among assessed settlements from 26% in March to 45% in June 2019, with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting hunting in Aweil Centre (69%). Casual labour in assessed settlements increased from 32% in February to 55% in June, which also may be related to food insecurity and the approach of lean season, as people seek out additional work to purchase food when stocks from the last

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting hunger as severe or the worst it could be, June 2019

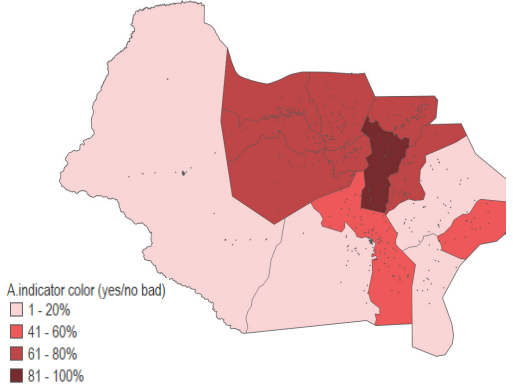


Figure 5: Primary reported consumption-based coping mechanisms in the GBeG region, June 2019

	WBeG	Warrap	NBeG
Eating less expensive food	43%	47%	69%
Reducing number of meals	50%	91%	65%
Limiting meal size	81%	80%	58%
Only children eating	60%	41%	45%

harvest have depleted. However, this increase in casual labour is a seasonal occurrence. Other forms of coping mechanisms for food insecurity in NBeG among assessed settlements were reportedly purchasing less expensive food (69%), gathering wild food (69%), reducing numbers of meals (65%), and limiting portion size (58%).

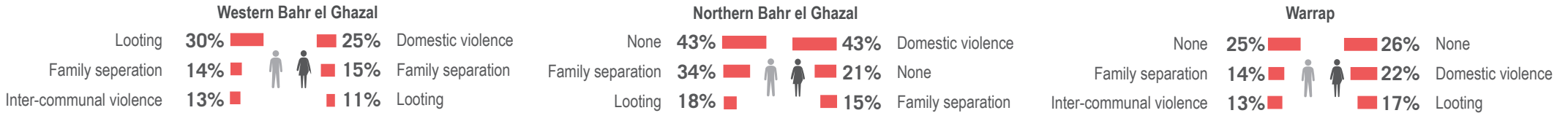
Warrap

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food stayed relatively low, but constant in Warrap from March (33%) to June (27%), and the proportion of assessed settlements reporting use of coping mechanisms increased. In June, assessed settlements reported reducing the number of meals (91%), limiting meal portion sizes (80%), gathering wild foods (68%), and adults not eating some meals (41%). Compared to March, these were all between a 10 and 30 percentage point increase, suggesting Warrap State is experiencing food insecurity more acutely as lean season approaches.

Tonj North and Tonj South were the only counties where the majority of assessed

36. FGD in Malou and Aweer, Aweil town - 13 July 2019
37. Aweil town Inter-Cluster Flood Response Plan - 8 June 2019
38. REACH Assessment with Centre for Humanitarian Change - April 2019

Figure 6: Most commonly cited protection concerns for men and women in the GBeG region, March 2019



settlements (61% and 82% respectively) reported adequate access to food in June. These coping mechanisms were primarily used in Twic, Gogrial East, and Gogrial West, where the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in June was 8%, 4%, and 0% respectively. Assessed settlements that reported inadequate access to food reported it was due to lack of rain (25%), flooding (21%), crops being destroyed in fighting (12%), because it was unsafe to access land (12%), and due to a previously short growing season (12%). Among these counties, hunger was reported as the most severe in Gogrial West, with 96% (June) of assessed settlements reporting severe hunger.

There continued to be an increase in the sale of livestock as a coping mechanism for lack of food among assessed settlements in Warrap State, particularly in Gogrial West and

Gogrial East. In Gogrial East, 31% of assessed settlements reported the sale of livestock due to limited access to food in March, which more than doubled in June (83%), similar to Gogrial West (39% in March, 88% in June). These severe coping mechanisms in Warrap State are indicative of long-term livelihood depletion and an extended lean season, possibly due to early depletion of 2018 harvest stocks.

Protection

Throughout GBeG, the perception of safety among assessed settlements stayed similar between March (22%) and June (19%). In June, Jur River and Tonj East remained the two counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people feeling unsafe, with 100% in Jur River and 94% in Tonj East. While perceptions of safety have remained the same, the proportion of assessed

settlements reporting a protection incident that has killed a civilian in GBeG has doubled between March (15%) and June (30%).

Continued insecurity in Jur River and parts of Warrap State contributed to ongoing protection concerns in the second quarter. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict which killed a civilian has increased in Jur River from 6% in March to 66% in May. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting this decreased by over half in June (34%), perhaps due to few people remaining in settlements vulnerable to conflict, as most had already been displaced.

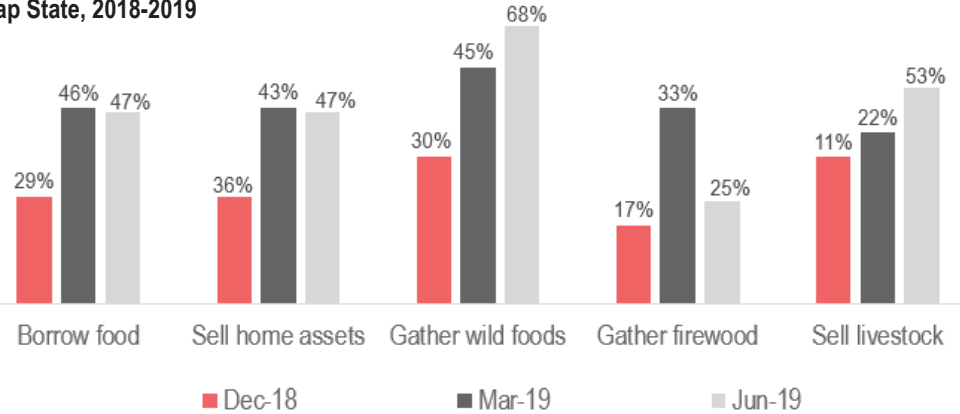
Thirty percent (30%) of assessed settlements in Warrap State reported at least one incident of conflict that killed a civilian in June. Incidents were most commonly reported by assessed settlements in Twic (54%) and Tonj East (38%), where cattle raiding has reportedly occurred. Twenty-one percent (21%) of assessed settlements in Tonj North, 16% in Twic, and 9% in Tonj East reported cattle raiding as the primary protection concern for men in April. Eighteen percent (18%) of assessed settlements in Tonj East reported cattle raiding as the main protection concern for boys in April.

Looting was reported throughout all states in June, with over half of assessed settlements in WBeG (56%) and Warrap (54%) reporting at least one incident. The highest proportions

of assessed settlements reporting looting in June were in Tonj East (75%), Jur River (70%), and Twic (69%). Warrap and NBeG both experienced overall increases in the proportion of assessed settlements that reported looting since March last quarter, likely related to acute food insecurity moving into the lean season and the intercommunal violence and cattle raiding occurring in these areas. Physical protection concerns in NBeG were also reported by humanitarian partners, as those affected by flooding were without shelter or were living with neighbours in congested conditions.³⁹

Women and girls (18 years and below) continued to face gender-based violence in the second quarter of the year, with 30% of assessed settlements reporting domestic violence as the primary protection concern for women, and 18% reporting this for girls in June across all three states. However, domestic violence was also reported by assessed settlements as a protection concern for boys in NBeG (25% of assessed settlements, June) and WBeG (13%, June). Twenty-six percent (26%) of assessed settlements in GBeG reported early marriage as the main protection concern for girls in June. The highest proportion of settlements reporting early marriage came from assessed settlements in NBeG (41%) and Warrap State (17%), with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting early marriage at the county level in Twic (25%), Tonj East (25%), Tonj South (24%),

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting livelihood-based coping mechanisms in Warrap State, 2018-2019



39. IRNA Coordinated Assessment in Aweil town - 8 June 2019

and Tonj North (22%), perhaps due to the ongoing cattle raiding.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

With the onset of the rainy season in April, floods in and around Aweil and in Gogrial West resulted in increased shelter and NFI needs.⁴⁰ An assessment conducted by humanitarian partners indicated about two thirds of interviewed households in Aweil were living in unsuitable locations and 21% were living with relatives or friends who were less affected.⁴¹ As the rainy season continues, it was reportedly unlikely that friends and relatives would continue to have the capacity to assist.⁴¹ Essential NFIs, including tarpaulins and blankets, were reported as immediate needs.⁴¹ Nearly half (48%) of assessed settlements reporting IDPs in NBeG reported needing plastic sheets as the main NFI need, alongside 35% needing mosquito nets in June.

The vast majority (86%, June 2019) of assessed settlements across all three states reported most people living in their own home. However, like last quarter, the situation in Tonj East remained different. Sixty-three percent (63%) of assessed

settlements reported that most of the community were living in their own home while 38% were living in another home. While the reason for this was unclear, it may be due to environmental shocks, such as flooding, or destroyed homes due to cattle raiding that has been an ongoing issue in the area⁴² (see the displacement and protection sections of this situation overview).

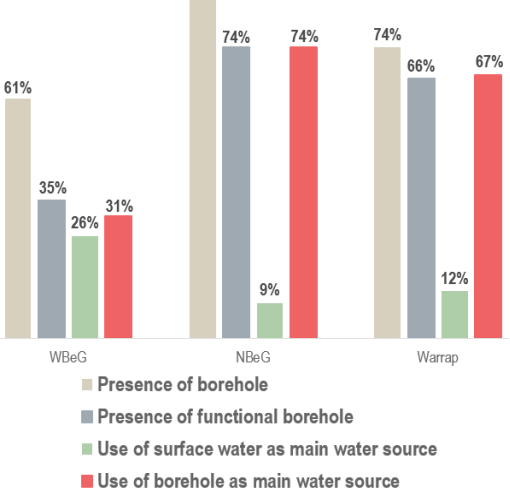
In May, the highest proportion of assessed settlements that reported having shelters destroyed or partially destroyed due to fighting was in Tonj East (25%) and Jur River (24%). While this has been a constant issue in Tonj East, in Jur River this was likely related to the intercommunal conflict ongoing since March.⁴³

The large-scale displacement due to conflict in Jur River left IDPs in need of essential NFIs. NFI needs among assessed settlements reporting IDPs in Jur River were reported as plastic sheets (31%), torches (31%) soap (15%), and mosquito nets (15%) in June. In Wau County in June, 20% of assessed settlements reported that NFIs came from distributions by humanitarians, compared to 0-5% in other counties in GBeG. This indicates that despite high needs, most counties were not able to access adequate humanitarian assistance.

Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The primary health problems in all three states were malaria (23% of assessed settlements), diarrhoea (17%), and typhoid (11%). Waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid may be a result of the 52% of assessed settlements in GBeG reporting that livestock was kept close to or was using the same water source as people. Malaria was also reportedly the main cause of

Figure 8: Boreholes and water sources in assessed settlements in the GBeG Region, June 2019



death across assessed settlements in GBeG (30%, June), followed by natural death (20%), cholera (16%), and typhoid (13%). There was a reported measles outbreak in the Wau PoC site with 53 confirmed cases and one death as of 7 June.⁴⁴

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health care services decreased in Jur River County between March (51%) and June (25%), likely due to insecurity. In NBeG and Warrap, the majority (88% NBeG; 83%, Warrap) of assessed settlements reported access to health care services in June, similar to last quarter; however, only 58% of assessed settlements reported access in Aweil Centre, and only 50% in Gogrial West, perhaps as a result of the flooding in these counties. Assessed settlements without access to health care services reported it was due to lack of drugs (35% of assessed settlements), the services never being there (30%), lack of health care staff

(11%), and facilities being too far away (10%). Across all three states, WBeG appeared to have the worst water access issues. Over half (57%) of assessed settlements in Jur River were unable to consistently access their preferred water source throughout both the wet and dry season. Despite 61% of assessed settlements in WBeG having access to boreholes, only 35% had functional boreholes and 31% of assessed settlements used boreholes as their main water source in June. In NBeG and Warrap, over half of assessed settlements reported the use of a borehole as a main water source (74% NBeG, 67% Warrap, June). Settlements without access to improved water sources were forced to rely on surface water sources, such as rivers, ponds, and swamps. The highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting that their main source of drinking water was from surface water sources was in WBeG (26%, June), with 41% of assessed settlements in Jur River reporting this in June. Surface water sources pose great risk for waterborne diseases and may have contributed to the high proportion of assessed settlements (21%) that reported diarrhoea as a main health problem in Jur River as well as the assessed settlements in Wau reporting typhoid (20%) as a main health issue.

Flooding in and around Aweil town caused major damage to water infrastructure with flood water submerging boreholes and likely contaminating water sources.^{41,45} Displaced populations were reportedly putting increased pressure on host community water sources as well, forcing the use of surface water sources.⁴⁴ Assessments by humanitarian partners in Aweil reported households were taking water from unclean

40. IRNA Coordinated Assessment in Aweil town - 8 June 2019
41. South Sudan Red Cross, Multi-sectoral needs assessment of Aweil Flooding - June 2019
42. Key informant in Wau town
43. IOM DTM Jur River Displacement To Wau (March-June 2019)
44. Wau ICWG Meeting Minutes - 7 June 2019
45. IRNA Coordinated Assessment in Aweil Town - 8 June 2019

sources for domestic consumption and there was reportedly widespread open defecation due to sanitation facilities being damaged in the flooding.⁴⁶

As with last quarter, NBeG and Jur River continued to reportedly have the worst sanitation. Of assessed settlements reporting latrine use (29% in NBeG and 4% in Jur River), 79% of settlements in NBeG reported less than half of the population were using the latrines and 100% of assessed settlements in Jur River reported less than half using the latrines. Poor sanitation facilities or lack of access to sanitation facilities can result in open defecation as common practice, increasing community health risks. Further exacerbating risk of disease were the poor handwashing practices reported across GBeG. In June, 47% of assessed settlements in Warrap reported most residents only used water to wash their hands, followed by 41% in WBeG, and 35% in NBeG.

Education

Access to education services remained largely the same in the second quarter of 2019 with 79% (June) of assessed settlements across all states reporting access, although insecurity and environmental shocks impacted access in some counties. Among settlements reporting no access to education in June, reasons reported for this were that there were no facilities available (28%), there were no teachers (16%), insecurity prevented access (16%), teachers stopped working (13%), and teachers fled due to insecurity (10%). In April, schools in the highland areas of Aweil East were not open due to ongoing water shortages in the area.⁴⁷ The primary reason reported by assessed

Figure 9: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting availability of education services in the GBeG Region, June 2019



settlements for girls and boys not attending school were school fees (16%, girls; 16%, boys in June 2019), followed by a need to work, girls reportedly in the household (9%, June) and boys in agriculture (11%, June).

Between 83% and 100% of assessed settlements in Warrap State counties reported access to education in June, with the exception of Twic County which continued reported more limited (56%) access. Lack of access in Twic was reportedly due to insecurity (64% of assessed settlements), followed by lack of facilities (27%). NBeG had the most widely available education, with 98% of assessed settlements reporting access in June. However, the recent flooding affected access to education, and humanitarian partners reported 66% of flooding survivors interviewed reported their children not attending school.⁴⁸ In WBeG, education access remained constant in Raja and Wau Counties, however in Jur River the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access has reduced from 43% in March to 21% in June. Most of the reasons assessed settlements reported this (teachers fled, teachers stopped working, insecurity, no teachers, no facilities) can likely be attributed to insecurity in the area.

The reduced access to education in Jur River is likely a result of the ongoing conflict and continued insecurity. Assessed settlements in Jur River reported insecurity as a primary

reason for both boys (14%) and girls (14%) not attending school in June, a 14 percentage point increase since March. Zero percent (0%) of assessed settlements in Jur River reported more than half of the boys and girls were attending school. Thousands from Jur River have been displaced to the PoC site and collective centres in Wau. The Protection Cluster reported in May that newly arrived children were not registered or enrolled in school in Hai Masana.⁴⁹ Not only were the existing schools reportedly unable to accommodate new IDP arrivals, but with severe food insecurity among this population, older children were tasked with caring for the younger children while parents went out in search of wild food.⁴⁹ According to an inter-agency assessment done at the end of April, there were no education programmes in the Greater Bagarri Area of Wau County for IDP or host community children.⁵⁰

Conclusion

Moving into the rainy season, food insecurity remained high throughout all three states, though it has been compounded by environmental shocks in NBeG and parts of Warrap State, cattle raiding in Warrap State, and intercommunal conflict in Jur River. There was continued practice of severe coping mechanisms in all states, with increases in reports of coping mechanism use in Warrap. The sale of livestock prior to the lean season, reported in NBeG and Warrap, suggests potential livelihood depletion.

The flooding in NBeG that destroyed crops and lack of cultivation in Jur River due to violence have had negative implications for food security this quarter. Displaced populations in NBeG and Jur River placed an increasing burden on already vulnerable host communities and IDPs

in Wau strained the resources and services of the PoC site and collective centres. Continued cattle raiding throughout Warrap State drove alarming protection concerns. Both the flooding and conflict in GBeG have contributed to the destruction of vital infrastructure and reduced already limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and WASH.

While there are a number of vulnerable counties in GBeG, data from Twic County, of Warrap State, suggests particularly high needs. Severe protection concerns, such as intercommunal violence that killed or injured a civilian, were increasingly reported (0% of assessed settlements, March; 69% June) in assessed settlements. Among assessed settlements reporting IDPs, 57% reported IDPs were coming from Twic; this is likely related to the insecurity.

About REACH

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).

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46. IRNA Coordinated Assessment in Aweil town - 8 June 2019

47. Wau ICWG Meeting Minutes - 16 April 2019

48. South Sudan Red Cross, Multi-sectoral needs assessment of Aweil Flooding - June

2019

49. Key Findings from the Protection Cluster Visit to Hai Masana - 14 May 2019

50. Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment, Bagarri, WBeG – 24-26 April 2019