

# Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

April-June 2018

**REACH** An initiative of  
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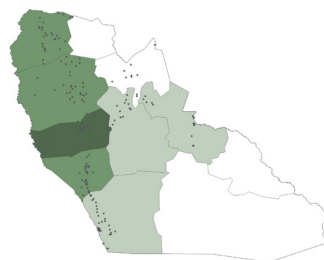
## Introduction

Ongoing conflict in Jonglei continued to negatively affect humanitarian needs in the second quarter of 2018. The onset of the peak lean season saw deteriorating food security conditions in many locations across the state. Clashes between armed actors and pervasive insecurity, particularly in the Greater Akobo area caused displacement among affected communities, negatively impacting the ability of populations to meet their primary needs.

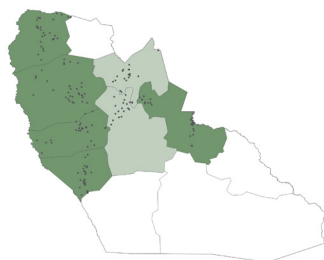
REACH has been assessing the situation in hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015, to inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites. This settlement data is collected across South Sudan on a monthly basis. Between 4 April and 22 June, REACH interviewed 1,473 Key Informants (KIs) with knowledge of humanitarian needs in 649 settlements in 8 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State.

In order to ensure an understanding of current displacement trends and humanitarian conditions in settlements from which displacement took place, new arrivals in data collection sites, representing 36% of KIs, were specifically targeted. The remainder of the KIs interviewed (64%) reported having been in the settlement or having had regular contact with someone from the settlement within the last month. For more information, please see the methodology section in this Situation

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, April 2018



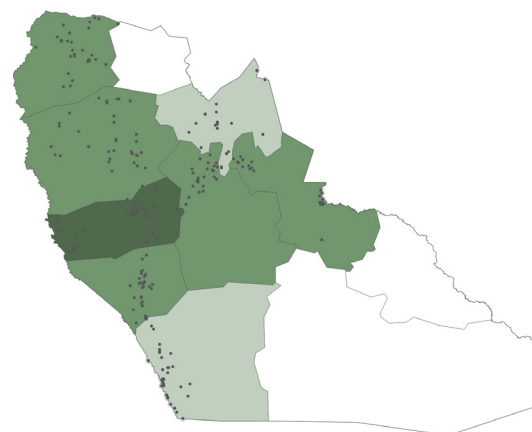
Map 2: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, May 2018



### Overview.

In the second quarter of 2018, displacement data from KI interviews was triangulated with three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), which involved participatory mapping exercises to understand the routes that internally displaced persons (IDPs) took. These included: a) two FGDs with new arrivals from Greater Akobo (Nyirol, Uror and Akobo Counties) and Ulang County in Akobo Town, b) one with new arrivals from Bor South County in Mingkaman, Awerial County, Lakes State. To better

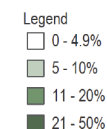
Map 3: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, June 2018



### Assessed settlements

• Settlement

Cover percentage of assessed settlements relative to the OCHA (COD) total dataset:



understand humanitarian needs in locations across the state, REACH conducted three Gap Analysis FGDs with new arrivals and people who had recent contact with those in relevant settlements including a) one FGD for Bor South in Bor Town b) one FGD for Akobo in Akobo Town c) one FGD for Fangak in Bor PoC.

To inform further analysis on food security trends across the state, REACH also conducted thirteen Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) FGDs with new arrivals and people who

had recent contact with those in relevant settlements including: a) five FGDs for Nyirol and Ayod in Akobo Town, b) two FGDs for Duk County and one FGDs for Twic East County in Bor Town, c) four FGDs for Ayod and Greater Akobo in Bor PoC, d) one FGD for Bor South in Mingkaman. All this information is included in the data used for this Situation Overview.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the January - March 2018 Situation Overview.<sup>1</sup> The first section analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei during the second quarter of 2018, and the second section evaluates access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

## Population Movement and Displacement

Levels of depopulation and displacement remained high but stable in Jonglei in the second quarter of 2018. Showing no considerable change from March, 38% of assessed settlements reported that half or more of the population had left in April. Akobo and Nyirol Counties reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements with presence of IDPs in June: 52% and 30% respectively. The higher rate of displacement was likely driven by intercommunal violence and conflict between armed groups in Greater Akobo in April and May, in addition

1 REACH, Jonglei State Situation Overview, January - March 2018



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## METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or received regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was provided by key informants in the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Bor and Juba PoC sites, Bor Town, Akobo Town, as well as in Nyal, throughout the second quarter of 2018.

The first phase of the assessment methodology comprised a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant settlements in Jonglei State. In-depth interviews were then conducted with selected participants, using a standardised survey tool comprising questions on displacement trends, population needs and access to basic services.

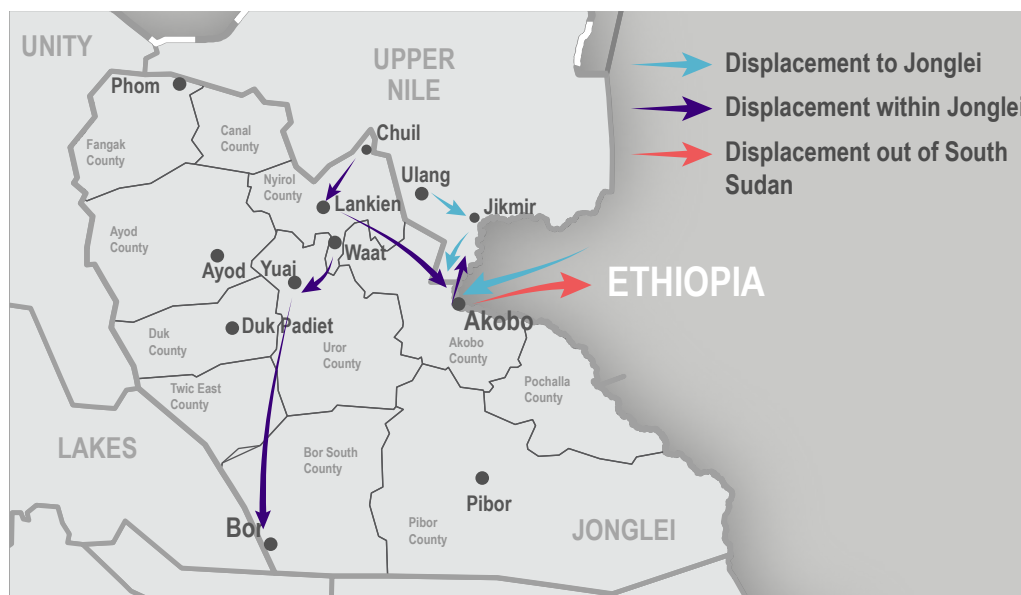
After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data. Due to access/operational constraints which may impact on coverage in each month, some changes over time reported in the situation overview might be due to variations in coverage.

to worsening food security conditions with the onset of the peak lean season.

### Displacement within Jonglei

#### Displacement within Greater Akobo to Akobo Town

Map 4: Displacement Overview Jonglei State



In each month during the second quarter, Akobo County reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements hosting IDPs of all assessed counties in Jonglei State. This is indicative of sustained displacement, predominantly from locations within the Greater Akobo area. This displacement was driven by conflict, with clashes between armed groups breaking out in locations in Greater Akobo in April, including an outbreak of fighting between armed groups in Akobo town itself.

However, worsening food security conditions were also a contributing factor for the displacement, with newly arrived FGD participants from Nyirol County interviewed in Akobo town citing lack of food among the primary reasons for their displacement. Reflective of persistent insecurity in locations surrounding Waat town in Nyirol County, FGD participants from Waat Payam and the Akobo

West area reported fleeing these locations due to insecurity and fear of being attacked by armed groups. Intercommunal cattle raiding in Chuil, Nyirol County in May also led to displacement to Akobo Town, with FGD participants reportedly travelling via Lankien and Akobo West, before reaching Akobo Town. Reports from FGD participants indicate secondary displacement of IDPs originally displaced following a cattle raid in Puokbor village in February, who were then forced to flee again following the cattle raid in Yakuach village, Nyirol County.

The overwhelming majority of IDPs in Akobo County are from the Greater Akobo area, with all assessed settlements hosting IDPs in Akobo reporting that the majority of most recently arrived IDPs were from Jonglei in June. A smaller number of IDPs from Upper Nile were displaced to Akobo following clashes

between armed groups in south eastern Upper Nile during the first quarter of 2018. Those displaced reported moving from locations near Ulang town passing through Jikmir town, before following the River Sobat south towards Akobo town.

However, recent escalations in intercommunal violence on the border between Greater Akobo and Ulang County may have increased the risk of travel on this key transit route. Given that routes tracing the river Sobat, either from Upper Nile to Akobo, or from Akobo to Ethiopia, are used by populations fleeing both food insecurity and conflict, the increased intercommunal violence therefore may have limited the capacity of vulnerable populations to flee areas where they are unsafe or are unable to meet their needs.<sup>2</sup>

### Displacement within Nyirol County

While displacement from Nyirol to locations in the Greater Akobo area continued in the second quarter of 2018, intercommunal violence also gave rise to internal displacement within the county to areas such as Lankien. Reports from humanitarian actors on the ground indicated a large influx of IDPs into Lankien in May following an outbreak of intercommunal violence in Chuil Payam, increasing the IDP population in areas surrounding Lankien following previous displacements from Puokbor and conflict affected locations in Urur, with a rapid assessment in March reporting an IDP presence of over 18,000 IDPs.<sup>3</sup> However, it should be noted that a headcount in Lankien in June found the distribution caseload in Lankien to have decreased since the previous registration in 2016, indicative of sustained

2 REACH, Situation Overview: Displacement Wanding and Kier, Ulang, Upper Nile State, January 2017.

3 Initial Rapid Needs Assessment, Lankien, Nyirol County, 3rd March 2018.

displacement out of Nyirol County, even as IDPs continued to arrive in Lankien during the reporting period due to intercommunal cattle raiding and conflict between armed groups.<sup>4</sup>

**Displacement from Greater Akobo to the Bor PoC site**

Displacement to the Bor PoC site remained comparatively low compared with locations in Northern Jonglei, with 59 individuals arriving in March and little change in monthly arrivals during the reporting period.<sup>5</sup> It should be noted that this represents a decline from 133 individuals arriving in February following an outbreak of conflict between armed groups in locations in Uror and Nyirol in January and early February.<sup>6</sup> Of those who did travel to the Bor PoC site, IDPs from Uror continued to represent the majority of new arrivals, reflective of continued insecurity in areas between Yuai and Waat, with renewed clashes in April. For more information on displacement patterns from Uror to Bor PoC, please see the previous situation overview<sup>7</sup>.

**Displacement within Bor South County**

FGD participants reported continued presence of IDPs in Pariak and Bor Town following an

outbreak of intercommunal conflict in the first quarter with sporadic incidents of fighting through the second quarter of 2018. IDPs reported that those displaced from affected locations in Kolnyang payam were sleeping in improvised shelters and lacking in Non-Food Items (NFIs) following looting and destruction of their possessions during displacement, which is particularly concerning given reports from participants that malaria was among the most common health problems in the area.

**Cross-border displacement out of Jonglei**

REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo town tracks movement of South Sudanese traveling to and returning from Ethiopian refugee camps in Gambella state. The average number of daily crossings to Ethiopia by boat from Akobo recorded by REACH's Port Monitoring fell slightly between March (20) to April (14). However, data collection was suspended due to security concerns following an outbreak of fighting in Akobo town in April. Given that insecurity often causes many people to flee to Ethiopia, it is likely that considerable cross-border displacement to Ethiopia from Akobo was not recorded in late April.<sup>8</sup> Indicative of this, the number of refugees registered in

**Figure 2: Most reported reasons for leaving Akobo for locations in Ethiopia in June 2018:**

Lack of food	28 %	■
Lack of education	20 %	■
Lack of healthcare	18 %	■
Insecurity	13 %	■
Far from family	12 %	■
Other	9 %	■

Ethiopia per month increased from 1,027 in April to 2,057 in May<sup>9</sup>. The average number of people recorded crossing to Ethiopia per day by boat increased slightly in May (17) and June (23), with a lack of food being cited by the highest proportion of households leaving for Ethiopia as the primary push factor, reflective of deteriorating food security conditions with the progression of the peak lean season.

**Situation in Assessed Settlements**

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

Reflective of food stocks from the previous harvest depleting as the peak lean season commenced, the overall proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food decreased slightly from the end of the previous reporting period in March (53%) compared to June (43%). Access to humanitarian assistance correlated closely with reported levels of access to food in the second quarter, with 67% of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food also reporting having received food assistance in the past three months. Conversely, 82% of assessed settlements who reported inadequate access to food reported having accessed no food distribution in the previous three months. This reliance on

food assistance presents a concern as the rainy season commences, with many remote locations becoming more difficult to access for humanitarians.

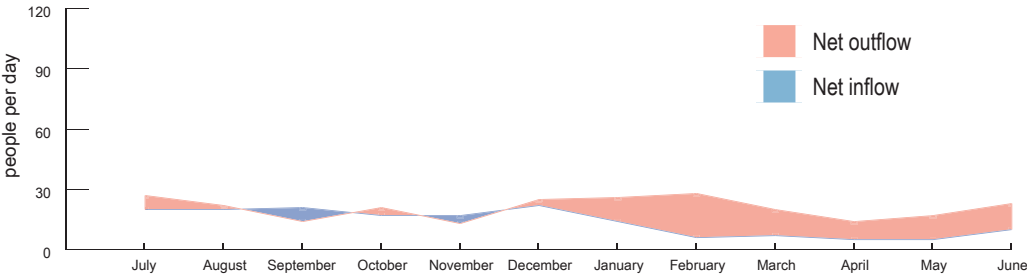
The trend of decreasing reported access to food was particularly acute in the Greater Akobo Area, and in Fangak and Bor South counties. Conversely, a moderate increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food was reported in assessed settlements in Ayod and Duk counties at the end of the reporting period. However, access to food is unstable in these counties, as will be discussed further in relevant sections below. Reported levels of adequate access to food fluctuated considerably in Twic East County during the second quarter, likely reflective of unstable food stocks and uneven access to humanitarian assistance. The following sections will explore these dynamics in detail, grouping counties according to the above trends.

**Greater Akobo**

In the Greater Akobo area, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in each county decreased in all three counties. The deterioration was most acute in Uror and Nyirol Counties, where the proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food rose from 52% and 27% in March, to 80% and 55% in June.

Conflict and displacement remained key factors driving food insecurity in Greater Akobo during the second quarter. The presence of armed actors, combined with intercommunal violence, for instance cattle raiding in the Chuil payam of Nyirol, restricted communities'

**Figure 1: Average monthly movement trends of people permanently leaving Akobo Town (red) and people returning from Ethiopia for more than four months (blue) per day from July 2017 to June 2018:**



4 WFP IRRM overview 25 June.

5 ACTED Bor PoC Site Movement Trend Tracker, April 2018, May 2018, June 2018.

6 REACH South Sudan, Situation Overview, January - March 2018.

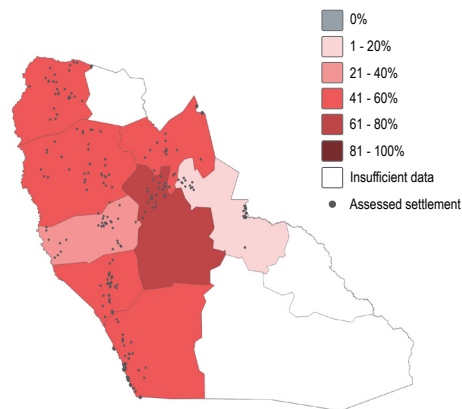
7 REACH SSD, Akobo Port Monitoring Factsheet, June 2018.

8 Ibid.

9 UNHCR Ethiopia Factsheet, April 2018, May 2018.



**Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in June, 2018:**



ability to produce their own food. In Urur, disruption of cultivation due to displacement was reported by the highest proportion of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food as the main reason for inadequate access to food in April (18%) and May (33%), while destruction of crops by pests and lack of cultivation land reported by the joint highest proportion of assessed settlements in June (20%). In Nyirol, 25% of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict or looting to have had a large impact on access to food in June. Those who left their settlements due to food insecurity or conflict often continued to struggle to access food. FGD participants from all three counties consistently cited conflict-driven displacement as negatively impacting their ability to access food and engage in livelihoods activities. This disruption to cultivation was all the more damaging for taking place at a time when food stocks from the previous harvest were running low.

In Nyirol, limited humanitarian access due

to insecurity meant food assistance was not sufficient to meet the needs created by the disruption to own production. Absence of food distribution was reported by the highest proportion (25%) of assessed settlements in the county with inadequate access to food as the main reason in June. Whereas in Urur, only 4% of assessed settlements reported food assistance as the main food source in June.

In contrast, in Akobo County, where access to humanitarian assistance was slightly higher, the restricted livelihood opportunities induced a high reliance on humanitarian assistance. The proportion of assessed settlements in the county reporting cultivation as main food source remained extremely low at 4% in June, similar to previous months. Conversely, reliance on humanitarian assistance as main food source increased during the second quarter from 35% of assessed settlements in April, to 70% in June. This is likely reflective of several General Food Distributions (GFD) occurring in May.<sup>10</sup>

### Bor South and Fangak

In addition to the negative trends in food security conditions in Greater Akobo, reported levels of inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in Bor South County and Fangak also increased during the reporting period. This deterioration in Bor South between April (21%) and June (56%) was likely related to environmental factors; insecurity and resulting displacement related to a land dispute in Kolnyang payam; and general fears of intercommunal attacks in rural areas. Indicative of this, the most reported reasons for inadequate access to food in

June were destruction of crops by pests and it being unsafe to access land, both reported by 25% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food. The third most reported reason in Bor South County was flooding (10%). This is consistent with reports from FGD participants who cited flooding, pests and fears of intercommunal violence among the main impediments to cultivation.

Similarly, food security conditions deteriorated in Fangak during the second quarter of 2018, with reported levels of inadequate access to food rising from 14% in March to 38% in April, rising again to 48% in June. In addition to depletion of food stocks from the previous harvest with the progression of the peak lean season, this deterioration is likely reflective of limited access to humanitarian assistance in settlements located far from areas where services are concentrated such as Old Fangak. Indicative of this, a Medair assessment in Nyandin found that populations face difficulty in accessing humanitarian assistance due to being located far from services.<sup>11</sup> This is consistent with REACH AoK data, with food distributions no longer occurring reported as the most common reason for inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in

**Figure 3: Most reported reasons for inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in June 2018:**

Unsafe to access land	17 %	■
Food distribution stopped	12 %	■
Pests destroyed crops	12 %	■
Flooding destroyed crops	8 %	■
Other <sup>12</sup>	27 %	■

each month in the second quarter. Moreover, in findings similar to assessed settlements in Bor South County, environmental factors such as flooding and destruction of crops by pests were reported among the main reasons for inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in each month during the reporting period, consistent with reports from FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC, who cited flooding and pests as negatively impacting cultivation.

### Ayod, Duk and Twic East

Moderate improvements in food security conditions were reported in Ayod and Duk Counties towards the end of the reporting period. However the proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food remained relatively high in both counties in June, at 46% and 31% respectively. The moderate reported improvement in Duk County between May (42%) and June (31%) is likely reflective of seasonal improvements due to herds returning from dry season grazing areas to their settlements, with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting physical access to cattle moderately increasing from 68% in April to 78% in June, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting regular consumption of milk from 21% in May to 34% in June.

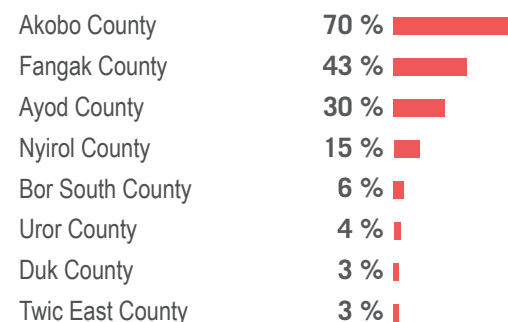
However, it is likely access to food is unevenly distributed across both counties. While the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to humanitarian assistance doubled from 10% in March to 21% in April, likely reflective of a Food-for-Asset (FFA) distribution

<sup>10</sup> WFP IRRM Updates, 7 May 2018, 13 May 2018, 28 May 2018.

<sup>11</sup> Medair, Needs assessment, Nyandin, Fangak County, May 2018.

<sup>12</sup> 'Other' represents settlements for which there was 'No Consensus' among KIs, NA, Dont Know, and less frequently selected responses.

**Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as main food source in June 2018:**



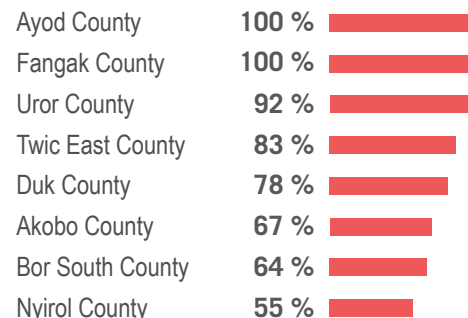
in April. This declined to 31%, before rising once more to 43% in June. This fluctuation is likely reflective of unstable food stocks with the onset of the peak lean season, when stocks from the previous harvest are exhausted, and many settlements rely on humanitarian assistance for food, which may be unevenly distributed across the county. Indicative of this, inability to access land and food distributions stopping were among the two most reported reasons for inadequate access to food across assessed settlements in each month in the second quarter.

This is consistent with reports from FGD participants interviewed in Bor town, who reported inadequate access to food in more remote locations that are unable to access food distributions in Panyagor, with livelihood activities disrupted by flooding and insecurity arising from intercommunal violence. Similarly, a rapid assessment in Lith Payam in May 2018 indicated that vulnerable populations, including returnees and IDPs, faced difficulty in making the long journey from northern Twic East County to Panyagor to access food assistance<sup>14</sup>.

### Livelihoods and cattle

Consistent with seasonal livelihood patterns, there was an increasing trend in the proportion of assessed settlements in assessed counties in Jonglei reporting physical access to cattle. This is consistent with typical seasonal cattle migration patterns, where herds move back from cattle camps located near rivers and swamps towards settlements with the onset of the rainy season. This was particularly evident in Akobo, Uror and Fangak, where the

**Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting physical access to cattle in June 2018:**



proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to cattle more than doubled between April and June. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting physical access to cattle also increased in Bor South and Ayod, but remained largely stable in Twic East and Duk, likely reflective of less internal cattle migration as these counties are located in the Sudd with settlements located closer to dry season grazing areas.

However, despite this reported seasonal improvement in physical access to cattle in certain counties, persistent intercommunal cattle raiding has likely left certain settlements with reduced access to cattle despite expected seasonal improvements. In particular, the proportion of assessed settlements in Nyiröl reporting physical access to cattle fell from 65% in March, with no significant change in May, to 55% in June. This is likely reflective of incidents of cattle raiding in Chuil in Nyiröl County and Barmach in Ulang County in May. Cattle raiding also affected settlements in Uror, according to FGD participants, who reported incidents of cattle raiding as herds from Uror

County were moving back from Toich in Duk, leaving affected settlements extremely vulnerable to food shortages during the peak lean season.

Disease also negatively impacted cattle keeping and other livestock activities in Jonglei, most strikingly in Bor South, Uror and Ayod, where presence of livestock disease was reported in 58%, 36% and 27% of assessed settlements respectively. This is consistent with reports from FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC and Mingkaman who reported livestock disease had a considerable impact on herd sizes. Participants from Bor South County noted this became more acute following cattle migration towards Bor South County from the Equatorias region, even though a large scale cattle migration expected in early 2018 did not occur. For more information, please see the REACH Kit - Nesitu Corridor Cattle Migration Brief.<sup>15</sup> FGD participants from Nyiröl also reported presence of livestock disease, which is particularly concerning given there were no livestock programmes, or provision of vaccinations and treatment available to pastoralists in the county, as of April.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to the negative impact of reduced herd sizes from cattle raiding and disease on food security and livelihoods conditions in affected counties, traditional practices related to the resolution of conflict often involve compensation of cattle being paid.<sup>17</sup> The high prevalence of inter and intracommunal conflict in Jonglei is therefore particularly concerning given the severe disruption to South Sudan's cattle economy since the onset of the crisis, potentially placing strain on capacity of

13 WFP IRRM Update, 4 June 2018.

14 Initial Rapid Needs Assessment, Lith Payam, Twic East, 9 May 2018.

15 REACH Kit - Nesitu Corridor Cattle Migration Brief, April 2018.

16 South Sudan FSL Cluster Livestock Dashboard, April 2018.

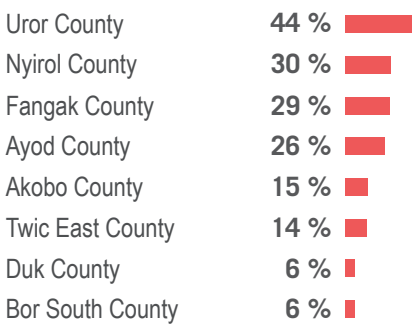
17 CSRF Briefing Note: Food Security, Access and Conflict Sensitivity: What opportunities do livestock offer in South Sudan?

communities to resolve conflict.

Coping Strategies

Reliance on social ties as a means of sharing resources during food shortages remained a key coping strategy in Jonglei in the second quarter. Reflective of the strength of familial and social networks, borrowing food was used as a coping strategy by the highest proportion of assessed settlements in each month during the reporting period, with 45% of assessed settlements reportedly engaging this strategy to cope with lack of food in June, having remained largely stable during previous months. However, protracted food shortages may be exhausting the capacity of social networks to provide for vulnerable households, with FGD participants in Bor PoC and Akobo noting that such was the pervasive nature of food insecurity, sharing resources was no longer possible. Consistent with this reported exhaustion of more moderate, short term coping strategies, the proportion of assessed settlements reportedly selling livestock in Uror rose from 10% in March, increasing

Figure 6: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting spending days without food as a coping strategy in June 2018:



each month to 48% in June. FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC reported an increase in livestock sales this year, reporting that in some cases this is used to pay for transport to seek refugee status in Ethiopia following persistent conflict in Uror in recent months.

Indicative of this, FGD participants interviewed in Akobo town noted a high disruption to livelihoods and typical coping strategies in areas proximate to conflict in the Akobo West area, giving rise to high reliance on wild foods. Similarly, FGD participants from Ayod County interviewed in Akobo town noted dependence on wild food consumption, with other sources of food becoming unavailable due to conflict and displacement. However, while wild foods represent an important part of traditional coping strategies as food stocks diminish during the lean season, it was noted by FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC and Akobo town that insecurity hindered the gathering of wild foods, leaving households less able to bridge consumption gaps as the peak lean season progressed. Moreover, 15% of assessed settlements reported consuming wild foods that are known to make people sick in June, remaining largely unchanged in previous months. This is indicative of acute food insecurity and exhaustion of other more moderate coping strategies, as households risk illness in order to cope with lack of food.

In addition to eating wild foods known to cause sickness, 25% of assessed settlements reported allowing only children to eat as a coping strategy, with 20% of assessed settlements reporting some households to be spending days without food. These strategies

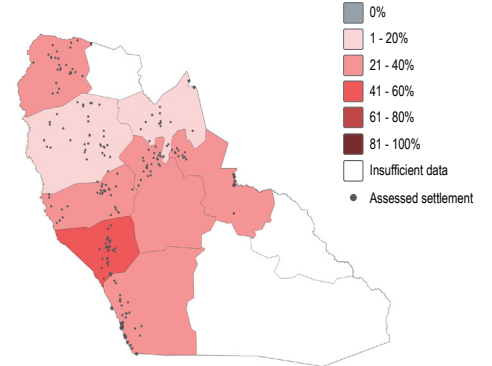
were most common in Ayod, Uror and Nyirrol Counties. Most strikingly, 64% of assessed settlements in Uror County reported that only letting children eat was used as a means of coping for absence of food, with 44% of assessed settlements reporting at least some people went days without food as a coping strategy in June. These extreme, consumption based strategies are indicative of severe food insecurity, rendering these populations more vulnerable to disease and further shocks.

Protection

Insecurity arising from conflict between armed groups and intercommunal violence continued to give rise to protection concerns in Jonglei in the second quarter of 2018. An outbreak of clashes in locations along the Yuai – Waat corridor, in addition to fighting between armed groups in Greater Akobo area in April continued a trend of high instability in the area.<sup>18</sup> Moreover, the prevalence of intercommunal conflict continued to give rise to protection concerns. Reflective of these outbreaks of violence in Greater Akobo in the second quarter, Nyirrol and Uror counties reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements that reported at least one incidence of conflict in which a civilian was killed, at 35% and 32% respectively in June, showing no considerable change from the previous month.

While the proportion of assessed settlements reporting such incidents remained highest in conflict affected Uror and Nyirrol, at least one incident of conflict in which a civilian was killed was reported by at least some proportion of assessed settlements in all counties except for Fangak in June, indicative of intra and inter

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting main protection concern for women to be SGBV related in June 2018<sup>20</sup>:



communal violence remaining high across Jonglei, even in absence of clashes between armed groups.

While a plurality (45%) of assessed settlements hosting IDPs in Jonglei reported IDPs to be receiving support from the host community, 41% of assessed settlements reporting IDPs to be receiving no support from the host community. Moreover, even in counties where support from the host community for IDPs is high, such as Akobo, with over three quarters of assessed settlements reportedly providing support to IDPs residing there, IDPs without social or familiar ties to the host community may be forced to engage in risky activities and coping strategies to meet their needs. FGD participants residing in the IDP centre in Akobo Town, which typically hosts IDPs without ties to the local community reported reliance on gathering firewood in the forest as a primary means of earning income. This presents a protection concern, with persistent insecurity in areas surrounding Akobo Town during the reporting period.

18 REACH Greater Akobo Displacement Brief, February 2018.



Sexual and gender-based violence continued to be a major protection concern for women and girls in Jonglei in the second quarter, with SGBV reported by the highest proportion of assessed settlements as the main protection concern for women and girls in each month during the reporting period, similar to previous months.<sup>19</sup> Conflict-affected Uror County reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting sexual violence as main protection concern for women in each month, with 32% of assessed settlements reporting this in June. FGD participants from Akobo County interviewed in Akobo town similarly reported incidence of sexual violence in conflict-affected areas.

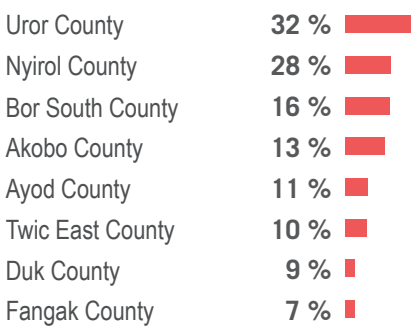
### Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Inadequate access to shelter and NFIs remained a concern in Jonglei State, particularly among displaced populations. In June, 24% of assessed settlements hosting IDPs reported that at least some IDPs were sleeping in the open, showing no considerable change from figures reported in previous months in the second quarter. This represents a concern given the onset of the rainy season.

Moreover, less than half of assessed settlements reported access to mosquito nets among IDPs in each month during the reporting period. This increases the vulnerability of IDPs with regard to malaria, which is particularly concerning given the expected seasonal increase in malaria in the 2018 wet season.

In April, Bor South County reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements with shelters damaged due to conflict, with FGD

**Figure 7: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting Shelter damage due to conflict in June 2018:**



participants in Bor Town reporting destruction of shelters due to intercommunal violence that broke out in Kolnyang payam, with sporadic violence continuing into the second quarter of 2018. However, indicative of an outbreak of conflict between armed groups in areas between Yuai and Waat in Uror and Nyirol Counties reported the highest proportion of assessed settlements with shelters damaged due to conflict in May (25% & 20%) and June (13% & 13%). This follows previous episodes of conflict between armed groups which reportedly resulted in the damage of shelters in these areas<sup>20</sup>.

### Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In June, 71% of assessed settlements reported access to health services, remaining largely stable since March (73%). In June, among assessed settlements without access to health services, the most common reason was that they had never been present in the settlement (44%). However, among settlements that had previously been functioning, the most reported

reason for lack of health services was a lack of staff, reported by 32% of assessed settlements without access to health care. Persistent conflict and insecurity continued to impact access to health services, with 27% of assessed settlements without health care access reporting destruction of facilities due to conflict or insecurity as the main reason in June. Populations in remote areas may face serious challenges in accessing healthcare, with FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC reporting populations in remote settlements in Fangak County face up to 3 days walk to reach healthcare services in Old Fangak town.

Similar to previous months, malaria remained the most commonly reported primary health problem and cause of death in assessed settlements in each month in the second quarter of 2018. Given continued insufficient access to mosquito nets, malaria is likely to remain a critical health concern as the rainy season progresses.

Indicative of inadequate WASH conditions in assessed settlements in Jonglei State, waterborne diseases were the second most commonly reported primary health problem in each month of the second quarter. This is likely related to inadequate access to clean drinking water, with the largest portion of settlements in Ayod and Fangak Counties reporting waterborne diseases as the main health problem, in addition to having the highest proportion of assessed settlements using unprotected water sources in each month in the second quarter. 43% and 54% of assessed settlements in Ayod and Fangak reported using unprotected water sources in

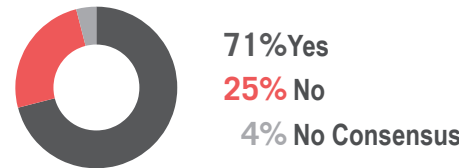
June.

Moreover, reported levels of latrine usage in assessed settlements remained extremely low across Jonglei, with 65% of assessed settlements reporting no latrine usage at all in June. Assessed counties along the River Nile (Bor South, Twic East, Duk, Ayod, Fangak Counties) reported no latrine usage in 74% of assessed settlements, showing no considerable change compared with figures for April (73%). This is particularly concerning as while the major cholera outbreak starting in 2016 was declared over in February 2018, an epidemiological study of cholera hotspots in South Sudan published in April 2018 identified 18 cholera hotspots on the basis of previous outbreaks, 4 of which were located in Jonglei (Bor South, Duk, Fangak, Canal/Pigi Counties).<sup>21</sup> Given inadequate WASH conditions in counties along the river Nile and high prevalence of waterborne diseases, these locations may be vulnerable in the event of future outbreaks.

### Education

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education services remained stable in the second quarter of 2018, with 49% of assessed settlements

**Figure 8: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health services in assessed settlements in Jonglei in June 2018.**



19 SGBV is comprised of indicators : Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Early or forced marriage.  
20 Unicef and Prospective Cooperation, In-depth cholera epidemiological report for South Sudan. April 2018.

21 Unicef and Prospective Cooperation, In-depth cholera epidemiological report for South Sudan. April 2018.

reporting access to education services in June, showing no considerable change from March (56%). In June, Nyirol and Uror Counties reported the lowest proportion of assessed settlements with access to education services, 20% and 4% respectively.

In Nyirol, a lack of facilities was the most cited reason for absence of education services, reported by 48% of assessed settlements without access to education. Reflective of persistent insecurity in Uror in the first and second quarter of 2018, destruction of facilities due to conflict was reported by 43% of assessed settlements, representing the most reported reason for absence of education services in Uror County in June.

In assessed settlements with access to education services, girls' attendance remained significantly lower than boys. In only 10% of assessed settlements with access to education was it reported that the majority of girls regularly attend school in June, compared to 47% for boys. This is consistent with reports from FGD participants interviewed in Akobo town who cited expectations that girls should work in the household as a barrier to accessing education. Reflective of the start

of the growing season with the onset of rains, being required to undertake agricultural work was reported by the highest proportion of assessed settlements as the main reason for lack of attendance among boys in each month during the reporting period, reported by 26% of assessed settlements reporting non-attendance in June.

While food insecurity and conflict continued to be key drivers of displacement within and out of Jonglei, it should be noted that inadequate access to education services also represents a key push factor for displaced households and those who seek to become refugees in Ethiopia. In each month in the second quarter, lack of education was the second most commonly reported main push factor for leaving Akobo for Ethiopia.<sup>22</sup> Similarly, lack of education services also gives rise to displacement within Jonglei, with FGD participants interviewed in Bor PoC reporting regular movement of households in settlements in Fangak to Old Fangak to seek education for their children there.

## Conclusion

Persistent insecurity continued to drive displacement in the second quarter, particularly in Greater Akobo, giving rise to heightened humanitarian needs in affected areas.

- Clashes between armed groups in Greater Akobo in April, in addition to incidents of intercommunal cattle raiding resulted in displacement Lankien and Akobo Town, with smaller groups fleeing to Bor PoC. Despite a moderate improvement in security conditions towards the end of the reporting

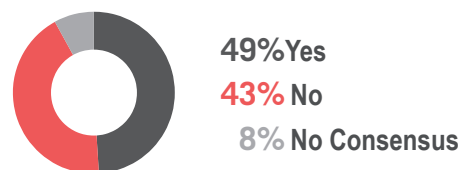
period, intercommunal violence remains prevalent in many parts of Jonglei, likely giving rise to further displacement in months to come.

- The onset of the peak lean season saw deteriorating food security conditions in many locations in Jonglei during the reporting period. Overall, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food rose between March and June. In particular, conflict affected Nyirol and Uror reported significant deterioration. Variance in access to humanitarian assistance remained a key determinant of food security in assessed settlements, with populations in remote locations, or those unable to access assistance due to insecurity particularly vulnerable to food shortages. Moreover, conflict and displacement consistently emerge as key factors behind food shortages, reflective of persistent insecurity, particularly in Northern Jonglei.
- Access to basic services in assessed settlements was also negatively impacted by conflict and displacement, in addition to environmental factors such as flooding. Access to health services remained stable overall in the second quarter, while counties along the River Nile continued to report most acute WASH needs, with access to latrines most limited in these locations. Displaced populations and those affected by conflict continued experience high shelter and NFI needs in the second quarter. Given malaria remained the most commonly reported primary health problem in each month in

the second quarter, inadequate access to basic NFIs remained a cause of concern, particularly among displaced populations.

- Given continued incidents of intercommunal conflict resulting in displacement, in addition to deteriorating food security conditions as the peak lean season progresses, it is likely humanitarian needs will increase in the coming months.

**Figure 9: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education services in assessed settlements in Jonglei in June 2018.**



### About REACH Initiative

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. 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](mailto:southsudan@reach-initiative.org) or to our global office: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org). Visit [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and follow us @REACH\_info.