

# FACTSHEET #1: UN HOUSE

## JUBA - SOUTH SUDAN

FEBRUARY 2014



### CONTEXT

This fact sheet presents the key findings of a recent REACH assessment in the UN House Protection of Civilians (PoC) area. The motivations for the assessment were twofold: one, internally displaced persons (IDPs) were not receiving important messages from non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and two, tensions between communities in the PoC area were rising.

Humanitarian actors have struggled to communicate with the internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in UN House since their arrival in mid-December 2013. These challenges complicate the dissemination of important messages which can negatively impact effective aid delivery. A lack of understanding among humanitarian actors on governance structures, both traditional / tribal (chiefs) and recent (block leaders) has compounded these communication challenges. Second, UN House hosts an ethnically diverse group of individuals, composed primarily of a variety of different Nuer tribes (of South Sudanese nationality) as well as smaller populations of foreign nationals, namely Ethiopians, Somalis, and

Eritreans. In recent weeks, tensions have begun to rise within and between some of these groups, creating aspirations for future relocation within the PoC area.

To address these two challenges, REACH undertook an assessment with the following goals:

1. To better understand the demographic composition of the IDPs, namely their national and tribal backgrounds, as well as their numbers and spatial distribution in the site.
2. To better understand leadership structures and sources of information, in hopes that this will contribute to more effective community mobilization and service provision.
3. To better understand the intentions of these various communities in the PoC area with respect to potential relocation.

This research hopes to contribute to an improved understanding of these groups-their reasons for potential relocation, their relationship with the governance structure, and their spatial distribution throughout the PoC area - which will support humanitarian actors operating in the site with community mobilization, outreach, and potential relocation.<sup>1</sup>

Data collection included information about the IDPs in UN House:

- Place of origin and most recent residence
- Ethnic background at tribal and sub-tribal levels
- Potential reasons to relocate within the PoC area and information sources
- Awareness of community and block leadership

## METHODOLOGY

The REACH team hired 27 enumerators to collect data from February 12 – 15, 2014. The enumerators visited every shelter in the PoC area, where they asked each head of household to answer a brief survey<sup>2</sup> (see Annex 1 for questionnaire, and Annex 2 for table with number of households, vacant shelters, and commercial properties, by block). Once the survey is completed, the REACH enumerator marks the shelter to prevent other enumerators from administering the questionnaire a second time for the same household. Enumerators only administer the survey to the head of household at his/her shelter in attempts to avoid any possible double-counting.<sup>3</sup>

To conduct the questionnaire, the REACH enumerators used smart phones with ODK (Open Data Kit), a mobile data collection platform. While administering the questionnaire, each enumerator captured the GPS points for the shelter to allow for spatial analysis of the distribution of various groups within the community.

The REACH team developed the questionnaire in close consultation with camp management and community mobilization staff in UN House, following a series of key informant interviews in the PoC area to determine salient issues and challenges in the site.

It is important to note that during data collection, a dispute between several groups caused several hundred individuals to relocate within the PoC area. This complicated data collection and analysis in the following ways:

- many foreign nationals completed the survey in their original block and relocated to the holding area mid-week and it is impossible to differentiate these individuals from others in the holding area;
- as the REACH team began administering the questionnaire in the holding area, they observed a rapid increase in the number of foreign nationals present (i.e. the team perceived that these individuals were contacting additional members of their community, potentially from outside the PoC area, to appear to have larger numbers);
- in the holding area there are very few shelters, so many of the foreign nationals are sleeping elsewhere (either in Juba or somewhere in the PoC area). As the situation was temporary and unclear, the REACH team did not capture GPS data in the holding area;
- the recent conflict in the PoC area may have changed the perceptions of those interviewed mid-week resulting in availability bias (i.e. perhaps those interviewed later in the week are more likely to consider security and safety in their responses than they would have previously).<sup>4</sup>

**REACH** is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate 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 in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information visit: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and follow us @REACH\_info

<sup>1</sup> While relocation plans in UN House are not confirmed, there are plans to facilitate the transfer of several hundred IDPs from UNMISS Tongping to UN House.

<sup>2</sup> A household was defined as a family unit who inhabit the same shelter. The defining element of a household in this questionnaire was a group of people who share a single decision maker.

<sup>3</sup> It is important to note that in UN House, while men are typically heads of household, single-headed households exist, many of which are female-led. This assessment questioned the head of the shelter at the time of the survey, meaning both men and women responded.

<sup>4</sup> For more reading on the beliefs and desires of foreign nationals in UN House, see "Foreign Nationals Assessments Findings", an ACTED assessment from February 2014.

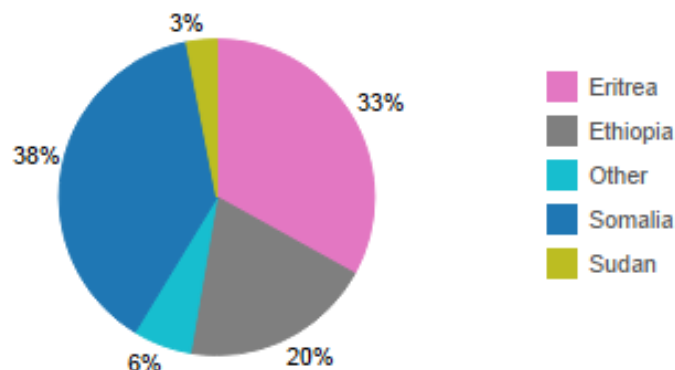
## FINDINGS

This assessment surveyed 1,665 households in UN House, for a reported total of 8,705 residents.<sup>5</sup>

### NATIONALITY

The vast majority (91%) of all respondents reported South Sudanese nationality. The remaining 789 respondents reported being nationals of at least 9 different countries (see figure 1 for breakdown of population of foreign nationals by country.) The largest groups include those from Eritrea (269), Ethiopia (160), and Somalia (311), as well as Sudan (25), Chad (4), Burundi (2), D.R. Congo (2), Liberia (1), and unknown (15).

Figure 1: Foreign nationals in UN House



### ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS

In UN House, 87% of those who were represented in this assessment report being Nuer—over 95% of all South Sudanese living in the PoC area. Among the Nuer, respondents identified with over 100 sub-tribes (see figure 3).

<sup>5</sup> It is important to note that many IDPs exit the site during the day, and while every attempt was made to visit vacant shelters repeatedly, some residents were not present during the sweep. Therefore, the data below are not exhaustive of the population, but represent a snapshot of the site population from February 12-15, 2014. The numbers in this fact sheet reflect the reports of the heads of household of these 1,665 shelters.

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In addition to Nuer, the most common South Sudanese tribe in UN House is Equatorian (258, of which 92 identified as Bari), with smaller tribes including Anyuak (27), Shilluk (26), Kakua (22), and Dinka (18) (see figure 2).

Figure 2: Tribes in UN House

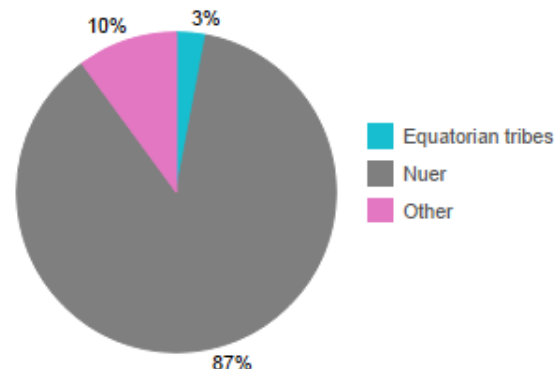
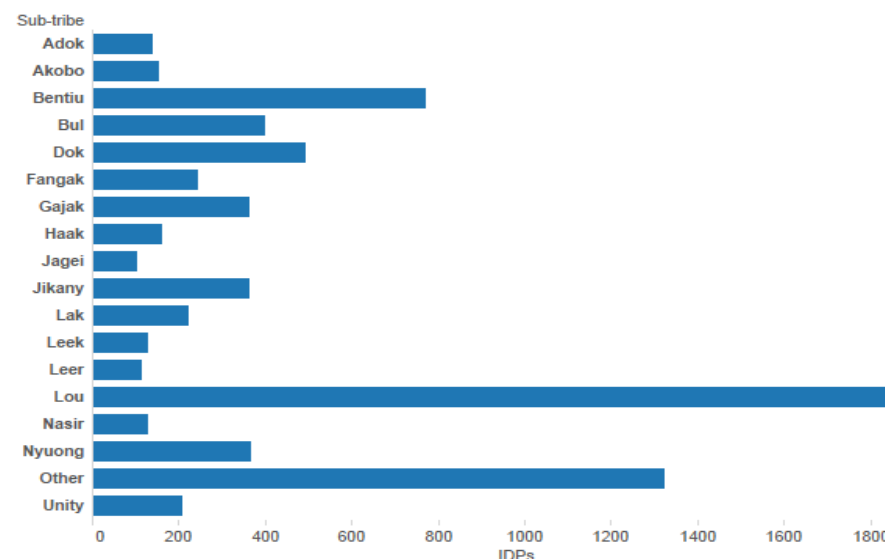


Figure 3: Nuer sub-tribes in UN House

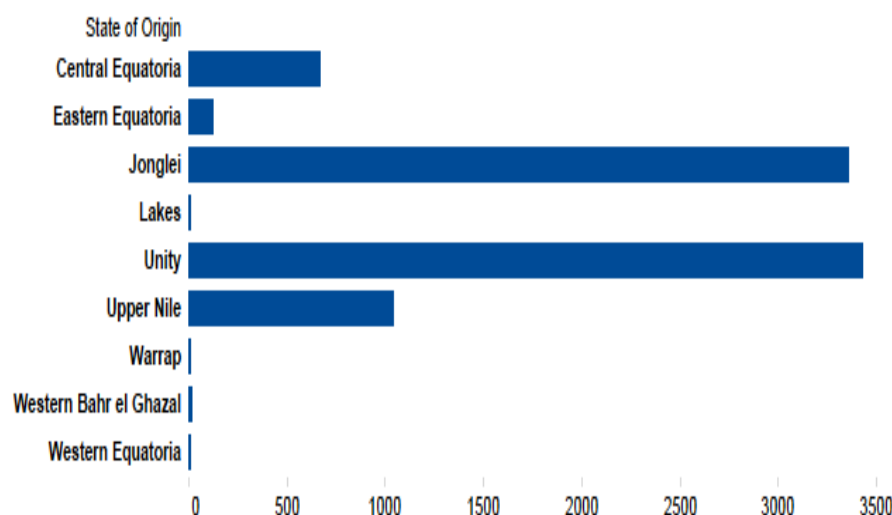


## PLACE OF ORIGIN OF DISPLACED PERSONS

Following the signature of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 and the end of the Second Civil War, relocation throughout South Sudan increased. The population of Juba itself grew significantly, with 163,000 residents in 2005, to the current estimates of between 250,000-350,000. Many IDPs identify with their place of origin, as geographic identity is closely linked to tribal identity. For that reason the REACH team asked questions about both the place of origin and recent residence to explore this relationship.

When asked about place of origin, the IDPs reported coming from nine states in South Sudan (all but Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal), with a majority coming from Unity and Jonglei states (see figure 4). From Jonglei State—the largest and most populated of South Sudan's 10 states—the greatest number come from Akobo County (15% of all respondents in UN House) and to a lesser extent Fangak and Niyrol Counties (6% and 5% of all respondents, respectively). Those from Unity State cited Leer, Mayom, and Panyijar Counties as the most common counties of origin during the assessment, with 11%, 8%, and 8% of all respondents, respectively.

Figure 4: State of origin



## RESIDENCE BEFORE THE CRISIS

Three-fourths of all interviewed IDPs in UN House were living in Juba when the crisis began. Of those living in Juba, commonly reported neighbourhoods include Checkpoint (15%), Jebel (23%), Jebel Market (9%), and Khor William (12%).

Of the 25% of IDPs living in UN House that did not arrive from Juba, 12% were living in Jonglei State and 7% were displaced from Unity State. Almost one-quarter (24%) of the IDPs surveyed in UN House relocated from their place of origin over 5 years ago, and another half (51%) between 1 and 5 years ago. The remaining quarter of IDPs relocated from their place of origin less than one year ago.

## RELOCATION WITHIN THE POC AREA

As previously stated, the rising tension in the PoC area in part motivated the need to conduct this assessment. As the tension is derived from ethnic and national identities, the REACH team wanted to investigate the assumption that if individuals intend to move within the PoC area, their primary objective would be to move closer to their communities.

When asked about the most important considerations for a potential future relocation within the PoC area, the REACH team found that only 11% of respondents reported that their main reason for potential relocation would be to move closer to their community. In fact, intentions to move closer to one's community matched intentions to move closer to humanitarian assistance / points of service (11% and 10%, respectively).

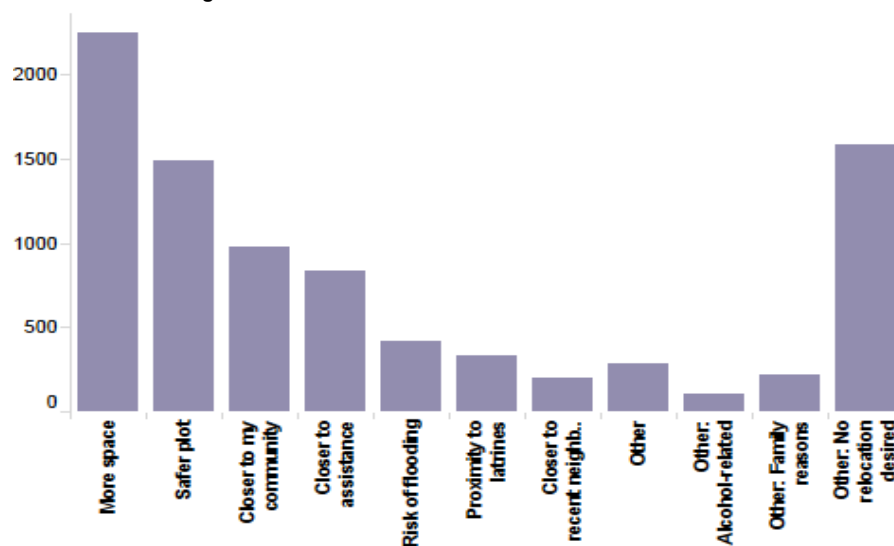
For foreign nationals, only 7% reported wanting to be closer to their community, while 10% do not want to relocate. At the tribe level, none of the Shilluk, 2% of the Bari, and 25% of the Equatorians reported wanting to relocate closer to their communities. However, one of the three Dinka households (representing 56% of interviewed Dinkas) and over 17 Nuer sub-tribes, most of which were 1-2 households (representing 20 or fewer people), indicated that they would like to move closer to their communities. With larger Nuer sub-tribes, closeness of community was less of a priority.

According to respondents, the primary reason for which they would consider being relocated within the PoC area is for more space (26%), with improved safety being a second motive for relocation (17%).

The frequency with which respondents cited safety as a reason for potential relocation may be the result of the aforementioned availability bias, as they may be likely to recall recent events while completing the survey, especially emotionally charged ones (i.e. the conflict between the various groups). Nearly a third (32%) of foreign nationals reported that they want to move for safety reasons—the highest cited reason for relocation with this group—followed by more space (17%) and proximity to assistance (12%).

It is also important to note that 18% of those interviewed stated that they do not want to move, particularly because they had to select “other” and offer that they were content to remain in their current plot. Of the quarter of respondents who indicated “other”, many selected situational challenges, such as problems with theft, alcoholism, and lack of materials, which could potentially be mitigated without relocation.

Figure 5: Reasons for relocation within the PoC area

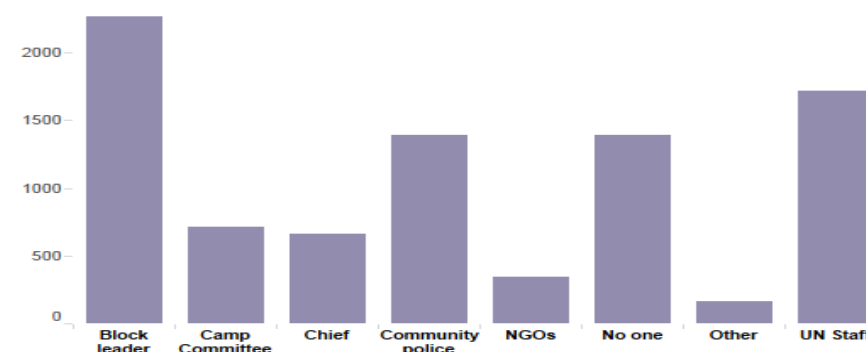


<sup>6</sup> Many of the REACH enumerators observed that while some respondents do not know the name of their block leader or chief, they can identify him by his appearance, and are aware of his identity. These respondents were counted as “yes” when asked if they know who their block leader or chief is.

## LEADERSHIP AND INFORMATION IN THE POC AREA

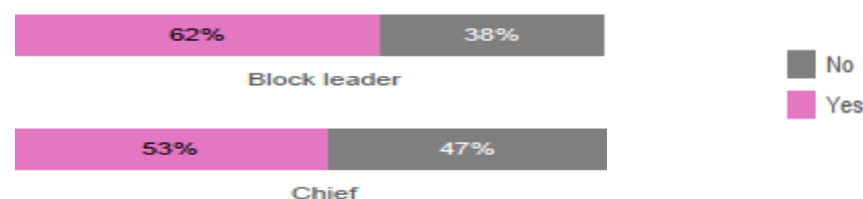
When asked who to turn to when problems arise, the responses varied widely with block leaders and UN staff receiving the greatest amount of responses from those surveyed (see figure 6). Among South Sudanese nationals, respondents cited higher support for their block leader (25%) than UN staff (16%), whereas foreign nationals report the opposite, with only 12% turning to their block leader and 42% turning to UN staff.

Figure 6: Who do you turn to first when you have a problem in the PoC area?



Within the PoC area, there are a number of community leaders who represent the major tribes and foreign national communities, yet only half (53%) of respondents reported knowing their chief. Block leaders, who represent an informal geographic space within the PoC area, enjoy slightly more recognition; 62% of respondents reported knowing their block leader.<sup>6</sup>

Figure 7: Knowledge of block leader and chief

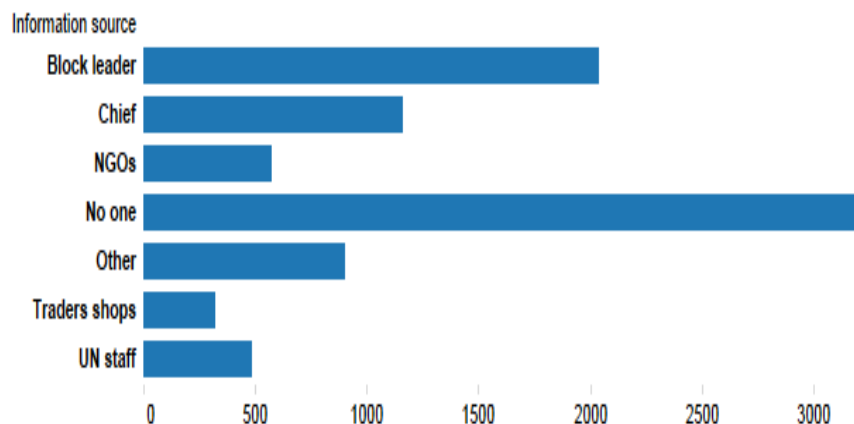


Among foreign nationals, these percentages remain similar (58% know their block leader, 56% know their chief), with slightly less knowledge of their chief than their South Sudanese neighbours (63% of whom reported knowing their chief). However, some individuals seem to be more informed or engaged in the community in general than others, as there is a correlation between these variables (81% of those who know their chief also know their block leader's identity).

Finally, the REACH team asked the IDPs about where they receive their information (see figure 8). The most frequently cited response was “no one” (37%). A lack of an information source is not necessarily the result of large-scale displacement; a slightly higher percentage of those arriving from outside Juba reported having a source of information (77% to 73%). Those from other parts of South Sudan rely most heavily on chiefs (26%) and block leaders (21%) for their information.

Foreign nationals reported receiving more information from their chief (24%) as well as UN staff and block leaders (both 18%), with about one-quarter (26%) citing that they received information from no one. South Sudanese nationals, on the other hand, report a much larger information gap, with 38% reporting that they receive information from no one. Unlike foreign nationals, twice as many South Sudanese respondents report to rely on their block leader (24%) than their chief (12%) for information.

**Figure 8: Reported sources of information**



## CONCLUSION

The goals of this assessment were: first, to understand the demographic composition of communities in the PoC area; second, to understand the governance structure in the PoC area and how IDPs gather information; and third, to understand the intentions of various communities with respect to potential relocation. To that end, this assessment has produced a number of conclusions related to the IDPs' leadership structures, information channels, and reasons for potential relocation.

If relocation is to take place in UN House, further research should be done to explore whether the challenges IDPs face can be remedied without relocation. As the question was worded “For which of the following reasons would you be willing to move within the PoC area?” it may have discouraged individuals from selecting “other” and suggesting that they don't want to move. This would mean that the percentage of individuals who don't desire relocation may actually be higher.

As space is perceived to be a key concern among IDPs, particularly crowded blocks could be prioritized in the event of relocation. The highest percentage of requests for more space came from residents in blocks S, B, and L (52%, 45%, and 43%, respectively), as well as blocks C, F, H (29%) and G (27%).

To improve community mobilization efforts and reception of sensitization messages, NGOs could work more closely with the block leaders (especially when messages are relevant for South Sudanese community), as well as chiefs and UN staff (particularly when the target audience includes foreign nationals) to disseminate important information.

Alternatively, block leaders and chiefs may not be viewed as representative or legitimate in their communities—less than two-thirds (62%) of respondents know their block leaders and just over half of respondents knows the identity of their chief. Communication channels between the NGO community and the IDPs may be improved by either encouraging the recognition of this leadership structure within the PoC area, or by reforming the governance structure entirely. Follow up research should be conducted to determine the level of legitimacy these two leadership structures share with their respective communities.