

# Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

January 2017

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## Introduction

Displacement trends, humanitarian access and population needs have all been negatively affected by inter-communal violence and deepening political tensions in the month of January. Overall, humanitarian needs in Jonglei increased in January as ongoing tensions between armed groups, as well as decades of conflict continue to negatively impact populations' access to basic services and ability to meet basic needs. Most alarming, access to food has further declined for IDP and non-displaced populations since December, representing a negative trend of critically low food security levels since October 2016.

To inform the response of humanitarians working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH is conducting an ongoing assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan, for which data on settlements across the Greater Upper Nile region is collected on a monthly basis. Between 9 and 31 January, REACH interviewed 990 Key Informants (KIs) from 271 settlements in 9 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State. 291 KIs were interviewed in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 235 in Juba PoC 1 and 3, 216 in Bor Town, 153 in Akobo Town, 88 in Bor PoC and 7 in Nyal.

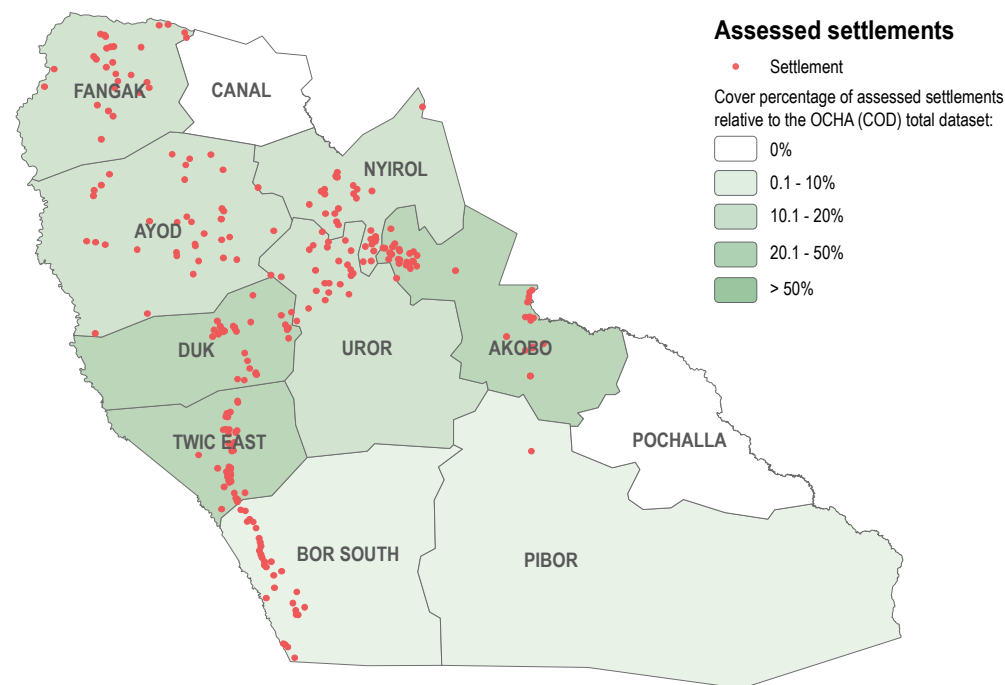
New arrivals were specifically targeted during the data collection phase to ensure a

better understanding of current displacement dynamics. Forty-one per cent of respondents interviewed had arrived in their displacement location in December or January, and therefore had up-to-date information about the village from which they had been displaced. The remaining KIs (59%) reported to have been in regular contact with someone living in the settlement within the last month.

Interviews were triangulated with nine Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), conducted in January with 1) new arrivals displaced from Mandeng in Upper Nile State to Akobo Town and 2) IDPs who had recently left Yei and Juba for Bor Town and Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement. In addition to a discussion of displacement dynamics, FGDs involved a participatory mapping exercise to understand the routes that new arrivals took to come to their respective arrival destination.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the December Situation Overview for Jonglei State.<sup>1</sup> The first section of this report analyses displacement trends in Jonglei State in January, as well as the push and pull factors that shaped patterns of displacement. The second section evaluates the population dynamics in the assessed settlements, as well as access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

**Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, January 2017**



## Population Movement and Displacement

In January 2017, Jonglei remained a politically divided state, split between SPLA-controlled areas to the west in the surrounding areas of Bor, SPLA-IO-controlled areas to the east, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in the Murle and Anuyak dominated south east. Localized inter-communal violence as a consequence

of child abductions and cattle raiding activities persisted, with a large attack reported in Palouch, Duk County, in mid-January, in which several people were reportedly killed and injured, and a considerable number of cattle raided.<sup>2</sup> Announcements made by authorities in January to potentially forcefully recover thousands of cattle that were stolen in another large-scale raid, in Jalle in December, and reports of related mobilization, could further

<sup>1</sup> Due to a change in methodology from community- to settlement-level analysis, the numbers in this report are not directly comparable with those of Situation Overviews from pre-December 2016. REACH used to aggregate and analyse data at the community, or sub-clan, level. As of December 2016, data is analysed at the settlement, or village, level.

<sup>2</sup> Radio Tamazuj: 11 killed and 13 wounded in Duk cattle raid, 17 January 2017.

## 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 receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Juba Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, Bor Town, Bor PoC, Akobo, as well as in Nyal in Unity State, throughout January 2017.

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.

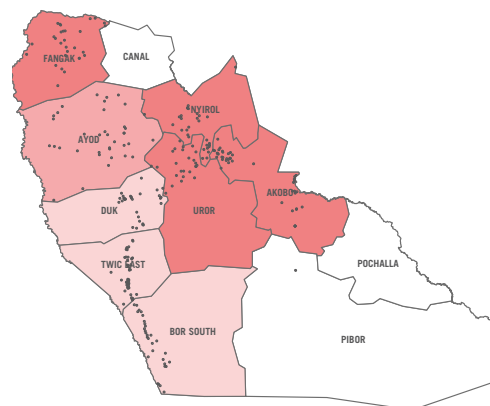
After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

It must be noted that this represents a **change in methodology as of December 2016**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with Situation Overviews from before December 2016**.

increase the likelihood for violence among Jonglei’s communities in the weeks to come.<sup>3</sup> These trends pose a threat to the UNMISS-supported peace deal between the Dinka and Murle communities signed in December 2016.<sup>4</sup> At the same time, a presidential decree from late January announcing the creation of additional states in Jonglei, coupled with an order to bring newly appointed governors into SPLA-IO-held territory, could negatively impact the wider conflict dynamics within Jonglei in the near future.<sup>5</sup>

As in previous months, de-population in settlements assessed was high in January, which is likely a reflection of security developments in the state. Almost all settlements assessed (99%) reported that at least a proportion of the population remained. However, of these, 62% reported a population decrease of 50% or more, with the same proportion reported in December. **De-population was particularly severe in Western Jonglei, indicative of the conflict-patterns witnessed in the area.** Further, only 4% of assessed settlements reported no population decrease, suggesting that continuing displacement remains a key concern in Jonglei.

Forty per cent of assessed communities reported that they were hosting IDPs in January. Overall, this indicates a large presence of IDPs outside of formal displacement sites in Jonglei. Although Duk, Twic East and Bor South also hosted some IDPs, **the overall highest concentration of IDPs in settlements assessed was reported in the less conflict-**



**Map 2: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting presence of IDPs, January 2017**

**affected Greater Akobo area (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo counties), followed by Fangak and then Ayod. All IDP hosting settlements assessed in Greater Akobo reported IDPs in their village originated from Greater Akobo, with IDPs displaced from the same or a neighbouring county.**

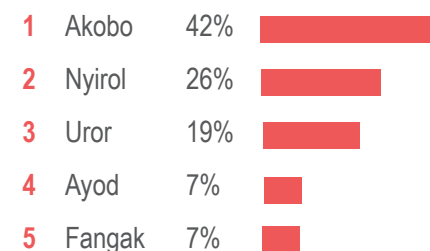
Further, Greater Akobo also saw the largest proportion of recently returned local community among settlements assessed, out of which 58% reported returns in January. Out of these 141 settlements, 86 settlements provided information on when returns had occurred, with 50% of these settlements reporting they had received returnees in December 2016 and January 2017. As illustrated in Figure 1, **recent returns in settlements assessed exclusively**

occurred in Greater Akobo, and to a lesser extent, in Fangak and Ayod.

**Western Jonglei in comparison did not report recent returns**, which may be linked to this area being more conflict-affected as well as generally having lower access to services, as has been found in previous REACH assessments.<sup>6</sup>

Overall, these findings suggest that conflict-affected Duk, Twic East and Bor South saw more de-population of local communities in January, whilst more stable Greater Akobo appears to be a destination for IDPs and returnees, although small-scale displacement continues as a result of lack of access to food and localized insecurity in rural areas surrounding Akobo.

**Figure 1: Percentage of assessed settlements in January 2017 reporting returns occurred in December 2016 and January 2017 by county<sup>7</sup>**



Please refer to the map on the next page for a general overview of displacement to, within and from Jonglei. However, it is highly likely that recorded movement does not adequately reflect the full extent of ongoing displacement in Jonglei State in January.

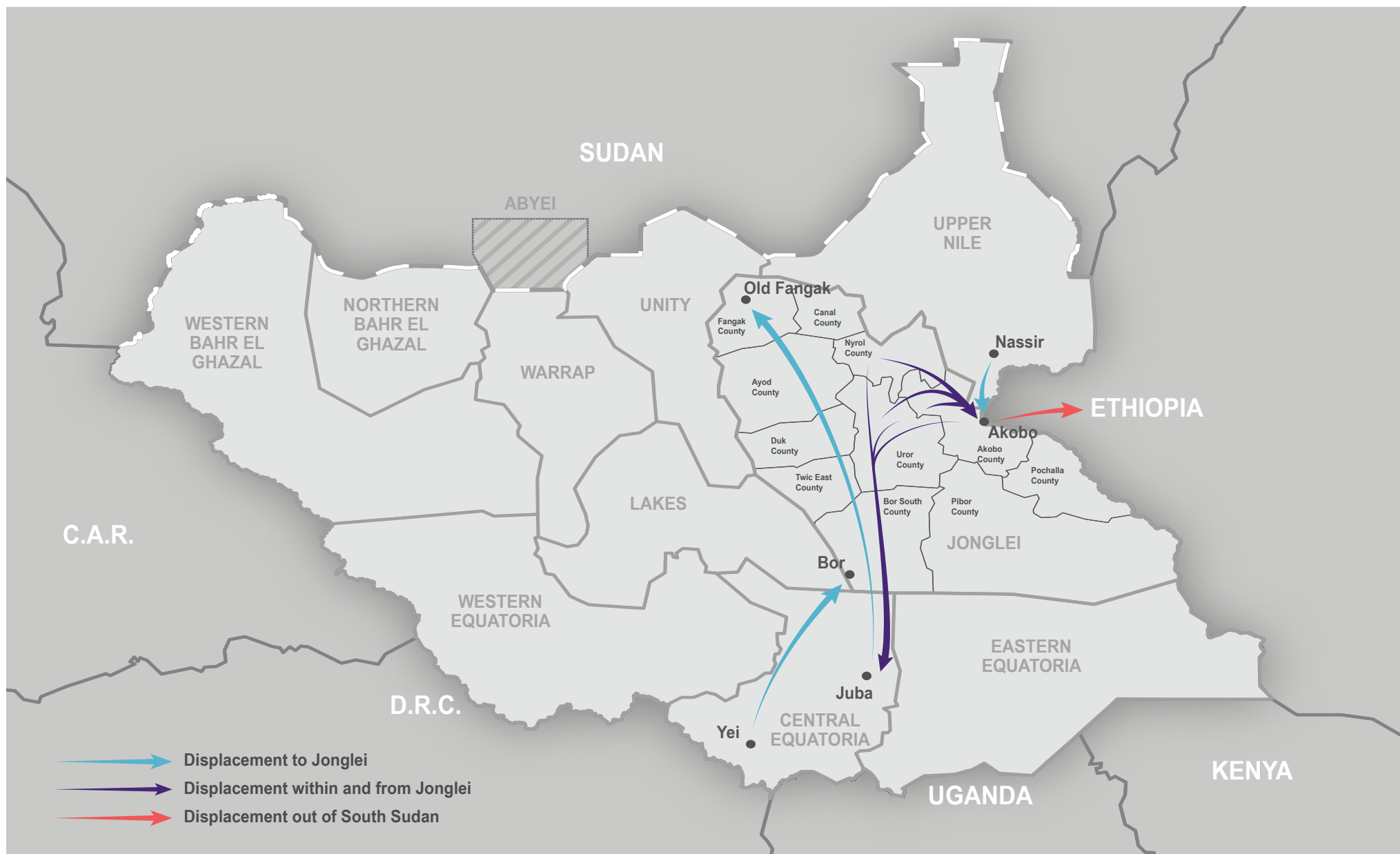
3 IOM South Sudan: DTM Conflict and Displacement Analysis, Weekly Brief, 12 January 2017; Sudan Tribune: Jonglei claims over 12,000 cattle from Pibor-Likuangole, 9 January 2017.

4 Sudan Tribune: Boma state did less to implement the peace deal - Governor, 31 January 2017

5 Radio Tamazuj: Kiir creates eight new states, fires central bank governor; Kiir orders new governor to go to rebel-held Bieh state, both articles 24 January 2017.

6 See REACH Jonglei Situation Overviews for October - December 2016, and REACH Jonglei Multisectoral Crisis Overview: June-September 2016

7 43 assessed settlements reported returns in December 2016 and January 2017.



Map 3: Displacement Overview Jonglei State, January 2017

### Situation of new arrivals from Yei in Mingkaman Informal Settlement

Between October 2016 and January 2017, REACH has also observed the **arrival of some IDPs from Yei in Mingkaman Informal Settlement** in neighbouring Lakes State. Thousands of people displaced from Western Jonglei have been residing in this site since the crisis in 2013 as they perceive Jonglei to be unsafe to return.

**Humanitarian actors in Mingkaman reported that IDPs from Yei have not received any type of assistance since arrivals first came in October.** FGD respondents in Mingkaman reported that they were sharing food and shelter with other IDPs but did not have adequate access to food. They cited their **priority needs as 1) food, 2) shelter, and 3) NFIs**. Some reported to lack money for onward transport to Bor, whereas others stated they preferred to stay in Mingkaman for its perceived safety. All KIs indicated they had lost their assets when fleeing Yei, and not all IDPs interviewed were able to rely on family and relatives for support, demonstrating their particular vulnerability. Consequently, **protection actors should conduct an assessment to better understand the humanitarian needs of IDPs from Yei in Mingkaman**, as well as to get a clearer picture of the number of arrivals.

### Displacement to Jonglei

#### New arrivals from Yei to Bor Town

Since October 2016, there has been a steady trend of IDPs displaced from the Equatorias, in particular Yei, arriving in Bor Town, which has continued in January. These are populations originally from Jonglei, who were resident in key towns in the Equatorias, such as Yei and Nimule. Since July 2016, as a result of clashes that have affected Yei, these residents have moved back to Bor. The latest estimate at the end of December from local authorities suggests that 5,335 individuals from Yei have arrived in Bor.<sup>8</sup>

FGDs conducted with IDPs from Yei who had arrived in Bor and Mingkaman between December and January found that the **main push factor for displacement from Yei continues to be fighting and related lack of food and service access**. The majority of respondents used the Yei-Juba road, with some participants having travelled to Nimule first and from there on to Juba. Some KIs reported great insecurity on the road from Yei, and were reportedly affected by road ambushes.

Most KIs reported initially spending some weeks in Juba, where food and shelter access were reportedly major issues. Given the poor living conditions in Juba, as well as the fact that Jonglei is their area of origin, where many had hoped to find support through the local community, they proceeded by boat or road to Bor and Mingkaman. According to humanitarian actors in Bor, IDPs from Yei also face vulnerable

conditions in Bor where they live integrated with the host community. A Protection Cluster Vulnerability Assessment from December identified 2,714 recent arrivals from Yei that fall under the Persons with Specific Needs (PSNs) categories.<sup>9</sup> Although humanitarian actors reported that initial food assistance has been provided by humanitarian agencies, other priority needs such as NFIs and shelter access have reportedly not been met yet. Further, with arrivals from Yei having continued since the PSN identification exercise, the number of vulnerable populations in need of assistance is likely to have grown, requiring continued assessment of the situation.

Both IDPs in Mingkaman as well as in Bor Town reported that they had no intention to return to Yei. Many are likely to stay in their current locations, as their areas of origin, Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties, were perceived to be unsafe and lack services.

For more background information on displacement from Yei to Bor and Mingkaman, please refer to the October Situation Overview.<sup>10</sup>

#### Population movement from Juba to Fangak

Since mid-November 2016, humanitarian actors in Old Fangak have noted a large influx of populations who are believed to be originally from Fangak but had previously resided in Juba PoC and collective centres.<sup>11</sup> According to IOM<sup>12</sup> as well as humanitarian actors in Bor, who monitor the Bor port for populations transiting by boat to locations up North, **movement to Fangak has continued in**

**January**. However, it is unclear what proportion of these populations were permanently returning to Fangak, as many were believed to only transit through Old Fangak to reach New Fangak. From there, they reportedly moved on by foot to Panyikang to cross into Sudan.<sup>13</sup> Given the unstable security situation in Greater Upper Nile, onward movement from Fangak to Sudan may be negatively affected in the weeks to come if Panyikang becomes unpassable.

As existing services have reportedly been strained by the recent population influx into Old Fangak, **there is a need to more closely monitor movements to Old Fangak as well as secondary movements to Sudan** to assess the level of humanitarian support required by those who plan to permanently stay in Fangak.

#### Displacement from Nassir to Akobo Town

As was the case in December, IDPs displaced from the Nassir area in Upper Nile State arrived to Akobo Town in January. KIs from the Mandeng area in Nassir county reported that they had fled because armed clashes took place in the area in December and January. As a result, IDP sites in eastern Upper Nile such as Jikmir and Wanding received a major IDP influx in January.<sup>14</sup> However, KIs interviewed in Akobo did not go to these sites due to difficulties in accessing food there. Instead, respondents travelled directly from Mandeng to Akobo Town via Wanding, Wechtut and Wehdeng.

Perceived security, access to food as well as the presence of family members and relatives with whom IDPs could share shelter and food

8 South Sudan Protection Cluster: Protection Trends South Sudan: October-December 2016, February 2017

9 Ibid.

10 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016.

11 See REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

12 IOM South Sudan: DTM Conflict and Displacement Analysis, Weekly Brief, 12 January 2017

13 UNHCR South Sudan: Assessment on departures from PoC Sites in Juba, December 2016.

14 See REACH Upper Nile Situation Overview for January 2017; OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin 1, 16 January 2017.

were the main pull factors for choosing to come to Akobo Town. Given the current instability in Upper Nile, FGD participants did not anticipate returning to Mandeng in the near future. When probed about intentions to move on towards camps in Ethiopia, respondents explained that this was unlikely as they felt a strong connection to Akobo. This was explained by the fact that people of the same origin reside in the town, which was reportedly an important factor with regards to relocation decisions. Overall, with conflict in Upper Nile still ongoing, Akobo Town is likely to see further IDPs from the Nassir areas in the weeks to come, which will put existing social services in the town under further strain.

### Displacement within and from Jonglei

As was the case in previous months, displacement from Greater Akobo to Akobo Town has continued in January. REACH surveyed 115 newly arrived IDPs in Akobo Town originating from these counties. However, some populations recently displaced from Greater Akobo also appear to have made the long journey to Juba, where REACH interviewed 148 new arrivals coming from Greater Akobo in Juba PoC 1 and 3 in January. As in December, **the top reported reason for new arrivals who had recently left Greater Akobo to both Akobo Town and Juba was food insecurity**, reported by 59% of KIs. This was followed by lack of health services (48%) and insecurity (39%).

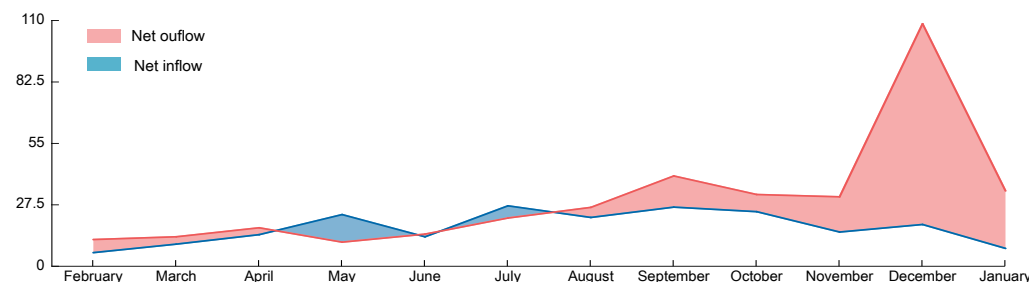
Overall, there appears to be a **trend of food**

**Figure 2: Top reported reasons of new arrivals to leave Greater Akobo, January 2017<sup>15</sup>**



**insecurity having become a stronger displacement driver in Greater Akobo in recent months.** Whereas in October and November 2016 new arrivals reported insecurity as top push factor, since December a lack of food has been the primary reason. This is also consistent with findings from FGDs conducted in the last quarter of 2016. Increases in food insecurity are likely related to the approaching lean season (February-July). According to the latest analysis by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), using the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) model, food insecurity is anticipated to worsen in this period, warning that across the country, 47% of the population will be severely food insecure by July 2017.<sup>16</sup>

With many rural settlements reportedly having become more de-populated as a result of an inability to cultivate, which is linked to localized insecurity, the population pressure in towns such as Yuai, Waat and Walgak has reportedly increased. This has reportedly further limited peoples' access to food as well as basic services. Access to food distributions was consequently the primary reported pull factor for moving to their current location for 53% of surveyed new arrivals from Greater Akobo.



**Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue); February 2016 to January 2017.<sup>20</sup>**

Perceived security (46% of KIs) as well as access to health and education services (42% both) were secondary and tertiary reasons.

Overall, movement from Greater Akobo to Akobo Town is partly attributable to seasonal migration that annually occurs during the dry season, when food and water access become scarce in parts of Greater Akobo.<sup>17</sup> However, movement trends appear higher than normally observed as a result of the deteriorating food security situation.

For more information about the general dynamics of population movement from Greater Akobo, please refer to the December Situation Overview.<sup>18</sup>

### Displacement out of South Sudan

REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo Town, which tracks movement of South Sudanese heading to or returning from Ethiopian refugee camps, found that **compared to December, displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia has declined in January.**<sup>19</sup> Net outflows of South Sudanese permanently

leaving the country for camps in Ethiopia dropped from an average of 110 individuals a day in December to an average of 30 a day in January, as illustrated in Graph 1. The sharp spike in outflows in December was mainly related to a delayed food distribution in Akobo Town and the finalization of a UNHCR registration that enabled asylum seekers to cross into Ethiopia.<sup>21</sup>

The majority of KIs who transit through Akobo to head to camps in Ethiopia originate from Greater Akobo. However, FGD respondents, from Fangak in Bor PoC, explained how some populations in Juba have used the Juba-Fangak route to travel to Greater Akobo, and then onward to Ethiopia. The Fangak route to Akobo, using the river, was considered safer than the shorter route via Pajut to Akobo.

The primary reason for permanently leaving has remained the same since December when 33% of KIs reported they fled due to a lack of food, which was also reported by 34% in January. **Food insecurity as a factor for leaving to Ethiopia has steadily increased**

15 Most frequently cited as first and second most important reasons.

16 IPC: Key Findings January 2017-July 2017.

17 See REACH: Multi-Sectoral Overview of the Humanitarian Needs in Akobo East, March 2016.

18 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

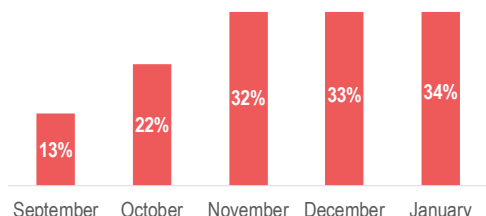
19 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, January 2017.

20 Ibid.

21 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

in importance between September and November 2016 and has since remained at a constant high level, as illustrated in Figure 3. This is perhaps unsurprising given food security in Greater Akobo reportedly increased. Indicative of declining food access in Greater Akobo, returns from Ethiopia to Akobo have also dropped in January. This represents a change to December when returns had slightly increased.

**Figure 3: Percentage of departures indicating lack of food as reason for leaving South Sudan from Akobo, September 2016 to January 2017<sup>22</sup>**



Overall, the continuing outflow to Ethiopia is a worrying trend and despite fewer people having left in January, the **number of departures to Ethiopia were still at a higher level than any other point pre-July 2016**. Akobo Town is likely to continue receiving IDPs in the weeks to come due to ongoing insecurity in Upper Nile as well as the annual dry season migration from Greater Akobo. If populations are unable to meet their basic needs in Akobo Town, this could result in considerable secondary displacement to Ethiopia. **A further population influx into both Akobo Town and camps in Gambella would consequently require a scale-up in humanitarian assistance.**

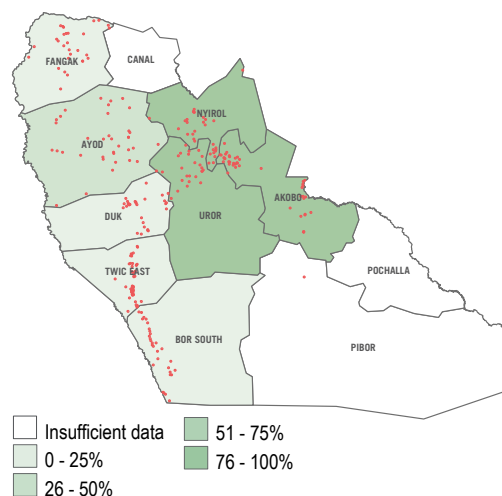
## Situation in Assessed Communities

### Food Security and Livelihoods

**Only 40% of assessed settlements reported that they had adequate access to food in January**, representing a 10% point decline in food access since December. Findings of previous months suggest a negative trend of declining food access in Jonglei since October. Please refer to the November Situation Overview for further information on food security trends in Jonglei during the October/November harvest period.<sup>23</sup>

Food insecurity was particularly prevalent in Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties, with **virtually no settlement assessed in Duk reporting to have adequate food access in January**.<sup>24</sup> These three counties also been reporting the lowest access levels in previous months, indicative of longer-term food security issues that are likely related to conflict and insecurity in the area, as well as natural causes such as flooding in Twic East in August that destroyed crops.<sup>25</sup>

**In Fangak and Ayod, access to adequate amounts of food appears to have declined considerably since December.** In January, only 24% of assessed settlements in Fangak and 29% in Ayod reported to be food secure, whilst in December the same was reported by 61% and 63%, respectively. Findings for Ayod are consistent with a WFP/CRS rapid needs assessment conducted in four locations



**Map 4: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to adequate amounts of food, January 2017**

in Ayod in early February. The assessment suggests 85,000 individuals in these areas are in immediate need of food assistance, with many household reportedly eating only one meal a day, consisting mainly of seeds.<sup>26</sup> Whilst further assessments are needed to better understand the causes and scale of the rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition situation in Ayod and Fangak, the drop in food access may be attributable to floods having destroyed crops, lack of markets and the area receiving irregular food assistance via airdrops only.

In more stable Greater Akobo, food security levels were higher, with around 80% of assessed settlements in Uror, Nyirol and Akobo counties reporting they had adequate access to food

in January, representing a slight improvement compared to December (70%). Assessed settlements located in Greater Akobo reported a higher level of access to food distributions delivered in the previous three months than counties located in Western Jonglei, which may partly explain the better access to food observed in this region.

For more information about which areas in Jonglei are more likely to be food insecure, please refer to the REACH Composite Food Security Indicators map on the next page, published in February 2017, which represents data collected in December and January.

Reflective of a likely link between conflict and food insecurity, **the most commonly cited reason for inadequate access was that it was unsafe to plant**, reported by 84% of food insecure settlements. The same top reason was reported in December (75%). As a result of ongoing localized insecurity impeding populations' ability to cultivate and harvest, **only 22% of assessed settlements cited cultivation as main food source**, representing a decrease of ten percentage points since December. At the same time, crop production was further hindered by a lack of agricultural inputs, with **only 30% of assessed settlements in January reporting that agricultural inputs were available**, compared to 41% in December. Of these, almost none were located in conflict-affected Western Jonglei, demonstrating the longer-term adverse impact of conflict on livelihoods and food security. Moreover, 37% of assessed

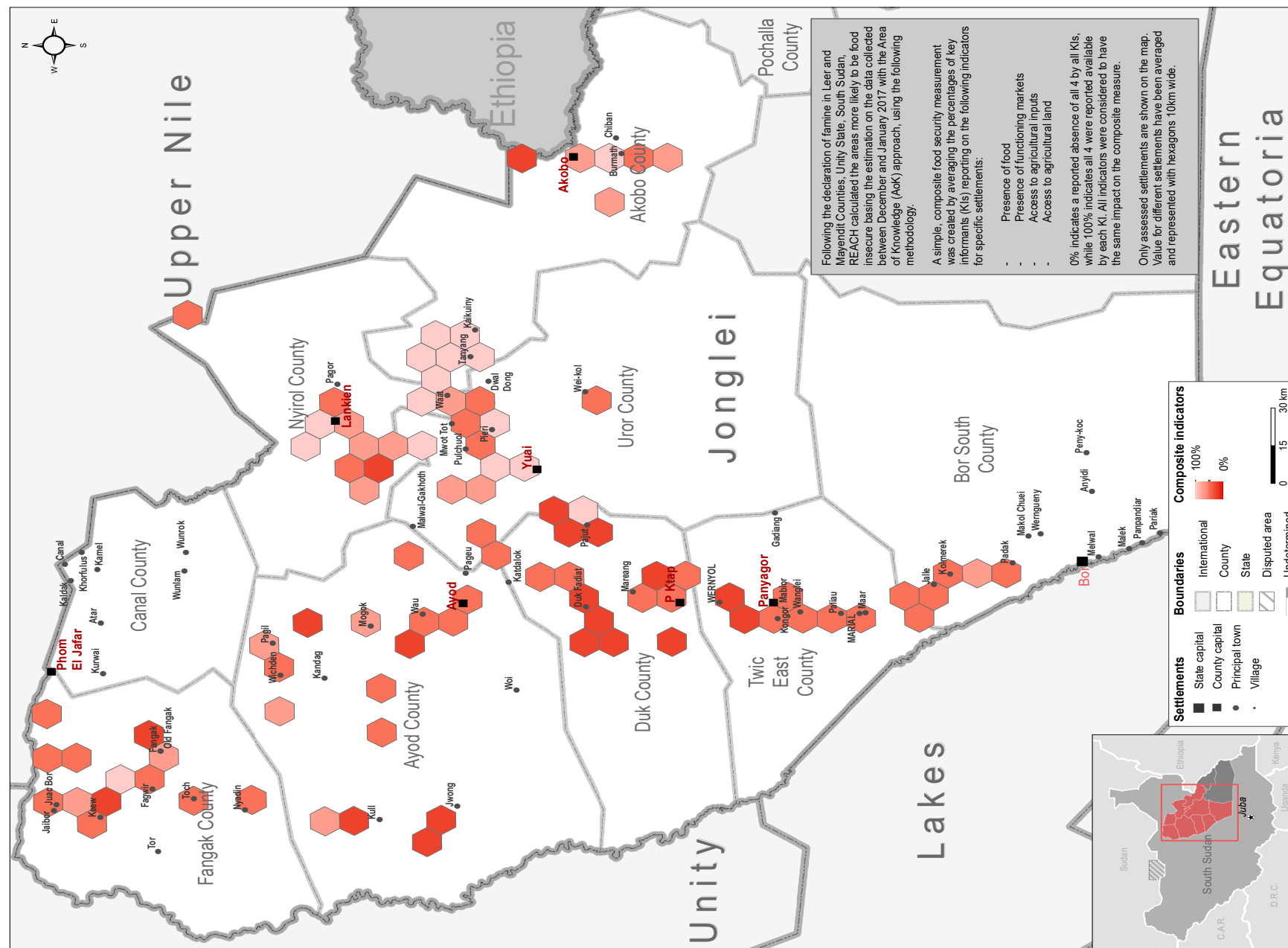
22 REACH port monitoring in Akobo has not been affected by the recent change in AoK methodology. Findings are hence comparable to those of previous months.

23 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, November 2016.

24 In January, data for this indicator was available for 29 assessed settlements in Duk.

25 FEWS NET: Food Security Outlook October 2016 to May 2017.

26 WFP/CRS: Rapid Needs Assessment in Ayod County, February 2017.

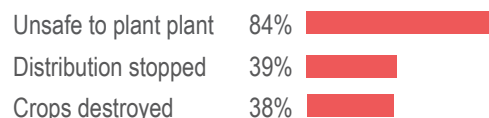


Map 5: Composite Food Security Indicators, December 2016 - January 2017.

settlements reported that most of the farming tools and assets in the community had been looted or abandoned, hindering populations to continue to conduct livelihoods activities, or, for those returning from displacement, restart them.

Further, **39% of settlements assessed in January cited as reason for inadequate food access that food distributions had stopped.** Declining levels of access to food distributions have been reported in January with only 40% of assessed settlements stating food assistance was provided in the last three months, compared to 54% reporting the same in December. Access to food assistance was overall lowest in more instable areas (Ayod, Fangak, Twic East, Duk and Bor South) amongst counties assessed. This may be related to humanitarian access constraints in these areas and, in the case of Ayod and Fangak, irregularity of aid deliveries. These findings are an alarming trend given that **food assistance remained the most common food source in January, reported by 34% of assessed settlements,** suggesting that these settlements have few other reliable food sources, which underlines the importance of food aid provision.

**Figure 4: Top three reported reasons for inadequate food access, January 2017<sup>27</sup>**



Access to food was also restricted by populations' limited ability to source food from markets. Although 61% of assessed settlements reported access to a functioning market, **only 8% relied on markets as main food source.** This is likely attributable to the high costs of food items, as the vast majority of settlements reported that common goods such as sorghum, sugar and vegetable oil were available but had risen in cost since December.

As a result of these factors undermining food security, **populations in settlements assessed reportedly increasingly resort to more extreme coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of food. Alarming, foraging served as primary food source for 20% of settlements assessed,** representing an increase in seven percentage points since December. In addition, in January, more settlements assessed reported gathering of wild fruits to survive, reported by 35% compared to 31% in December. Spending entire days without eating was cited by 27%, a similar proportion as in the previous month. Further, displacement to areas with perceived better food access is a commonly reported coping strategy for populations in Greater Akobo. This could increase considerably in the weeks to come if populations run out of options to source food locally.

Overall, trends in access to food and related coping strategies indicate that Jonglei is facing a growing food insecurity crisis. According to FEWSNET, all counties assessed by REACH in Jonglei are currently classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with projections for February to April

2017 indicating that these counties are likely to remain in Phase 3.<sup>28</sup> However, worsening insecurity is likely to drive new displacement in the coming months, and without an increase in food distributions, access to food is likely to worsen for populations in Jonglei. Further, REACH data suggests that given the continuously high food insecurity levels reported in many parts of the state across the October-January period, the harvest period did not result in improvements in food access, as had been projected by FEWS Net.<sup>29</sup> Consequently, populations are currently facing very high levels of food insecurity, which will be further exacerbated by the approaching extended lean season (February-July).

### WASH and Health

In January, with the exception of Twic East, **all counties bordering the Nile had been affected by confirmed or suspected cholera cases since the initial cholera outbreak in June 2016.**<sup>27</sup> By the end of the month, Fangak, Canal and Duk Counties appeared worst affected by the ongoing outbreak, with 269, 169, 92 cumulative cases reported, respectively.<sup>30</sup> The latest cases were reported on Kwei islands in Bor South County in late January, where populations has been displaced to following the attack on Jalle in December.<sup>31</sup> **High population movement along the Nile puts a considerable number of people at risk of transmitting and contracting the disease.** This is further exacerbated by 22 new cases reported in January in neighbouring Mingkaman<sup>22</sup> from

where GFD-related movements on the river to counties in Western Jonglei regularly occur.

Overall, poor hygiene conditions continued to negatively impact the health situation in Jonglei in January. **More than half of assessed settlements (57%) reported that none of the population in their village used latrines,** representing a slight increase since December (51%). On Jonglei's islands, open defecation is likely to directly contaminate drinking water sources. Coupled with limited access to safe drinking water, which has been reported by 12% of assessed settlements, mainly in Ayod and Fangak, this is likely to explain the current cholera outbreak. With a slight decrease in access to safe drinking water, reported by 10% of settlements in December, as well as the reduction in access to latrines overall WASH conditions appear to have worsened slightly since the previous month.

Malaria continued to be the primary health concern in 75% of assessed settlements, followed by typhoid (44%) and malnutrition (38%). Consequently, the most needed medical items included malaria medication, general drugs, as well as oral rehydration solution.

**Access to health services reportedly improved, with 66% of assessed settlements reporting access in January,** compared to 56% in December. However, this improvement could be partly attributable to different settlements having been assessed. As in the previous month, lack of staff, cited by 47% of settlements, was the top reported reason why healthcare facilities were not available.

<sup>27</sup> Rank three reasons adequate food is not available.

<sup>28</sup> IPC: Key Findings January 2017-July 2017.

<sup>29</sup> FEWS NET: Food Security Outlook October 2016 to May 2017.

<sup>30</sup> OCHA South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin 2, 3 February 2017; Republic of South Sudan - Ministry of Health:

Situation Report #106 on Cholera in South Sudan, 3 February 2017

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

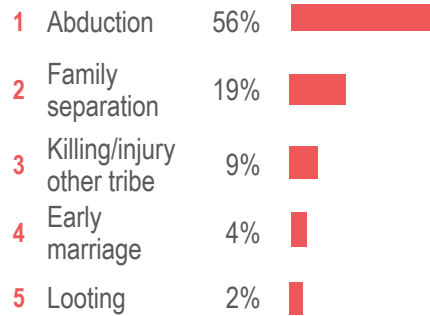
Despite the slight improvement in overall healthcare access, Jonglei's population continues to face serious health concerns. Most notably, continued cases of cholera in the dry season is an indication that **humanitarian actors need to scale up cholera prevention and control activities in the area.**

Protection

In January, indicative of deteriorating security, a slightly higher proportion of assessed settlements reported that men and women feel unsafe both during the day and the night; **28% of settlements reported women feel unsafe at all times and 51% of settlements reported the same for men.** The same was reported by 23% and 50% of assessed settlements in December. Such large proportions of the population feeling unsafe during both day and night **was reportedly because of fears they might be killed or injured by another community.** This was the main protection concern for men in 70% of settlements, and in 53% for women. The proportion of settlements citing threats of killing/injury by other tribes as primary protection issue was overall highest in Bor South, Duk and Twic East, which can be explained by the fact that these counties have been affected by numerous larger-scale attacks against civilians in recent months. Further, the second most common protection concern was reportedly domestic violence for women (17%) and cattle raids for men (13%).

Alarmingly, half of settlements assessed reported that children were unsafe at all times. **Threats of being abducted was reported**

Figure 5: Reported primary protection concerns for children in assessed settlements, January 2017



**as main protection concern for children by over half of settlements assessed.** This was also the case in December when REACH first started collecting data on child protection.

Shelter

In January, 81% of assessed settlements with some population remaining reported that most of the local community continues to live in their own homes. Local populations living in another home in the same village was reported by 17%, while **3% (all in Ayod) reported that most of the local population live in the bush** near to their villages. Populations living in the bush could either be the result of a lack of materials to rebuild shelters after destruction or a protection strategy as populations may have retreated to the bush to avoid being found by armed groups.

Shelter needs of IDPs continued to be high across Jonglei, with **55% of assessed IDP hosting settlements reporting IDPs primarily lived in improvised shelters** in January.

This represents an increase of 13 percentage points compared to December, suggesting that IDP shelter needs have become more severe. For the local community, in contrast, the most frequently cited shelter types were the tukul (94%) and rakoobas (78%). Overall shelter trends for local community members have remained the same since December. For more information about shelter needs of local community members, please refer to the December Situation Overview.<sup>33</sup>

Despite nearly all settlements reporting local community members and IDPs shared shelters, **82% of IDP hosting communities reported that at least a proportion of IDPs in their village were sleeping outside**, similar to the proportion reported in December (85%). The proportion of settlements reporting this was the case was particularly high in Greater Akobo, where among the settlements assessed the highest concentration of IDPs was reported. With regards to shelter materials used for temporary shelter construction, only 8% of settlements reported ropes were available, with the same reported by 17% for NGO plastic sheets.

Figure 6: Top two reported shelter types used by local community, January 2017<sup>34</sup>

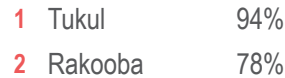
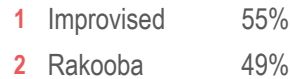


Figure 7: Top two reported shelter types used by IDPs, January 2017



Overall, these findings suggest that the **majority of IDP hosting communities are unable to adequately address IDP shelter needs.** They consequently need to be further supported through the provision of temporary shelter materials, whereby humanitarian actors should prioritize communities in the Walgak, Waat, Lankien area where these issues were found to be most severe.

Education

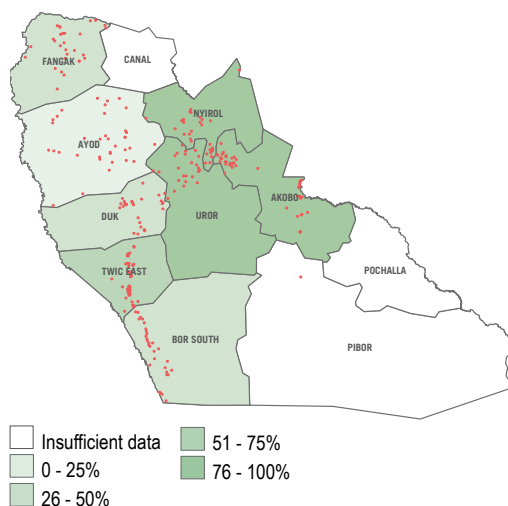
**About half of settlements assessed (53%) reported access to education services in January, suggesting an improvement compared to December (43%),** although this improvement could be partly attributable to different settlements having been assessed in the two months. Counties in Greater Akoko where education-related NGO support is believed to be stronger, generally had the highest access levels. In contrast, more conflict-affected areas in Western Jonglei's Fangak-Bor South corridor, reported much lower access levels, as illustrated in Map 6.

One third of settlements reporting no access to education stated facilities never existed in the first place, while 22% reported that facilities have been destroyed by conflict. Lack of supplies, reported by 56% of settlements, as well as insecurity (44% of settlements) also prevented children from accessing existing schools.

Similarly to previous month, reported attendance rates suggest that in 90% of settlements assessed at least half of boys were

33 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

34 Key informants could choose more than one answer; responses refer to percentage of settlements having a reported shelter type, not the percentage of the population living in them.



**Map 6: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to education, January 2017**

attending schools, while only 34% reported the same for girls. These findings suggest that **education access continues to be affected by strong gender disparities.**

## Conclusion

Ongoing inter-community violence, as well as tensions between armed groups negatively affected displacement trends and humanitarian needs in January. As was the case in December, population movement in the state continued to be high in January. Displacement into Jonglei was reported from Yei to Bor Town, Juba to Fangak and Nassir to Akobo Town, whilst displacement within Jonglei occurred from Greater Akobo to Akobo Town. Outflows of South Sudanese leaving Jonglei to head to refugee camps in Ethiopia have declined as a result of a spike in December but remained at

a higher level than pre-July 2016. Rising levels of food insecurity reportedly drove much of the movement within Greater Akobo, as well as to Gambella in Ethiopia. Despite ongoing security issues in Jonglei, the state continued to see IDPs arriving from other parts of South Sudan, indicating that it is still perceived to be safer than other areas of the country. However, due to increasing inter-communal tensions the security situation is anticipated to worsen in February. Consequently, displacement within Jonglei, as well as to Ethiopia is likely to rise.

With 60% of settlements assessed reporting no adequate food access, **humanitarian actors need to urgently scale-up the size and scope of emergency food assistance.** For communities with river access, the distribution of fishing kits is recommended to reduce food consumption gaps. At the same time, there is a clear need to distribute seeds, tools and other inputs to support household and community cultivation in the next planting season, although the outcome of livelihood interventions are also strongly dependent on the evolution of the security situation. Geographically, **these interventions should specifically target Ayod, Fangak, Duk, Twic East and Bor South who were found to be of particular concern due to the high levels of food insecurity reported** in these counties.

In response to the **ongoing cholera outbreak**, affecting populations residing along the Nile, WASH and Health sector actors should **prioritize mobilization campaigns on cholera prevention**, whereby the GFDs in locations

such as Mingkaman and Bor, targeting more than 100,000 individuals, could serve as a suitable venue to reach a large number of people at once. Further, cholera response activities such as the establishment of oral rehydration points and cholera treatment centres need to be increased. Given cases continue to be reported on remote islands in the Nile, which are inadequately equipped to prevent and respond to an outbreak, **humanitarian actors should also focus on improving access to latrines and clean water in Jonglei's swampy areas**, as ongoing transmission is likely to be related to contamination of drinking water sources.

Further, the **provision of shelter construction material such as plastic sheeting and ropes to displaced populations should be a priority**, given they were generally found to have greater shelter needs than local communities. Interventions should particularly focus on IDP hosting communities in the Greater Akobo Area where shelter needs of IDPs were most severe. Pre-positioning of these supplies during the current dry season is of particular importance given that insecurity and related displacement is likely to increase in the weeks to come.

Overall, access to basic services has remained low in January, despite an apparent improvement in healthcare and education access since December.

While improvements in road conditions and humanitarian access are expected to continue in early 2017, **instability is also expected to increase as armed groups will be able to**

**mobilise more easily. It is therefore likely that the volatile security context will continue to have a negative impact on population needs and on humanitarian access in hard to-reach-areas.**

### 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).

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