

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

July - September 2019

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

In the third quarter of 2019, severe flooding and the effects of cumulative years of conflict limited access to services, markets, and livestock, continuing the existing humanitarian crisis across Jonglei State. Specific information about humanitarian needs in remote areas of the state remained scarce and difficult to obtain, creating barriers for humanitarian programming and the targeting of assistance.

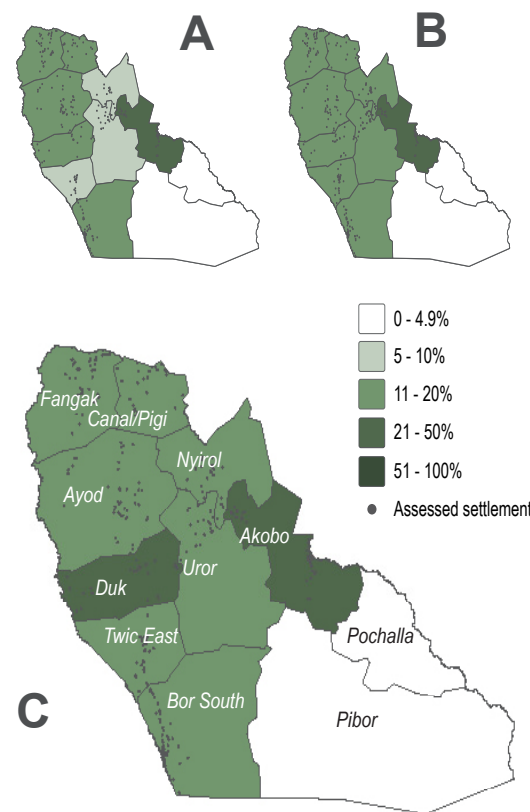
To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs).

Key Findings

- The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of internally displaced people (IDPs) across Jonglei decreased from 54% in June to 29% in September 2019. This may be because **displacement** options were extremely limited for many in hard-to-reach areas due to the intensity of flooding and poor road access, often pushing those affected to higher ground either within their own settlement, or to a neighboring settlement in close proximity.

- Access to food across Jonglei remained consistent with the previous quarter. Findings showed a disparity in **food security** needs across key regions of Jonglei. Improvements in access to food in Uror and Nyirol Counties were sustained, though increased access to food assistance appeared to play a critical role. Duk County had the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food (37%), raising concerns of resilience moving into the 2020 lean season.
- The **protection** situation across Jonglei appeared to be relatively stable. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people felt safe most of the time remained unchanged from the previous reporting period (90% in September 2019). This is likely because inter-communal violence typically reduces in Jonglei during the wet season as movement becomes more difficult.
- In September 2019, 37% of assessed settlements with IDPs reported mosquito nets as the main IDP **non-food item (NFI)** need, an 18% percentage point increase since June.
- Access to functional boreholes remained high across Jonglei (78% of assessed settlements reported access in September

Map 1: Assessment coverage in Jonglei State in July (A), August (B) and September (C), 2019:



of key informant interviews conducted: **2,120**
of assessed settlements: **1,443**
of counties covered consistently: **9 (of 11)**
of focus group discussions conducted: **20**

METHODOLOGY

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data from key informants who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). Information for this report was collected from key informants in Bor Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Bor Town and Akobo Town in July, August and September 2019.

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

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements¹ in a given month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam² coverage over the period.

Quantitative findings were triangulated with FGDs and secondary sources.

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

1. To calculate the percentage of AoK coverage, the total number of settlements per county is based on OCHA settlement lists in addition to new settlements mapped by KIs reached each month.

2. Ibid.

2019). In Fangak (77%) and Ayod (100%), the highest proportions of assessed settlements reported using swamps and rivers as the primary sources of drinking water in September 2019, raising concerns regarding **WASH** (water, health and sanitation) needs and the spread of waterborne diseases.

- The proportion of assessed settlements across Jonglei reporting that no girls or boys were attending school increased from 0% to 14% between June and September 2019. **Educational access** was reportedly lowest in Canal/Pigi with 72% of assessed settlements reporting that there were no educational services within walking distance.

Population Movement and Displacement

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs throughout Jonglei State decreased steadily from 54% in June to 29% in September 2019. Reported decreases during this period were particularly pronounced in Uror (89% to 0%), Nyirol (65% to 4%) and Duk (80% to 33%). These findings do not mean the number of displaced people necessarily decreased substantially, rather, these reported decreases are likely a consequence of flooding which has altered the geographical nature of displacement.

Flooding severely limited displacement options for affected populations in hard-to reach areas.

FGD participants in Bor Town, Bor PoC and Akobo Town from Langbaa (Bor South)³, Uror⁴, Fangak⁵, Ayod⁶ and Nyirol⁷, consistently reported that the rapid and sustained nature of rainfall resulted in severe flooding, which reportedly pushed affected populations to higher areas either within their own settlements, or to high ground in nearby neighbouring settlements. In addition, the effects of flooding on road networks reportedly severely limited movement, increasing travel times and often completely isolated whole settlements, concentrating displacement to a few highland areas and limiting access to key services⁸.

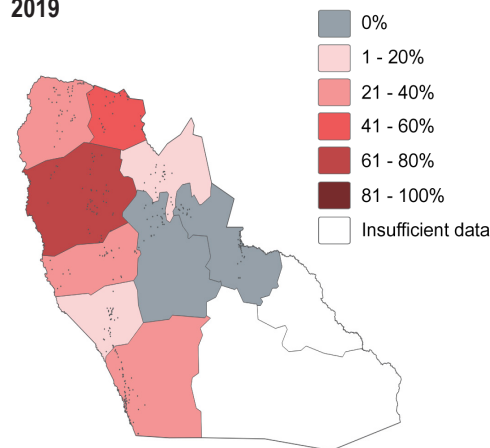
Flooding-Driven Displacement

In September 2019, 60% of assessed settlements reporting a large-scale displacement of households (HHs) reported flooding as the main driver of displacement (33% in August and 23% in July).

For instance, in Bor South, 46% of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs reported that the most recently arrived IDPs had been displaced from within Bor South itself. FGD participants displaced from Langbaa (Bor South), reported that flooding had destroyed around half of the shelters in the settlement and, as the local community had no resources to rebuild the damaged structures, affected populations were displaced to other areas within the town, many sharing shelters with family and friends⁹.

Similarly, FGD participants displaced from Nyirol reported that, in the settlements of

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in September 2019



Waat payam around Wechdeng, Rim, Borduot and Waat town, flooding resulted in mass displacement, driving over half the local population to high ground within their own localities or in nearby settlements¹⁰. Similar reports also came from IDPs recently displaced from Old-Fangak Town in Fangak County, where the majority of residents were reportedly displaced to high grounds in Gallelee and Wangchoat, approximately 40 minutes' walk from their original settlement¹¹.

Flooding Limiting Movement

Road access to hard-to-reach areas was restricted by both surface floodwater and structural damage caused by flooding. FGD participants from Uror reported that movement within the area was severely limited¹². The main road connecting Ayod and Waat was reportedly destroyed by flood water at several points, as was the road between Pathai and Rieng,

limiting movement by car and foot¹³.

The effects of flooding on needs have reportedly been the most severe in isolated settlements which rely on nearby settlements for medical, educational and market access, with journey times reportedly doubling due to flooding, limiting access to key basic services¹⁴. For instance, the time taken to walk between Mogoh and Pagil Towns in Ayod County reportedly increased from 4 to 9 hours¹⁵.

Insecurity-Driven Displacement

Flooding was not the only factor reportedly driving displacement in Jonglei. In September 2019, 58% of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs reported security as the primary pull factor for the most recently arrived IDPs. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting security as an IDP pull factor were particularly high in Ayod (97%), Fangak (88%) and Canal/Pigi (64%).

In September 2019, 19% of assessed settlements in Duk reported that there had been a large-scale displacement of households within the past month, up from 7% since June 2019. This may be linked to inter-communal violence. FGD participants reported that inter-communal violence along ethnic lines broke out in late August. Insecurity severely limited cattle trading and peoples' ability to search for food¹⁶. With reportedly limited humanitarian assistance in affected areas, many people, particularly women and children, left in search of food, primarily to urban areas such as Duk-Paiet, Poktap, Panyagor and Bor Town. Many male

3. FGD with Key Informants from Langbaa displaced to Bor Town, July 2019

4. FGD with Key Informants from Uror displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

5. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

6. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

7. FGD with Key Informants from Nyirol displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019

8. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

9. FGD with Key Informants from Langbaa displaced to Bor Town, July 2019

10. FGD with Key Informants from Nyirol displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019

11. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

12. FGD with Key Informants from Uror displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

13. *ibid*

14. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

15. *ibid*

16. FGD with Key Informants from Duk displaced to Bor PoC, September 2019

17. *ibid*

heads of household reportedly remained to protect family property. The primary pull factors reported by FGD participants to Bor Town were the presence of relatives and humanitarian assistance¹⁷.

Self-reported returns

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of refugee returnees decreased slightly between reporting periods, falling from 49% in June to 37% in September 2019. The largest decreases were registered in assessed settlements in Nyriol (82% to 42%) and Fangak (90% to 67%).

REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) in Akobo tracks the movement of South Sudanese households travelling to and returning from Ethiopia, predominantly to refugee camps in the Gambella region. Between June and September, the estimated number of inbound HHs increased sharply from 99¹⁸ to 294¹⁹. For households returning to South Sudan from Ethiopia in September 2019, the primary reported pull factors were rejoining family and home (64%) and perceived security (27%)²⁰.

Figure 1: Most commonly reported pull factors for inbound HHs, June 2019 to September 2019:

	June 2019 ²¹	July 2019 ²²	August 2019 ²³	September 2019 ²⁴
Rejoining family/home	67%	74%	67%	64%
Perceived security	10%	16%	21%	27%
Presence of work opportunities	16%	6%	3%	5%

AoK data supports PRM findings between June and September. Of the assessed settlements reporting the presence of refugee returnees, the primary reported pull factors in September 2019 were family (80%), access to land (56%), home (51%) and security (49%).

The expectation of humanitarian assistance in Akobo was also reportedly an internal and cross-border driver of movement. IDP returnees, displaced from Nyriol back to Akobo Town reported lacking access to food and water, which was reportedly caused by an influx of IDP and refugee returnees to Nyriol between April and June 2019²⁵. FGD participants reported the presence of food distributions as a key pull factor to return to Akobo²⁶. FGD participants, recently returned from Jewi, Kule2 and Nguenyiel camps in the Gambella region of Ethiopia, also reported access to humanitarian assistance as a driver of movement²⁷.

Situation in Assessed Settlements

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Throughout Jonglei 71% of assessed settlements reported that most people had adequate access to food in September 2019, consistent with the previous reporting period (65% in June 2019). Improvements in access to food which may have been expected with the maize harvest and the return of cattle have reportedly not materialised, largely because of flooding and insecurity, and this will likely have long-term consequences moving into the lean season.

Flooding

Of the assessed settlements reporting that most people did not have adequate access to food, 28% reported that this was due to flooding destroying crops. Flooding played a key role in limiting access to land and food across Jonglei State. In Twic East, 12% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as the main source of food for most people in September 2019 compared to 32% in September 2018. FGD participants reported flooding, road inaccessibility and high market prices as the main impediments to food access²⁸.

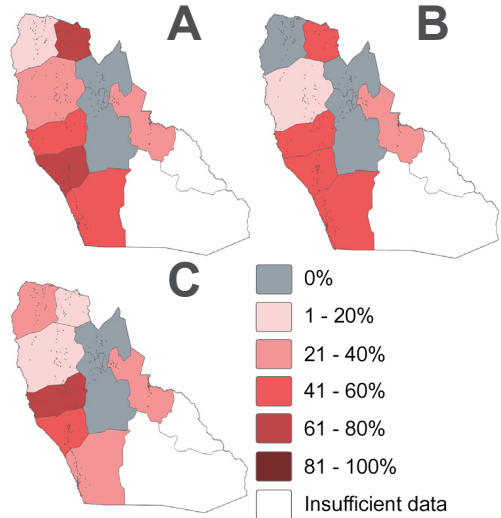
Similarly, in Ayod 83% of assessed settlements reported that inability to access food was due to crops being destroyed by flooding. FGD participants, recently displaced from Ayod reported that, whilst the August-September harvest can often provide the local community with a stockpile of food to last several months, this year flooding reportedly prevented any harvest taking place in several settlements²⁹.

Flooding in Ayod impacted both food stocks for personal consumption and also the production

Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting food assistance as the main source of food in September 2019

	September 2018	December 2018	March 2019	June 2019	September 2019
Uror	8%	47%	83%	100%	100%
Nyriol	0%	25%	76%	100%	100%

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in Jonglei State, July (A), August (B) and September (C), 2019.



of cash crops, grown as an income generating livelihood activity³⁰. Flooding also reportedly greatly limited access to crops, meat and dairy foodstuffs in Fangak with FGD participants, recently displaced from Fangak, reporting that grazing pastures for livestock had been severely limited, diminishing dairy production as the livestock consumed fewer nutrients³¹.

The disruption of livelihood activities caused by flooding appears to be perpetuating dependence on humanitarian assistance in Uror and Nyriol. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as a source of food for most people in Uror and Nyriol between September 2018 and September 2019 fell from 32% and 28% respectively, to 0% in both counties. The proportions of

18. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, June 2019
19. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, September 2019
20. ibid
21. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, June 2019
22. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, July 2019
23. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, August 2019
24. REACH Port and Road Monitoring Akobo, September 2019
25. FGD with Key Informants from Nyriol displaced to Akobo Town, August 2019
26. ibid
27. FGD with Key Informants from Kule2, Jewi and Nguenyiel Refugee Camps to Akobo Town, July 2019
28. FGD with Key Informants from Twic East displaced to Bor Town, August 2019
29. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019
30. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019
31. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019
32. FGD with Key Informants from Uror displaced to Akobo Town, September 2019
33. ibid

assessed settlements reporting livestock as a source of food for most people also decreased in both counties during the same period from 28% to 0%. FGD participants displaced from Uror reported that, whilst harvests are usually limited, they have, in previous years, provided the primary source of food for local communities during the first quarter of the year³². Households would then often rely on food assistance during the lean season in the second quarter of the year³³. It appears that flooding has wiped away this short-term buffer period of self-sufficiency which would usually be provided by the grain harvest, resulting in increased reliance on food distributions provided by humanitarian actors in Uror and Nyirol.

The true impact of flooding, particularly on isolated populations may not be fully understood until the flood water has receded, providing access to hard-to-reach areas.

Insecurity

Perceived insecurity also restricted access to food in Jonglei, particularly in Canal/Pigi and Duk. Of the assessed settlements that reported inadequate access to food in Canal/Pigi, the primary reason was reportedly because it was unsafe to access land (40% of assessed settlements).

Insecurity reportedly driven by inter-communal violence, limited access to land and food in Duk³⁴. Of the assessed settlements that reported inadequate access to food in Duk, 35% reported that this was because it was unsafe to access land, up from 11% in June

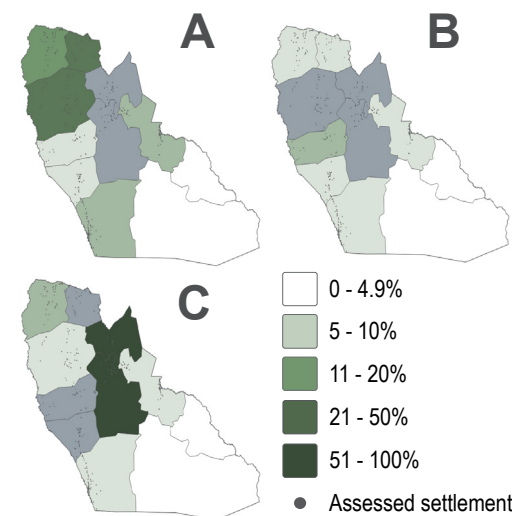
2019. This possibly explains why just 7% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as the main source of food for most people in September 2019, down from 20% in September 2018. Inter-communal violence and cattle raiding restricted the implementation of coping strategies, reportedly preventing locals from foraging for food³⁵ (for more details, see the coping strategies section).

Throughout Jonglei access to food was reportedly further limited by rising market prices. Fifty-five percent (55%) of assessed settlements reported that cereal price increases had at least some impact on the ability of most people to access adequate food in September 2019. The effects of cereal price increases on access to food were particularly pronounced in assessed settlements in Ayod (90%), Fangak (86%) and Akobo (72%).

Duk, Twic East and Bor South

Duk, Twic East and Bor South had the lowest proportions of assessed settlements reporting that most people had adequate access to food in September 2019 (63%, 58% and 37% respectively). Correspondingly, Duk, Twic East and Bor South had the highest proportions of assessed settlements reporting that most people consumed just one meal per day (52%, 42% and 21%, respectively). This represents a decrease for Bor South (79% in June) and Twic East (54% in June), corresponding with the maize harvest and cattle moving closer to the settlements. However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting consuming one meal per day remained high in Duk.

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation (A), livestock (B) and Humanitarian assistance (C) as the main source of food in September 2019



Ayod, Fangak and Canal/Pigi

In September, 87%, 74% and 80% of the assessed settlements in Ayod, Fangak and Canal/Pigi respectively, reported that most people had adequate access to food. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in Canal/Pigi increased from 8% in June to 80% in September 2019. This increase might be linked to an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting accessing food assistance over the past three months (16% in June to 48% in September 2019).

Unchanged from the previous reporting period, 98% of assessed settlements in Ayod reported accessing food assistance in the three

months prior to data collection (100% in June 2019). However, the proportion of assessed settlements in Ayod reporting reliance on humanitarian assistance as a primary source of food for most people reportedly decreased considerably from 61% in September 2018 to 13% in September 2019. This is possibly a consequence of humanitarian distribution cycles.

Greater Akobo

Consistent with findings from June, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food across Greater Akobo in September 2019 remained high (70% in Akobo County and 100% in both Uror and Nyirol). Reported access to food appears to be driven by humanitarian assistance, with 91% of assessed settlements in Akobo County and 100% of assessed settlements in both Uror and Nyirol reporting having accessed food assistance in the three months prior to data collection.

In contrast to these findings, in the August Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), high FSL needs were found in this region, classifying Uror as Phase 3 (crisis) and Akobo and Nyirol as Phase 4 (emergency)³⁶. It may be the case that populations who have experienced high FSL needs for long periods of time are inclined to describe even small improvements as “sufficient access” when objectively, needs remain high.

In Uror and Nyirol all assessed settlements reported food assistance as the main source

34. FGD with Key Informants from Duk displaced to Bor Town, September 2019

35. *ibid*

36. IPC. [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Snapshot](#). September 2019.

of food for most people in September 2019, representing 92 and 100 percentage point increases since September 2018.

In September 2019, 91% of assessed settlements in Akobo County reported accessing some form of food assistance within the past three months, representing a 39% increase since June. This fluctuation is consistent with long-term changes in reporting (55% in Sept 2018, 94% in December 2018, 100% in March 2019, 52% in June 2019), which is likely reflective of humanitarian distribution cycles and fluctuating humanitarian access. Reliance on humanitarian assistance appeared to be lower in Akobo County with just 17% of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as a source of food for most people in September 2019.

Coping Strategies

Given the high levels of food insecurity, livelihood and food consumption coping strategies remained common across Jonglei in September 2019 (71% of assessed settlements reporting the use of both). This could be due to severe flooding and insecurity contributing to reduced access to cultivation and livestock. Consistent with the previous reporting period, coping strategies were most commonly employed in Duk, Twic East and Bor South (100% of assessed settlements in each county).

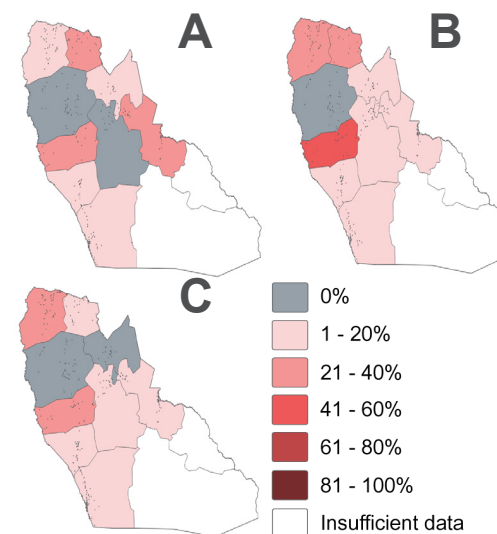
As in the previous two reporting periods, limiting portion size at meal times was the most commonly reported coping mechanism

in times of limited access to food (45% of assessed settlements in September 2019). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting reducing the number of meals eaten in a day increased from 11% in June to 34% in September 2019. Increases during this period were most pronounced in assessed settlements in Twic East (14% to 79%) and in Bor South (13% to 86%). In Twic East, 79% of assessed settlements reported residents reducing the number of meals consumed with 100% of assessed settlements also reporting limiting portion size and consuming cheaper food.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of assessed settlements reported the use of livelihood coping mechanisms in response to limited access to food. The most commonly reported coping strategies in assessed settlements across Jonglei State were borrowing money (60% of assessed settlements), borrowing food (56%) and selling home assets (56%), 15, 12 and 12 percentage point increases, respectively, since June 2019.

For some households, these strategies were reportedly exhausted, not possible, or did not provide sufficient food. Many settlements reported residents adopting negative coping strategies, which erode resilience to future shocks, such as selling home assets (56% of assessed settlements) and selling more livestock than normal for the time of year (57% of assessed settlements), both up from 44% in June. In some cases, even these negative coping strategies were reportedly exhausted. FGD participants, displaced from Ayod,

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting most people not feeling safe most of the time in July (A), August (B) and September (C), 2019:



reported that no households sold productive assets as a coping mechanism because they did not have any to sell³⁷ suggesting that assessed settlements reporting not selling assets may not necessarily be more food secure than those that did.

As in the previous reporting period, Duk, Twic East and Bor South had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reportedly moving to displacement camps as a response to inadequate access to food (48%, 39% and 51% respectively), highlighting the relationship between low access to food and displacement.

Protection

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people felt safe most of the

time remained unchanged from the previous reporting period (90% in September 2019). The proportion of assessed settlements reporting any protection concerns for women (52%) and girls (44%) was higher than for men (28%) and boys (22%). The proportion of assessed settlements in Duk reporting that residents felt safe most of the time increased from 33% in June to 62% in September 2019. However, protection concerns remained high with 38% of assessed settlements in Duk reportedly feeling unsafe most of the time. Insecurity appeared to be severe enough to drive displacement with FGD participants from Dorok reporting insecurity caused by inter-communal conflict as a key push factor³⁸.

Domestic violence reportedly continued to be the main protection concern for boys across Jonglei in September 2019, (13% of assessed settlements). As in the previous reporting period, this was reportedly particularly pronounced in assessed settlements in Bor South (30% of assessed settlements) and Duk (48%).

Similarly, assessed settlements across Jonglei continued to report domestic violence (18%) as the main protection concern for women in September 2019. Proportions were particularly high in Twic East (24%), Ayod (36%) and Bor South (40%). Consistent with the previous two reporting periods Ayod had the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting tensions with neighbours as a protection concern for women (49% in September), an 18% increase since June 2019.

37. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, September 2019

38. FGD with Key Informants from Duk displaced to Bor PoC, September 2019

39. FGD with Key Informants from Urur displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

40. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019

41. FGD with Key Informants from Nyirol displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019

42. ibid

43. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, August 2019

44. FGD with Key Informants from Urur displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

45. ibid

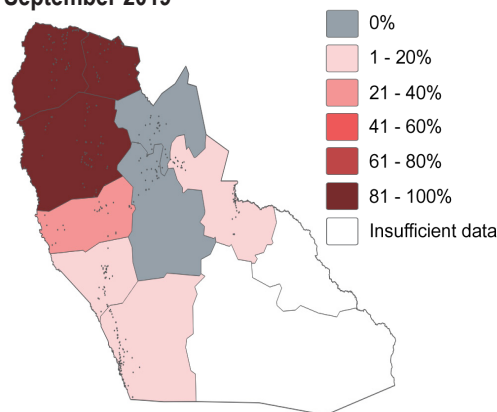
Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

In rebuilding shelters destroyed, often by flooding^{39,40,41}, 99% of assessed settlements reported access to both grass and mud in September 2019. However, just 21% and 30% of assessed settlements reported the availability of wood and plastic sheets respectively which could be used to construct more durable structures. FGD participants, recently displaced from Nyriol⁴², Ayod⁴³ and Uror⁴⁴ all highlighted the devastating impact of flooding on shelter. In Uror the local community reportedly had to prepare temporary shelters to help settle displaced families as a short-term coping measure⁴⁵.

Across Jonglei, IDPs reportedly continued to live in inadequate shelter types in comparison with members of the local community. Of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs, 9% reported that IDPs were living in improvised shelters in September 2019, consistent with findings from June (16%). Reports remained highest in Duk at 56% of assessed settlements, consistent with the previous reporting period.

In September 2019, 37% of assessed settlements with IDPs reported mosquito nets as the main IDP NFI need, an 18 percentage point increase since June. Increases were particularly pronounced in assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi (32%) and Ayod (25%), (up from 23% and 20% respectively since June 2019), however, relative demand for mosquito nets remained highest in Fangak (56% of assessed settlements with IDPs). FGD participants from Fangak reported that, in some settlements, consistent

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting animals sharing the same water source as people in September 2019



and torrential rainfall washed away NFIs, in particular mosquito nets, blankets, utensils and tools used for agricultural production⁴⁶.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Health

There was a 13 percentage point increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that any people were using latrines in the month prior to data collection (56% in June 2019). Notable increases in the proportions of assessed settlements reporting that any people were using latrines in the month prior to data collection were noted in Twic East, Bor South and Nyriol (79%, 76% and 79% of assessed settlements in September 2019), up 34%, 34% and 26% respectively since June 2019. However, consistent with findings from June, just 2% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reported that over half of individuals were using latrines.

Unchanged from June 2019, 78% of assessed settlements reported that there was at least one functioning borehole within their settlement. However, in Canal/Pigi none of the assessed settlements reported the presence of functioning boreholes, which may partially explain why 48% of assessed settlements reported waterborne diseases as the primary health concern (24% in June 2019).

As in Canal/Pigi, the limited presence of boreholes in Ayod appeared to be causing health-related issues. Just 4% of assessed settlements in Ayod reported boreholes as the main source of water, an 87 percentage point decrease since June 2019. FGD participants reported that most people prefer to collect and drink rainwater due to the insufficient number of boreholes⁴⁷. In addition, 96% of assessed settlements in Ayod reported that animals were using, or were kept close to, the same water source used by the community⁴⁸. Similar to previous months, 100% of assessed settlements in Ayod reported that less than half of individuals were using latrines in the last month, with FGD participants reporting that water contamination from open defecation was resulting in diarrhea and skin irritations⁴⁹.

Since September 2018, there has been a consistent and steady decline in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of functional boreholes in Fangak, falling from 68% to 29% in September 2019. Consistent with the previous quarter, nearly all assessed settlements in Fangak reported rivers as the main source of drinking water (98% in June 2019), which, according to FGD participants, is

a consequence of overcrowding at boreholes which results in long queues and prevents engagement in other livelihood activities⁵⁰.

Education

Access to education appeared to remain stable, with 83% of assessed settlements across Jonglei reporting that education services were available within walking distance from their settlement in September 2019. However, Canal/Pigi continued to have the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting accessible education services in Jonglei, consistent with the previous reporting period (16% and 28% of assessed settlements reported the availability of educational services within walking distance in June and September 2019 respectively).

Participants in FGDs with arrivals from Fangak in Bor PoC in July⁵¹ and September⁵² reported that the main barriers to accessing educational services for school children were the destruction of text and exercise books by flooding which in turn limited the availability of educational services, as well as the depth of flood water which limited access to functioning educational facilities⁵³.

In September 2019 school attendance dropped for both males and females. Throughout Jonglei State, 32% of assessed settlements reported that more than half of the boys aged between 6-17 years attended school, down from 61% in June 2019. Access to education remained lower for girls with just 11% of assessed settlements reporting the same in September, down from 31% in June 2019. Consistent with the previous

46. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

47. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

48. *ibid*

49. *ibid*

50. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

51. *ibid*

52. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, September 2019

53. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to Bor PoC, July 2019

reporting period, the primary reason for girls not attending school was the need to work in the household (17% of assessed settlements reporting access to education) while for boys the primary reason was the need to work outside the home, up from 15% of assessed settlements reporting access to education in June 2019 to 29% in September. This increase is likely due to the harvest season, when boys typically help harvest crops (compared with just 1% of assessed settlements reporting the same for girls).

Conclusion

Overall, the situation in Jonglei State appears to have remained stable. However, expected improvements with the start of the harvest and the return of cattle to settlements were offset by severe flooding in many of the assessed settlements.

Severe flooding across Jonglei State destroyed crop yields, limited access to livestock and consequently limited the ability of assessed settlements to gather important food stocks heading in to the lean season, raising concerns regarding the reliance on humanitarian assistance moving forward. Flooding appears to have altered the geographical dynamics of internal displacement, often driving affected populations to high ground either within their own settlement, or to nearby settlements.

The true impact of flooding on these isolated populations may not be fully understood until the flood water has receded, providing access to 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. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR- UNOSAT).

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