

# Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

February 2017

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## Introduction

Displacement trends, humanitarian access and population needs have all been negatively affected by heavy armed clashes and inter-community violence in the month of February. Overall, humanitarian needs and displacement within Jonglei increased in February as ongoing tensions between armed groups, as well as decades of conflict continued to negatively impact populations' access to primary services and ability to meet basic needs. Most notably, access to food has remained at very low levels for IDP and non-displaced populations since January, representing a negative trend of critically low food security levels since October 2016.

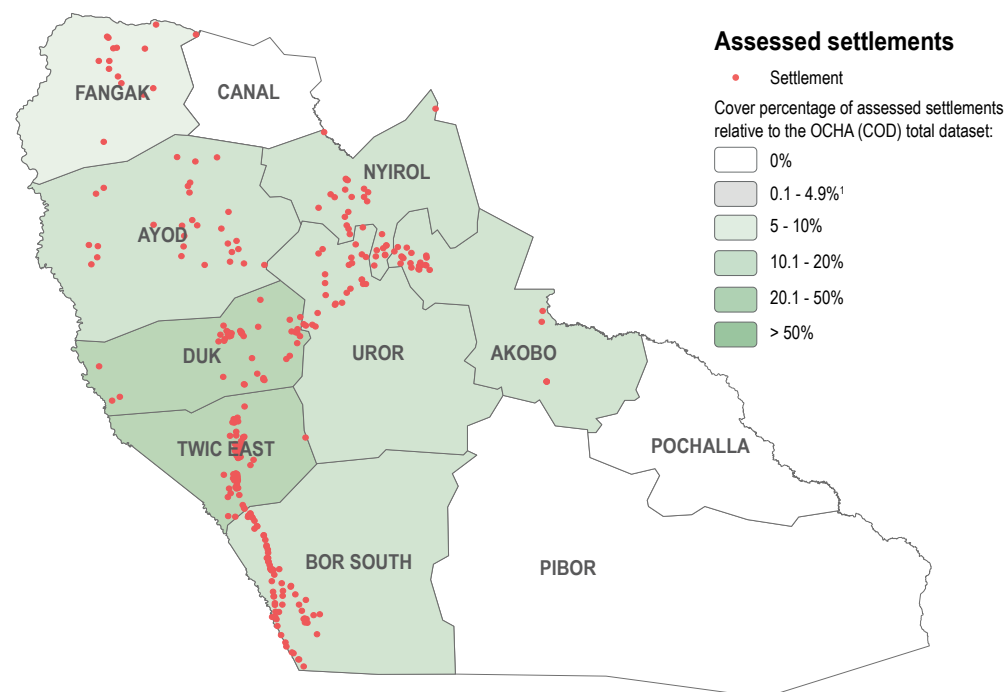
To inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH has been conducting an assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since late 2015, for which data on settlements across the Greater Upper Nile region is collected on a monthly basis. Between 7 and 28 February, REACH interviewed 869 Key Informants (KIs) displaced from 298 settlements in 8 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State. 295 KIs were interviewed in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 250 in Bor Town, 211 in Akobo Town, 110 in Bor PoC and 3 in Nyal. New arrivals, representing 27% of KIs, were specifically targeted during the data collection

phase to ensure a better understanding of current displacement dynamics, and to provide up-to-date information on current humanitarian conditions in the settlements from which they had been displaced. The remaining KIs (73%) reported to have been in regular contact with someone living in the settlement within the last month.

These interviews were triangulated with 13 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), conducted in February with 1) new arrivals displaced from Wanding in Upper Nile State to Akobo Town, 2) KIs who had been in contact with populations who recently fled Uror County, 3) new arrivals from Yei, Nimule and Juba in Bor Town, and 4) refugees returning from Uganda to Mingkaman Informal Settlement. In addition to a discussion on displacement dynamics, FGDs involved a participatory mapping exercise to understand the routes that new arrivals took to come to the respective arrival destination.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the January Situation Overview for Jonglei State.<sup>1</sup> The first section of this overview analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei State in February, with the second section evaluating access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, February 2017



## Population Movement and Displacement

In February 2017, political divisions 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 southeast became more violent. In Uror in Central Jonglei, SPLA forces took control of previously SPLA-IO-held Yuai town

in mid-February.<sup>2</sup> In the following days, heavy clashes also took place in the surrounding areas of Yuai such as Pulchuol, Pathai and Motot.<sup>3</sup> In Northern Jonglei, offensives targeted Pigi around Khorfulus, with the same also reported in Ayod.<sup>4</sup> High tensions as a result of cattle raids and child abductions between communities have led to increased armed mobilization along the Bor-Pibor border in Southern Jonglei.<sup>5</sup> Overall, the rise in armed clashes and tensions reported across various

<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> The Messenger: Yuai captured by SPLA - what does it mean for South Sudan, 17 February 2017 <sup>3</sup> OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2017.



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## METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or 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, Bor Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, Bor Town, Akobo, as well as in Nyal, throughout February 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.

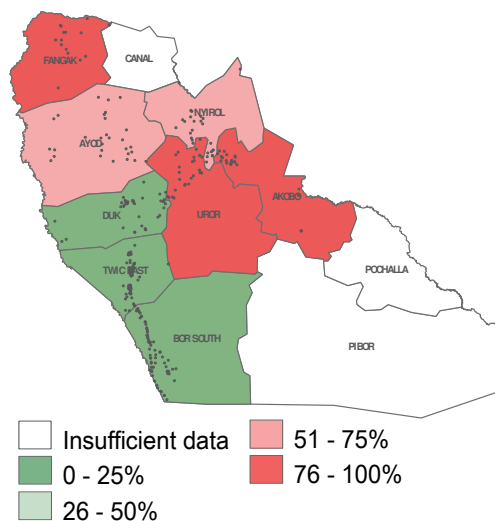
It must be noted that this represents a **change in methodology as of December 2016**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with Situation Overviews from before December 2016**.

parts of the state represents a considerable deterioration in security conditions compared to previous months.

As in previous months, continuing displacement remained a key concern in February. **Out of the 99% of settlements assessed reporting that at least some of their local community population had been displaced, 70% reported a population decrease of 50% or more.** This represents an increase compared to January (62%) and is likely reflective of the fighting in Uror where the proportion of settlements reporting a population decrease of 50% or more has increased by 10 percentage points from January to February. Across counties assessed, Western Jonglei reported the highest levels of de-population, which had also been the case in previous months.

Despite increased displacement in parts of Jonglei, the overall number of settlements assessed reporting the presence of IDPs in their area has dropped from 40% in January to 34% in February. This may be attributable to fewer settlements in Western Jonglei reporting they hosted IDPs, which were 5% in February, compared to 8% in January.

Reported estimates of IDP figures in settlements assessed suggest that in parts of Greater Akobo (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo), Ayod and Fangak, the number of IDPs has increased in February. This indicates that **conflict-related displacement from and within these counties led to a higher presence of IDPs in areas considered safer than other locations.** Further, in these counties, **the proportion of settlements assessed reportedly hosting**

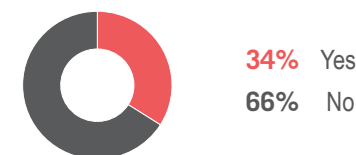


**Map 2: Percentage of settlements reporting presence of IDPs, February 2017**

**IDPs has also increased in February**, which is attributable to risen internal displacement within these counties to locations unaffected by fighting. In Greater Akobo, host to the largest number of the displaced population in Jonglei, 82% of settlements assessed reported the presence of IDPs in February, compared to 70% in January. This increase could be linked to the clashes in Uror as the majority of the displaced reportedly fled to safer areas within Greater Akobo. As illustrated in Map 2, Ayod and Fangak also had a high presence of IDPs. In February, 64% of settlements in Ayod and 86% of settlements in Fangak reportedly hosted IDPs, compared to 49% and 57% respectively in January. Reported clashes within Ayod as well as fighting in Pigi, which reportedly displaced populations to Fangak, may explain the recent rise in IDP hosting settlements in both counties.

**Likely as a result of increased conflict**

**Figure 1: Percentage of settlements assessed hosting IDPs, February 2017**



**in Jonglei, the proportion of settlements reporting recent returnees has decreased in February.** Out of the 145 settlements which reported in February that local community members had returned, 19 settlements reported returns had occurred in January and February, compared to 43 out of 141 settlements in January that indicated recent returns took place in December and January. As in previous months, **Greater Akobo was the main arrival destination for returnees.** Ayod and Fangak, that has seen some returns in December and January, recorded no recent returnees in February, which may be linked to reported clashes in these areas.

Overall, these findings suggest that recent clashes in Central and Northern Jonglei have led to increased displacement and IDP movement in these areas. In Western Jonglei, typically a hotspot for localized conflict surrounding cattle raids, de-population remained high, whilst parts of Greater Akobo served as destination for IDPs displaced by recent fighting. Similarly, conditions for return have been negatively affected by recent security developments.

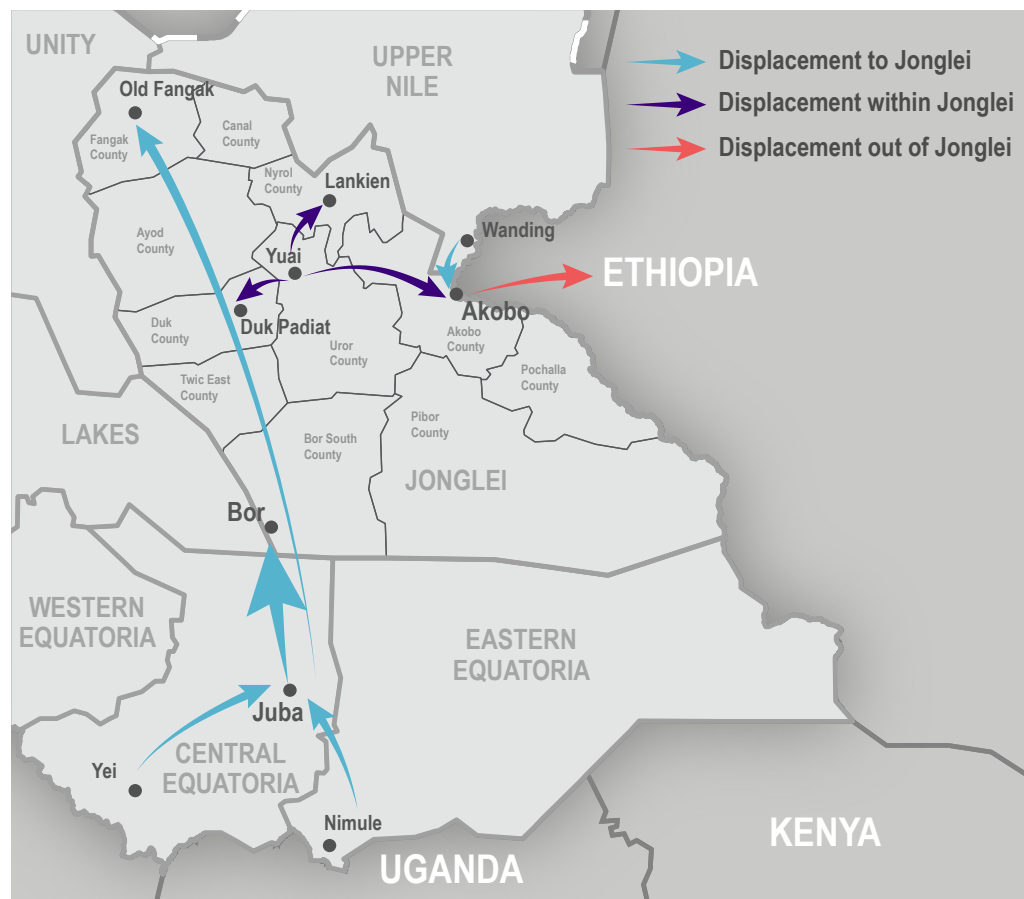
The following sections provide a more detailed overview of displacement to, within and from Jonglei. However, it is likely that recorded movement does not reflect the full extent of ongoing displacement in Jonglei in February.

## Displacement to Jonglei

### New arrivals from the Equatorias to Bor

In February, **IDPs displaced from the Equatorias, in particular Yei, Nimule and Juba, continued to arrive in Bor Town.** These are populations originally from Jonglei, who were resident in key towns in the Equatorias since the crisis in 2013. The largest group of these new arrivals had moved from Yei to Bor as a result of clashes that have affected Yei since July 2016. Arrivals interviewed in previous months reported that movement from Yei to Juba had been government facilitated, whilst their onward journey to Bor was organized privately. In contrast, KIs interviewed in February reported they had made the entire journey from Yei to Bor in private commercial vehicles. Based on regular visits by REACH to sites in Bor Town where these IDPs live, as well as the continuous inflow of new arrivals to the town, a low estimate would suggest that **the number of IDPs from Yei in Bor Town is likely to have been around 7,000-8,000 individuals at the end of February.** For more background information on displacement from Yei to Bor, please refer to the October and January Situation Overviews.<sup>6</sup>

**New arrivals coming from Nimule, who were residing at Mangalia IDP site, indicated they had left Nimule due to increasing food insecurity as well as a lack of access to education,** which was reportedly linked to increasing population pressure on the site following ongoing clashes in the Equatorias. Similarly, **IDPs from Juba reported they had left due to the high cost of food items linked to the ongoing economic crisis.** This had also



**Map 3: Displacement Overview Jonglei State, February 2017**

made other needs such as shelter and access to water more costly, and had reportedly led to an increase in crime in their neighbourhoods. An estimate by REACH suggests that the combined number of arrivals from Nimule and Juba were around 1,000 in February.

FGD respondents who had come from these three locations reported the presence of family members, as well as perceived better access to food and services as main reasons for

coming to Bor. For IDPs from Yei and Juba, perceived security was another major factor. **Overall, movement from Nimule and Juba at this scale appears to be a recent trend, whilst movement from Yei to Bor has been continuously high since October 2016.**

### Population movement from Juba to Fangak

According to humanitarian actors and FGD respondents interviewed in Bor PoC in February, **movement of populations originally from**

**Fangak, who had resided in Juba PoC and collective centres, and were moving back to Old Fangak, has decreased considerably in February,** with inflows to Fangak in Northern Jonglei having first started in November. FGD participants, whose relatives had recently made the journey from Juba to Fangak, reported this was attributable to a rise in transport costs (8,000 SSP<sup>7</sup> per person), as well as increased insecurity along the river route. Further, clashes in Pigi made populations fearful of armed actors advancing towards neighbouring Fangak, which reportedly also decreased movement to this county. Please refer to the December Situation Overview for more information about movement to Fangak.<sup>8</sup>

### Displacement from Wanding to Akobo Town

In Eastern Jonglei, REACH observed **the arrival of populations displaced from Wanding, Ulang County, in Upper Nile State in Akobo Town in February.** Movement of populations from south-eastern Upper Nile southwards to Akobo has been ongoing since December.<sup>9</sup> However, previous arrivals had originated from Nassir, whilst **movement from Wanding appears to be a relatively new trend** which appears to be linked to a deterioration in humanitarian conditions in the area.

Newly arrivals participating in FGDs reported they left Wanding as a result of a considerable IDP influx into their community following clashes in Nassir in early January. This had led to **extreme food shortages, affecting both IDP and local populations in Wanding.** Further, respondents perceived Wanding to be prone to attacks by antagonistic communities. Pull factors mirrored the reported push factors,

6 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016 and January 2017.

7 South Sudanese Pound

8 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

9 Ibid.



with KIs explaining they primarily came to Akobo for the General Food Distribution (GFD) present in town and perceived security. They also perceived to be able to meet their health needs in this town though its hospital.

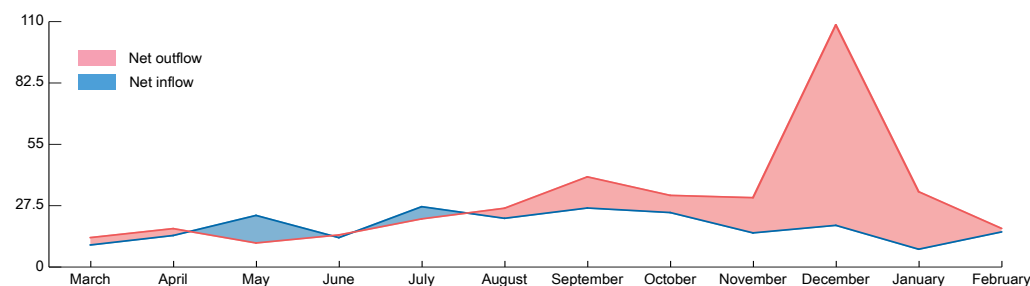
### Displacement within Jonglei

As previously noted, clashes in Uror displaced thousands of people in Greater Akobo in February.<sup>10</sup> Following the Yuai fighting, REACH conducted FGDs in Bor PoC with residents who were in regular contact with relatives in Uror. They reported that **in their first phase of displacement from Yuai in mid-February,**

**the vast majority of civilians had fled to the bush and to nearby settlements such as Pieri and Motot.** KIs reported civilians had left Yuai in a hurry and were unable to carry their assets. Around 25 February, conflict arose North of Yuai between opposing forces around Pathai and Pulchuol. This, along with fears that armed actors may continue their advance east toward Motot, Waat and Walgak, other strategic towns, **led to a second phase of displacement to Akobo, Lankien and Duk.** However, according to KIs, it is likely that there is still a considerable number of populations hiding in the bush between Yuai and Pieri.

**This second round of clashes also displaced civilians from villages north of Yuai, located on the Pulchuol-Motot-Walgak road.** Along with those initially displaced from Yuai, the majority of these IDPs fled east towards Akobo, where reportedly over 9,800 IDPs arrived. Other IDPs, estimated to be around 5,000 individuals, fled west to Duk County, whilst a third group, around 1,500 individuals, headed north to Lankien in Nyirol County.<sup>11</sup> KIs reported the majority of IDPs travelled on foot for several days to reach these locations. The elderly and other vulnerable groups were reportedly left behind because they were unable to make the long journey.

Whilst there is a relatively large humanitarian presence in Akobo and Lankien able to respond to the IDP influx, **humanitarian needs of IDPs displaced to Duk as well as of those in smaller towns such as Waat and Walgak, are likely to remain unmet in the near future as insecurity at the time of**



**Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue) via Akobo Town; March to February 2017.<sup>14</sup>**

**writing continues to prevent humanitarian workers from returning to these locations after their evacuation in February.** Given the number of displaced as a result of the Uror clashes is likely much higher than the number of those who have reached Akobo, Lankien and Duk, it is recommended humanitarian actors undertake an assessment on the scope of the displacement within Greater Akobo once humanitarian access is granted.

### 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 in Gambella, found that **displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia has decreased in February.**<sup>12</sup> Whilst net inflows slightly increased, **net outflows of South Sudanese permanently leaving the country to Ethiopia saw a drop since January, from an average of 33 individuals a day to 17 individuals a day in February,** as illustrated in Graph 1.<sup>13</sup> The decrease in departures is likely attributable to the fact that no UNHCR registration, enabling asylum-seekers to depart to Ethiopia, had occurred in neighbouring Tigray

in February, as opposed to December when UNHCR registration exercises had taken place.

Despite the drop in departures in February, **outflows to Ethiopia are anticipated to increase in the coming weeks as ongoing movement from Greater Akobo and Upper Nile to Akobo Town has strained available services and resources in the town,** for both IDP and local community populations. To this extent, onward movement may be dictated by the provision of aid. Further, if humanitarian partners continue to be unable to reach larger parts of the IDPs currently displaced within Greater Akobo, IDPs could begin to move in larger numbers to Ethiopia via Akobo.

## Situation in Assessed Communities

### Food Security and Livelihoods

#### Access to Food

**In February, only 39% of assessed settlements reported access to adequate amounts of food, with a similar proportion (40%) reported in January.** This represents the continuation of a negative trend of declining

<sup>10</sup> OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, February 2017.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, February 2017.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

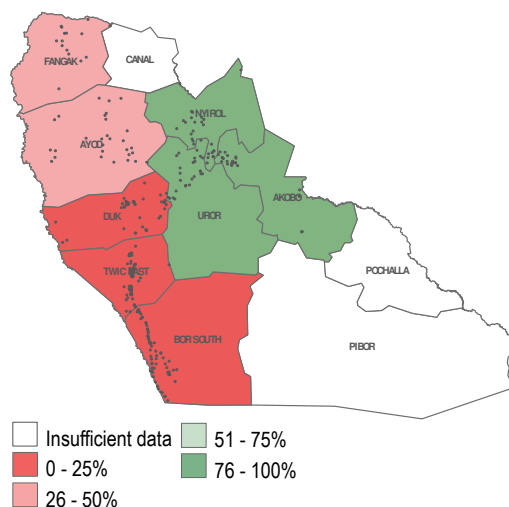
<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

food access in Jonglei since October.

Across the state, food access was particularly low in Duk, Twic East and Bor South, which has also been the case in previous months. **In Duk, 95% of settlements assessed reported no adequate access to food.** According to FGD respondents, low food access was related to insecurity surrounding cattle raids preventing cultivation, as well as floods having destroyed crops. **Low food access also appears to be prevalent in urban centres in Western Jonglei such as Bor Town.** Newly arrived IDPs from the Equatorias in Bor reported that they were in urgent need of food assistance as they were unable to afford the high prices of food items on the market.

In Ayod and Fangak, which had seen a rapid deterioration in food access between December and January, food access appears to have improved slightly. **In February, 50% of assessed settlements in Ayod and 43% in Fangak reported food access**, with the same reported in January by 29% and 24%, respectively. Recent airdrops in the two counties may have contributed to these improvements. However, localized conflict as well as ongoing clashes in neighbouring states continue to disrupt trade and livelihoods in the area.<sup>15</sup>

**In Greater Akobo**, which had remained largely stable over the last months, **83% of settlements assessed in Urur, Nyirol and Akobo counties reported they had adequate access to food in February**, representing a slight improvement compared to January (80%). Reported access to food distributions delivered in the previous three months was higher in Greater Akobo



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

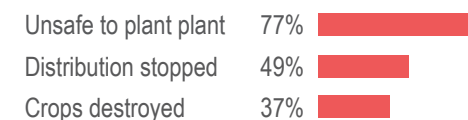
than in the Bor South-Fangak corridor, which may explain these trends. However, the recent relocation of aid workers from parts of Greater Akobo to Akobo Town and Juba, is likely to have a negative impact on populations' access to food assistance. Coupled with ongoing internal displacement lowering populations' access to regular food sources, this may result in increasing food insecurity levels in the region.

Indicative of the relationship between conflict and low levels of food access, **77% of settlements without adequate access to food cited insecurity preventing cultivation**, with the same top reason for inadequate food access reported in previous months. Insecurity impeding populations' ability to make productive use of their land has translated into **only 17% of settlements being able to rely on cultivation as their primary food source.**

Further, **49% of assessed settlements reported that the absence of food distributions was the main reason for a lack of access to food**, representing a 10 percentage point increase since January. Levels of access to food distributions have remained low but stable since January, with only 40% of settlements assessed in February stating food assistance was provided in the last three months. Amongst counties assessed, access to food assistance was lowest in the more unstable Bor South-Fangak corridor, where humanitarian actors face serious access constraints and, in the case of Ayod and Fangak, rely on the provision of aid through irregular airdrops. Overall, **food assistance remained**

**the most common food source in February, cited by 38% of settlements assessed.** Given this high reliance on food distributions, the absence of food assistance has a severe negative impact on populations' access to food. This underscores **the importance of regular food aid provision, in particular now during the lean season when households have few other reliable food sources.**

**Figure 2: Top three reported reasons for inadequate food access, February 2017<sup>16</sup>**



These issues associated with food access have resulted in **populations in settlements assessed resorting to negative food consumption-related coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of food.** Alarming, **foraging served as primary food source for**

**18% of settlements assessed.** Further, 58% of settlements assessed reported a reduction in the number of meals eaten per day, whilst 35% reported gathering wild fruits to survive. Spending entire days without eating was cited by 13% of assessed settlements in February, with the same proportion reporting that adults reduce their food consumption to allow children to eat. These findings suggest that there is an urgent need for the scale-up of emergency food assistance in locations with inadequate access to food.

### Livelihoods

Despite 98% of settlements assessed reporting the availability of land, this has not translated into high levels of agricultural activities as **agricultural inputs were available in only 30% of assessed settlements**, with the same proportion reported in January. Overall, more conflict-affected Western Jonglei reported the lowest access levels to tools and seeds amongst counties assessed, reflecting that insecurity negatively affects livelihoods and food security. Moreover, 28% of settlements reported that most of the farming tools and assets in the community had been looted or abandoned, hindering populations to continue to conduct livelihood activities, or, for those returning from displacement, to restart them.

Low availability of daily labour further restricted populations' income earning opportunities and related access to food. Whilst 51% of settlements reported access to a functioning market, **only 9% of assessed settlements relied on markets as primary food source.** This may be linked to prices of common

15 FEWS NET: Food Security Outlook February to September 2017.

16 Rank three reasons adequate food is not available.

goods such as sorghum, oil and sugar having reportedly increased in the majority of settlements in February. Consequently, purchasing of food from the market appears to be an unviable option even for those who can physically access a market.

In response to these negative livelihood trends, numerous coping strategies aiming at increasing resource capacity were reported, such as buying less expensive food (51% of assessed settlements) and borrowing money (16%). In January, these strategies had only been reported by 40% and 7% of assessed settlements, respectively. Similar to January, 16% of settlements assessed in February cited selling livestock, which negatively impacts access to livestock products such as milk and meat, and could over time deplete asset bases of populations with few remaining livestock.

### Food Security Outlook

**Overall, food access and livelihood trends in February have remained similar to January, with overall very low food access levels reported, in particular along the Bor South-Fangak corridor. According to FEWS NET, most counties assessed by REACH in Jonglei are currently classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3).<sup>17</sup> However, as a result of anticipated increased displacement, ongoing localized insecurity as well as the progression of the lean season, Duk, Ayod, Fangak and Pigi are projected to deteriorate to Emergency (Phase 4) between February and May.<sup>18</sup> Whilst REACH data supports the projections for these counties, the food security situation in Twic East and Bor South also remains of**

**concern, with 83% of settlements assessed in Twic East and 78% in Bor South reporting no adequate access to food in February. Similar figures had been reported in previous months, suggesting an urgent need for the immediate scale up of food distributions to Duk, Twic East and Bor South, whilst there is also a need to provide food assistance to newly arrived IDPs in Bor Town.**

### WASH and Health

Ninety-four per cent of assessed settlements reported access to safe drinking water in February (usually from a borehole), with the same reported by 88% of assessed settlements in January. Latrine usage remained extremely low in February, **with 73% of settlements reporting that none of the population in their village was using latrines, representing a deterioration in sanitation conditions since January (57%).**

Similarly, health access appears to have worsened, with 57% of settlements assessed in February reporting access to health facilities, compared to 66% in January. The main reported reason for lack of healthcare was health facilities never having existed in the first place (70%). This indicates low access levels prior to the December 2013 crisis. A lack of staff (40%) and drugs (28%) were further reasons cited as restricting health access in February.

**Figure 3: Top three reported reasons for inadequate health access, February 2017**



Low healthcare access, coupled with poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, as well as a lack of access to safe water, have resulted in an ongoing cholera outbreak. All counties along the Nile have been affected by cholera, with the exception of Ayod and Twic East, where there have been cholera alerts.<sup>19</sup> In February, suspected cases were reported on Koyom and Moldova islands in Duk, as well as on Kuei island in Bor South.<sup>20</sup> **Cumulatively, as of end of February, a total of 625 cases had been reported across Jonglei, with Fangak, Pigi and Duk overall worst affected.<sup>21</sup>**

Continued cases of cholera in the current dry season are atypical and an indication of the severity of the outbreak. With the rain season anticipated to start in April, cases are likely to see a spike as flooding risks further contamination and further limits humanitarian access. Consequently, **efforts to plan for the anticipated increase in cholera cases will need to include building an improved understanding of likely cholera hotspots to be able to respond in a timely manner.**

This is of particular concern for Jonglei's populations living on the islands on the Nile, where a lack of latrines and boreholes is particularly prevalent, resulting in populations defecating directly into drinking water sources. Given the common lack of health facilities on these islands, this exposes populations to an increased risk of mortality from cholera. In light of high population movement along the Nile, which risks further transmission of the disease, **health and WASH actors need to scale up cholera control and prevention activities in these remote locations, and also prioritize**

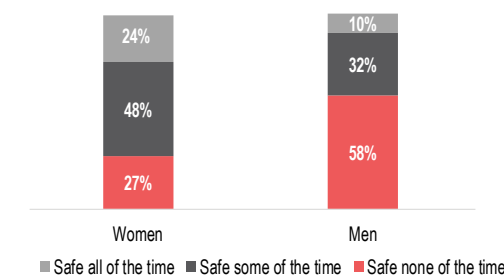
### improving access to basic WASH services.

At the same time, common diseases such as malaria are anticipated to spread with the next rain season. **Health actors should hence focus on increased healthcare service provision, including the delivery of drugs to prevent a further deterioration in health conditions, prioritizing the Bor South-Fangak corridor where access levels were overall lowest.**

### Protection

**Reflective of increased conflict in Jonglei in February, a slightly higher proportion of assessed settlements (58%) reported that men feel unsafe both during the day and the night compared to January (51%). This increase may be attributable to the clashes in Uror, where the proportion of settlements reporting men felt unsafe at all times increased sharply, from 5% in January to 60% in February. For women, trends with regards to feelings of safety remained similar to the previous month, with 27% of settlements reporting women feel unsafe at all times (28% in January).**

**Figure 4: Percentage of settlements reporting feeling of safety by gender and period of day, February 2017**



17 FEWS NET: Food Security Outlook February to September 2017.

18 Ibid.

19 Republic of South Sudan - Ministry of Health: Situation Report #110 on Cholera in South Sudan, 3 March 2017

20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.



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. As in previous months, this represented the main protection concern for men in 70% of settlements, and in 53% for women. Further, the second most common protection concern for men was cattle raids (15%), with a similar proportion reported in January (13%).

For women, however, it was sexual violence (23%), which in January was the third most common protection issue, cited by 16% of settlements. Most notably, in Uror, from where FGD respondents had reported cases of sexual violence following the Yuai clashes in February, sexual violence as most common protection concern increased from having been reported by 28% of settlements in January to 50% in February.

As had been the case in December, around half of settlements assessed reported that children were unsafe at all times. Threats of being abducted constituted the main protection concern for children by over two thirds of settlements assessed, representing an increase since January (56%). Whilst this was also the case in and around conflict-affected Yuai, other commonly reported protection issues for children in the area included family separation, killing and injury by other communities as well as sexual violence. In Ayod, where conflict had also been reported in February, two settlements reported forced recruitment as main protection issue for children. Overall, these findings suggest

that increased armed conflict in Jonglei had a negative impact on protection trends in February, with men, women and children reportedly increasingly exposed to severe protection issues.

### Shelter

**Overall shelter needs of displaced populations remained high in February.** Settlements hosting IDPs reported that displaced populations in their area primarily lived in rakoobas (74%) and tukuls (39%), whilst in January, 55% of assessed IDP hosting settlements had reported IDPs mainly lived in improvised shelters, with 49% of settlements reporting IDP populations lived in rakoobas. This improvement in shelter conditions for IDP populations is also reflected in a lower proportion of settlements reporting in February that at least a proportion of IDPs in their village were sleeping outside. In January this had been the case for 82% of assessed settlements, which decreased to 69% in February. However, this is still a large proportion, which indicates that local communities are not adequately equipped to absorb IDP shelter needs.

For the local community, the most frequently cited shelter types were the tukul (96%) and rakoobas (84%), with the same reported by 94% and 78% of assessed settlements respectively in January.

Figure 5: Top two reported shelter types used by IDPs, February 2017<sup>22</sup>

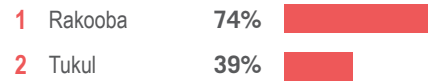
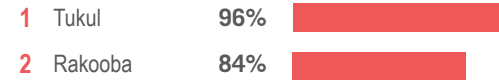


Figure 6: Top two reported shelter types used by local community, February 2017



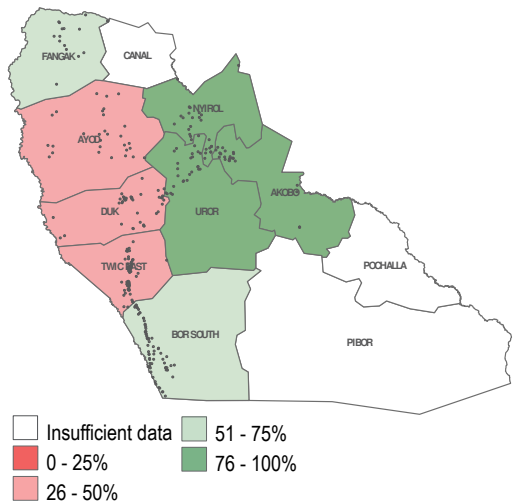
Low availability of shelter materials used for the construction of temporary shelters, such as ropes and NGO plastic sheeting, available in only 3% and 8% of assessed settlements in February, indicates that few communities have the capacity to respond to future displacement. Shelter actors should hence increase distribution of these materials, whilst interventions should focus on IDP hosting areas such as Greater Akobo. However, given the recent IDP influx into Bor Town, there is also a need to provide shelter assistance to new arrivals in Bor as many of them are currently living in vulnerable and crowded conditions alongside the local community.

For more information on shelter trends of local community members, please refer to the December Situation Overview.<sup>23</sup>

### Education

**More than half of settlements assessed (56%) reported access to education services in February, suggesting a slight improvement compared to January (53%).** As in previous months, counties in more conflict-affected Western and Northern Jonglei reported the lowest access levels to education.

Across Jonglei, education access was highest in Greater Akobo, where overall education-related NGO support is believed to be stronger than in other parts of the state. Despite these



Map 5: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to education, February 2017

comparatively high access levels, a lack of education services was the top reported reason for departures from Akobo to Ethiopia, reported by 40% of KIs. Education access in this region is anticipated to decrease in the coming months as education actors are reportedly downscaling their support to education services in Akobo, which could increase displacement to Ethiopia.

Across the state, lack of education access was reportedly due to facilities never having existed in the first place, reported by 63% of settlements, whilst 11% cited destruction of schools by conflict. Lack of supplies, reported by 50% of settlements, as well as insecurity (42%), prevented children from accessing existing schools. Consequently, education actors should also support the equipment of existing schools and the construction of schools in areas of Duk, Twic East and Ayod, which are considered stable.

22 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.

23 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

Reported attendance rates suggest that in 99% of settlements assessed, at least half of boys were attending schools, while only 40% reported the same for girls. Similar differences between boys and girls in education access had been reported in previous months, indicating that **education access continues to be affected by strong gender disparities.**

## Conclusion

Armed clashes in central and northern Jonglei, as well as inter-community tensions in southern Jonglei, negatively affected displacement trends and humanitarian needs in February.

### Displacement Overview

Ongoing conflict and deteriorating humanitarian conditions in other parts of South Sudan have led to **continued displacement into Jonglei, putting local communities in arrival destinations** such as Bor Town, Fangak and Akobo Town **under increasing pressure.** At the same time, conflict-related **internal displacement within Jonglei, in particular within Greater Akobo, appears to have increased.** This is likely to further strain resources of the few communities which are considered relatively stable and consequently host many IDPs, such as Akobo, Duk and Lankien. Of particular concern are reports of **populations who have not reached major towns but who remain displaced in bushes in proximity to conflict-affected locations.** Their exact humanitarian conditions remain unclear and humanitarian actors currently have limited opportunities to reach these populations.

If humanitarian actors are unable to adequately respond to the needs of populations in these locations, displacement to refugee camps in Ethiopia may increase. This is likely to be further exacerbated by security conditions in Jonglei anticipated to deteriorate in the coming weeks as armed actors may attempt to make territorial gains before the start of the rain season, which would result in rising displacement.

### Priority needs and geographic targeting of response

Food insecurity has remained at critically high levels in February, with 61% of settlements assessed reporting no adequate food access. **In the worst affected counties (Duk, Twic East, Bor South including Bor Town, Ayod and Fangak), humanitarian actors need to urgently scale-up the size and scope of emergency food assistance to prevent further deterioration in the lean season.**

In response to the **ongoing cholera outbreak** affecting populations residing along the Nile, **WASH and Health sector actors should prioritize improving access to latrines and clean water on Jonglei's islands.** Moreover, the establishment of oral rehydration points and cholera treatment centres in these locations is critical to prevent high cholera-related mortality.

In light of anticipated rising insecurity and related displacement, **shelter actors should increase the distribution of shelter construction materials, such as plastic sheeting and ropes,** to provide shelter for the current IDP caseload and anticipated continued new arrivals. Geographically, **interventions should**

**prioritize Greater Akobo and Bor Town given the IDP influx in these locations.**

As a result of high food insecurity levels, ongoing cholera as well as general low access to services, **overall humanitarian needs appeared to be most severe along the Bor-South-Fangak corridor.** Moreover, **these counties have faced some of the highest humanitarian access constraints in Jonglei.** However, the **humanitarian situation in parts of Greater Akobo, in particular in Uror, also remains highly concerning, as clashes have led to an increase in needs but reduced humanitarian access.** Consequently, humanitarian efforts to address the needs of these conflict- and displacement-affected populations will be largely dependent upon assuring unrestricted access to humanitarian actors in both the immediate and longer term.

### 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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