

South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

January, 2023

Overview

The continuation of conflict in South Sudan since December 2013 has created a complex humanitarian crisis in the country, restricting humanitarian access and hindering the flow of information required by aid partners to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need. To address information gaps faced by the humanitarian response in South Sudan, REACH employs its Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology to collect relevant information in hard-to-reach areas to inform humanitarian planning and interventions outside formal settlement sites.

Using the AoK methodology, REACH remotely monitors needs and access to services in the Greater Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions. AoK data is collected monthly and through multi-sector interviews with the following typology of Key Informants (KIs):

- Newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month
- Persons who have been in contact with someone living in a hard-to-reach settlement, or have been visiting one in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)

- Persons who were remaining in hard-to-reach settlements, contacted through phone. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of the settlements assessed have more than one KI reporting on the settlement. In these cases, data is aggregated at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#).

All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed with that specific response.

The findings presented in this factsheet are indicative of the broad trends relevant to population movement (displacement and returns) in assessed settlements in January 2023, and are not statistically generalisable.

Assessment Coverage

2,273 Key informants interviewed

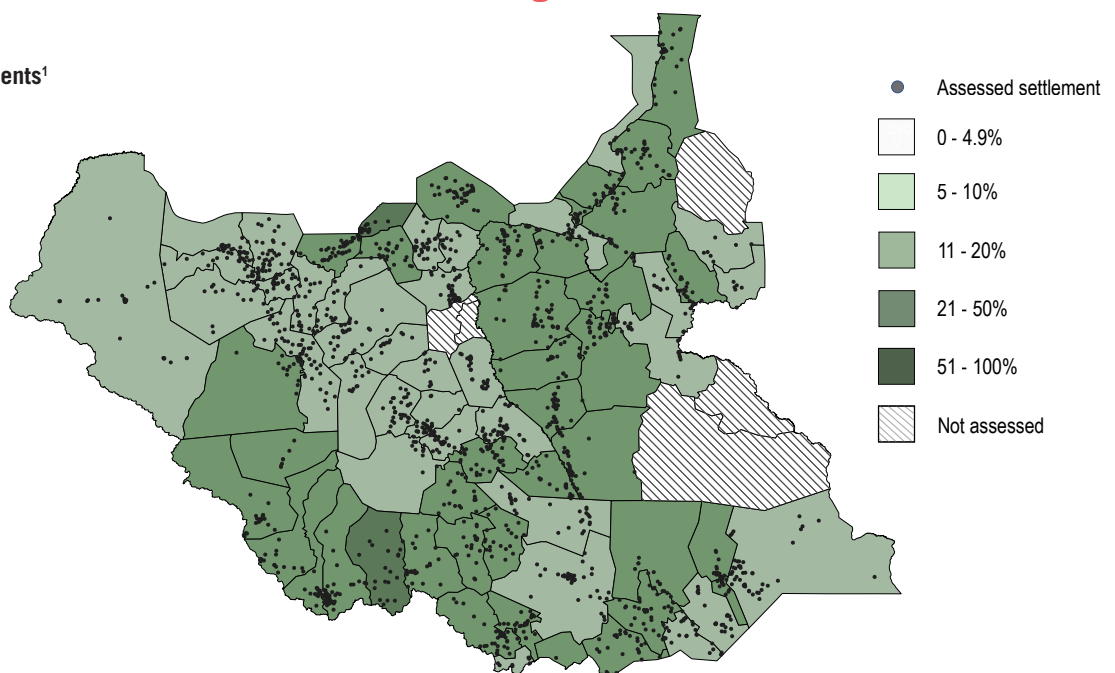
1,958 Settlements assessed

74 Counties assessed

74 Counties with 5% or more coverage¹

Assessment coverage

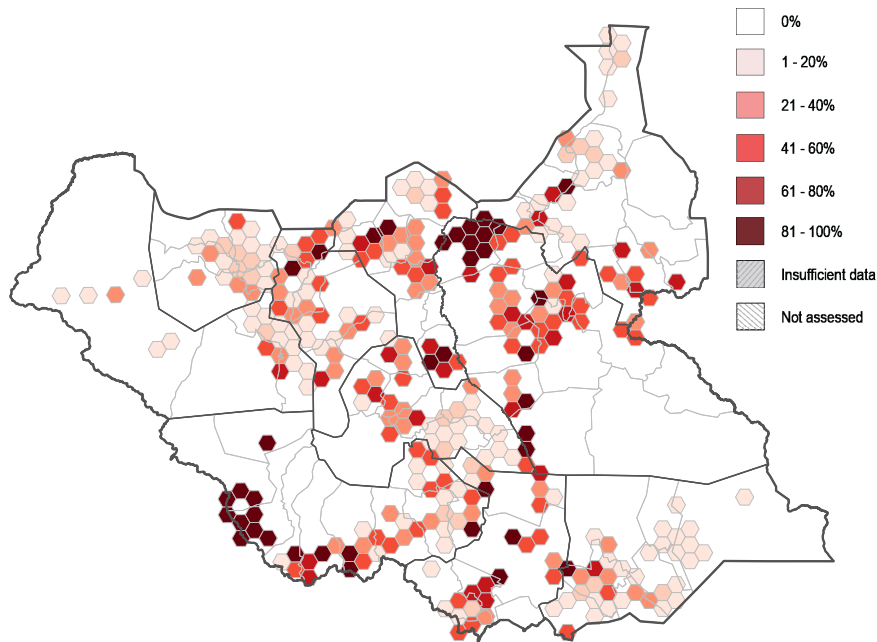
Proportion of assessed settlements¹



¹Data is only represented for counties in which at least 5% of settlements have been assessed. The most recent OCHA Common Operational Dataset (COD) released in March 2019 has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and for the number of settlements in each county.

IDP presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of IDPs in January



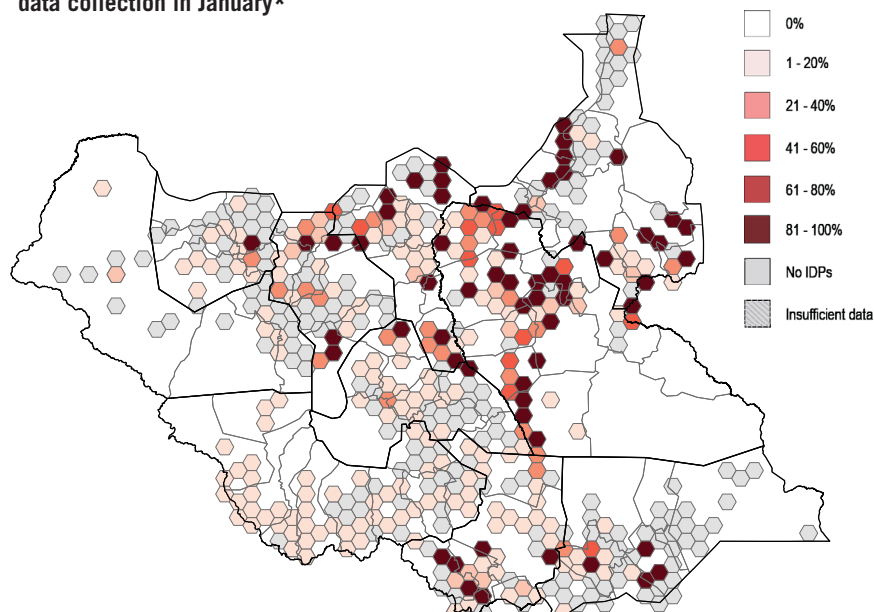
Key displacement trends

In addition to data collected through the Area-of-Knowledge (AoK) surveys, REACH tracks secondary sources on population movement to triangulate AoK findings and to track additional movements or drivers that are not well-reflected in AoK data.

- In December 2022, a violent clash erupted in the Pibor Administrative Area, leading to the displacement of around [30,000](#) people, cattle raiding, and destruction of property. Most of the displaced population was sheltering in Pibor town.
- Since November 2022, clashes between armed forces in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State, have continued to displace people in various locations. As of December 2022, the humanitarian team estimated that a potential [21,000](#) individuals had been displaced, with the majority sheltering in Kodok Town while others moved to Malakal Protection of Civilians Site (PoC).
- Consecutive years of flooding in Fangak, aggravated by the [recent hostility](#) reportedly caused displacements of people to various islands close to New Fangak, and some people fled to Old Fangak, causing food insecurity in the county. According to the [IPC projections](#) (December to March 2023), Fangak is projected to be in Emergency IPC Phase 4, with population in Catastrophe IPC Phase 5.

Displacement and population movement

Proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection in January*



Recent IDPs²

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection

Pibor (n=13)	76%	<div></div>
Fashoda (n=15)	68%	<div></div>
Longochuk (n=4)	57%	<div></div>
Fangak (n=23)	56%	<div></div>
Bor South (n=29)	55%	<div></div>

*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements in each county where KIs reported the presence of IDPs.

²Findings derived from the subset of (n) assessed settlements per county where IDPs were reportedly present.

Main reason for movement (push factor)

In those top five counties, main reason for movement reported per county, by % of assessed settlements where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection

Insecurity (Pibor) (n=13)	100%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Fashoda) (n=15)	100%	<div></div>
Flooding (Longochuk) (n=4)	100%	<div></div>
Lack of food (Fangak) (n=14)	61%	<div></div>
Lack of food (Bor South) (n=13)	45%	<div></div>

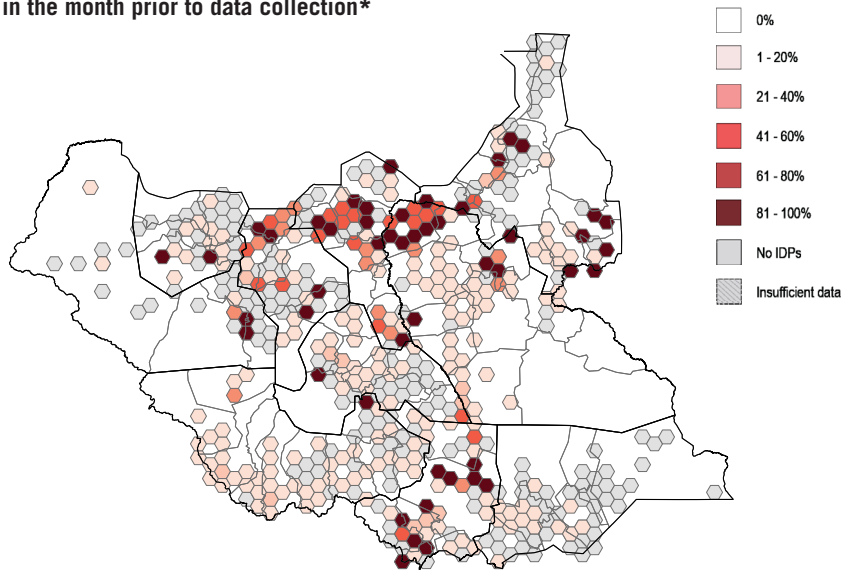
Counties of origin

In those top five counties, main county of origin reported per county, by % of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present

Pibor (to Pibor) (n=16)	94%	<div></div>
Fashoda (to Fashoda) (n=14)	63%	<div></div>
Longochuk (to Longochuk) (n=4)	57%	<div></div>
Fangak (to Fangak) (n=40)	98%	<div></div>
Bor South (to Bor South) (n=33)	60%	<div></div>

Displacement and population movement

Proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population in the month prior to data collection*



*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements in each county where KIs reported the presence of IDPs.

Proportion of IDPs

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population in the month prior to data collection:

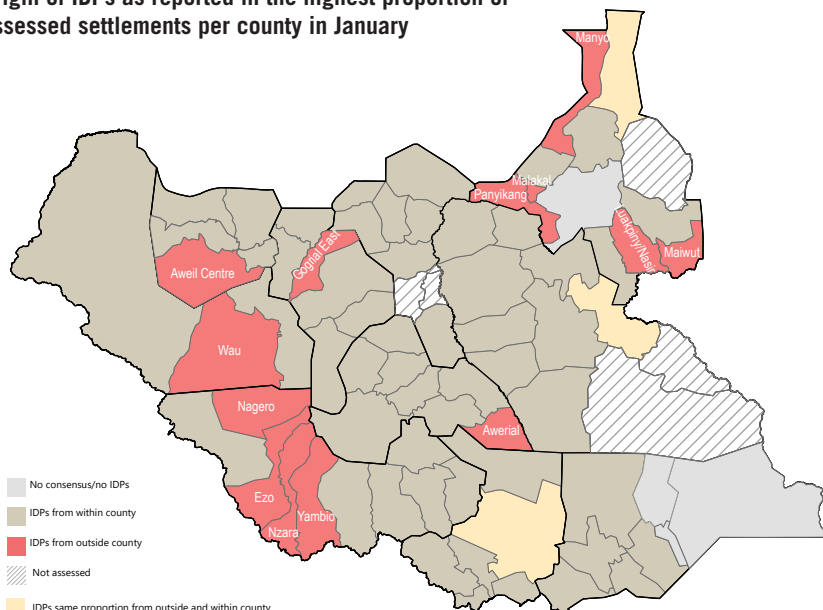
Canal Pigi (n=4)	100%	<div></div>
Panyikang (n=3)	100%	<div></div>
Awerial (n=6)	86%	<div></div>
Guit (n=4)	80%	<div></div>
Mayom (n=7)	78%	<div></div>

IDP arrival time

In those top 5 counties, % of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence where IDPs reportedly arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection:

Canal Pigi (n=3)	18%	<div></div>
Panyikang (n=2)	42%	<div></div>
Awerial (n=0)	0%	<div></div>
Guit (n=0)	0%	<div></div>
Mayom (n=6)	24%	<div></div>

Origin of IDPs as reported in the highest proportion of assessed settlements per county in January



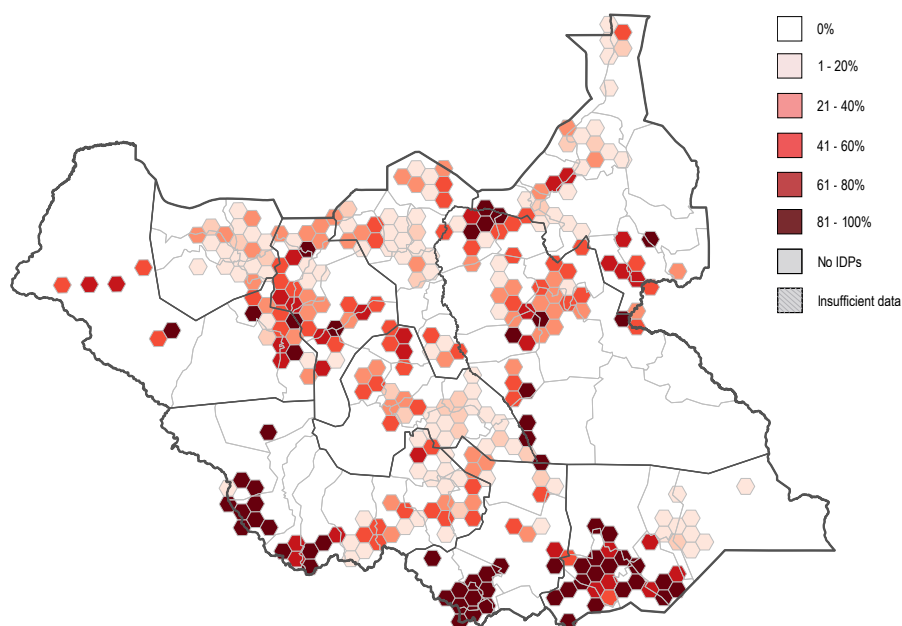
Counties of origin

In those top 5 counties, % of assessed settlements with reported IDP presence by main country of origin:

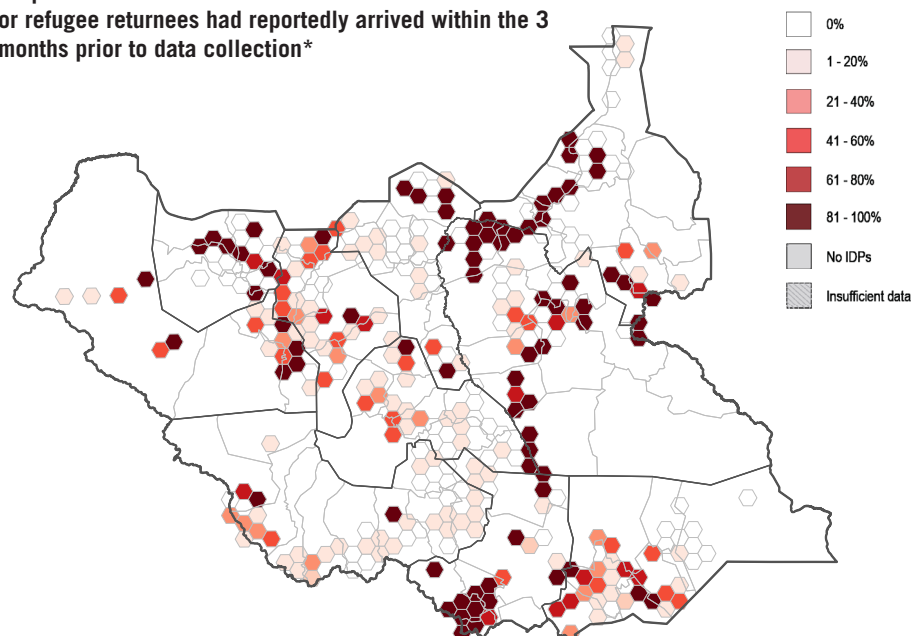
Panyijiar (to Panyijiar) (n=26)	74%	<div></div>
Canal/Pigi (to Malakal) (n=8)	44%	<div></div>
Panyikang (to Panyikang) (n=7)	50%	<div></div>
Mayendit (to Mayendit) (n=15)	79%	<div></div>
Fangak (to Fangak) (n=23)	62%	<div></div>

Returnee presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of returnees (IDP returnees or refugee returnees) in January



Proportion of assessed settlements where IDP returnees or refugee returnees had reportedly arrived within the 3 months prior to data collection*



*Findings relate to the subset of assessed settlements per county where KIs reported IDP returnees or refugee returnees arrived within the 3 months prior to data collection

Presence of recent IDP returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where IDP returnees had reportedly been present in the 3 months prior to data collection

Fashoda (n=15)	68%	
Bor South (n=34)	62%	
Fangak (n=25)	61%	
Pibor (n=10)	59%	
Longochuk (n=4)	57%	

Counties of origin

In those top five counties (see chart on the far left), main county of origin reported by county

Fashoda (to Fashoda) (n=15)	68%	
Juba (to Bor South) ⁷ (n=4)	18%	
Fangak (to Fangak) (n=13)	61%	
Pibor (to Pibor) (n=9)	53%	
Longochuk (to Longochuk) ⁸ (n=3)	43%	

Presence of recent refugee returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where refugee returnees had reportedly been present in the 3 months prior to data collection:

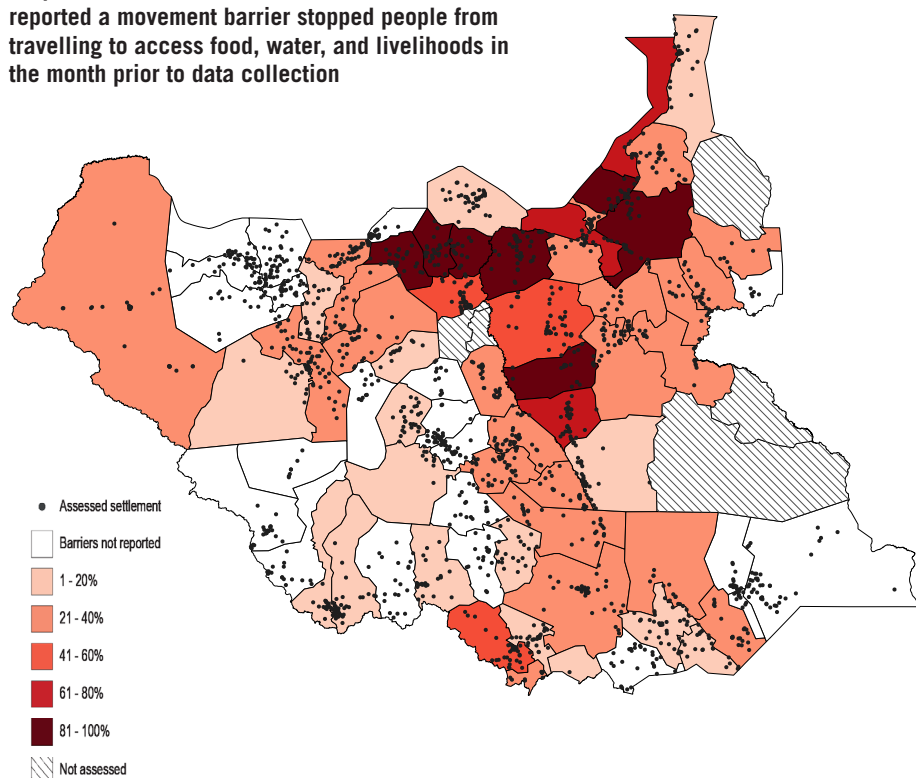
Kajo Keji (n=42)	91%	
Lainya (n=27)	84%	
Morobo (n=6)	75%	
Longochuk (n=5)	75%	
LuakpinyNasir (n=12)	55%	

Countries of origin

Uganda (to Kajo Keji) (n=42)	100%	
Uganda (to Lainya) (n=26)	96%	
Uganda (to Morobo) (n=6)	100%	
Ethiopia (to Longochuk) (n=5)	100%	
Ethiopia (to LuakpinyNasir) (n=12)	100%	

Movement barriers map

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported a movement barrier stopped people from travelling to access food, water, and livelihoods in the month prior to data collection



Counties reporting movement barrier(s)

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where a movement barrier reportedly stopped people from travelling to access food, water, and livelihoods

Fashoda	100%	<div></div>
Fangak	100%	<div></div>
Duk	95%	<div></div>
Rubkona	93%	<div></div>
Baliet	91%	<div></div>

Types of reported movement barriers³

In those five counties (see chart to the far left), main movement barrier reported by county

Conflict (Fashoda) (n=22)	100%	<div></div>
Flooding (Fangak) (n=39)	95%	<div></div>
Conflict (Duk) (n=12)	63%	<div></div>
Flooding (Rubkona) (n=25)	93%	<div></div>
Flooding (Baliet) (n=21)	91%	<div></div>

Key trends related to movement barriers

In addition to data collected through the Area-of-Knowledge (AoK) surveys, REACH tracks secondary sources on movement barriers to triangulate AoK findings and to track additional barriers to movement that are not well-reflected in AoK data.

- The violence in Fashoda County resulted in the halting of humanitarian efforts in Kodok town as of [December 2022](#). Due to security concerns, access to Aburoc and the surrounding areas remained difficult.
- According to [OCHA](#) as of the December 2022 that floodwater levels remained high in Bentiu and Rubkona towns in Unity State, impeding livelihood activities, exposing people to waterborne diseases, and disrupting the provision of basic services.

Country-wide reported movement barriers

Overall, most reported movement barriers in the month prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements where barriers had been reported (n=510)⁴

Flooding	45%	<div></div>
Conflict	44%	<div></div>
Tension	39%	<div></div>
Environmental barriers	22%	<div></div>
Movement restrictions	9%	<div></div>

³Findings are reported for the subset of (n) assessed settlements where movement barriers preventing access to food, water, and livelihoods had been reported.

⁴Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported movement barriers. This was a multiple-choice question, hence findings may add up to more than 100%.

	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	21
2	Akobo	19
3	Aweil Centre	17
4	Aweil East	47
5	Aweil North	22
6	Aweil South	27
7	Aweil West	23
8	Awerial	24
9	Ayod	42
10	Baliet	23
11	Bor South	55
12	Budi	23
13	Canal/Pigi	17
14	Cueibet	30
15	Duk	19
16	Ezo	20
17	Fangak	41
18	Fashoda	22
19	Gogrial East	19
20	Gogrial West	27
21	Guit	17
22	Ibba	21
23	Ikotos	25
24	Juba	44
25	Jur River	49
26	Kajo-keji	46
27	Kapoeta East	44
28	Kapoeta North	20
29	Kapoeta South	9
30	Koch	37

	County	No. of assessed settlements
31	Lafon	15
32	Lainya	32
33	Leer	14
34	Luakpiny/Nasir	7
35	Maban	22
36	Magwi	7
37	Malakal	27
38	Manyo	6
39	Maridi	23
40	Mayendit	8
41	Mayom	26
42	Melut	16
43	Morobo	25
44	Mundri East	36
45	Mundri West	8
46	Mvolo	21
47	Nagero	22
48	Nyirol	21
49	Nzara	7
50	Panyijiar	23
51	Panyikang	22
52	Pariang	29
53	Raja	7
54	Renk	36
55	Rubkona	17
56	Rumbek Centre	2
57	Rumbek East	30
58	Rumbek North	35
59	Tambura	27
60	Terekeka	29

	County	No. of assessed settlements
61	Tonj East	12
62	Tonj North	29
63	Tonj South	12
64	Torit	36
65	Twic	42
66	Twic East	39
67	Ulang	14
68	Uror	29
69	Wau	40
70	Wulu	10
71	Yambio	40
72	Yei	44
73	Yirol East	33
74	Yirol West	38