

# Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

May 2017

**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

## Introduction

Displacement trends and humanitarian needs within Jonglei increased in the month of May, as the persistent presence of armed groups as well as inter-communal conflicts, continued to adversely impact populations' capacity to meet their primary needs and access to basic services. Across much of the state, extremely low food access levels for IDPs and local communities were recorded, with only 31% of assessed settlements reporting sufficient access to food.

REACH has been conducting an assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since April 2016, to inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites. This settlement data is collected across the Greater Upper Nile region on a monthly basis. Between 16 and 30 May, REACH interviewed 617 Key Informants (KIs) displaced from 245 settlements in 8 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State. 251 KIs were interviewed in Akobo Town, 175 in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 121 in Bor Town, 67 in Bor PoC, 2 in Juba PoC and 1 in Nyal.

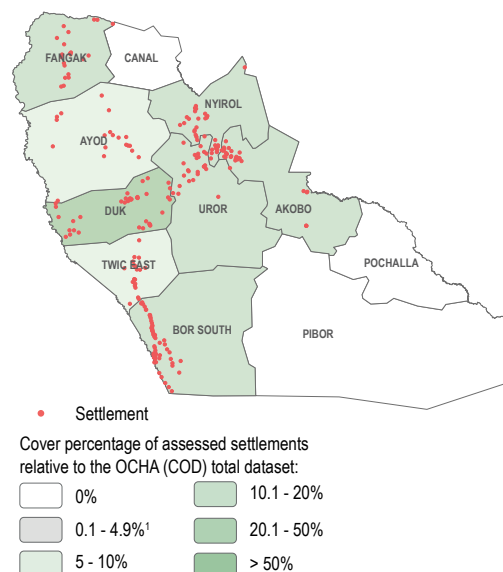
New arrivals, representing 45% of KIs, were specifically targeted during the data collection phase, to ensure a better understanding of current displacement dynamics, and to provide up-to-date information on current humanitarian conditions in the settlements from which they had been displaced. The remaining KIs (55%)

reported to have been in regular contact with someone living in the settlement within the last month.

In May, KI interviews were triangulated with 12 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). These included: a) two FGDs with new arrivals from the Equatorias in Bor Town, b) seven FGDs with new arrivals from Greater Akobo in Akobo Town and Bor PoC, and c) three FGDs with new arrivals from Ayod in Bor PoC. FGDs also involved a participatory mapping exercise to understand the routes that new arrivals took in coming to their respective arrival destinations. Additionally, livelihoods FGDs (five) were conducted with KIs from Duk and Bor South in Mingkaman, as well as with new arrivals from Ayod and Uror in Bor PoC and Akobo Town. REACH also conducted a rapid quantitative assessment in Akobo Town in May, in support of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) May Update.<sup>1</sup> Using an IPC compatible food security outcomes tool, 115 randomly sampled households (HHs) were assessed. Data from this assessment was included in the triangulation of information.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the April Situation Overview for Jonglei State.<sup>2</sup> The first section analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei State in May, 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, May 2017**



## Population Movement and Displacement

In May 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 remained tense. In central Jonglei's Greater Akobo region (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo Counties), the ongoing presence of armed groups and related skirmishes continued to disrupt populations and restrict humanitarian

access.<sup>3</sup> Following months of rising inter-communal tensions, several deadly cattle raids were reported around Kotchar and Manyabor along the Bor-Pibor border in Southern Jonglei.<sup>4</sup> Along the Juba-Bor road, Bor Town's main supply route, various deadly road ambushes led to weeks long road closures, resulting in food shortages in Bor Town.<sup>5</sup> Whilst the start of the rainy season, along with other factors, appeared to have halted larger-scale armed offensives in May, levels of inter-communal violence may remain similar in the weeks to come as it is usually less affected by the rainy season.<sup>6</sup>

Indicative of persistent security issues across the state, de-population has slightly increased from 68% in April to 79% of settlements assessed in May reporting a population decrease of 50% or more. Whilst de-population levels remained stable in most parts of Jonglei, Greater Akobo reported an increase in de-population from 56% of assessed settlements in April to 83% in May. This may be attributable to ongoing conflict in the area, as well as a sustained increase in humanitarian needs in the absence of full humanitarian access to the region since clashes broke out in February and April.

Reflective of the high rate of de-population of local communities, 40% of settlements assessed in May reported the presence of IDPs in their area, compared to 31% in

1 Please see [here](#) for further information on the IPC process in South Sudan.

2 See REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, April 2017 for further information.

3 UNICEF South Sudan: Humanitarian Situation Overview 109, 1-31 May; IOM South Sudan: Conflict and Displacement Analysis, Weekly Brief, 11 May 2017.

4 Radio Tamazuji: Jonglei youth destroyed houses in Kotchar and Manyabor, 3 May 2017; OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, May 2017.

5 Radio Tamazuji: Death toll from Juba-Bor road ambush rises to 31, 8 May 2017.

6 Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project: Conflict Trends Report 58, May 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, Bor and Juba Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, Bor Town, Akobo, as well as in Nyal, throughout May 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, it 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**.

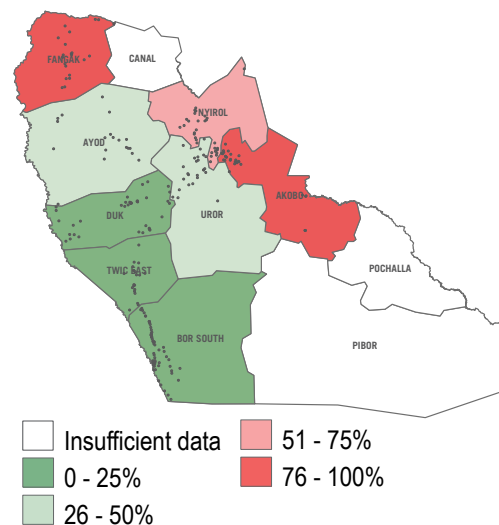
April. The overall highest presence of IDPs was reported in Fangak, which is attributable to clashes around Panyikang in neighbouring Upper Nile State. Further, indicative of high conflict-related population movement within Greater Akobo, the vast majority of settlements assessed (73%) in Akobo and Nyirol counties reported the presence of IDPs. Urur, however, saw a drop in the proportion of IDP hosting settlements from 75% in April to 53% in May. This may be linked to populations, who had been initially displaced in February and April, having increasingly moved north-east towards sites such as Akobo and Lankien, where they have better access to humanitarian services. Overall, these findings suggest that ongoing insecurity in large sections of Central and Northern Jonglei as well as rising humanitarian needs may have led to further displacement and IDP movement in these areas in May.

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 May.

### Displacement to Jonglei

In May, **IDPs displaced from the Equatorias, in particular Yei and Juba, continued to arrive in Bor Town**. These are populations originally from Jonglei, who were residing in key towns in the Equatorias since the crisis in 2013. Whilst FGD participants from Yei cited insecurity in Yei as main reason for returning to Bor in May, respondents from Juba had left due to high living costs in the capital.

**As a result of persistent ambushes along**



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

**the Juba-Bor road and the start of the rainy season, which has worsened road conditions, overall movement from the Equatorias to Bor Town appears to have declined considerably in May compared to previous months.** Rising transport costs, cited as 25,000 SSP<sup>7</sup> from Juba to Bor for one family by vehicle, may be another factor slowing movement, with the river route typically perceived as a less preferred option. This was reportedly due to passengers being unable to transport large quantities of household items by boat. With the progression of the rainy season, movement levels are anticipated to remain relatively low.

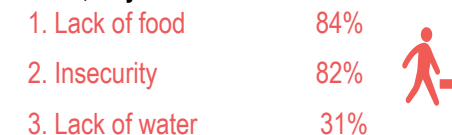
### Displacement within Jonglei

**Displacement within Greater Akobo and to Akobo Town**

Populations who had fled the Yuai and Waat offensives in February and April continued to

remain on the move within Greater Akobo in May. Since the fighting began, new arrivals were noted in locations such as Kaikuiny in Akobo County (27,000 individuals), Pieri in Urur (42,000) and Lankien in Nyirol (5,000).<sup>8</sup> In Akobo Town, an average of 93 people a day arrived in May.<sup>9</sup> According to FGD respondents from Urur, Nyirol and Akobo West who had arrived in Akobo Town in May, populations had fled due to fears of further clashes and deteriorating humanitarian conditions, in particular a lack of access to food and drinking water. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, these were also the top reported reasons cited by the 246 new arrivals from Greater Akobo REACH surveyed in May.

**Figure 1: Top reported reasons of new arrivals from Greater Akobo who had arrived in Akobo Town, May 2017<sup>10</sup>**



**Transit locations such as Kaikuiny and Buong in Akobo county were described as unfavourable due to overcrowding and a lack of access to water and food by FGD respondents. Hence, further movement to Akobo Town, which has a larger humanitarian presence, can be anticipated in the weeks to come, with new arrivals noting that they had observed several groups of 150-200 individuals en route to Akobo Town. Whilst this underscores the importance of sustained humanitarian service provision in Akobo Town, life-saving assistance in remote locations should be further provided<sup>11</sup>, as IDPs who are physically**

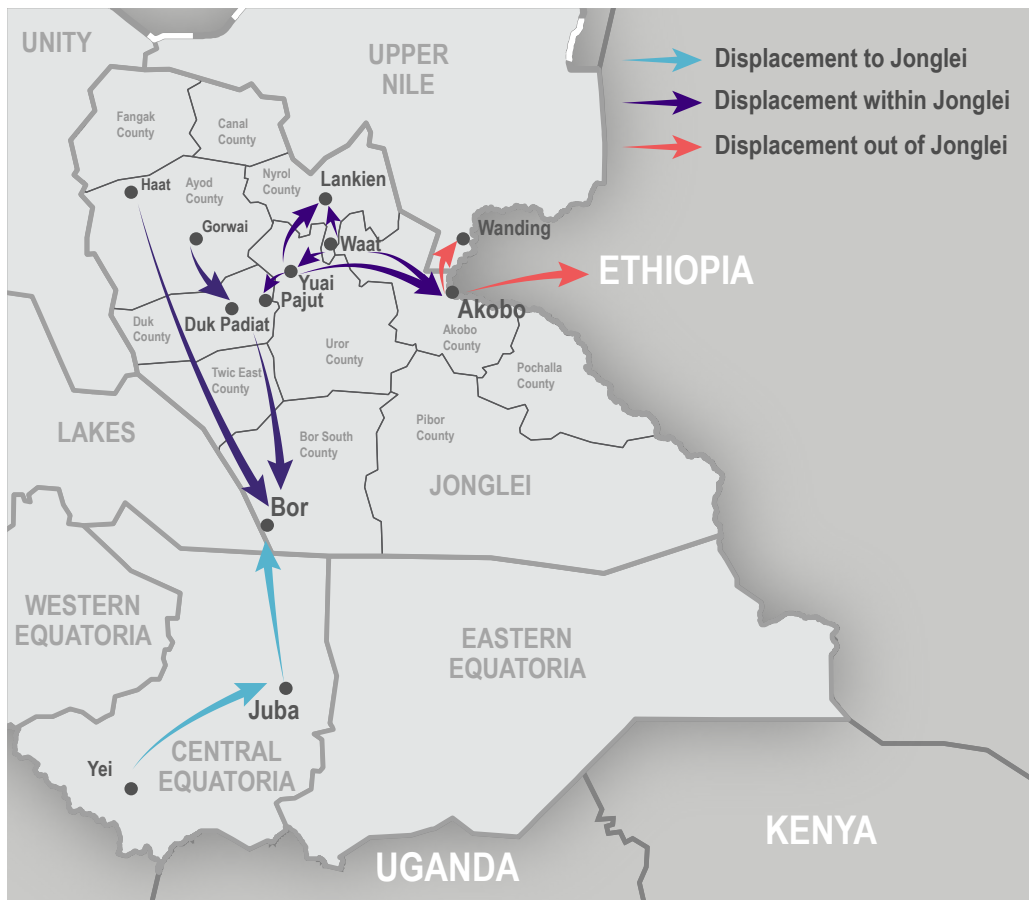
<sup>7</sup> South Sudanese Pound; equivalent to 221 USD as of 31 May 2017.

<sup>8</sup> OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue 7, 9 May 2017.

<sup>9</sup> REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port and Road Monitoring, May 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Most frequently cited as first, second and third most important reasons.

<sup>11</sup> See OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue 8, 28 May 2017 for an overview over emergency assistance delivered in Greater Akobo in May.



Map 3: Displacement Overview Jonglei State, May 2017

or financially unable to make the long journey to Akobo or Lankien are likely to remain in these locations. Further, in Uror County, from where new arrivals reported that vulnerable people remain displaced in bush terrain around Pieri, Karam and Payai, overall visibility on the number of people in need remains low. Whilst access challenges are likely to persist, increased coordination with local humanitarian staff that remains in Pieri could contribute to a more targeted humanitarian response.

#### Displacement from Greater Akobo and Ayod to Bor PoC

In addition to displacement within Greater Akobo, more than 300 new arrivals from Uror and Nyirol sought protection at the Bor PoC in May.<sup>12</sup> FGD respondents explained that they had first moved from Uror to Pajut (Duk county), from where they hired trucks to reach Bor, at the cost of 3,000 - 4,000 SSP<sup>13</sup> per person. Similarly to arrivals interviewed in Akobo Town, they reported that they had been

displaced multiple times since February due to shifting frontlines. Whilst the inflow of arrivals had decreased by the end of May, respondents indicated that further movement to the PoC may take place if IDPs from Uror in Duk are able to gather the necessary financial means to travel onward.

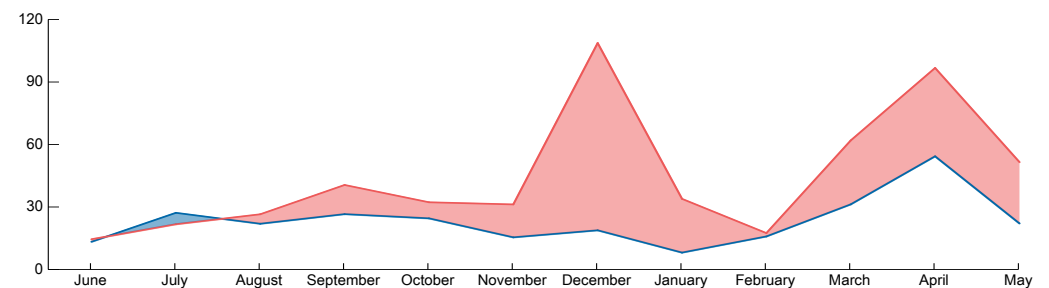
In May, REACH also surveyed 22 new arrivals from Ayod in the Bor PoC, out of which 91% indicated they had left Ayod due to a lack of food, followed by 61% reporting insecurity. Respondents from Gorwai, on Ayod's mainland, explained they had fled military skirmishes, whilst new arrivals from Haat reported that they left due to deteriorating food access.

#### Displacement out of Jonglei

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 through the Akobo Port has decreased in May.<sup>14</sup> Net outflows of South Sudanese permanently leaving the country to Ethiopia dropped from an average of 92 individuals a day in April to 52 individuals a day in May (see

Graph 1).<sup>15</sup> The main reasons provided by individuals who have decided to permanently leave for Ethiopia was the conflict and a lack of access to food.

The decrease in departures is likely linked to increased humanitarian assistance provision in Akobo Town in May, that may have motivated individuals to remain in Akobo. Further, individuals who were interviewed when leaving Akobo Town noted that populations are increasingly using alternative routes to reach Gambella. They had reported increased movement by foot from Akobo Town to Wanding (Upper Nile), from where populations proceed North to reach Gambella. This was reportedly due to a lack of financial means to depart by boat from Akobo Town. Consequently, despite the drop in departures from Akobo Port, it remains uncertain whether overall outflows from Jonglei to Ethiopia have decreased in May. Given displacement from Greater Akobo is likely to persist in the weeks to come, further arrivals in Gambella can be anticipated.



Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue) via Akobo Town; June to May 2017.<sup>16</sup>

12 Ibid.

13 equivalent to 26 - 35 USD as of 31 May 2017.

14 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, May 2017.

15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.

# Situation in Assessed Communities

## Food Security and Livelihoods

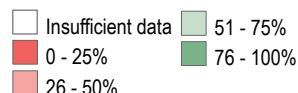
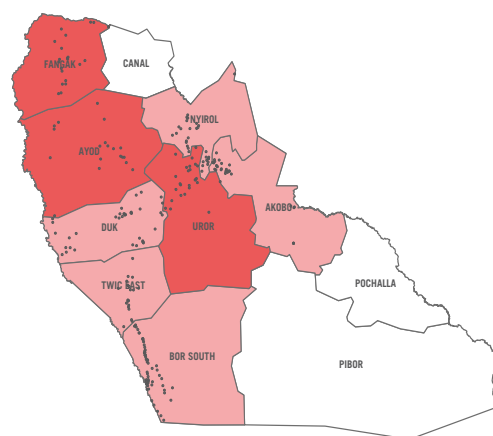
### Access to Food

As a result of continued insecurity throughout the state as well as the progression of the lean season<sup>17</sup> **adequate access to food was at only 31% in settlements assessed in May (the same figure was reported in April).** This represents **the lowest value recorded by REACH to date.** Further, regional shifts in terms of food access appeared, with some areas seeing further deterioration, whilst others noted slight improvements in May, as outlined below.

#### Bor South - Duk Corridor

**In May, the Bor South-Duk corridor reported improvements in food access, however, overall access levels remained low.** In Duk, which over months had reported the lowest food access levels in Jonglei<sup>18</sup>, access improved from 10% of assessed settlements in April to 28% in May. A similar improvement was noted in Bor South, from 22% of assessed settlements in April to 41% in May. In Twic East, the situation remained comparable to April, at 28% of assessed settlements.

Improvements in food access are likely **attributable to an increase in food assistance reported by humanitarian partners.** This is also reflected in the number of assessed settlements reporting access to food assistance, which rose from 14% in April to 44% in May. However, with **only 10% of**

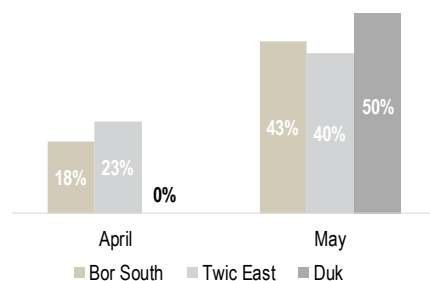


**Map 4: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to adequate amounts of food, May 2017**

**assessed settlements citing cultivation as their main food source,** improvements may be short-lived without sustained humanitarian assistance.

Reflective of low cultivation levels, **unsafe planting environments were cited as top reason for a lack of food access,** reported by

**Figure 2: Percentage of settlements assessed reporting access to food assistance in the previous three months, April and May 2017**



an average of 73% of assessed settlements in May, as had been the case in previous months. According to FGD respondents, this was related to fears of cattle raids and child abductions. As tensions with neighboring communities in Pibor were particularly high in May, respondents stated that this has also hampered cultivation efforts during the current planting season.

Food insecurity in the region is further exacerbated by market prices in Bor having considerably increased as a result of insecurity-related trade disruptions in May. This has also negatively impacted other markets in the three counties which are reliant on supplies from Bor. In light of the lean season, this is particularly worrying as reliance on purchase, the main food source in May, typically increases during the May - August period when access to alternative food sources seasonally declines.

These findings suggest that due to insecurity restricting cultivation, rising market prices and the lean season further depleting household food stocks, **populations, in particular in Duk, are reliant on continued food assistance,** without which a rapid deterioration in food access could be anticipated.

#### Ayod and Fangak

**With only 17% and 19% of assessed settlements reporting adequate food access, Ayod and Fangak reported the lowest and third lowest food access levels in Jonglei in May.** In Fangak, food access declined sharply from 57% in April to 19% in May. It exhibits a pattern of fluctuating access levels since January, which may be related to the bi-monthly aidrop cycles.

**Figure 3: Top two reported reasons for a lack of access to sufficient food in Ayod, May 2017**

- 1 Unsafe planting environments 36%
- 2 Floods destroyed crops 18%

Consistent with new arrivals from Ayod reporting that ongoing skirmishes between armed actors limited cultivation, **36% of assessed settlements in Ayod attributed insufficient food access to unsafe planting environments.** Further, 18% of assessed settlements reported that crops had been destroyed by floods, which was also cited in FGDs. **In Fangak, the destruction of crops by floods has consistently been cited as a main driver for a lack of food access** in previous months, and has been reported by 69% of settlements assessed in May.

With cultivation levels low, as a result of these factors, 40% of settlements assessed in Ayod and 29% of settlements in Fangak cited NGO assistance as main food source. Further, reflective of the precarious food security situation in the two counties, 20% of settlements in Ayod were sourcing their food through forage, whilst 21% of settlements in Fangak reported relying on friends and family as main food source.

**Given the overall critical food security levels in Ayod and Fangak, food security situation is likely to deteriorate further in the coming months, without further substantial assistance.** This is of particular concern in Ayod, where food access levels have been consistently low in previous months.

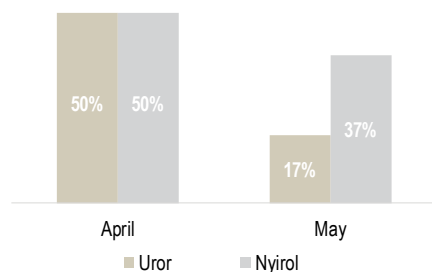
<sup>17</sup> During the lean season populations plant but the new harvest is not yet ready, resulting in low food stocks.

<sup>18</sup> See REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, April 2017 for further information on food access trends in Duk.

## Akobo, Nyirol and Uror (Greater Akobo)

Food access levels in Greater Akobo continued to decline, with only 32% of settlements assessed in May reporting sufficient food access, compared to 44% in April and 80% in January, prior to the start of conflict in the region. The **largest relative decline between April and May was reported in Uror County, from 50% of assessed settlement reporting food access to only 17%**, placing Uror as the county with the second lowest food access in Jonglei. In Nyirol County, this rate dropped from 50% in April to 37% in May.

Figure 4: Percentage of settlements assessed reporting access to adequate amounts of food, April and May 2017



Forty-two percent of settlements assessed in Akobo County reported sufficient food access in May, which is similar to the figure reported in April. The REACH assessment in Akobo found that overall 17% of HHs assessed in Akobo Town had poor food consumption scores, indicating severe food consumption gaps for some parts of the population.<sup>19</sup> In terms of food quantity, measured through the **Household Hunger Scale (HHS)**, findings from the survey suggest that **39% of HHs assessed were classified as “severe”**, a status characterized by food deprivation and actual hunger, whilst

about half of HHs assessed (53%) fall within the “moderate” category.<sup>20;21</sup>

The top reported reason for a lack of access to food in Greater Akobo was **conflict-related**, with 39% of assessed settlements citing the destruction of crops by fighting. Further, KIs from Uror reported that markets and homes had been looted by armed groups, whilst KIs from Nyirol explained that the scale of new arrivals had put food sources of local community members under enormous pressure, exacerbating rising food insecurity in the two counties.

Whilst humanitarian actors have been able to provide emergency assistance across several locations in Greater Akobo in May, the overall proportion of assessed settlements relying on food assistance as the main food source stood at 24% - a similar rate to April. This might reflect the fact that current levels of assistance have to cover rapidly increasing food needs, given the scale of displacement. Whilst half of settlements assessed in Akobo and Nyirol were still able to rely on cultivation as food sources, 37% of settlements assessed in **Uror indicated family and friends as main source of food, whilst 17% reported forage**. This is again reflective of the particularly concerning food security situation in Uror.

These findings indicate an **urgent need to sustain emergency food assistance to meet displaced and local community members’ rising food needs in the three counties**. Whilst food assistance in IDP arrival destinations such as Akobo, Kaikuiny and Lankien is urgently required, **assistance should equally focus on**

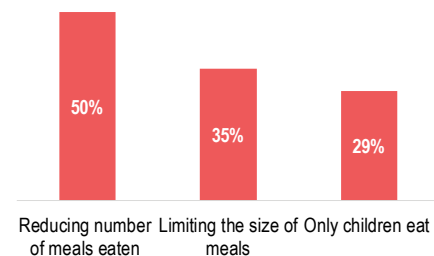
**populations remaining in remote locations, in particular in Uror County, where overall food needs appear most severe.**

### Coping Strategies

The complex combination of a reduced ability to cultivate, low levels of access to humanitarian assistance, risen displacement and seasonally lower access to customary alternative food sources in the lean season, has contributed to a situation of critical food insecurity across much of Jonglei. **Fifty-four percent of settlements assessed reported hunger/malnutrition as a cause of death in May**. Similar to the previous month, **56% of assessed settlements in May reported eating only one meal per day**, with the highest consumption decrease reported in Ayod and Fangak. In May, reducing the number of meals eaten (50% of assessed settlements), limiting the size of meals (35%), letting only children eat (29%) were some of the most commonly used consumption-related coping strategies.

In Uror, where the food security situation was particularly concerning in May, **FGD respondents had indicated that wild leaves (Wor) had become the main food source for**

Figure 5: Consumption-related coping strategies used in assessed settlements, May 2017



many populations. This was perceived as a final emergency measure in the absence of other sources of food. Further, FGD respondents from Ayod, had described reduced access to wild leaves due to population overcrowding on the mainland that had resulted in overconsumption.

### Livelihoods

Despite 90% of settlements assessed reporting the availability of land in April, this has not translated into high levels of agricultural activities. **Agricultural inputs were available in only 26% of assessed settlements, with 44% reporting agricultural inputs had been stolen, looted or abandoned**. Reflective of this, only 40% of settlements reported subsistence farming as the primary livelihood activity, and 25% reported growing crops to sell. Further, FGD respondents from Uror reported that due to the continued presence of armed groups, populations were currently unable to cultivate, despite the onset of the planting season. This places **Uror**, along with other areas in the state where insecurity is reducing the capacity to cultivate, **on a negative trajectory for this year’s harvest season**.

Whilst market access remained relatively high in May (61% of assessed settlements), **only 18% of settlements reported purchasing as a food source**. Given the low incomes as well as increased prices of common goods due to seasonal price increases related to the lean season,<sup>22</sup> buying food from the market became difficult due to the low purchasing power of individuals. In Uror, market access has declined from 80% of assessed settlement prior to the conflict in January to only 23% in

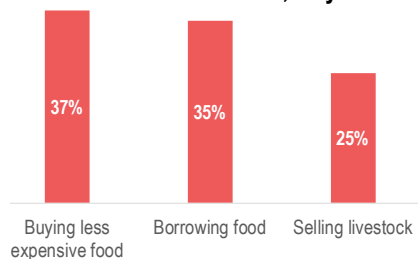
19 REACH: Akobo Town Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment.

20 Ibid.

21 For further information on the situation in Akobo Town, please refer to the forthcoming REACH: Akobo Town Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment.

22 WFP South Sudan: Monthly Market Price Monitoring, May 2017

**Figure 6: Resource-based coping strategies used in assessed settlements, May 2017**



May. FGD respondents noted that traders were able to bring in sorghum from Juba to Yuai in May, at the cost of 8,000 SSP.<sup>23</sup> However, other locations in Uror such as Pathai, Pieri, Motot, Payai and Rubliah reportedly remained without market access.

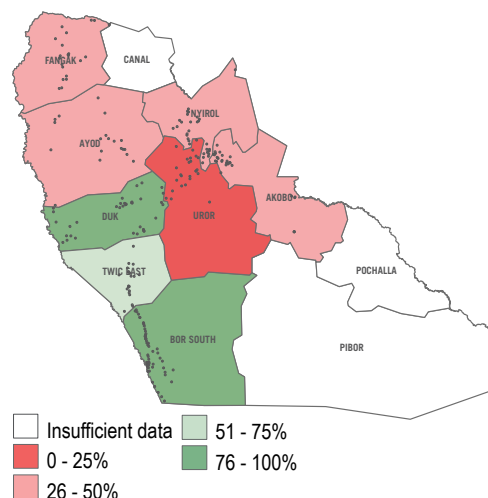
In response to these negative livelihood trends, numerous coping strategies aimed at improving resource capacity were reported by assessed settlements, including buying less expensive food (37%) and borrowing food (35%). **The sale of cattle to meet immediate household needs was reported by 25% of assessed settlements in May, with a similar proportion reported in April.** In FGDs, respondents from Uror stated that selling livestock had become a common emergency strategy for those with access to cattle, in addition to, for populations that hunt, selling of wild meat to earn an income and buy other types of food in the few markets that are available. Whilst these strategies likely assist populations in smoothing consumption and income in the short-term, there is a risk of depletion of asset bases in the long-term, exacerbating populations' overall socio-economic vulnerability. In the short-term, this may also lead to an accelerated depletion of

assets during the dry season. With insecurity preventing cultivation, this is likely to have a knock-on effect on the future harvest season as well as other livelihood activities.

### WASH and Health

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. In May, active cholera transmission continued to be reported in Duk, Ayod, Fangak and Pigi Counties.<sup>24</sup> In addition to counties along the Nile being affected, **cholera appeared to have spread to counties distant from the Nile, with alerts reported in Akobo as well as Uror.**<sup>25</sup> In Pieri, Uror, MSF reported the first suspected cholera cases on 9 May, and attributed the outbreak to displaced populations' poor living conditions, including inadequate shelter and limited access to clean water.<sup>26</sup>

It is expected that the epidemic will continue to spread in the short-term as a result of a combination of factors, including the progression of the rainy season, ongoing population movement, outbreaks in remote locations as well as safety access restrictions. Consequently, there is a need for sustaining control and prevention activities in areas with active transmission. Additionally, **Ayod and parts of Fangak are likely to remain priority areas for interventions** due to their particular remoteness, with new arrivals in Bor PoC having reported ongoing cholera as a key issue in April and May. Given the scale of displacement in the region and the potential risk this bears for further spread of the disease, there appears to



**Map 5: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to healthcare, May 2017**

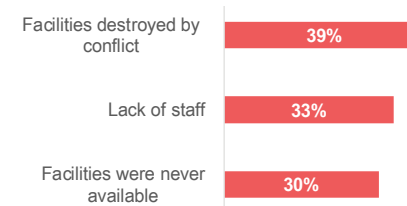
**be a need to prioritize support to actors on the ground in Uror and to continue efforts to reach populations on the move within Greater Akobo with the provision of WASH items.**

Reflective of persistent and new cholera hotspots, **access to clean water in settlements assessed was overall lowest in Fangak (37% of assessed settlements), Uror (59%), Duk (72%) and Ayod (79%).** Whilst this may generally be attributable to a lack of or the non-functioning of boreholes, in Uror new arrivals had reported that existing boreholes could not be accessed due to the presence of armed groups around water points. Moreover, the **WASH situation in Greater Akobo is further compounded by a decline in reported access to sanitation facilities.** In April, 38% of assessed settlements in Nyirol, Akobo and Uror had reported none of the population in their village was using latrines,

which, as a result of further displacement most likely, rose to 53% in May.<sup>27</sup>

**Greater Akobo, followed closely by Ayod and Fangak, also reported the overall lowest access to health facilities in May, which across the state was at 59% of assessed settlements.** Overall, the top reported reason for a lack of healthcare was that health facilities had been destroyed by conflict (39%), followed by a lack of staff (33%) and facilities never having existed in the first place (30%). In Uror County, however, where healthcare access was particularly low at 18% of assessed settlements, 84% of settlements without access reported that this was due to destruction of health facilities by conflict. Similarly, in Akobo and Nyirol, the majority of settlements assessed reported that access was hindered by insecurity, reflective of the fact that **healthcare in Greater Akobo was severely affected by the ongoing conflict.** With health needs likely to rise due to persistent displacement in the area as well as an anticipated seasonal increase in malaria and other diseases, **there is a need to further support remote populations around locations such as Karam, Pathai, as well as in the bush terrain around Pieri.**

**Figure 7: Top three reported reasons for inadequate health access, May 2017<sup>28</sup>**



23 equivalent to 71 USD as of 31 May 2017.

24 OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Bulletin 8, 28 May 2017.

25 UNICEF South Sudan: Humanitarian Situation Report 107, 1-15 April 2017.

26 MSF: South Sudan Thousands of risk after cholera and malnutrition after feeling attacks in Yuai and Pieri, 2 May 2017.

27 For further information on sanitation conditions in other counties of Jonglei, please refer to REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, April 2017.

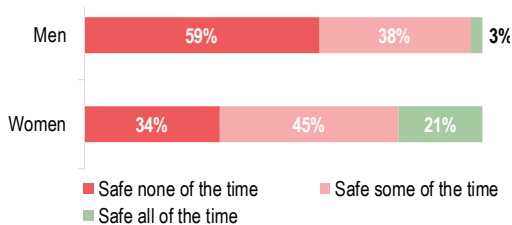
28 Rank two reasons health facilities are not available.

## Protection

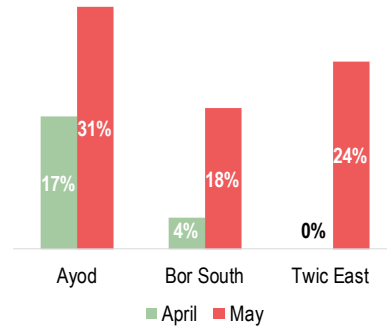
Given a lack of improvement in security conditions across the state, the overall proportion of settlements assessed reporting that men and women felt unsafe at all times remained similar to April, at 59% of assessed settlements for men and 34% for women. Perceived lack of safety was particularly high in conflict-affected **Greater Akobo**, where **69% of assessed settlements reported men were unsafe during both day and night, with the same reported by 47% of them for women.** Such large proportions of the population feeling unsafe at all times 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 83% of assessed settlements, and in 42% for women.**

According to FGD respondents from Uror, civilian populations, including children, continued to be indiscriminately targeted in May. Overall, the proportion of settlements reporting killing and injury by other communities as main protection concern for women has decreased from April (63% of assessed settlements), which is attributable to

**Figure 8: Percentage of settlements assessed reporting feeling of safety by gender and period of day, May 2017**



**Figure 9: Percentage of settlements assessed reporting sexual violence as main protection concern for women in April and May 2017**



an **increase in settlements reporting sexual violence as main protection concern.** In April this had been reported by 16% of assessed settlements, which rose to 29% in May.

Overall, **Greater Akobo continued to report the highest proportion of settlements assessed (51%) citing sexual violence as the main protection issue for women,** following a negatively increasing trend in conflict-related sexual violence since February.<sup>29</sup> Further, as illustrated in Figure 3, the overall state-level increase since April is attributable to a larger proportion of settlements assessed in Ayod, Bor South and Twic East, reporting sexual violence in May. Further research is needed to better understand this development.

In FGDs, new arrivals interviewed in Bor PoC, also reported that **populations who had sought protection in remote bushlands had suffered surprise attacks by armed groups** who had reportedly followed them to loot food civilians had taken to these areas. Further, in an assessment by the Protection Cluster in Bor PoC, it was reported by new arrivals from Uror

that populations trying to access water points had been subjected to attacks and extreme sexual violence by armed groups<sup>30</sup>, with similar accounts provided by REACH FGD respondents in previous months. Finally, all new arrivals, who had been interviewed by REACH across several sites, including people from Ayod and the Equatorias, had reported attacks or fears of attacks by armed groups on the journey to their respective arrival destinations.

Across Jonglei, the protection situation of children in settlements assessed has remained comparable to that of previous months. **Almost half of settlements (48%) reported in April that children were unsafe at all times, with the largest protection threat consisting of fears of child abductions, cited by 57% of settlements.** Reflective of Western Jonglei's conflict patterns surrounding cattle raids and child abductions, nearly all settlements assessed in Duk, Bor South and Twic East indicated this as the most common protection issue for children. In settlements assessed in **Greater Akobo, however, family separation was the main protection concern for children,** which is likely to be conflict-related.

Overall, these findings suggest that the persistent presence of armed groups in parts of Jonglei continued to have a negative impact on protection trends in May. Many **men, women and children remained vulnerable to severe protection issues,** particularly those remaining within and fleeing from Greater Akobo. Moreover, findings suggest a need for both sexual and gender-based violence interventions as well as identification

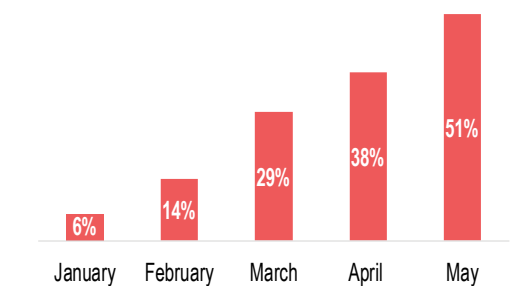
of unaccompanied and separated children in displacement hotspots where humanitarian actors are present.

## Shelter

Consistent with reports by new arrivals from Greater Akobo that shelters had been burnt and looted by armed groups, **51% of settlements assessed in Akobo, Nyirol and Uror in May reported shelter damage due to fighting.** As illustrated in Figure 5 below, there is a negative trend of increasing shelter damage since clashes initially broke out in the region in February. Amongst the three counties, **reported shelter damage in the February - May time period was particularly high in settlements assessed in Uror County,** indicating a need to prioritize this county in future shelter reconstruction assistance.

As had been the case in April, shelter conditions of displaced populations appeared too fluid to accurately capture shelter trends during May, however, some indications can be provided for local communities. Similar to what was reported in previous months, the most frequently cited

**Figure 10: Percentage of settlements assessed in Greater Akobo reporting shelter damage due to fighting, January - May 2017**

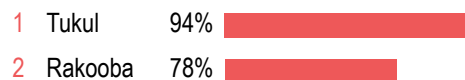


<sup>29</sup> For further background information on this, please refer to REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, April 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Protection Cluster Jonglei: Protection Assessment Bor PoC New Arrivals, 12 May 2017, circulated amongst humanitarian actors.

shelter type for the local community was the tukul (96% of assessed settlements) and the rakooba (74%), indicating the prevalence of permanent shelter structures.

**Figure 11: Top two reported shelter types used by local community, May 2017<sup>31</sup>**



However, local communities may need further support with the provision of temporary shelter materials to be able absorb IDP shelter needs, as **materials such as NGO-provided plastic sheeting were available in only 5% of assessed settlements**. Further, levels of local community members sharing shelters with IDPs were particularly high in Greater Akobo and Fangak, where the vast majority of IDP hosting settlements reported that 50% or more of the local community were sharing shelters. This suggests that **without further shelter assistance, current and future displacement in these areas may exceed IDP receiving communities' shelter capacities**.

### Education

Nearly half of settlements assessed (49%) reported access to education services in May, with a similar figure reported in April (56%). Across the state, Bor South reported the highest levels of education service availability, followed by Twic East and Duk. However, according to education actors, school attendance in this area was negatively affected by increased conflict along the Bor-Pibor border in the month of May, preventing students from accessing available education facilities.<sup>32</sup>

**In conflict-affected Greater Akobo the availability of educational facilities declined** from 72% of assessed settlements in April to only 30% in May. **Nearly all settlements assessed in Greater Akobo cited the destruction of facilities by conflict, insecurity as well as displacement of teachers as main factors preventing access to education**. Further, according to humanitarian actors, some of the existing schools had been used as emergency shelter for newly arrived IDPs. Whilst anticipated persistent insecurity and displacement in Greater Akobo will likely lead to a further deterioration in education access in the weeks to come, there is a need to increase schooling support in IDP receiving communities which are accessible such as Akobo and Lankien.<sup>33</sup>

## Conclusion

### Displacement Overview

As a result of ongoing insecurity in Greater Akobo, displacement within Jonglei continued to rise in May. This was partly attributable to the continued presence of armed groups. At the same time, given that the majority of populations experienced multiple displacement, and reduced access to services and humanitarian assistance since offensives started in February and April, **needs of local and displaced communities have risen over time**.

In particular Akobo and Nyirol County continued to report persistent inflows of arrivals from within these counties as well as from Uror. Despite large outflows from Uror, considerable number of populations still remain in remote locations there. Consequently, **there is a need to sustain efforts to reach remote populations,**

**whilst also maintaining assistance in IDP receiving hotspots such as Lankien and Akobo as well as transit locations** (Kaikuiny, Buong). With displacement likely to continue in Greater Akobo, outflows to Ethiopia are likely to persist.

### Priority needs and targeting of response

Critically high levels of food insecurity continued across the state in May, with 69% of assessed settlements reporting no adequate access to food. Given **particularly low and deteriorating access levels in Ayod, Uror and Fangak, these counties need to be targeted with emergency food assistance** to prevent further declines at the peak of the lean season. Further, there is a need to sustain assistance along the Bor South-Duk corridor, in particular in Duk, as the county is likely to rapidly fall back to extremely poor food access without assistance.

With the rainy season likely to increase the spread of cholera, there is a need to scale-up deployments of mobile health teams, in particular in remote locations of Ayod and Fangak. At the same time, **continued and increased cholera response activities should be provided in Uror County**, which reported cases in May. This is of particular importance in light of ongoing population movement from Uror to Greater Akobo as well as Bor PoC.

Across indicators assessed, **the humanitarian situation in Uror is of particular concern**, with rapid deteriorations in food access, rising WASH needs as well as severe protection concerns having been reported in May. Whilst

this may lead to continued displacement from Uror, **life-saving emergency assistance within the county is urgently needed** as large proportions of the populations remaining in Uror are reported to be vulnerable populations who are physically or financially unable to move, and are currently sheltering under poor conditions in bush terrain.

### 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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<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> UNICEF South Sudan: Humanitarian Situation Overview 109, 1-31 May.

<sup>33</sup> For further background information on education attendance and availability in Jonglei, please refer to REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, March 2017.