



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

April 2022

Overview

The continuation of conflict 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):

- KIs who are newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month
- KIs 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.)
- KIs who are 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 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 April 2022, and are not statistically generalisable.

Assessment Coverage

2,660 Key informants interviewed

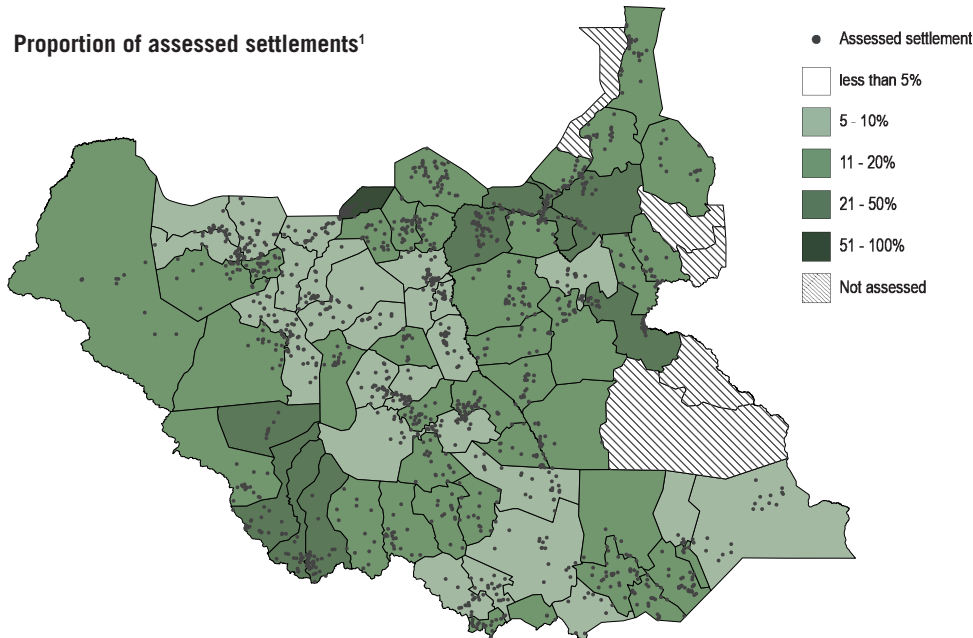
2,052 Settlements assessed

73 Counties assessed

73 Counties with 5% or more coverage¹

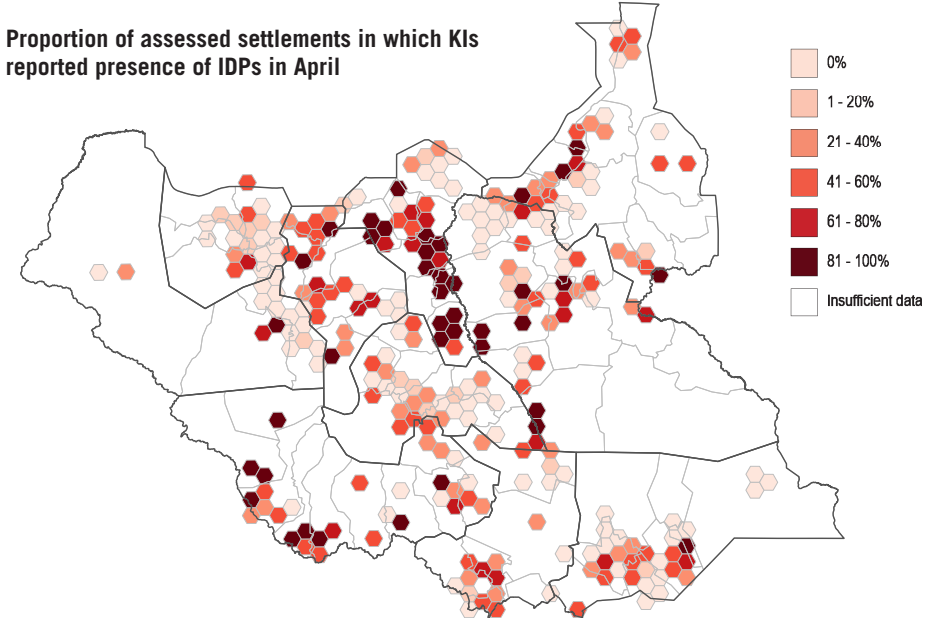
Assessment coverage

Proportion of assessed settlements¹



IDP presence

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



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.

Given limitations in analysing data using sub-county administrative boundaries in South Sudan, the country was divided into a 500km² hexagon grid for analytical and display purposes. The distance between the opposite sides of each hexagon represents 15km, approximating one day's walking distance as well as the size of a basic service unit.



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

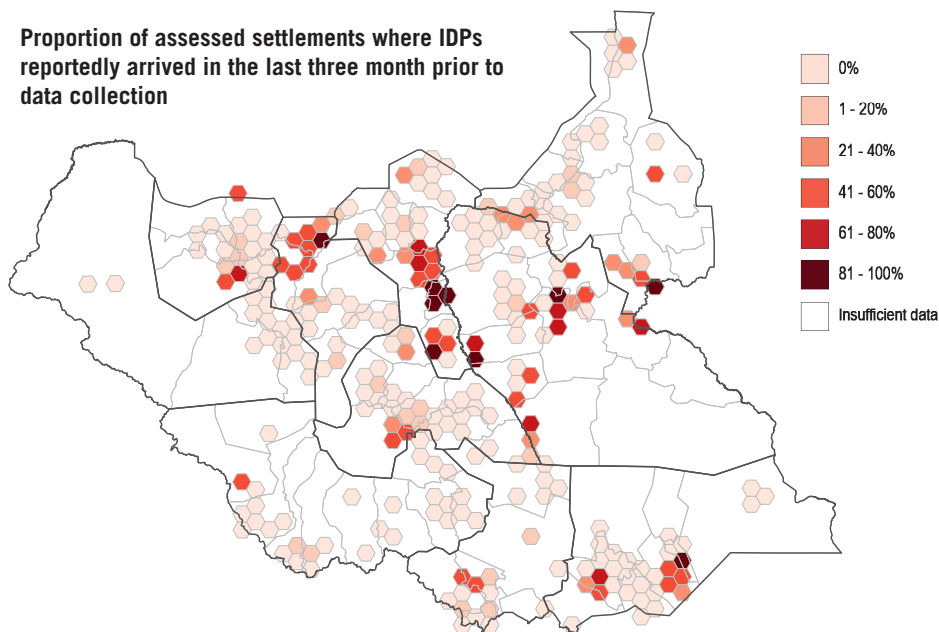
Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

April 2022

Displacement and population movement

Proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs reportedly arrived in the last three month prior to data collection



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.

- Since February 2022, Leer, Mayendit and Koch counties have experienced ongoing insecurity which reportedly caused the displacement of [thousands](#) of civilians. In Leer County according to the United Nations, approximately [40,000](#) civilians were displaced, with thousands reported to have crossed the Nile to Fangak County in Jonglei State.
- According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), localised conflict in February displaced over [5,000](#) people in Uror County, following [tensions](#) elsewhere in Jonglei State.
- In February, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) reported that nearly [50,000](#) civilians were displaced to Twic County following conflict along the border between Warrap State in South Sudan and the Abyei Administrative Area.

Recent IDPs

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs had reportedly arrived in the last three months prior to data collection

Leer	88%	<div></div>
Mayendit	82%	<div></div>
Uror	59%	<div></div>
Akobo	49%	<div></div>
Twic	47%	<div></div>

Main reason for movement (push factor)²

In those top five counties (see chart on the far left), main reason for movement reported by county

Insecurity (Leer)	86%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Mayendit)	83%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Uror)	31%	<div></div>
Far from family (Akobo)	26%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Twic)	94%	<div></div>

Counties of origin²

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

Leer (to Leer)	100%	<div></div>
Mayendit (to Mayendit)	91%	<div></div>
Uror (to Uror)	54%	<div></div>
Akobo (to Akobo)	35%	<div></div>
Twic (to Twic)	71%	<div></div>

² Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the presence of IDPs AND arrivals in the three months prior to data collection.



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

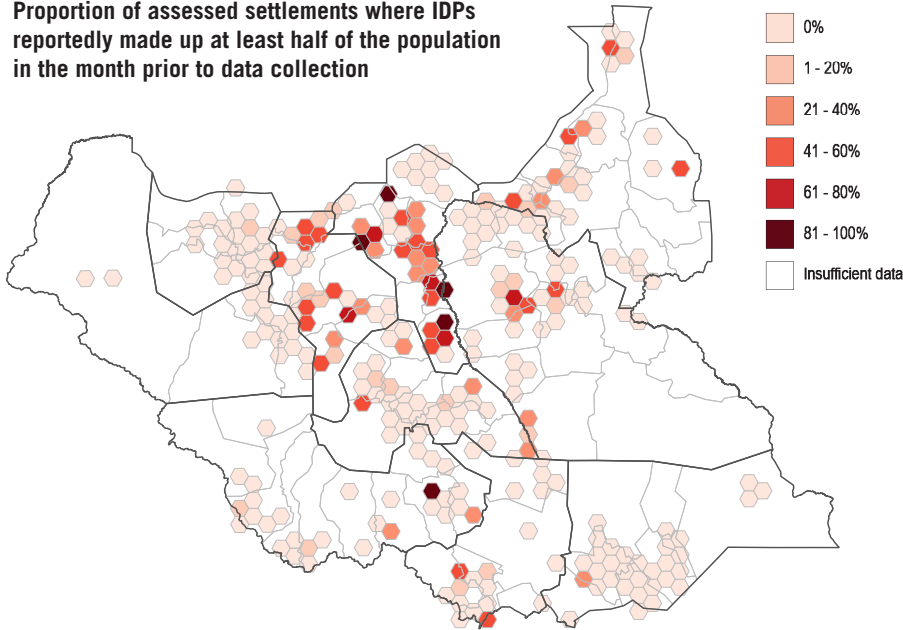
Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

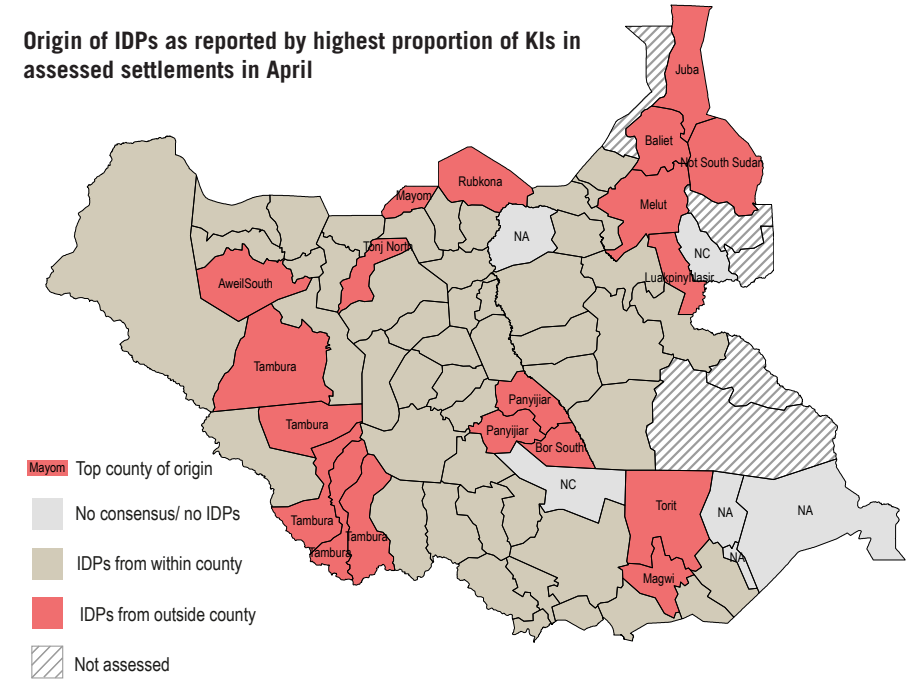
April 2022

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

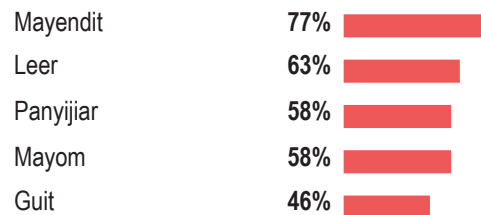


Origin of IDPs as reported by highest proportion of KIs in assessed settlements in April



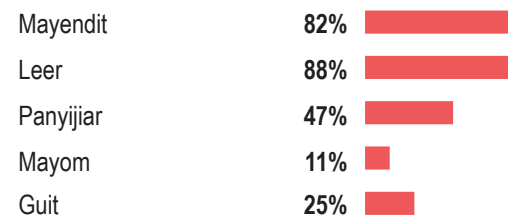
Proportion of IDPs

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



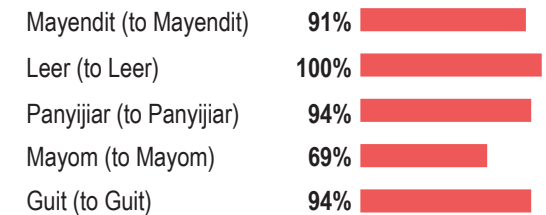
IDP arrival time

In those top five counties (see chart on the far left), proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs reportedly arrived in the three months prior to data collection



Counties of origin³

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



³Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the presence of IDPs AND arrivals in the three months prior to data collection.



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

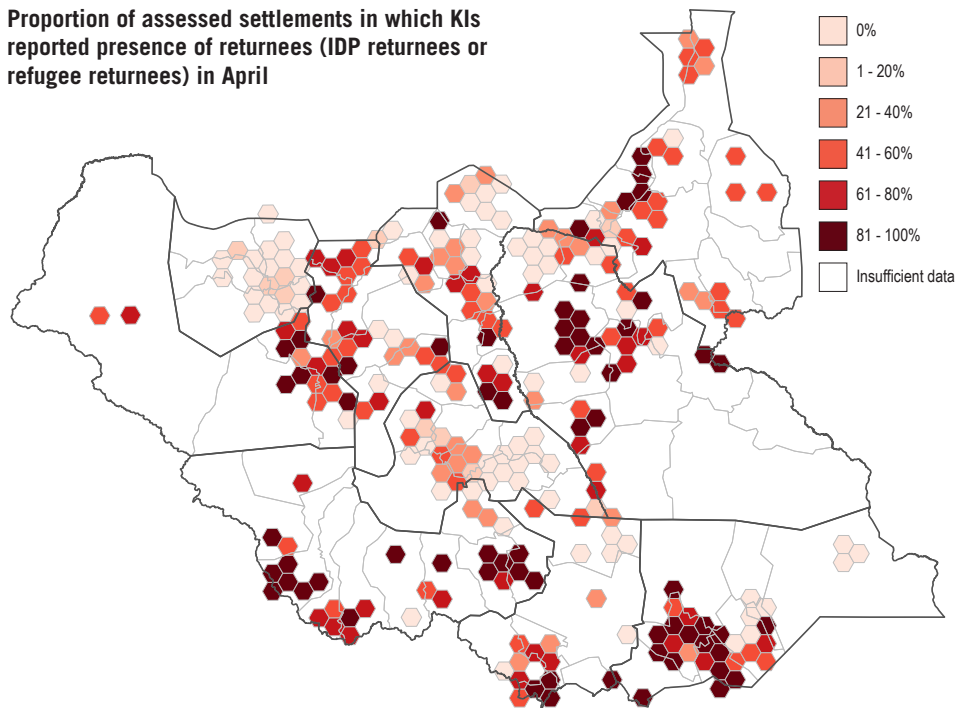
Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

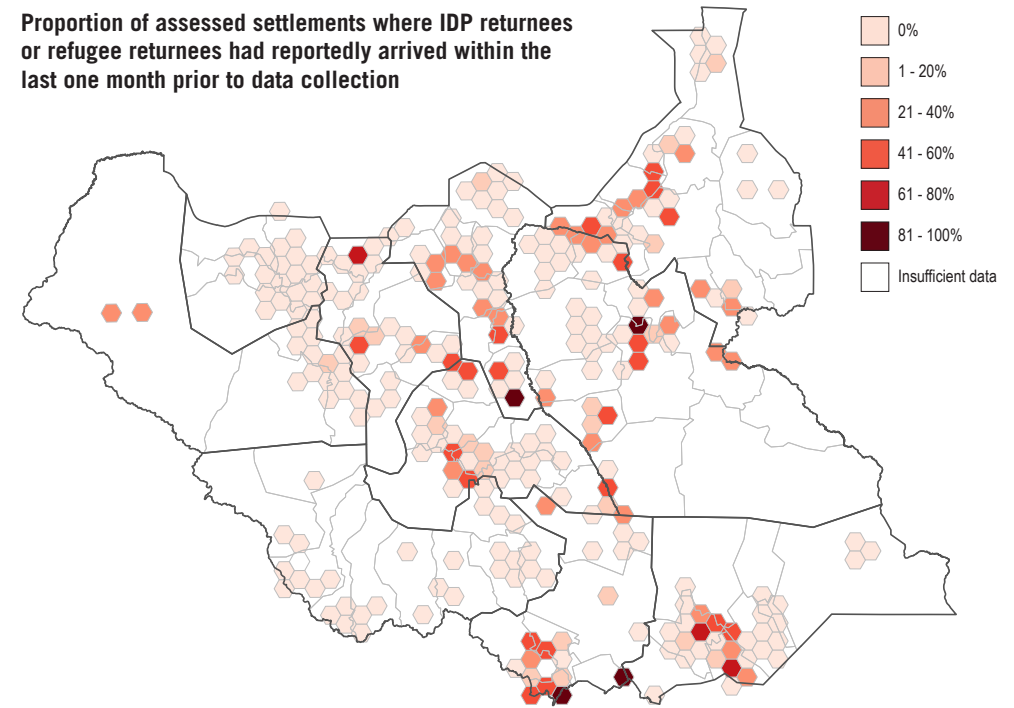
April 2022

Returnee presence

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



Proportion of assessed settlements where IDP returnees or refugee returnees had reportedly arrived within the last one month prior to data collection



Presence of recent IDP returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting presence of IDP returnees in the last month prior to data collection.

Panyikang	50%
Fashoda	46%
Leer	46%
Mayendit	41%
Uror	41%

Counties of origin

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

Panyikang (to Panyikang)	93%
Fashoda (to Fashoda)	100%
Leer (to Leer)	94%
Mayendit (to Mayendit)	83%
Niyrol (to Uror)	36%

Presence of recent refugee returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting presence of refugee returnees in last month the last prior to data collection.

Kajo Keji (n=22) ⁴	92%
Morobo (n=10)	71%
Yei (n=5)	71%
Raja (n=6)	67%
Pariang (n=1) ⁵	50%

Countries of origin

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

Uganda (to Kajo Keji) (n=24) ⁴	100%
Uganda (to Morobo) (n=12)	86%
Uganda (to Yei) (n=4)	57%
Sudan (to Raja) (n=8)	89%
Sudan (to Pariang) (n=2)	100%

⁴The (n) is the absolute number of what the percentage is representing in each county.

⁵In addition, 50% reported Ikoto county.



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

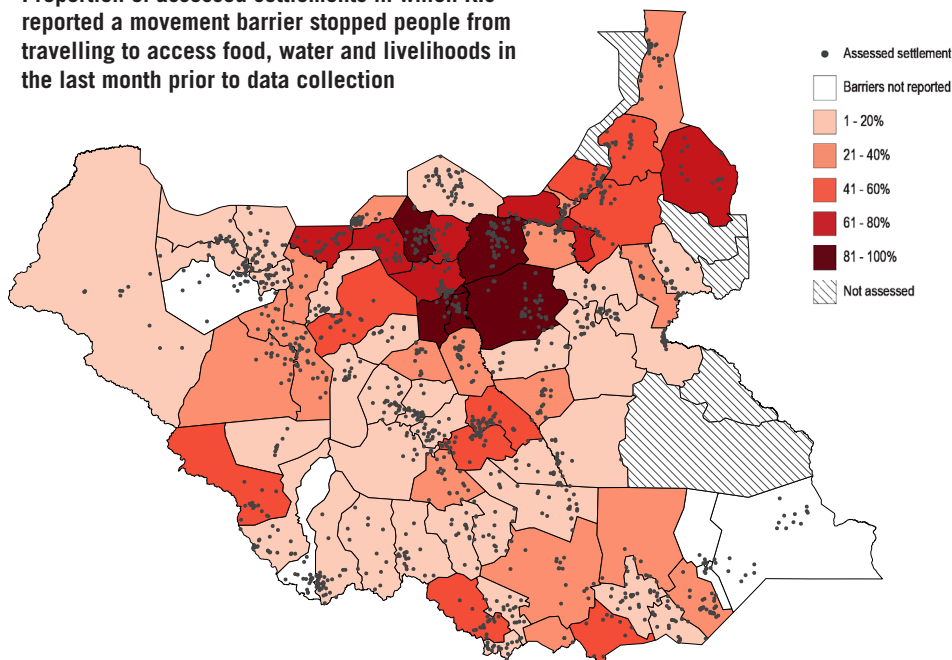
Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement

April 2022

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 last month prior to data collection



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.

- Reports indicate that by March 2022, floodwater from [2021](#) had not yet receded in both Fangak and Ayod Counties of Jonglei State, which continued to impede movement. Additionally, in [March 2022](#), communities in Fangak County experienced flooding from a heavy downpour, indicating the advent of a new rainy season and renewed possibility of flooding.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) [reported](#) that in many locations in Rubkona County floodwater levels remained stagnant, which prevented IDPs from returning to their areas of origin despite the onset of the dry season.
- [Insecurity](#) in Leer and Mayendit counties was reported to have affected the mobility of community members to access markets to buy staple food for their consumption and hampered the delivery of [humanitarian services](#).

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

Ayod	100%	<div></div>
Fangak	100%	<div></div>
Leer	100%	<div></div>
Mayendit	96%	<div></div>
Rubkona	89%	<div></div>

Types of reported movement barriers⁶

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

Flooding (Ayod)	100%	<div></div>
Flooding (Fangak)	100%	<div></div>
Conflict (Leer)	96%	<div></div>
Conflict (Mayendit)	64%	<div></div>
Flooding (Rubkona)	84%	<div></div>

Country-wide reported movement barriers

Most commonly reported movement barriers in the month prior to data collection, by percentage of assessed settlements where barriers were reported⁷

Flooding	46%	<div></div>
Conflict	38%	<div></div>
Tension	33%	<div></div>
Environmental barrier	18%	<div></div>
Movement restrictions	9%	<div></div>

⁶Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the movement barriers in the last month prior to data collection.

⁷Percentages do not include assessed settlements where movement barriers were not reported. The sum adds up to more than 100% because participants were able to express more than one choice in the questionnaire.