

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

December 2016

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

Introduction

Displacement trends, humanitarian access and population needs have all been negatively affected by inter-communal violence and sporadic armed clashes in the month of December. At the same time, increasing levels of food insecurity have triggered a large influx of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia via Akobo Town, and, along with conflict, also led to displacement within, out of and into Jonglei. As a result of ongoing tensions between armed groups, as well as decades of conflict that have affected Jonglei, access to food and basic services, including health and education, has remained low in December. High levels of food insecurity represent a major challenge for both IDP and non-displaced populations.

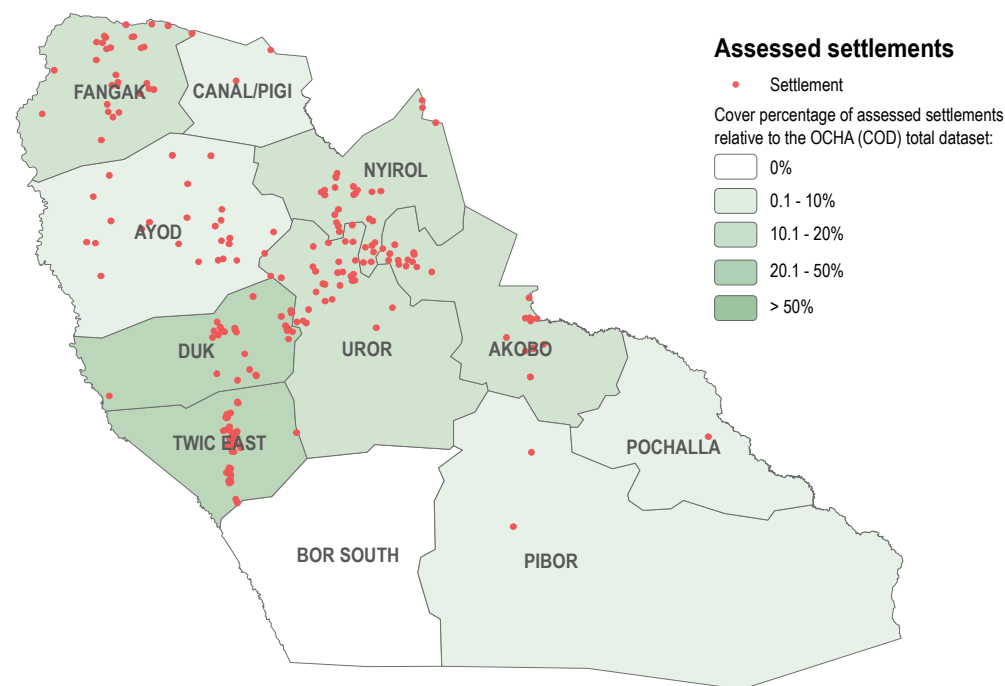
To inform the response of humanitarians working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH is conducting an ongoing assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan, for which data on settlements across the Greater Upper Nile region is collected on a monthly basis. Between 13 and 30 December, REACH interviewed 678 Key Informants (KIs) displaced from 224 settlements in 10 of the 11 counties¹ in Jonglei State. 187 KIs were interviewed in Bor Town, 173 in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 142 in Juba PoC 1 and 3, 114 in Akobo Town, 46 in Bor PoC and 16 in Nyal.

New arrivals, representing 42% 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.

These interviews were triangulated with 16 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), conducted in December with 1) new arrivals displaced from the Nassir area in Upper Nile State to Akobo Town, 2) IDPs who had recently left Greater Akobo for Akobo Town, 3) new arrivals from Yei in Bor Town, and 4) new arrivals displaced from Ayod county to Nyal in Unity State. 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 November Situation Overview for Jonglei State. However, due to a change in methodology from community- to settlement-level analysis², the numbers in this report are not directly comparable with those in previous Situation Overviews. The first section of this overview analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei State in December, 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, December 2016



Population Movement and Displacement

With the progression of the dry season, Jonglei has experienced increased inter-communal conflict, as well as armed confrontations, in December 2016. Long-standing political divisions remained 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 South East. Skirmishes between the SPLA and SPLA-IO were reported in Ayod county.³ Incidents of violent attacks and cattle raids continued to be registered, with areas such as Nyuak in Twic East⁴ and Jalle in Bor South, where the largest raid was reported in December⁵, being particularly affected. As a result, inter-communal tensions appear to be on the rise, and are exacerbated by reported child

¹ Due to the recently compiled IOM-VAS assessment of Bor South, data collection was temporarily halted for Bor South in order to avoid redundant data. Data collection will resume for Bor South in January 2017.

² 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.

³ IOM South Sudan: DTM Conflict and Displacement Analysis, Weekly Brief, 6 January 2017.

METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived, or receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was collected from KIs in the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Juba Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, Bor Town, Bor PoC, Akobo, as well as in Nyal, throughout December 2016.

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.

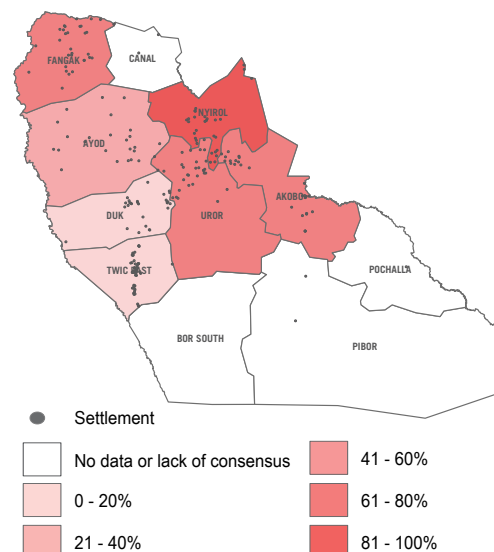
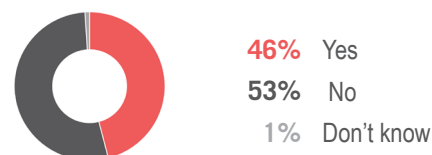
It must be noted that this represents a **change in methodology**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with previous Situation Overviews**.

abductions.⁶ Whilst the increase in insecurity in parts of the state can be linked to the seasonal nature of cattle raiding, this also bears the risk for further inter-community violence in the form of revenge attacks. Reported clashes between armed groups are a worrying indication that overall security in Jonglei may worsen in the weeks to come.

Similar to previous months, continuing displacement remained a key concern in December. Almost all settlements assessed (97%) reported that at least some of their local community population had been displaced, with 62% of these settlements reporting a population decrease of 50% or more. Further, for the first time since AoK data collection began in March 2016, it was reported that two settlements had been entirely de-populated. Reflective of the security developments in the state in December, **the Western areas of Jonglei reported the highest proportion of local communities who fled their location.**

Akobo Town and areas around Waat, Walgak and Lankien reportedly hosted the largest proportion of IDPs amongst assessed settlements, indicative of the comparative stability of parts of Greater Akobo in December. As illustrated in Map 2, settlements assessed in Ayod and Fangak counties also reported to

Figure 1: Percentage of settlements assessed hosting IDPs, December 2016



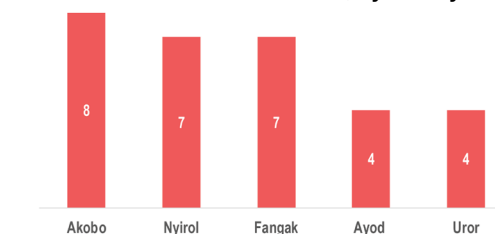
Map 2: Percent of settlements reporting presence of IDPs, December 2016

be hosting a considerable number of IDPs. Overall, **46% of assessed settlements reported the presence of IDPs in the area**, indicative of the large IDP population living outside of formal displacement sites.

Greater Akobo and parts of Northern Jonglei not only served as destination for IDPs but also **reported the largest proportion of recently returned local community** among settlements assessed. Out of the 116 settlements assessed which reported returns in December, 30 settlements reported returns had occurred in November and December 2016. As indicated in Figure 2, all of these settlements were located in Akobo, Nyirol, Fangak, Ayod and Urur counties.

Overall, these findings suggest that more conflict-affected Western Jonglei was

Figure 2: Number of settlements assessed reporting local community returns occurred in November and December 2016, by county



disproportionally affected by displacement of local communities, whilst more stable Greater Akobo, along with parts of Northern Jonglei, saw a higher proportion of IDPs and returnees arriving in December.

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

Displacement to Jonglei

New arrivals from Yei to Bor Town

Violent clashes in the Equatorias have continued the trend of IDPs fleeing insecurity and arriving to Bor Town in December. These are populations originally from Western Jonglei, who were resident in key towns in the Equatorias, such as Yei. As a result of ongoing active conflict in the Equatorias, since October 2016 parts of these populations have returned to Bor. Although exact figures are not available, a Protection Cluster Assessment from December⁷ found that estimates for IDPs from Yei in Bor Town range from 3,300 to 6,000

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Sudan Tribune: Jalle community petition Government over continuous attacks, 29 December 2016.

⁶ Radio Tamazuj: Two Girls abducted in Pochalla North County, 12th of December 2016; Ibid: Man killed, three children abducted in Pochalla County, 1st of January 2017.

⁷ Information circulated informally through Protection Cluster Partners.

individuals, suggesting a steady population influx over the last three months. As was the case in October and November, REACH has also observed a small number of IDPs from Yei arriving in Mingkaman Informal Settlement in December.

FGDs conducted by REACH with new arrivals in December found that the **main reason for leaving Yei was fighting and related lack of food and service access**. These push factors are consistent with FGDs conducted in October and November. Further, many respondents explained that they had no intention to return to Yei or their areas of origins in Jonglei (Duk, Bor Suth and Twic East counties) in the near future as these locations were considered less safe than Bor Town.

According to humanitarian actors, new arrivals in Bor Town mainly consisted of women and children, with the majority reportedly living in vulnerable conditions integrated with the local community, which has put existing social services under enormous pressure. Humanitarian actors reported a response consisting of food and NFI provision is currently planned to assist the IDPs. According to REACH KIs, **more Yei IDPs currently residing in Juba may return to Bor Town in the coming weeks as they are reportedly unable to access services in Juba**. A humanitarian response in Bor Town is likely to serve as trigger for further population movement from Yei and Juba.

For more background information on displacement from Yei to Bor and Mingkaman, please refer to the October Situation Overview.⁸

Population movement from Juba to Fangak

In Northern Jonglei, **humanitarian actors in Old Fangak have noted a significant population influx since mid-November 2016**, with this trend continuing in December. According to an IOM Field Assessment from late December, new arrivals are estimated to be above the 5,600 individuals registered by WFP in the first week of December. They are reportedly mainly **populations originating from Fangak who had resided in Juba PoC and collective sites in the last years and now returned to Fangak**.⁹ An UNHCR assessment with residents of Juba PoC found that these relocations are attributable to concerns over safety in Juba, low credibility in the national peace process, lack of prospects for the future in Juba PoC, as well as the dry season through which routes are more accessible.¹⁰ Further, there has been discussion amongst humanitarian actors that some of these movements may have been supported by the Government of South Sudan, although the exact process and conditions remain unclear.

The IOM assessment noted that main pull factors to Old Fangak have been the presence of family members, the relative safety of the town due to its geographic location, as well as the existence of humanitarian services.¹¹ However, there is also **a need to more closely monitor onward movements to New Fangak** as many new arrivals reportedly proceeded by boat further North to base themselves in New Fangak or continue from there by foot to Panyikang to cross into Sudan.¹²

With population movement to Fangak anticipated to continue in the weeks to come, **this is likely to put further pressure on service providers in the region, requiring an up-scale of response efforts**, as well as the provision of longer-term support for those choosing to permanently reside in the area.

Displacement from Nassir Area to Akobo Town

In Eastern Jonglei, local actors and REACH observed **the arrival of IDPs displaced from the Nassir area in Upper Nile State in Akobo Town in December**. Newly arrived KIs participating in FGDs came to Akobo in late November/early December and originated from Kvat and Nor (see Map 3). Respondents from Kvat, who cited ongoing armed conflict as main push factor, were initially displaced to Nyatot in May 2016. Given the reported lack of food and assistance in Nyatot, they moved to Torkej in November, and then travelled to Makak. Respondents displaced from Nor, who had arrived in the town post-December 2013, cited tensions with the local community as main reason to leave, and also travelled to Makak. From there, around half of IDPs displaced from Nassir reportedly crossed straight into Ethiopia, whereas others headed south. FGD respondents travelled in boats run by Ethiopian traders at the cost of 1600 SSP / person from Makak via Majok, and Wanding to Akobo Town, with the journey taking one night.

Reasons for choosing to come to Akobo Town **included perceptions of Akobo Town being safe as well as offering NGO services and**

livelihood opportunities. Intentions for further movement to Ethiopia were largely dependent upon IDPs' ability to receive assistance in Akobo. At the time of data collection (mid-December), FGD participants reported they had not yet received assistance, and cited their priority needs as 1) food, 2) NFIs, 3) shelter. KIs reported the adoption of severe coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of food, such as spending entire days without eating.

Displacement within Jonglei

Displacement from Uror, Nyirol and rural Akobo to Akobo Town

According to reports by humanitarian actors in Akobo Town as well as FGDs REACH conducted with new arrivals, **displacement from Greater Akobo to Akobo Town has continued in December**, which has also been observed in previous months and may be partly attributable to the annual dry season migration.¹³ FGD participants, originating from the surrounding villages of Walgak Centre and who arrived in early December, reported to have travelled by foot in groups of around ten people from Walgak Centre to Kaikuiny, a key overnight resting point for people making the journey from Greater Akobo to Akobo Town (see Map 3). There, people reportedly waited overnight for the arrival of other groups to feel safer from attacks by neighbouring communities and wild animals during their onward journey to Akobo in largely bush territory.

According to other new arrivals from Greater Akobo, the most frequently reported reason

8 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016.

9 IOM South Sudan: DTM Field Trip Report to Old Fangak, 29th of December 2016.

10 UNHCR South Sudan: Assessment on departures from PoC Sites in Juba, December 2016.

11 IOM South Sudan: DTM Field Trip Report to Old Fangak, 29th of December 2016.

12 UNHCR South Sudan: Assessment on departures from PoC Sites in Juba, December 2016.

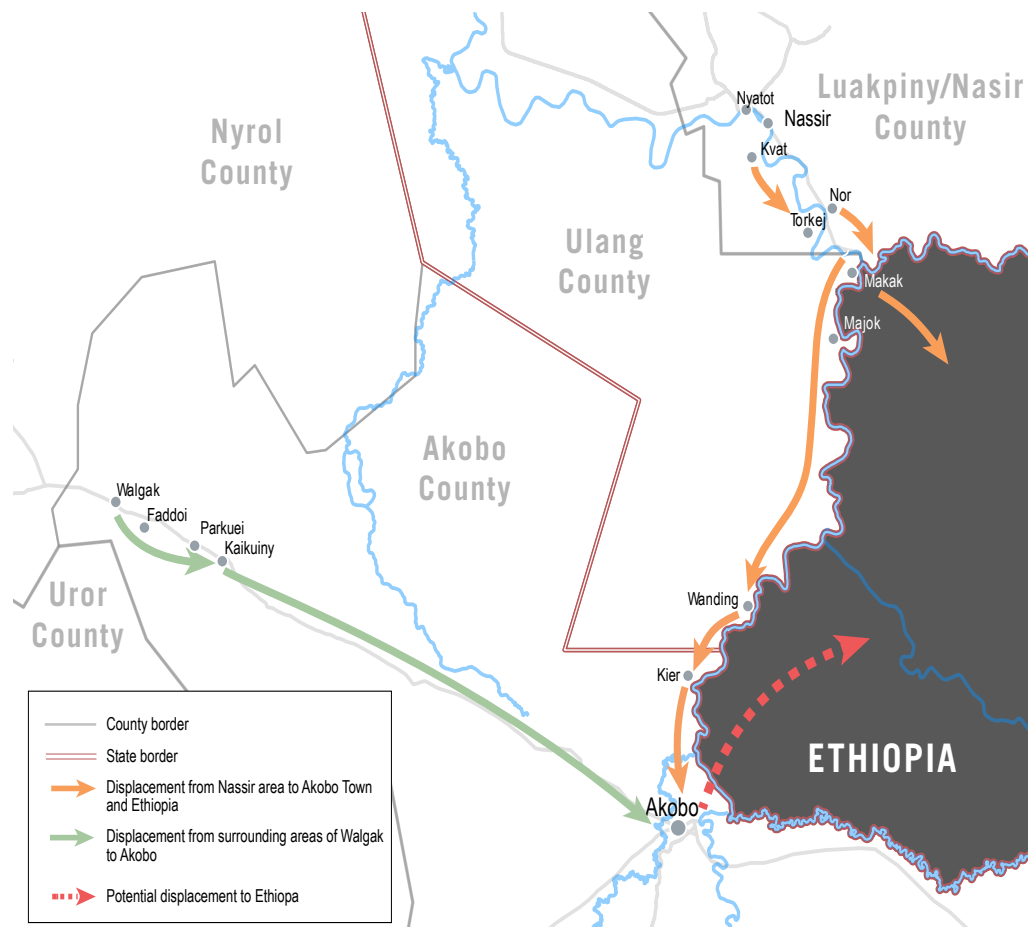
13 See REACH: Multi-Sectoral Overview of the Humanitarian Needs in Akobo East,

for leaving their previous location was a lack of food (64%), followed by insecurity (61%). This is largely consistent with information from the Walgak FGD participants who cited a lack of food, related to an inability to cultivate due to fears of attacks by antagonistic communities, as the main reason for leaving Walgak, and noted they had not received a General Food Distribution (GFD) since December 2015.¹⁴ Insecurity caused by cattle raids, through which some respondents had lost their livelihoods, as well as fears of child abductions, was the second major driver. Lack of water during the dry season was also cited, although to a lesser extent. Overall, this demonstrates that **food insecurity may have become a stronger displacement driver since November**, when insecurity, reported by 82% of new arrivals, was the top push factor. The apparent increase in a lack of food may suggest that households have depleted food stocks early, or had been unable to cultivate in the first place.

Pull factors reported by FGD participants in Akobo largely mirror push factors: respondents explained that they hoped to access food through the GFD in Akobo, and also frequently cited the town's livelihood opportunities as another major factor for their movement. Through the nearby river, respondents could

Figure 3: Top three reported reasons of new arrivals from Greater Akobo to leave previous location, December 2016¹⁵

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Lack of food | 64% |  |
| 2. Insecurity | 61% | |
| 3. Lack of health services | 57% | |



Map 3: Displacement from Greater Akobo and Nassir area to Akobo Town, December 2016.

engage in fishing, and also sell firewood collected from nearby areas, which in turn would enable them to earn some income to buy food on the market. With regards to future intentions, respondents had mixed views; some had plans of permanently staying in Akobo as they had either lost their livelihoods or considered them to be under permanent

threat due to the insecurity, whilst others said they would return if food aid resumed in Walgak. Asked about intentions to cross into refugee camps in Ethiopia, respondents' views differed considerably, with some saying they would make the onward journey if they could not access food and other NGO assistance in Akobo. Others, in contrast, explained that

they intended to stay in Akobo as they saw no prospects for the future if they were to live in a camp, and felt strongly connected to their land and preferred to live among people of the same origin.

Overall, the increased movement to Akobo Town, from both Greater Akobo and Nassir, puts further pressure on existing services in the town. With the annual dry season migration from Greater Akobo Town in progress as well as further displacement expected from Nassir due to ongoing conflict, **this population influx is likely to continue and rise in the coming weeks, and could result in potential secondary displacement to Ethiopia, indicating a strong need to step-up humanitarian response activities in Akobo Town and camps in Gambella.**

Displacement in Bor South

As a result of a large-scale deadly cattle raid in Jalle in Bor South county in mid-December, over 5,000 individuals were reportedly displaced, according to an IRNA.¹⁶ The majority of IDPs moved to Jalle Centre, Kwei Island and Bor Town, with access to basic services in Jalle Centre reportedly greatly limited, in particular food, clean water, hygiene facilities and shelter.

Given the close proximity to Bor Town, humanitarian actors have good access to the affected population during the dry season, and may need to also assist with livelihood support as repeated large-scale raids in 2012 and 2015¹⁷ have resulted in an increasingly vulnerable community.

¹⁴ Food distribution partners in Akobo have, however, indicated to REACH that a GFD had taken place in nearby Kaikuiny in the second half of 2016.

¹⁵ Respondents could choose more than one option.

¹⁶ Information circulated informally through Protection Cluster Partners.

¹⁷ Gurtong: Cattle raid in Jalle payam, death toll rise to 18, 25th of October 2015.

Displacement from Jonglei to Unity State

FDGs that REACH conducted in December with IDPs arriving in Nyal, Unity State, indicated that **since late 2016, populations from Ayod County living in islands near the Nile have been moving to Nyal and nearby island in Panyijiar.** Participants from Ayod, Western Jonglei, identified four main stages of displacement. They reported first being displaced in 2014, during the initial phases of the current conflict in South Sudan. After their villages were attacked, they initially fled to nearby forests and islands, where they hid and waited for the armed groups to leave (Stage 1). Due to the continued presence of armed groups, people then fled north to Old Fangak, and villages and towns in Fangak County, where there were other armed groups that they believed would protect them (Stage 2). When fighting came to Fangak in late 2014/early 2015, they fled south into the swamps in Western Ayod. Most reported spending nearly two years on the islands, often moving from one to the other on homemade rafts whenever resources became too stretched (Stage 3). In late 2016, many living in islands near the Nile began to make contact with traders moving by canoe up the Nile, and were able to travel with them to Ganyiel, through which they came to Nyal (Stage 4).

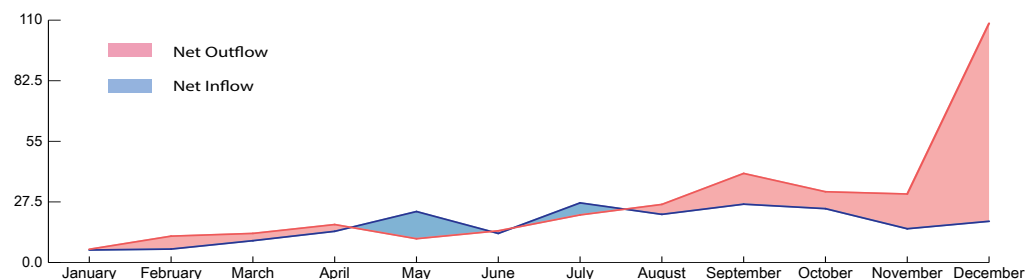
Although IDPs from Ayod had initially been displaced due to active conflict, **multiple displacements led to food and other needs becoming a more important displacement factor over time, with lack of food cited as primary factor for leaving the swamps in**

Western Ayod, where they were completely reliant on fish, water lilies and other wild foods in order to survive. Reasons for coming to Nyal largely mirrored push factors, with security and access to food cited as main pull factors. Further, since early 2016, Nyal has become known as a safe location where humanitarian organizations are present, and therefore represent one of the closest options for IDPs in the Ayod islands to access humanitarian services.

As a result of humanitarian access constraints, remaining IDPs and local community in Ayod are likely to continue facing dire humanitarian conditions, and reported clashes in December serve as indication that fighting may resume at a larger scale. With the most recent FEWSNET report from October 2016 noting that Ayod county is likely to deteriorate to Emergency food security outcomes (IPC phase 4) by February 2017¹⁸, **it is likely that more remaining populations in Ayod may move to swampy areas and from there onward to Nyal.**

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, found that **displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia has increased considerably in December.**¹⁹ Whilst net inflows only slightly increased, **net outflows of South Sudanese permanently leaving the country to Ethiopia saw a sharp spike since November, from an average of 30 individuals a day to 110 individuals a day in December**, as illustrated in Graph 1.²⁰ With departures in

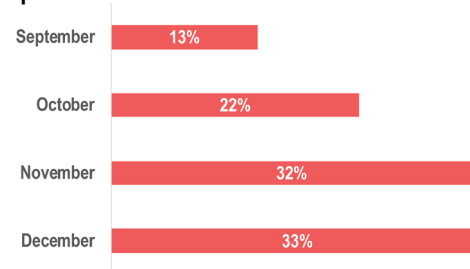


Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue) via Akobo Town; January to December 2016.²¹

December at the highest level ever recorded since data collection started in May 2015, this represents a worrying trend.

Whilst reasons for permanently leaving appear to be mixed, food insecurity (33%) has, for the first time, overtaken lack of education (32%) in December. This represents a longer-term trend as **lack of food has been steadily increasing as a reason for leaving through the end of 2016**, as illustrated in Figure 4. Increasing levels of food insecurity are likely to be related to market dysfunctionality in Greater Akobo, delays in a planned GFD in Akobo Town, as well as the progression of the dry season when food access seasonally declines.

Figure 4: Percentage of departures indicating lack of food as reason for leaving South Sudan, September to December 2016.



Another factor spurring the large outflow to Ethiopia in December may be the finalization of refugee registration by UNHCR in Ethiopia, as people had temporarily returned to Akobo Town to await transportation to refugee camps. IOM had reportedly transported 5,917 individuals from Akobo by boat and bus to Ngunnyiel Refugee Camp in December²², indicating that the influx to Gambella might be even higher than REACH Port Monitoring data has recorded. With movement from Greater Akobo and Upper Nile to Akobo Town ongoing, **this trend is likely to continue in January if populations are unable to meet their basic needs in Akobo Town.**

Situation in Assessed Communities

Protection

Indicative of high inter-community tensions, **killing or injury from other groups was the top reported protection concern for both women and men**, reported by 45% and 67% of assessed settlements respectively. For women, sexual violence was the second most

18 FEWS NET, "Food Security Outlook: October 2016 to May 2017".

19 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, December 2016.

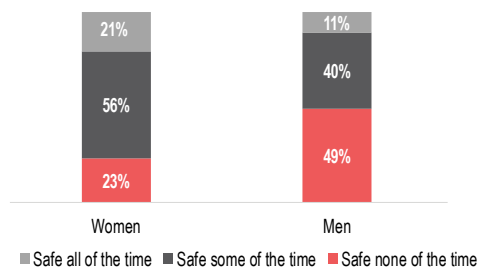
20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.

22 IOM Ethiopia: Situation Report - South Sudanese Influx in Gambella, 10th of January 2017.

common protection issue, reported by 18% of settlements, and for men, it was cattle raids (14%). As a result of these threats, 23% of settlements reported that women are unsafe at all times and 49% reported the same for men.

Figure 5: Proportions of settlements reporting feeling of safety by gender and period of day, December 2016



In December, REACH collected data on child protection concerns in Jonglei State for the first time. Reflective of the prevalent practice of child abductions, the main protection concern for children was threat of being abducted, reported by over half of settlements assessed. This was followed by family separation, as illustrated in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Reported primary protection concerns for children in assessed settlements, December 2016

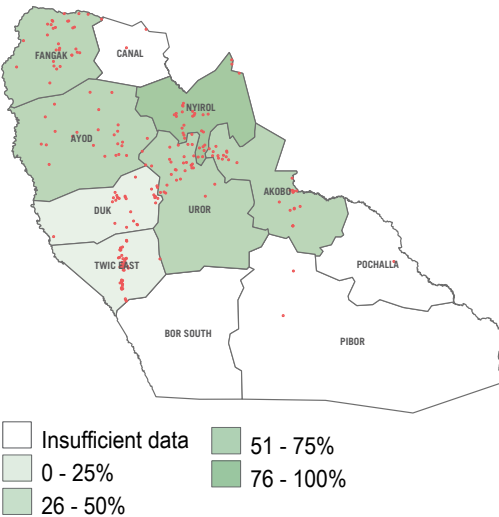
1	Abduction	52%
2	Family separation	14%
3	Killing/injury other tribe	11%
4	Early marriage	7%
5	Forced recruitment	2%

Food Security

In December, half of assessed settlements reported no access to adequate amounts of food, with **Twic East and Duk counties particularly affected by food insecurity**, which has also been found to the same extent in previous months.

Low levels of food access are likely to be closely interrelated with ongoing security issues: **75% of settlements reporting no access to food cited that it was because of insecurity**, and 36% indicated food distributions had stopped, while 27% reported that crops had been destroyed by fighting.²³ Overall, the number of settlements reporting that planting/harvesting was unsafe was highest in more conflict-affected Western Jonglei. Forty-five per cent of assessed settlements reported that no food distribution had taken place in the last three months, the majority of which were located in Twic East and Duk, despite humanitarian actors reporting that distribution levels in these two counties are much higher than in other parts of the state. REACH will continue to closely monitor these trends to better understand issues related to food access in these locations.

Across Jonglei, the most commonly reported food source was food distributions, reported by 33% of settlements, with **only 32% of settlements reporting cultivation as their main source of food**. This demonstrates that the majority of communities assessed have not been able to benefit from the onset of the harvest in October, which according to FEWS NET was projected to temporarily improve food



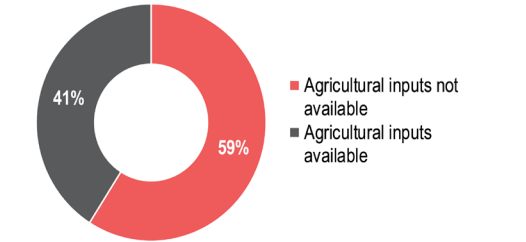
Map 4: Percent of settlements reporting access to adequate amounts of food, December 2016

security outcomes in Jonglei in the October 2016-January 2017 period.²⁴ As a result, 13% of assessed settlements relied on foraging as their main food source. Although 49% of settlements reported access to a market, only 9% relied on markets as main food source, which is likely to be related to the high costs of food items, as the vast majority of settlements reported that prices of common goods such as sorghum, sugar and vegetable oil had risen since November.

Livelihoods

Almost half (41%) of settlements reported access to agricultural inputs, of which almost none were located in Western Jonglei. This is likely a reflection of how insecurity negatively affects longer-term livelihoods and food security.

Figure 7: Percent of settlements reporting availability of agricultural inputs, December 2016



Further, **40% of assessed settlements reported that most of the farming tools and assets in the community had been looted or abandoned**, hindering populations to continue to conduct livelihoods activities, or, for those returning from displacement, restart them.

Shelter

As was the case in November, IDP shelter needs appear to be greater compared to local community members, with **42% of IDP hosting settlements reporting that IDPs mainly live in improvised shelters**. By contrast, for the local community, the tukul and rakooba were the most frequently cited shelter types in assessed settlements in December.

Figure 8: Top two reported shelter types used by local community, December 2016²⁵

1	Tukul	94%
2	Rakooba	69%

Figure 9: Top two reported shelter types used by IDPs, December 2016

1	Tukul	45%
2	Improvised	42%

23 Rank three reasons adequate food is not available.

24 FEWS NET, "Food Security Outlook: October 2016 to May 2017".

25 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.

Further, 85% of settlements where IDPs are present reported that at least some of the IDP population in the village was living outside, despite almost all of these communities indicating that IDPs and local community member reportedly shared shelters. These findings suggest that **IDP shelter needs outside of formal displacement sites remain high** and that local communities are not always adequately equipped to absorb the shelter needs of displaced populations. With only 11% of settlements reporting access to ropes, and 8% citing NGO plastic sheets were available, this indicates **a need to pre-position temporary shelter supplies during the current dry season in nearby locations** such as Akobo to respond in a timely manner to anticipated future displacement.

Health and WASH

More than half (56%) of settlements reported having access to health care, with access levels highest in Greater Akobo. For settlements reporting no access, lack of staff and medications were the top two reported reasons, cited by 46% of these settlements respectively.

Malaria was reported to be a key health concern in 75% of settlements, with 56% reporting half or fewer people used mosquito nets, indicating a need to distribute them.

Figure 10: Most common reported health concerns, December 2016²⁶

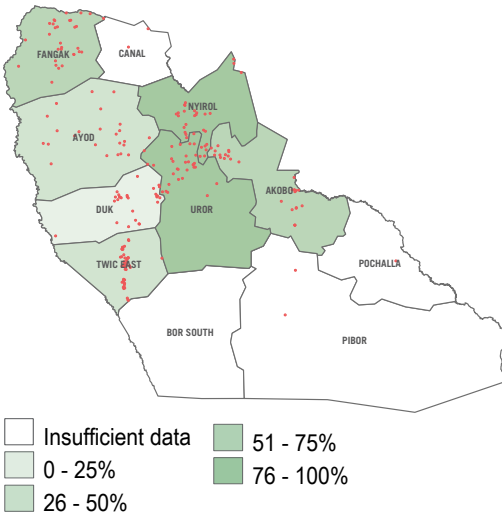
1	Malaria	75%	
2	Diarrhea	43%	
3	Typhoid	43%	
4	Malnutrition	41%	
5	Cholera	20%	

The **health situation in Jonglei is further compounded by poor hygiene conditions**. Less than 49% of settlements reported that people were using latrines and populations living on the Nile islands are likely to be defecating directly into the swamp. Coupled with no access to safe drinking water, which has been reported by 10% of settlements, this is likely to explain the **reported cholera incidents in Canal and Fangak, where new cases have been announced in December**.²⁷ With the ongoing population influx to Old Fangak, this puts a considerable number of people at risk of contracting the disease if humanitarian partners are unable to meet water and sanitation needs. The situation in Duk, however, appears to have stabilized with no additional cases reported.²⁸

For more information about water and sanitation conditions, please refer to the November Situation Overview.²⁹

Education

Despite ongoing teacher strikes over salaries reported across the state³⁰, access to education has remained stable since November, with 56% of settlements assessed reporting access to education (mainly primary services). Generally, **counties that were most affected by inter-community violence and conflict in December have had the lowest levels of education access**. As illustrated in Map 5, the vast majority of settlements assessed in Duk, Twic East and Ayod, where ongoing conflict has been the most reported, indicated that they did not have access to education services. Thirty-nine per cent of settlements, mainly located



Map 5: Percent of settlements assessed reporting access to education, December 2016

in Western Jonglei, **reported that facilities had been destroyed by fighting, which was the main reason for lack of educational facilities**. This is consistent with findings of an Education Cluster Assessment from November 2016, which found that across Jonglei the number of attacks on schools since December 2013 was highest in Western Jonglei.³¹

In settlements where education facilities were present, **lack of staff and children needing to work in the household were the main challenges preventing children from attending school in December**.

Conclusion

Inter-community violence, as well as ongoing high tensions between armed groups, negatively affected displacement trends and

humanitarian needs in Jonglei in December. Overall, population movement in the state appeared to be relatively high in December, with displacement reported from Greater Akobo, Ayod and Bor South counties, and an unprecedented outflow of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia. Rising levels of food insecurity are reportedly driving much of the movement in Eastern Jonglei, whilst directly conflict-related displacement was mainly reported in Western Jonglei. These trends are likely to continue as the security situation is anticipated to deteriorate further in the coming weeks, and the approaching lean season is likely to make food insecurity an even stronger displacement driver. At the same time, parts of Jonglei, notably Bor Town and Fangak, continued to see population inflows in December, which may be an indication that despite ongoing security issues, the state is still perceived to be safer than other parts of the country. Generally, the nature of displacement and returns in Jonglei is highly complex and needs to be contextualized within the current rapidly changing and unpredictable political climate in the country, which underlines the importance of long-term tracking and analysis of these movements

Overall, humanitarian needs remained high in December, as insecurity and the consequences of years of violence continued to negatively impact displaced and local communities' access to basic services and ability to meet their basic needs. Most notably, food insecurity, linked to an inability to cultivate due to insecurity remained severe, with half of

26 Rank three most common health concerns normalized.
27 Republic of South Sudan - Ministry of Health: Situation Report #102 on Cholera in South Sudan, 5 January 2017.
28 Ibid.
29 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, November 2016.

30 Radio Tamazuj: Students boycott exams to protest arrested teachers in Bor town, 13 December 2016.
31 Education Cluster Assessment South Sudan, November 2016.

assessed settlements reporting no adequate food access. WASH, health, shelter and education needs have largely remained similar to November, with strong geographic disparities reported between Central/Eastern Jonglei and conflict-affected Duk, Twic East where access levels were generally found to be lowest.

While humanitarian actors are currently working on pre-positioning relief supplies by land and air ahead of the next rainy season, the outcome of this will largely be dependent upon humanitarian access and related evolution of security conditions. As the dry season and consequent rehabilitation of roads is expected to lead to an increase in instability as armed groups will be able to mobilise more easily, it is therefore likely that the volatile security context will continue to negatively impact population needs and humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas.

About REACH Initiative

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

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