

Research Terms of Reference

Emergency Assessment: Ethiopia – South Sudan Cross Border Returns

REG2305

South Sudan

November 2023
V1

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

1. Executive Summary

Country of intervention	South Sudan				
Type of Emergency	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural disaster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conflict	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)		
Type of Crisis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sudden onset	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow onset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protracted		
Mandating Body/ Agency	USAID, FCDO				
IMPACT Project Code	32AZW				
Overall Research Timeframe (from research design to final outputs / M&E)	27/11/2023 to 19/1/2024				
Research Timeframe Add planned deadlines (for first cycle if more than 1)	1. Pilot/ training: NA		6. Preliminary key findings: 19/12/2023		
	2. Start collect data: 27/11/2023		7. Outputs sent for validation: 12/1/2023		
	3. Data collected: 13/12/2023		8. Outputs published: 19/1/2024		
	4. Data analysed: 22/12/2023		9. Final presentation: Ad-hoc		
	5. Data sent for validation: 22/12/2023				
Number of assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single assessment (one cycle)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi assessment (more than one cycle)				
Humanitarian milestones Specify what will the assessment inform and when e.g. The shelter cluster will use this data to draft its Revised Flash Appeal;	Milestone		Deadline (can be tentative)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donor plan/strategy	As soon as possible.		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter-cluster plan/strategy			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cluster plan/strategy			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	NGO platform plan/strategy			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify):			
Audience Type & Dissemination Specify who will the assessment inform and how you will disseminate to inform the audience	Audience type		Dissemination		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategic	<input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic <input type="checkbox"/> Operational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Product Mailing (e.g. mail to NGO consortium; HCT participants; Donors)		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cluster Mailing (Education, Shelter and WASH) and presentation of findings at next cluster meeting		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presentation of findings (e.g. at HCT meeting; Cluster meeting)		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website Dissemination (Relief Web & REACH Resource Centre)		

Stakeholder mapping <i>Has a detailed stakeholder mapping been conducted during research design to identify all actors that could contribute to and/or benefit from the research?</i>	x	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
General Objective	To provide humanitarian actors with information and analysis on the Gambella-South Sudan cross-border displacement situation to affect a more informed humanitarian response and enable better prepared response planning, and to enable evidence-based advocacy on behalf of affected populations.			
Specific Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the current humanitarian situation in areas of departure, including priority needs, and drivers of those needs. • Outline movement dynamics - including movement intentions and push and pull factors - of South Sudanese returnees, and compare/contrast current movement dynamics with typical movement dynamics. • Identify priority needs of returnees in areas of settlement, and identify the drivers of those needs. • Identify if and how the population influx has impacted the needs of the host community in areas of settlement. • Outline the extent of life-saving humanitarian service provision in areas of settlement, including response gaps and challenges. • Investigate which could be the evolution of the situation in the next 6 months based on intention movements, stakeholder's perspectives and contextual knowledge, and outline possible implications for impacted population's basic needs and wellbeing. 			
Research Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current humanitarian situation in areas of departure? What are the priority needs of populations there, and what are the primary drivers of those needs? 2. What are the current population movement dynamics between the Gambella region of Ethiopia and South Sudan? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the push and pull factors for migrating populations? b. What are the experiences of returnees during transit in terms of means of travel, movement barriers and any other challenges? c. Where have populations settled? d. What are populations' movement intentions over the coming 6-month period, and what factors influence these decisions? e. In what ways are current population movement dynamics typical or atypical? 3. What are the priority needs of populations arriving to South Sudan? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the primary drivers of these needs? b. For populations intending to stay in their current area of residence, what are community perceptions of how can humanitarians support with resettlement and integration? 4. Has the population influx impacted the needs of host communities, and if so, how? 			

	<p>5. What services have been / will be provided to returnees, and what are the service gaps?</p> <p>6. How is the situation likely to evolve over the subsequent 6 month period?</p> <p>a. What risk factors should be monitored?</p> <p>b. What are the longer-term implications of ongoing population movement dynamics?</p>																
Geographic Coverage	Akobo, Nasir, and Ulang counties																
Secondary data sources	<p>IOM-UNHCR. Population flow monitoring dashboard.</p> <p>INGO Needs Assessment. "Rapid Protection Assessment Findings." August 2023. On file with REACH.</p> <p>ACAPS. "Regional Profile: Humanitarian Concerns in Gambella." March 2022. On file with REACH.</p> <p>IPC. "South Sudan Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis, September 2023 to July 2024." November 2023.</p> <p>REACH. Area of concern tracker. Updated 10 November 2023.</p> <p>Eticha, Abebe. "The case study of Anuak-Nuer Conflict in Gambella Region of Ethiopia." May 2023.</p> <p>UNHCR. Various camp profiles.</p> <p>UNHCR. Operational Data Portal.</p> <p>2023 ISNA Data Analysis Table. On file with REACH.</p> <p>Lie and Borchgrevink. "Layer upon Layer: Understanding the Gambella Conflict Formation." International Journal of Ethiopian Studies. 2012.</p>																
Population(s)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>IDPs in camp</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>IDPs in informal sites</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in informal sites												
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<i>Select all that apply</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>IDPs in host communities</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>IDPs [Other, Specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Refugees in camp</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Refugees in informal sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Refugees in host communities</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Refugees in areas of departure</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Host communities</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Returnees in any setting</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs in host communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	IDPs [Other, Specify]	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in camp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in informal sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in host communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Refugees in areas of departure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Returnees in any setting
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Stratification <i>Select type(s) and enter number of strata</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Geographical #: 3 (by county) Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Group #: 2 (returnees and host community) Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>[Other Specify] #: _ _ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Geographical #: 3 (by county) Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Group #: 2 (returnees and host community) Population size per strata is known? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/>	[Other Specify] #: _ _ Population size per strata is known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No										
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Sampling method		Data collection method															
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 1 <i>Population movement</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): Ad-hoc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #): 9+ (minimum of 3 per county)															
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 2a and 2b <i>Multi-sectoral needs</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group discussion (Target #): 24-36 (8 to 12 per county)															
Semi-structured data collection tool (s) # 3 <i>Context and humanitarian service provision mapping</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purposive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key informant interview (Target #): Roughly 18 (6 per county)															
Secondary data review - #4	N/A	N/A															

Target level of precision if probability sampling	NA		NA	
Disaggregation by gender and age <i>Are you planning to conduct sex/age disaggregated analysis?</i>	Gender		Age	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
Data management platform(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IMPACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNHCR
Expected output type(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Situation overview #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report #: 0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary findings #: 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation (Final) #: As needed.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interactive dashboard #: 0	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webmap #: 0
Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public – Situation overview (available on REACH resource center and other humanitarian platforms)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted – Preliminary findings (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)		
Visibility <i>Specify which logos should be on outputs</i>	REACH			
	Donor: BHA, FCDO			
	Coordination Framework: N/A			
	Partners: N/A			

2. Rationale

2.1 Background

Between August 1 and November 10, 2023, UN agencies recorded the arrival of 84,121 South Sudanese nationals from Ethiopia at 13 points of entry (PoE) in Jonglei and Upper Nile States, though the actual number of returns is likely far higher.¹ In Akobo county, for instance, a needs assessment verified 17,707 individuals newly arrived from Gambella,² which is considerably greater than the figure recorded by UN-coordinated population flow monitoring at the time the assessment was conducted in late August (3,129).³ According to UN agencies tracking the flow of arrivals at points of entry (PoEs) the population movement is driven mainly by intercommunal fighting in and near refugee camps in the Gambella region of Ethiopia, as well as by the desire to reunite with family members, and because of the temporary suspension of humanitarian food assistance,⁴ though food assistance has since resumed for refugees residing in Ethiopia.⁵ As of 30 September, 2023, UNHCR reported that 383,788 refugees – most of them South Sudanese – were residing across eight camps in Gambella, suggesting that a worse-case scenario could be far more severe than the current influx. At the time of writing, the population movement dynamics in this region are highly fluid, and are likely to remain as such over the coming 6 to 12 months.

¹ IOM, UNHCR. [Population movement dashboard](#). The dashboard was last updated on October 21.

² Needs assessment conducted by international humanitarian NGO, 23-30 August. On file with REACH.

³ OCHA. ["South Sudan: Response to the Sudan Crisis. Situation Report Number 8."](#) 28 August, 2023.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UNHCR, WFP. ["Resumption of food assistance for refugees in Ethiopia."](#) 1 November 2023.

Return State	Return County	# of individuals
Upper Nile	Nasir	46,826
Jonglei	Akobo	12,703
Upper Nile	Maiwut	11,736
Upper Nile	Ulang	9,333
Jonglei	Pochalla	1,296
Upper Nile	Longochuk	1,072
Jonglei	Pibor	495
Jonglei	Uror	104
Upper Nile	Maban	8
Total		84,121

The areas of South Sudan to which these populations are returning are both chronically and severely food insecure. In Akobo, for example, the second most common county of return,⁶ one in ten people were estimated to be facing catastrophic food insecurity between October and December 2022. Of the nine counties where returnees have been recorded, five are expected to face area-level AFI classification 4 (or “emergency”) between April and July 2024, while 8 are expected to face an area-level AMN classification of 4 (or “critical”) between April and June 2024.⁷ Such severe levels of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition suggest that host-communities have limited absorption capacity, and that such a large population influx could have serious consequences on access to basic needs and services. Further, arriving populations are likely to be highly vulnerable. For many, their return to South Sudan follows a prolonged period as refugees in an area of Ethiopia that has witnessed repeated bouts of violent inter-group conflict. Food assistance was suspended across Ethiopia between June and early October due to the diversion of funds.⁸ Though WFP reported in early October that food assistance for refugees in Ethiopia had resumed,⁹ UNHCR has reported logistical issues reaching some camps, indicating that the resumption is only partial. In late September, Ethiopian news agencies reported that at least 30 people had died of hunger in Gambella refugee camps.¹⁰

In response to evidence suggesting extremely high vulnerability and multi-sectoral needs among arriving populations, and within a rapidly evolving and complex context, REACH plans to conduct an assessment aiming to provide humanitarian actors with a stronger understanding of movement dynamics and needs among South Sudanese arrivals from Ethiopia, as well as their needs and intentions going forward, and the broader implications of their arrival on multi-sectoral needs and humanitarian service provision, for both displaced populations and host communities.

Table 1: IPC AFI and AMN area classifications between October 2023 and June 2024

County	AFI Phase (Dec 23 – Mar 24)	AFI Phase (Apr – Jul 24)	AMN Phase (Oct 23 – Mar 24)	AMN Phase (Apr – Jun 24)
Nasir	3	4	4	4

⁶ IOM, UNHCR. [Population movement dashboard](#).

⁷ IPC. [“Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis September 2023–July 2024.”](#) November 2023.

⁸ Reuters. [“US resumes food aid to refugees in Ethiopia.”](#) 6 October 2023.

⁹ WFP. [“WFP resumes distributions to refugees across Ethiopia.”](#) 9 October 2023.

¹⁰ Addis Standard. [“At least 30 died of hunger in Gambella refugee camps amid ‘increasingly concerning’ food shortage.”](#) 21 September, 2023.

Akobo	3	4	4	4
Maiwut	3	3	3	3
Ulang	3	4	4	4
Pochalla	3	3	4	4
Longochuk	3	3	4	4
Pibor	4	4	4	4
Uror	4	4	4	4
Maban	3	3	4	4

2.2 Intended impact

This research will be relevant to the following humanitarian stakeholders:

1. This assessment aims to feed into **FEWS NETs** monthly food security update, and ultimately their quarterly food security outlook, which informs food security analysis and famine early-warning.
2. Assessment findings will be presented to the **food security and livelihoods cluster**, comprising humanitarian food assistance providers, as well as food security analysts, such as **WFP's Vulnerability and Mapping (VAM) Unit**, which will enable a more accurate understanding of the situations context, dynamics, and possible evolution.
3. The assessment will feed into the **Needs and Analysis Working Group (NAWG)** monthly analysis, which is used to inform geographic prioritization at the **national-ICCG**.
4. The assessment will provide analysis to the humanitarian sector more broadly, enabling individual actors to adequately plan programming and anticipate the humanitarian impacts. Presentations will be held on an ad-hoc basis for a range of actors including **donors, clusters, and working groups**.

Finally, the assessment will aim to (informally) update IPC classifications based on new evidence/analysis that was not taken into account during the IPC workshop in September-October. For instance, the displacement from Gambella to South Sudan was ongoing at the time of the 2023 IPC workshop, meaning analysts were unaware of its scale and thus were unable to factor displacement dynamics into their classification. As such, the food security situation in areas of return may in fact be more severe than the IPC estimates.

3. Methodology

3.1 Methodology overview

This assessment will utilize both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data collection will comprise two qualitative components: focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Focus group discussion will be held with two distinct population groups – 1. Recent arrivals from Ethiopia, and 2. Members of the “host community” (individuals who have not recently been displaced or returned from Ethiopia as refugees). Discussions will be disaggregated by gender to allow for a freer exchange of ideas and to better capture differences in experiences that may be linked to participants gender. Heads of household will be targeted for FGDs, or alternatively adult household members that are familiar with household decision-making and resource attainment and allocation. Key informant interviews will be held with humanitarian service providers, government officials, and community leaders. Secondary data will be used to corroborate and supplement findings, and to inform analysis of most-likely scenarios, for example, how needs are likely to change based on seasonality, service provision, prices, conflict, population movement, etc.

Two types of focus group discussions will be held – 1. Participatory mapping of population movement dynamics, and 2. Discussions on primary needs and access to services. Key informants will be selected on the basis of their expert knowledge on the local context or sector-specific needs and interventions.

Qualitative methods have been selected for this assessment because a) the assessment aims to identify primary humanitarian needs, drivers of needs, population movement dynamics, and humanitarian service gaps, and better understand community perceptions of ongoing context shifts, rather than measure the severity or prevalence of needs, making the research questions primarily descriptive or relational in nature, b) because quantitative methods, which would require a larger sample, a larger team of data collectors, a longer data collection period in order to train data collectors, and a higher level of access to more remote areas to ensure findings are representative, are not possible given the time and resources allocated to this assessment, and c) because humanitarian actors have already conducted or are in the process of conducting needs assessments in these assessment areas, which are aimed at measuring the severity and/or prevalence of needs, including assessments focused on public health and protection. As such, this assessment intends to take a relatively zoomed-out approach, making it more applicable to longer-term strategy, prioritization, and monitoring, than to shorter-term programming.

Research Question	Sub-Question(s)	Applicable Research Component	Component No.
What is the current humanitarian situation in areas of departure?	What are the priority needs of populations there, and what are the primary drivers of those needs?	FGDs with returnees, secondary data	1, 2a, 4
What are the current population movement dynamics between the Gambella region of Ethiopia and South Sudan?	What are the push and pull factors for migrating populations?	FGDs with returnees, KIIs, secondary data	1
	Where have populations settled?	FGDs with returnees, KIIs, secondary data	1, 3
	What are populations' movement intentions over the coming 6-month period, and what factors influence these decisions?	FGDs with returnees, secondary data	1, 4
	In what ways are current population movement dynamics typical or atypical?	All research components	
What are the priority needs of populations arriving to South Sudan?	What are the primary drivers of these needs?	FGDs with returnees, KIIs, secondary data	2a, 3, 4
	For populations intending to stay in their current area of residence, what are community perceptions of how can humanitarians support with resettlement and integration?	FGDs with returnees, FGDs with the host community, KIIs	2a, 2b, 3
Has the population influx impacted the needs of host communities, and if so, how?		FGDs with the host community, KIIs	2b, 3
What services have been / will be provided to returnees, and what are the service gaps?		KIIs, FGDs with the host community	2b, 3
	What risk factors should be monitored?	All research components	

How is the situation likely to evolve over the subsequent 6 month period?	What are the longer-term implications of ongoing population movement dynamics?	All research components
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3.2 Population of interest

The geographic coverage for this assessment will be Akobo, Nasir, and Ulang Counties. The geographic assessment area was chosen on the basis of three criteria. First, in all three assessment areas UN agencies have recorded the arrival of substantial numbers of returnees (the least being in Ulang, roughly 8,000 people, although as mentioned above, actual numbers are likely higher). Second, all three assessment areas are severely food insecure. All counties are projected to face emergency levels of acute food insecurity between December 2023 and July 2024, as well as critical levels of acute malnutrition (indicative of a global acute malnutrition rate of 15% or higher). Such high levels of acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition point to extreme underlying vulnerability within the host communities, suggesting that the capacity of these communities to absorb a population influx is poor. Finally, assessment areas were chosen based on logistical feasibility and access. For instance, Akobo, Nasir, and Ulang are connected by the Pibor River, enabling boat travel from one to the next. Maiwut County was not selected as an assessment location because of its geographic isolation and logistical infeasibility, despite the fact that a large number of returnees have been recorded there.

The population assessed comprises all “affected populations” – people and communities whose humanitarian needs have already or are likely to become more acute as a result of ongoing displacement. While this assessment assumes that those displaced (i.e. “returnees”) are disproportionately impacted, it also includes components to assess the impacts on host communities, and to better understand the needs of populations remaining in areas of departure (i.e. those who remain in refugee camps in Gambella). Roughly, research outputs will discuss needs and experiences of three distinct groups: returnees in South Sudan, host communities in South Sudan, and populations remaining in Gambella, though the latter group will not participate in the assessment, and their situation will be assessed through an “area of knowledge”-adjacent approach, through interviews with people who have recently been displaced from those areas.

3.3 Secondary data review

A secondary data review was conducted prior to and during the drafting of this ToR. The SDR assisted researchers better understand the context of the region, including inter-group relations, population movement dynamics, humanitarian presence, and service provision. A full table detailing the sources used, and the ways in which they inform the research, are laid out below:

Primary Data Collection

Secondary source	Purpose of source
IOM-UNHCR. Population flow monitoring dashboard. Last updated on October 21.	Information on the rate of flow of returnees, their area of departure, their point of entry, their area of settlement, demographic characteristics, and push/pull factors.
IOM-DTM. "Population Flow Monitoring." Dataset. January 2022 to October 2023.	Quantitative data on all recorded movements between Ethiopia and Sudan between January 2022 and October 2023. Central to understanding scale and drivers of movement, and in triangulating quantitative findings.
International NGO. "Rapid Protection Assessment Findings." August 2023. On File with REACH.	Information on needs of returnees in Akobo County.
International NGO. "Emergency Rapid Response Health, Nutrition, and WASH Assessment – Nasir County." October 2023. On File with REACH.	Information on needs of returnees in Nasir County.
ACAPS. "Regional Profile: Humanitarian Concerns in Gambella." March 2022. On File with REACH.	Background information on the humanitarian context of Gambella, Ethiopia.
IPC. "South Sudan Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Analysis, September 2023 to July 2024." November 2023.	Most recent food security and malnutrition analysis of South Sudan. Used to understand humanitarian conditions and pre-existing vulnerabilities in areas of settlement.
REACH. Area of concern tracker. Linked above. On File with REACH.	Compilation of humanitarian indicators at the county-level. Used to understand humanitarian conditions and pre-existing vulnerabilities in areas of settlement.
Eticha, Abebe. "The case study of Anuak-Nuer Conflict in Gambella Region of Ethiopia." May 2023.	Background information on the sociopolitical context of Gambella. Used to understand conflict dynamics and their impact on humanitarian needs.
Various UNHCR camp profiles.	Overview of demographics in Gambella refugee camps.
Lie and Borchgrevink. "Layer upon Layer: Understanding the Gambella Conflict Formation." International Journal of Ethiopian Studies. 2012.	Background information on the context of conflict in Gambella.

The data collection team will consist of one REACH senior assessment officer (international), one REACH assessment officer (national), one REACH field officer (national), and at least one local translator who will be hired in each county of assessment. Pairs of one assessment staff and one translator will conduct interviews simultaneously. One assessment officer will work with the REACH field officer, who will act as a translator, while the other will work with a locally hired translator. Both assessment staff will work on all assessment components, and will debrief daily to ensure that information is shared and triangulated. The field officer or local guide/translator will be tasked with the mobilization of FGD participants.

In each county of assessment, the data collection team will aim to visit as many different villages as possible where returnees have settled. These areas will be determined based on secondary data, on participatory population movement focus group discussions with recently arrived populations, and on key informant interviews with locally based actors. Logistical factors and security will also impact accessibility of certain areas. The field team will compile a final list of target areas upon arriving to the assessment area, and will liaise with security to ensure the areas are accessible.

This assessment will utilize qualitative methods comprised of key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Focus group discussions will be held with two separate groups – "host community" members (i.e. those who were residing in the

assessment area since at least January 2023), and returnees from Ethiopia who have arrived since August 2023. FGDs will further be divided by gender, making the final (minimum) target sample per county as follows:

Population Movement: At least 3 FGDs with recent returnees, supplemented with key informant interviews as needed and as appropriate based on the key informant profile available. FGDs will be held with people who all departed the same location, to ensure that the discussion is manageable and the FGD participants share basic characteristics.

Multi-sectoral needs:

Population Group	Gender	Minimum no. of FGDs
Host community	Female	2-3
Host community	Male	2-3
Recent arrivals	Female	2-3
Recent arrivals	Male	2-3
Total		8-12

Context / humanitarian service mapping:

Key informant profile	Minimum no. of interviews
Humanitarian food assistance provider	1
Humanitarian healthcare provider	1
Humanitarian nutrition provider	1
Relief and rehabilitation commission	1
UN humanitarian coordination	1
Community leader	1
Total	6

Overall sample, by county:

County	Population Movement Dynamics FGD	Multi-Sectoral Needs (FGD)	Key Informant Interviews: Context and Service Provision
Akobo	3 (at least)	8-12	~ 6
Nasir	3 (at least)	8-12	~ 6
Ulang	3 (at least)	8-12	~ 6
Total:	9	24-36	18

Key informant interviews and participatory focus group discussions will be completed first, in each location, before moving conducting focus group discussions on multi-sectoral needs. This will better enable data collectors to understand the context and ensure that they are asking the right probes during subsequent interviews. It will also enable the field team to better understand the whereabouts of displaced populations.

Key informant profiles may change based on the availability of INGO or UN staff at the time of data collection, or based on the type of actor on the ground. For instance, there may not be any CCCM activities ongoing in certain areas, meaning that

KI profile would be omitted. Key informant interview guides are only minimally structured, since the questions asked will hinge significantly on the KIs profile. A very basic guide has been drafted (annex 1), but interviewers will be given autonomy to ask questions that are appropriate based on the KIs profile. KI interviews will be more inductive in nature, allowing KIs to describe the humanitarian context as they view it, to speak openly about humanitarian needs that they have observed, how needs have changed due to recent shocks, what services have been provided, what services are required, and what barriers they are facing in service delivery.

Previous assessments demonstrate that it is often difficult to mobilize men for FGDs during the day, as they are typically out of the home or the community, and social norms tend to designate female household members as primarily responsible for the allocation, preparation, and distribution of food and resources within the household unit. The sample may therefore increase the number of female interviews to account for decreased male interviews, though the field team will aim to hold at least one male FGD discussion to ensure that the experiences of male community members are minimally captured. Any deviation from the above sample strategy will have repercussions on the disaggregation of analysis. In such an instance, a disaggregation by gender may not be feasible, given the dearth of male interviews, and the inability to achieve the initial sample will be reported as a limitation in any research outputs.

A short enumerator debrief will be conducted following each focus group discussion. The debrief will comprise the following questions:

1. Were the participant's/key informant able to provide answers to all the sections of the questionnaire? If not, what is missing and why? (Please be as specific as possible.)
2. If there were any questions that went unanswered, might be unreliable, or were not well understood, please indicate them here (with the reason).
3. How would you describe the reliability of the information gathered? (include your observation of the dynamics of the group, body language etc.)

3.4 Data Processing & Analysis

Notes from FGDs and KIIs will be typed up the same day as interviews were conducted and entered into a data saturation grid no later than 24 hours afterwards. Soft-copies of transcripts will be held on REACH computers and will be password protected. All transcripts and analysis documents will be backed-up on the IMPACT OneDrive as soon as internet connection is strong enough to do so.

Qualitative data will be analyzed in a data saturation grid, and will follow the [IMPACT Standards Checklist for Semi-Structured Data Processing and Analysis](#). It is unlikely, given the time allocated for this assessment, that data saturation will be reached, and this will be noted as a limitation in any research outputs. Analysis will be conducted by the same assessment officer that facilitated the respective interviews. The analysis will aim to identify key topics and trends emerging across the KIs and FGDs while identifying key differences by gender and displacement status of the focus group. Findings from KIIs will be triangulated via other KIIs or using secondary data to the maximum extent possible.

Qualitative data will be analyzed using a combination of content analysis and grounded-theory. Content analysis will be guided using a data saturation grid, which will support the analyst in identifying recurring ideas and themes. Content analysis will be most useful in identifying priority needs, and population movement dynamics, including push and pull factors, and will be used to analyze data collected via FGDs and KIIs. Grounded theory analysis will also be employed in order to provide humanitarian actors with a better understanding of affected populations' experiences – for instance, decision making processes surrounding when to displace, where to go, and what affected populations experienced throughout this process. Grounded theory analysis will also be used to draw inferences and projections as to how households are likely to respond to future externalities such as insecurity and the provision of humanitarian assistance, which will be central to analysis of risk factors and projections. Direct quotes from transcripts will be included in the output as needed to draw the overarching analysis back to experiences of affected populations.

Given the context of the assessment area, it is highly likely that the data collection team will encounter information that has implications for risk of excess mortality or physical wellbeing, that will be of immediate programmatic relevance to humanitarian actors. This is likely to include information that is both within and beyond the scope of the assessment. Taking this into account, the output review/validation process is divided into two parts – 1. preliminary findings and 2. a final humanitarian situation overview. The preliminary findings will comprise 2-3 pages of key messages related to risk of excess mortality, serious protection concerns, or findings with relevance to life-saving assistance, such as the whereabouts or movement intentions of highly vulnerable groups. Preliminary findings will be disseminated bilaterally by email to cluster coordinators, heads of UN agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. Preliminary findings will not be published on the REACH repository. To facilitate the rapid dissemination of this information, the preliminary findings will be spot-checked using transcripts, rather than requiring a full data saturation grid. The assessment team will aim to disseminate preliminary findings no later than 3 working days after concluding data collection (by close of business December 18). For the full humanitarian situation overview, standard analysis processes will be followed, including the completion of a data saturation grid, and will be drafted and reviewed along a longer timeline detailed above. The full overview will be uploaded to the resource center and reliefweb and will be disseminated to the full South Sudan dissemination list.

3.5 Limitations

Due to the qualitative and non-probabilistic nature of the methodology design, findings can be considered indicative only. However, by stratifying the focus groups further by displacement status and gender, it is assumed that a wide variety of perspectives and experiences will be captured to provide a good enough understanding of the wider population of interest in each county of assessment.

It is unlikely given the sample size that saturation will be reached for any of the data collection tools. This means that findings should not be interpreted as exhaustive of all themes.

Because REACH is unable to record the audio of interviews, it is likely that “transcripts” will more resemble notes. Because responses will be translated from the local language to English during the interview, it is also likely that some details will be lost in translation, or that responses may be abbreviated by the translator.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets / does not meet the following criteria:

<i>The proposed research design...</i>	<i>Yes/ No</i>	<i>Details if no (including mitigation)</i>
... Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
... Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?	Yes	

... Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	Yes	
... Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatizing for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	Yes	This assessment involves collecting information on sensitive topics, including on displacement, protection risks, and potentially severe humanitarian needs. Secondary literature indicates the severe protection risks that returnees face in the course of being displaced, suggesting that at least some FGD participants are likely to be survivors of serious protection incidents. To mitigate the risk of re-traumatization, participants will be briefed on the subject matter of the interviews prior to beginning, and will be told that consent can be revoked at any time during the interview. Field teams will be made aware of services providers in the area to whom respondents may be referred, with their consent, including protection actors and healthcare providers. Facilitators will remain cognizant of signs of psychosocial distress ¹¹ and end or pause interviews as needed, taking time to ensure that either a) the participant would like to continue, or b) would like to end the interview, in which case the facilitator will ensure that the participant is referred to the appropriate service provider.
... Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than 18 years old?	Yes	
... Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	No	It is likely that respondents will include individuals who have experienced protection incidents. While some protection incidents may be reported during data collection, these topics will not be probed. Field teams will be familiar with protection partners operation in the area, to which respondents can be referred, upon their consent.
... Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	

5. Roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	Senior Assessment Officer for Food	IMPACT HQ	Deputy County Coordinator	REACH Country Coordinator, WFP

¹¹ Visual and auditory signs of psychological distress include aversion of eye contact, shaking, rapid breathing, tearfulness or crying, “freezing,” and declining to answer multiple successive questions. Useful guidance on identifying and minimizing participant distress during interviews available [here](#).

	Security and Emergencies (SAO-E)		(DDC), Emergency Prioritization Research Manager (EP-RM), IMPACT HQ	VAM, FEWS NET, ERRM Consortium
Supervising data collection	SAO-E, Assessment Officer (AO)	SAO-E	EP-RM	DCC
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	SAO-E, AO	SAO-E	EP-RM	DCC
Data analysis	SAO-E, AO	IMPACT HQ	EP-RM	DCC
Output production	SAO-E	IMPACT HQ	EP-RM, DCC	CC
Dissemination	SAO-E	DCC	EP-RM	CC, Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, FEWS NET, WFP VAM
Monitoring & Evaluation	SAO-E	SAO-E	EP-RM	IMPACT HQ, DCC, CC
Lessons learned	SAO-E	EP-RM	DCC	CC, IMPACT HQ

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable of the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

Informed: the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

ANNEX 1: QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW GUIDES

TOOL 1: Participatory Population Movement Mapping Focus Group Discussion Guide

Focus Group Discussion Tool

Moderator name		Translator Name	
Date		Location	

Start time:

End time:

FGD participant details:

Gender	Age	Area of departure	Area of current residence	Area origin (if different than column 3)	Date departure	Date of arrival

Instructions to moderators

- Questions to participants must be read out and communicated clearly. If there are some specific terms which may be unclear, please provide a definition for the purpose of the exercise.
- Where **specified**, ensure the discussion focuses on the participants' understanding of the experiences of their community, **not** their perceptions of other communities in the area. Here, community is defined on the basis of the displacement status of the key informant and further by location of origin/habitual residence.
- **Probing questions** should be used to clarify what participants have said and to get more detailed information on the topic of interest. Do not read the probing questions along with the main questions to participants, but as follow up questions. Feel free to adapt them as needed.
- Ensure that you are trained on procedure for handling disclosures of experiences with violence (particularly gender based violence) by participants and have the local referral pathway at hand.

Introduction

Facilitator's welcome, introduction and instructions to participants

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group discussion.

The information you will provide us today will be used to inform response strategy and planning of humanitarian actors in South Sudan. Please note that this discussion does not have any impact on whether you or your family will receive assistance in the future.

You have been asked to participate because your point of view is important and we want to hear your opinions. We appreciate your time. **Please note that everything you tell us will be kept confidential and will not be attributed to you. We will not take down your name for this exercise.**

We may touch on some sensitive subjects. If you or someone you know is affected by any of the topics of discussion, you can come to ask for information about services available after the group discussion ends. Please do not feel obliged to share specific incidents of violence that you may have experienced within the group.

Your participation in this discussion is entirely voluntary, and anyone who does not want to participate can leave now or at any time during the discussion. You can decide whether you want to answer questions or not once the discussion starts. If you choose not to take part or to skip any questions, it will have no negative impacts whatsoever on your ability to access services from any agency. Please feel free to ask me any questions now, or at any point during the discussion. Do you consent to participate in this discussion?

This discussion will take no more than one hour and fifteen minutes.

Group agreements

Before we begin, it is important that we create a safe environment for this discussion where people feel free to speak openly. Therefore, it will be good if we can make certain agreements among the group. What should we include in these agreements?

Start by suggesting one and wait for people to come up with other agreements. If any of the below agreements are not mentioned by the participants, suggest to also include those.

- The most important rule is that only **one person speaks at a time**. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- You do not have to speak in any particular order.
- When you do have something to say, please do so. There are many of you in the group and it is important that we hear from all of you.
- You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group.
- All participants must be respectful towards one another.
- Everyone must respect the confidentiality of the discussion and not repeat what is discussed here, or attribute it to participants.
- Does anyone have any questions? (answers)

Please can everyone confirm that you agree with these community agreements? OK, let's begin.

Begin Discussion

Background

1. Prior to your arrival here, can you tell me about how long your household was living in Gambella?
 - a. When did you first travel to Gambella, and why? Where did you leave from?
 - b. Did many other people from your community also travel to Gambella during this period?
2. Since you first moved to Gambella, have you travelled back to South Sudan at any point?
 - a. Is it common for people from your community to travel between Gambella and South Sudan?
 - b. About how frequently would you say most people travel back to South Sudan (once per year, more than once per year)?
 - c. Can you explain to me why people travel back and forth between Gambella and South Sudan?

3. Would you describe the current movement between Gambella and South Sudan as normal, or not normal?
 - a. [If not normal] In what ways is this current situation atypical?
 - b. [If normal] In what ways is this current situation normal?

Shocks and displacement

Start by locating the participants area of departure.

1. Can you show me the route that you took from your area of departure to your current location? Can you describe to me this journey? *Ensure all stages of the journey are recorded, including overnight stops.*
 - Can you give me an overview of the route that you took?
 - What means of travel did you use? (*Vehicle, foot, boat*)
 - Did you or anyone travelling with you encounter any issues/movement barriers during your journey? (*Checkpoints, technical issues with vehicles, weather, issues with finances*).
 - Did everyone in your household migrate, or only some people?
 - [If only some people] Which people stayed, and which left?
 - 1...1. How was the decision made of who would stay and who would leave?
2. Why did you leave your area of departure? *[Continue probing until you understand all the factors that caused the participants to migrate.]*
 - Can you tell me about some other reasons why other people from your previous area of residence decided to leave?
3. Why did you decide to travel to this location? Why this location and not another? [*Probes: access to livelihoods, food assistance, presence of relatives, protection concerns in alternative areas.*]
 - Are there any specific disadvantages associated with coming here?
4. Do you know of any other locations where people from your area of departure went (show on the map)? *Probe not only on personal experience, but perceptions of movement at a community level. Of those who displaced from the area of origin, try and get a sense of to which areas most people displaced.*
 - [For each location] Why did people go there?
 - Do you know if people faced any challenges while travelling?
5. Do you anticipate more people from your area of departure traveling on your route/to your displacement location?
 - Are people still arriving here?
 - Are these people facing any issues in travelling to this location or another location?

Movement restrictions

1. Were there any households in your area of departure who wanted to leave but were unable to?
 - [If yes] Why were these household unable to move? *[Continue probing for all movement barriers]*
 - Which routes are cut off because of these movement restrictions?

Projections and intentions

1. What are your households' movement intentions over the next 6 months?
 - [If plan on moving] Where do you plan on moving?
 - [If plan on moving] Why do you plan on moving? *[Continue probing for push/pull factors to understand decision making]*

- *[If plan on moving]* When do you plan on moving?
- Why do you plan on moving to this location? (benefits of anticipated displacement location)
- Will all household members migrate, or only some? Why these household members?

2. What about other people from your community that have recently returned from Gambella? What do you think their movement intentions are over the next 6 months? *[Probe to understand push/pull factors as necessary]*

Debrief

Were the participants/key informants able to provide answers to all sections of the questionnaire? If not what is missing and why ?	
If there were any questions that went unanswered, might be unreliable, or where not well understood, please indicate them here (with the reason).	
How would you describe the reliability of the information gathered? Include your observation of the dynamics of the group, body language etc.	

TOOL 2: Key Informant Interview Guide

Key Informant Name:

Key Informant NGO:

Sector / Expertise:

Job Title:

Geographic Area of Knowledge:

Date:

Start Time:

End Time:

1. Can you describe for me the current humanitarian context, as you see it? What are the most important humanitarian issues in {county} right now?
 - a. In your view, what are the most pressing needs faced by people living in this area?
 - b. What is driving those needs?
 - c. Are there any areas (payams/bomas) that face greater needs than others? Why? Are there any groups that face greater needs than others? Why?
2. Can you speak a little bit about the ongoing population influx. Can you tell me about why this population movement is currently happening? What are the drivers? Where are people coming from?
 - a. Where are people settled? Do you know how they are deciding where to settle?
3. I understand that there's normally some population movement between this area and Gambella. Is this current population movement normal? [If no] In what ways is it different than normal?
4. Can you tell me about any changes you've noticed in humanitarian needs since the returns started?
 - a. Which needs have you seen changes in, and why? [*probe for health, food security, nutrition, protection, shelter.*]
 - b. Which groups have been most affected [*probe for returnees vs host community*]? How have different groups been affected differently?
5. Can you tell me about what services are currently being provided to returnees?
 - a. How are these services different from those being provided to the host community?
 - b. Do you know if humanitarian actors have faced any specific challenges in providing services?
6. In your view, what are the most significant service gaps?
7. How do you expect the situation to evolve in the coming 6 months?
 - a. What are the most important risk factors to monitor?

TOOL 3: Ethiopia – South Sudan Returns: FSL and Priority Needs Focus Group Discussion Guide - Returnees

Focus Group Discussion Tool

Moderator name		Assistant moderator name	
Date		Location	

Start time:

End time:

FGD participant details:

Gender	Age	Area of origin/habitual residence	Location of displacement	Date of displacement	Other relevant details

Instructions to moderators

- Questions to participants must be read out and communicated clearly. If there are some specific terms which may be unclear, please provide a definition for the purpose of the exercise.
- Where **specified**, ensure the discussion focuses on the participants' understanding of the experiences of their community, **not** their perceptions of other communities in the area. Here, community is defined on the basis of the displacement status of the key informant and further by location of origin/habitual residence.
- **Probing questions** should be used to clarify what participants have said and to get more detailed information on the topic of interest. Do not read the probing questions along with the main questions to participants, but as follow up questions. Feel free to adapt them as needed.
- Ensure that you are trained on procedure for handling disclosures of experiences with violence (particularly gender based violence) by participants and have the local referral pathway at hand.

Introduction

Facilitator's welcome, introduction and instructions to participants

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group discussion.

The information you will provide us today will be used to inform response strategy and planning of humanitarian actors in South Sudan. Please note that this discussion does not have any impact on whether you or your family will receive assistance in the future.

You have been asked to participate because your point of view is important and we want to hear your opinions. We appreciate your time. **Please note that everything you tell us will be kept confidential and will not be attributed to you. We will not take down your name for this exercise.**

We may touch on some sensitive subjects. If you or someone you know is affected by any of the topics of discussion, you can come to ask for information about services available after the group discussion ends. Please do not feel obliged to share specific incidents of violence that you may have experienced within the group.

Your participation in this discussion is entirely voluntary, and anyone who does not want to participate can leave now or at any time during the discussion. You can decide whether you want to answer questions or not once the discussion starts. If you choose not to take part or to skip any questions, it will have no negative impacts whatsoever on your ability to access services from any agency. Please feel free to ask me any questions now, or at any point during the discussion. Do you consent to participate in this discussion?

This discussion will take no more than one hour and fifteen minutes.

Group agreements

Before we begin, it is important that we create a safe environment for this discussion where people feel free to speak openly. Therefore, it will be good if we can make certain agreements among the group. What should we include in these agreements?

Start by suggesting one and wait for people to come up with other agreements. If any of the below agreements are not mentioned by the participants, suggest to also include those.

- The most important rule is that only **one person speaks at a time**. There may be a temptation to jump in when someone is talking but please wait until they have finished.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- You do not have to speak in any particular order.
- When you do have something to say, please do so. There are many of you in the group and it is important that we hear from all of you.
- You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group.
- All participants must be respectful towards one another.
- Everyone must respect the confidentiality of the discussion and not repeat what is discussed here, or attribute it to participants.
- Does anyone have any questions? (answers)

Please can everyone confirm that you agree with these community agreements? OK, let's begin.

Begin Discussion

Overview/priority needs:

1. Can you tell me about some of the main reasons why people decided to leave your previous area of residence? *[Continue probing until you fully understand push factors]*
 - a. Why did your household choose to come to this location? *[Continue probing until you fully understand pull factors]*
 - b. Where did other people go? Why did they decide to go there?
2. Since you left your previous area of residence, have the needs of your household changed? *[Probe: since you arrived in this area, is your household more or less able to meet its basic needs?]*
 - a. Can you describe how the needs of your household has changed? *[Probe: which needs have changed? Access to food, water, shelter, safety, healthcare, education].*

- b. Why have they changed?
3. What are some of the other needs that households who have recently returned from Gambella are facing?
 - a. What are the main reasons for these needs?

Access to assistance:

4. Do you know if any humanitarian assistance has been provided to returnees in this area? *[Probe for food, healthcare, shelter, NFIs, protection services, etc]*
 - a. *[If yes,] Which assistance has been provided? Can you describe these to me? [when did you receive the assistance, what did you receive, where, and from whom?]*
5. Are you aware of any differences in the way that different groups are receiving services?
 - a. *[If yes] Can you speak a little bit about if this disparity is causing any problems? [Probe on tensions between groups]*
6. In your view, what ways can humanitarian organizations best support people who have recently returned from Gambella right now?

Food Security and Livelihoods:

1. In your area of departure, can you tell me about how people in your community usually met its basic needs? *[Probe: What were the main livelihood activities and food sources that your household utilized? Probe for cultivation, markets, fishing and wild foods, humanitarian assistance, cash-earning opportunities]*
 - a. Did these livelihoods/food sources change seasonally? *[If yes] How did they change?*
2. How have these main livelihoods and food sources changed since arriving to this location?
 - a. Can you describe to me how households who have recently come from Gambella are currently getting their food in this location (from which sources)?

Area of Departure:

1. Can you tell me about the conditions in the area that you recently left?
2. Are many people remaining there? Can you tell me about how many people left (half, less than half, more than half)?
3. What are the primary needs of people in this area? What are the main issues that they face?
4. Why have these households decided to stay, while others decided to leave?

Debrief

Were the participants/key informants able to provide answers to all sections of the questionnaire? If not what is missing and why ?	
If there were any questions that went unanswered, might be unreliable, or where not well understood, please indicate them here (with the reason).	
How would you describe the reliability of the information gathered? Include your	

observation of the dynamics of the group, body language etc.	
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TOOL 4: Ethiopia – South Sudan Returns: FSL and Priority Needs Focus Group Discussion Guide – Host community

Focus Group Discussion Tool

Moderator name		Assistant moderator name	
Date		Location	

Start time:

End time:

FGD participant details:

Gender	Age	Area of origin/habitual residence	Other relevant details

Instructions to moderators

- Questions to participants must be read out and communicated clearly. If there are some specific terms which may be unclear, please provide a definition for the purpose of the exercise.
- Where **specified**, ensure the discussion focuses on the participants' understanding of the experiences of their community, **not** their perceptions of other communities in the area. Here, community is defined on the basis of the displacement status of the key informant and further by location of origin/habitual residence.
- **Probing questions** should be used to clarify what participants have said and to get more detailed information on the topic of interest. Do not read the probing questions along with the main questions to participants, but as follow up questions. Feel free to adapt them as needed.
- Ensure that you are trained on procedure for handling disclosures of experiences with violence (particularly gender based violence) by participants and have the local referral pathway at hand.

Introduction

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Welcome and thank you for volunteering to take part in this focus group discussion.

The information you will provide us today will be used to inform response strategy and planning of humanitarian actors in South Sudan. Please note that this discussion does not have any impact on whether you or your family will receive assistance in the future.

You have been asked to participate because your point of view is important and we want to hear your opinions. We appreciate your time. **Please note that everything you tell us will be kept confidential and will not be attributed to you. We will not take down your name for this exercise.**

We may touch on some sensitive subjects. If you or someone you know is affected by any of the topics of discussion, you can come to ask for information about services available after the group discussion ends. Please do not feel obliged to share specific incidents of violence that you may have experienced within the group.

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This discussion will take no more than one hour and fifteen minutes.

Group agreements

Before we begin, it is important that we create a safe environment for this discussion where people feel free to speak openly. Therefore, it will be good if we can make certain agreements among the group. What should we include in these agreements?

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- There are no right or wrong answers.
- You do not have to speak in any particular order.
- When you do have something to say, please do so. There are many of you in the group and it is important that we hear from all of you.
- You do not have to agree with the views of other people in the group.
- All participants must be respectful towards one another.
- Everyone must respect the confidentiality of the discussion and not repeat what is discussed here, or attribute it to participants.
- Does anyone have any questions? (answers)

Please can everyone confirm that you agree with these community agreements? OK, let's begin.

Begin Discussion

Population Movement and Context:

1. Can you start by telling me about the current humanitarian situation in this area? Have there been any major events or trends that have happened in the past 6 months?
 - a. [Probe if necessary]: Have there been many people coming to this area recently?
 - b. [If yes] Where are these people coming from?
2. [If movement reported] Can you tell me why these people are coming here? What happened to make them leave their previous area of residence?
3. Is movement between Gambella and this area normal?
 - a. [If yes] What are some reasons why people usually move between Gambella and Ethiopia?
 - b. Would you describe the current movement as normal, or not normal?
 - i. [If not normal] In what ways is the current movement not normal?

Priority Needs:

1. In your view, have needs in your community changed since the arrival of people from Ethiopia?
 - a. [If yes] How have they changed?
 - b. Why do you think they have changed?
2. What would you say are the priority needs of people in this area now?
3. What do you think are the main ways that your community can be supported now?
4. Are there any other ways that you think the recent population influx is going to impact your community?
 - a. Do you think there are any benefits associated with people returning to this area from Gambella?

Food Security and Livelihoods:

1. Can you start by listing all the foods that your household is currently consuming, and the source of that food?
 - a. Next, can you tell me when you expect this food source to exhaust?

Current food sources		
<i>Food item</i>	<i>How do people obtain this? (gardens/farms, markets, humanitarian assistance)</i>	<i>Most likely period of exhaustion for most people in the community (month, or range of 2 months)</i>

Humanitarian Assistance:

1. Have people in your community received any assistance from humanitarian organizations in the past 3 months?
2. What types of assistance have they received?
3. Have there been any differences in the types of assistance that different groups have received?

Integration and Conflict Sensitivity:

1. How are relations between people who have recently arrived from Sudan and the host community here?
2. Are you aware of any issues between people who have recently arrived and people who lived here before?
 - a. [If yes], What are these issues about?

Debrief

Were the participants/key informants able to provide answers to all sections of the questionnaire? If not what is missing and why ?	
If there were any questions that went unanswered, might be unreliable, or where not well understood, please indicate them here (with the reason).	
How would you describe the reliability of the information gathered? Include your observation of the dynamics of the group, body language etc.	