



MULTISECTOR CRISIS OVERVIEW

JONGLEI STATE

REPORT

JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2016

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About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of humanitarian trends in Jonglei State from June – September 2016, based on findings from REACH data collection. Jonglei State, South Sudan's largest and most populous state, has been one of the most conflict-affected areas of the country, both during the Sudanese Civil Wars as well as since the December 2013 crisis.¹ Although there has been an overall improvement in security since mid-2015, insecurity has increased and localized fighting continued since the recent outbreak of fighting in July 2016 between SPLA and SPLA-IO forces.^{2,3} As of September 2016, the state still hosted 378,820 IDPs⁴, the second largest IDP population in South Sudan, with many of IDPs from Jonglei displaced to Akobo Town, Bor Town, Bor PoC, as well as to communities in the state's interior such as around the Waat-Walgak-Lankien area. Many others have crossed the Nile to seek shelter and support at the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement in Lakes State.

To understand the needs of the large conflict-affected population in Jonglei State, REACH is conducting regular assessments on hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan in order to inform the response of humanitarians working inside and outside formal displacement sites, and providing services to both IDPs and host communities. These assessments consist of regular data collection on displacement dynamics, priority needs and humanitarian service access in communities across the Greater Upper Nile region, which is conducted on a monthly basis throughout the year.

This "crisis overview" compiles monthly data to provide a longer term trend analysis and to assess how humanitarian conditions have changed since the onset of fighting as a result of the July 2016 crisis. The findings presented in this report are based on monthly cycles of data collection from June through to September, representing data from a total of 3,101

interviews with Key Informants (KIs) who receive regular information from their pre-displacement location or "Area of Origin". Please see the methodology section for more details on the approach used.

OVERVIEW

Conflict-related displacement appears to have increased across the assessment period. Suggestive of large displacement *within* Jonglei, **since July increasing numbers of communities in Western Jonglei have reported a depopulation of local communities**, at the same time as communities in more stable areas appear to be witnessing an increase in the presence of IDPs. Further, since August more communities reported returned local populations, which may be attributable to the deteriorating security situation in areas outside of Jonglei, such as the Equatorias. Moreover, **between July and August the net outflow of populations heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia from Akobo Town surpassed the number of returnees**, with a peak of populations departing South Sudan for the Gambella region observed in September.

These trends likely reflect the adverse effect of worsening security conditions observed in Western Jonglei since August, as well as the fighting that broke out in Juba in July, which in addition to local insecurity, appears to have also displaced people from areas not directly affected by fighting due to fears that the clashes may spread. Indicative of this is that **conflict and access to safety have become much stronger push/pull factors over the assessment period**, suggesting that populations' perceptions of safety have shifted.

Consequently, **the July crisis appears to have had a strong indirect impact on displacement in Jonglei, with populations increasingly cognisant of the fluid and unpredictable security context**. With the dry season approaching in October, in which

¹ Feinstein International Centre: In the Eye of Storm, An Analysis of internal Conflict in South Sudan's Jonglei State, March 2014.

² FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook June 2016 to January 2017.

³ Protection Cluster: Protection Trends in South Sudan – April to September 2016, November 2016.

⁴ OCHA: Humanitarian Snapshot, September 2016.

fighting and cattle raiding – primary drivers of displacement in Jonglei – typically intensifies, more populations may decide to leave their current locations in anticipation of clashes, with displaced populations unlikely to return home given the tense security situation.

Overall, **humanitarian needs of conflict and displacement affected populations in Jonglei remained high throughout the June-September period.** Severe protection concerns, lack of adequate sanitation facilities, critical health needs and ongoing reliance on food assistance were reported across the state. Moreover, strong **geographic disparities with regards to access to basic services were observed between Eastern and Western Jonglei**, with counties in Jonglei's west generally reporting lower access levels. These differences may be attributable to the remoteness of Western Jonglei's largely swampy areas, as well as the higher levels of destruction of service facilities since the conflict in 2013, and the fact that some of these areas remain conflict hotspots between SPLA and SPLA-IO.

This quarterly report unpacks these trends and displacement dynamics and provides an overview of humanitarian conditions in assessed communities across Jonglei State.

METHODOLOGY

REACH collects data on hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan using its "Area of Origin" (AoO) methodology. This methodology has enabled REACH to collect real-time, up-to-date data on areas of the Greater Upper Nile region that are challenging for humanitarians to access directly, but are still accessible by IDPs and host communities.

Primary data is collected from KIs who have been identified by REACH as receiving regular, up-to-date information from a particular location in Jonglei State. KI interviews are conducted on a monthly basis using a standardized survey tool that comprises a range of questions about the current situation and needs of the remaining host community and any displaced persons residing in the KIs' area of knowledge, in

addition to sector-specific questions including WASH, Health, Shelter/NFI, Protection, Food Security and Livelihoods.

Once all the data has been collected, it is then cleaned and examined at the community level. For categorical variables, the modal response is identified as being representative of a given community. For continuous variables, the mean response is used instead. When no consensus is found, that community is not included in the reporting. This, combined with the fact that sometimes only a subset of respondents are asked certain questions depending on their answer to a previous question, is why the total number of communities reported on may differ throughout this report. Where spatial analysis is relevant, findings are mapped on the basis of community boundaries identified through a participatory mapping exercise conducted in 2015 with community KIs.

The findings in this report are based on 3,101 interviews conducted in Juba Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites, Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Bor Town and Akobo over the June-September 2016 period, covering 8 of Jonglei's 11 counties as illustrated in Map 1.

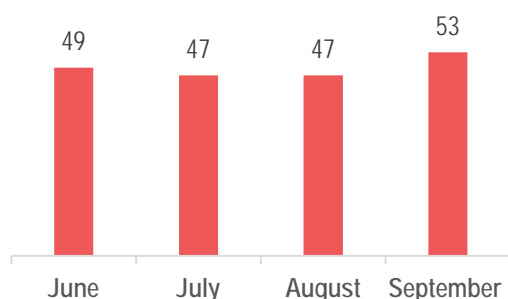
Map 1: Coverage of counties assessed in Jonglei State, June-September 2016.



Table 1: # of interviews conducted, by month and county of origin

County	June	July	August	September
Akobo	152	204	243	241
Ayod	46	35	20	36
Bor South	97	179	293	177
Duk	47	6	164	50
Fangak	44	22	6	32
Nyirol	41	65	49	89
Twic East	121	60	164	156
Uror	70	79	54	60
TOTAL	618	650	992	841

Figure 1: # of communities assessed, by month



The findings presented should be understood as indicative only, with comparisons between months limited by security constraints and the extent to which REACH gained repeated access to information on the same geographical areas each month.

POPULATION MOVEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT

Displacement Context

Jonglei remains a politically deeply divided state, split 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 (GPAA) in the Murle and Anuyak dominated South East. **Displacement patterns in Jonglei are reflective of this as they are defined by tribal**

settlement patterns and proximity to areas of refuge. Dinka populations of Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties have primarily been displaced to Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Bor Town and rural communities within these three counties, with Mingkaman site serving as largest site for IDPs originating from Jonglei. Given the significant population inflow from Bor that was observed during the February 2015 IOM biometric registration exercise, as IDPs were attempting to gain access to the General Food Distribution (GFD) present in Mingkaman, the exact figure of IDPs from Jonglei that permanently reside in Mingkaman is unknown, but assumed to be lower than the 52,945 individuals from Jonglei that were biometrically registered.⁵ High movement between Mingkaman and Bor continues to be observed during monthly GFD cycles.

Bor PoC and SPLA-IO held areas in Nyirol, Ayod, Uror and Akobo have served as refuge for displaced Nuer populations. According to IOM biometric registration figures, Bor PoC was host to 2,001 individuals in September 2016.⁶ Akobo East is host to large number of IDPs who live integrated with the local community.⁷ During the last food distribution registration in June 2015 a total of 62,359 individuals were registered as living in Akobo East area.⁸ IDPs in Akobo predominately originate from Nyirol, Uror and Akobo West counties, with regular seasonal migration from interior villages to Akobo Town taking place during the dry season.⁹ Akobo Town, close to land and river border crossings with Ethiopia, is also a key point of transit for South Sudanese heading to Ethiopian refugee camps.

⁵ ACTED: Mingkaman Population Dynamics, February 2016.

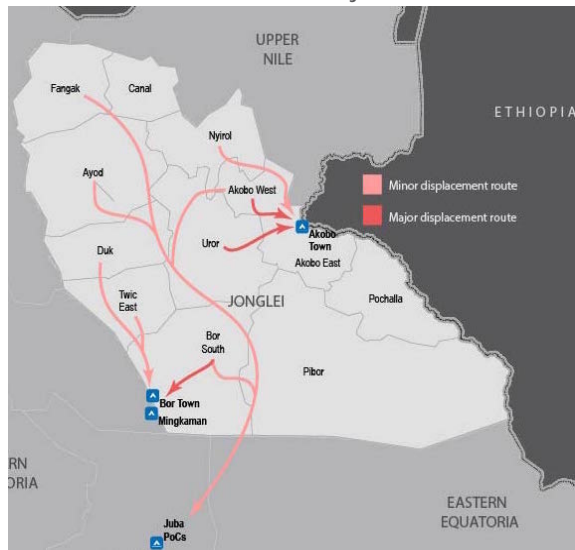
⁶ IOM: Humanitarian Update 70, October 2016.

⁷ REACH: Multi-Sectoral Overview of the Humanitarian Needs in Akobo East, March 2016.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Global Wash Cluster / REACH: South Sudan WASH Baseline, Akobo County, May 2016.

Map 2: Reported main IDP displacement routes to Akobo Town, Bor Town, Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement and Juba PoC used by KIs



Displacement Overview

Although Jonglei has, in comparison to other parts of the country, not been as affected by conflict resulting from the July 2016 crisis, the security situation across the state varied during the assessment period. Western Jonglei appears to have experienced a deterioration in security since August 2016, when fighting between SPLA and SPLA-IO in Pajut displaced 8,000 individuals to Poktap, Payuel and Padiet payams in Duk County.¹⁰ Clashes between the two factions were also reported in Poktap and Uror.¹¹ In addition to these rising tensions related to the broader national conflict, localized insecurity as a result of cattle raiding, child abductions as well as road ambushes has also negatively impacted communities in Western Jonglei.^{12,13} Insecurity in Eastern Jonglei, in comparison, appears to have mainly been characterized by local inter-and intra-community conflict surrounding cattle raids, revenge killings and child abductions.¹⁴

In addition to insecurity causing displacement, seasonal flooding has affected communities in Western and Northern Jonglei: 23,000 individuals were reportedly displaced in Twic East¹⁵ and an unknown number, estimated in the thousands, in Fangak County as a result of flooding in August.¹⁶ This has also led to the destruction of crops, which has had a negative impact on overall food security.

As detailed in the following sections, displacement in assessed communities in Jonglei between June - September can be summarised as follows:

- **Depopulation of local communities:** Since August, the number of communities reporting displacement of local community members has risen, with Western Jonglei particularly affected; conflict has gained significance as a primary push factor.
- **IDP populations:** Increase in IDP hosting communities since July, with the majority of IDP settlements reported in the Greater Akobo area of Eastern Jonglei. Insecurity caused by conflict, as well as food insecurity, have become stronger push factors over the four month period.
- **Returns to Jonglei:** Since August a growing number of communities reported returned local populations, in particular in Western Jonglei. This may be partly due to worsening security conditions in areas outside of Jonglei, such as the Equatoria region.
- **Cross-border displacement to Ethiopia:** Net outflow of citizens permanently leaving South Sudan from Akobo Town to refugee camps in Ethiopia exceeded the net inflow between July and August, with a sharp increase in the net outflow of populations heading towards Ethiopia observed between August and September. Since July, ongoing conflict was cited more frequently as primary reason for permanently leaving South Sudan.¹⁷

¹⁰ OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, August 2016.

¹¹ Protection Cluster: Protection Trends in South Sudan – April to September 2016, November 2016.

¹² Sudan Tribune: South Sudan's Jonglei and Boma States to hold peace conference, 25th of August, 2016.

¹³ Sudan Tribune: Over 80 heads of cattle stolen in South Sudan's Jonglei State, 29th of September, 2016.

¹⁴ Sudan Tribune: Abducted child escapes, arrives Bor on peace conference day, 1st of September 2016.

¹⁵ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook, August 2016.

¹⁶ Radio Tamazuj: Over 70,000 flood victims in Fangak, 21st of September 2016.

¹⁷ REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, September 2016.

De-population of local communities in assessed villages

Although none of the assessed communities reported being entirely de-populated in the June-September 2016 period, **the number of villages reporting a decrease in local community members has increased in the assessment period**: in June 44 out of 49 assessed communities reported a decline in local community population from previous months, and in July 43 out of 47 communities, compared to all assessed communities reporting a decrease in August (47 communities) and September (53 communities). Further, communities assessed also reported an increase in the proportions of displaced local communities between June and September: In June, 6 out of 42 communities reported 25-50% of their local community population had been displaced, which rose to 22 out of 47 communities in September. Similarly, whereas in June a 51-75% local community decline was reported by 13 out of 42 communities, in September this was the case in 19 out of 47 communities. Although this increase was not entirely continuous over the assessment period, as July saw a drop in the proportions of displaced local communities, it is nevertheless an alarming trend, **indicative of more local populations leaving their villages**.

As Map 3 shows, Western and Northern Jonglei, and to a lesser extent, parts of Central Jonglei reported the highest proportions of local community member decline. In comparison, Eastern Jonglei appeared to be less affected by a depopulation in local community members. For local community populations that had been displaced, **conflict was reportedly the top reported reason for leaving their pre-crisis location across the June-September period**. Similarly, security was the primary reason for local community members who remained in their current location, and became an even stronger factor across the assessment period, with 22 out of 47 communities in June reporting they remained because it was safe, compared to 40 out of 52 communities reporting this in September, as illustrated in Figure 2. Other factors, such as populations remaining because it was their home, which was reported by 17 out of 47 communities in

June, became much less important, with no community reporting this in September.

Map 3: Reported decline in local community population in September 2016

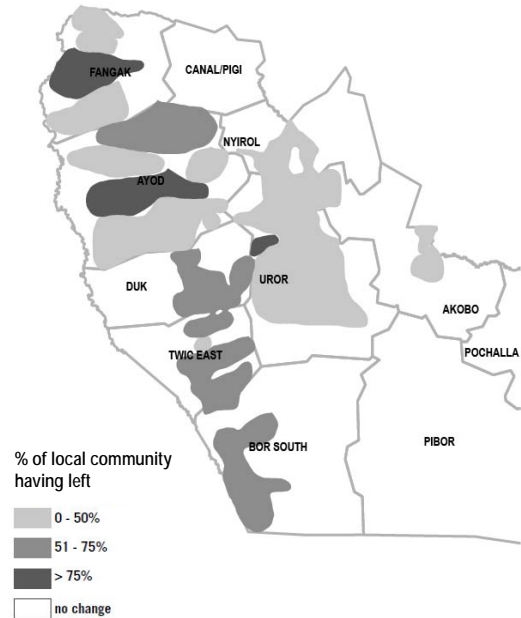


Figure 2: # of assessed communities reporting security as primary factor for local communities remaining in their locations



This suggests that even when local community populations remained in their pre-crisis location they had become increasingly sensitive to and cognisant of changes in the security context – with the timing of the observed rise in a depopulation of local communities coinciding with the onset of renewed fighting in and around Juba. In Western Jonglei this trend may also be reflective of increased tensions between armed groups since August, which has led

to a perceived overall deterioration in the security context in this part of the state. Localized inter-community conflict surrounding cattle raiding and child abductions, typically affecting communities across Jonglei, is likely to be another cause which may also explain displacement of local community members in Central Jonglei.

Further, food insecurity, which **was the second main reason for local community members to leave their previous location**, became steadily more important between June (29 out of 40 communities) and September (45 out of 53). In Twic East and Fangak this could be related to floods having destroyed crops in August and September, respectively. In Fangak, an inter-agency assessment team found that 90% of cash crops had been lost as a result of flooding, with severe implications for the food security situation of populations.¹⁸ Further, the presence of General Food Distributions (GFDs) at several locations across Jonglei as well as in Mingkaman, is likely to have acted as strong factor for populations to leave their locations, with the majority of communities assessed indicating across the assessment period that their primary food source is NGO assistance. However, populations may not always leave their locations to reside around GFD sites permanently, but rather schedule their movement around food distribution cycles as can be observed with populations from Western Jonglei travelling to Mingkaman during the monthly GFD.

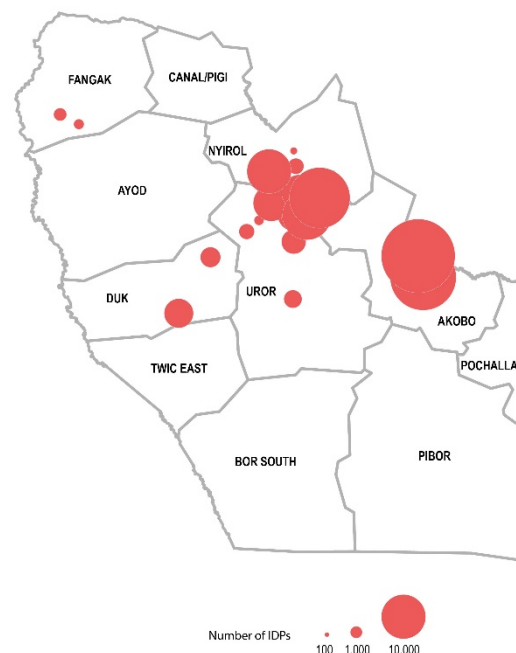
Overall, this underscores that despite a general improvement in security conditions in Jonglei since mid-2015, conflict continues to be the main displacement driver for displaced local communities in Jonglei, and perhaps even more worrying, has become a much stronger push factor since August. With the approach of the dry season in October, **humanitarian actors need to take into account the potential for large-scale displacement if security conditions in the state were to deteriorate**, as well as continue to provide food assistance to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations.

¹⁸ Joint Assessment: Floods Impact Needs Assessment Report in Fangak County, August 2016.

IDP Population in Assessed Communities

In June, only 14 out of 49 assessed communities reported to be hosting IDPs, whereas in July this rose to 21 out of 46 communities. Similar numbers of IDP hosting communities were reported in August (20 out of 47 communities) and September (22 out of 53 communities). These findings suggest that there may have been a slight increase in the number of assessed communities hosting IDPs in the assessment period. In particular in Akobo and Uror Counties the number of communities reporting the presence of IDPs increased between June and September, with the **overall highest concentration of IDPs in communities assessed reported in the Greater Akobo area** in Eastern Jonglei, as can be seen from Map 4. A part of these IDPs may have fled to Akobo from Fangak, Ayod, and Uror over fears that the July crisis would spill over in their areas.¹⁹

Map 4: Reported number of IDPs in assessed communities, September 2016

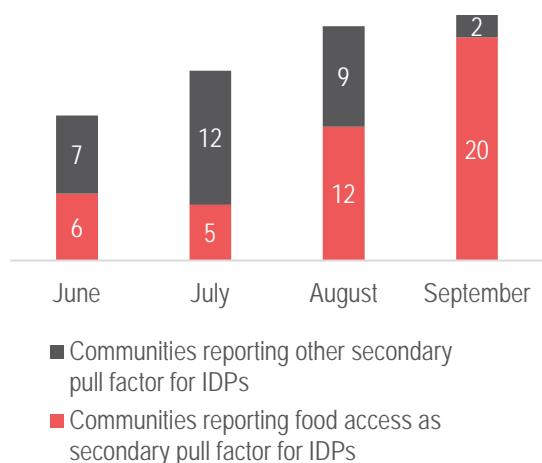


Assessed communities reported across the June-September period that **security remained the top reported pull factor leading IDPs to choose their current location**. It is worth noting that in June and September security may have served as a stronger pull factor (11 of 13, and 20 of 22 communities,

¹⁹ Protection Cluster: Protection Trends in South Sudan – April to September 2016, November 2016.

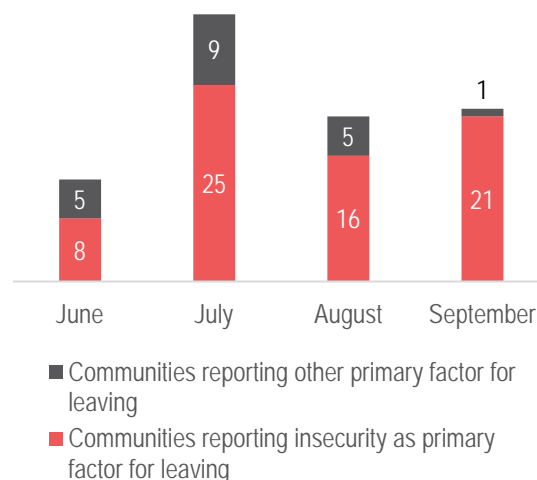
respectively) than in July and August (9 of 18, and 10 of 21 communities, respectively), when access to food was also an important first pull factor. **Access to food was cited as the second main pull factor throughout the assessment period**, with its significance rising between June and July (6 of 13, and 5 of 16 communities, respectively) and August-September (12 of 21, and 20 of 22 communities, respectively), as illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: # of assessed communities reporting food access as secondary pull factor for IDPs



Push factors that influenced IDPs decision-making to leave their previous location mirror the primary pull factors: **insecurity was reported as top push factor across the four months period**, and as Figure 4 illustrates, it also became a more important primary push factor since June. This indicates that IDP communities are increasingly basing their decision-making on whether to leave their current location on security conditions present in the respective location, suggesting an anticipation of worsening security conditions at the end of the rainy season.

Figure 4: % of assessed communities reporting insecurity as primary push factor for IDPs



Lack of food was the strongest secondary push factor, and became increasingly important over the assessment period, indicating that food insecurity might have become a stronger displacement driver for populations.

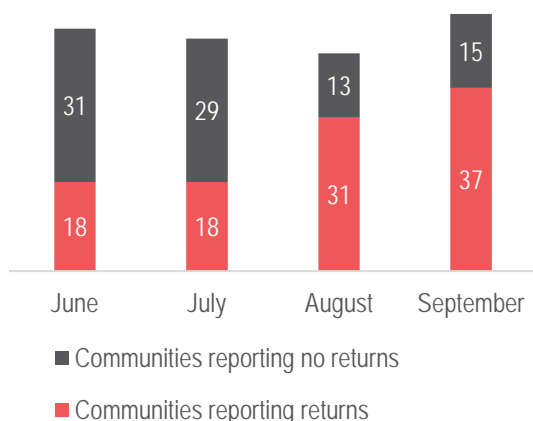
As also found in previous REACH assessments²⁰, Akobo Town is seen as an area of relative safety, where IDPs have access to livelihood activities such as fishing and selling wood for shelter construction and have considerable access to humanitarian assistance, in particular food. This underlines the importance of maintaining humanitarian service delivery to this significant catchment area, in which large IDP populations reside and continue to be drawn to in the absence of safety and adequate amounts of food in their home territories.

Returnees to their Community of Origin

In June and July only 18 out of 49 and 47 communities respectively reported returned local populations, which considerably shifted in the following two months: August saw 31 out of 44 communities reporting returned populations, with IDP returns reported by 37 of 52 communities in September, as indicated in Figure 5 below.

²⁰ REACH: Multi-Sectoral Overview of the Humanitarian Needs in Akobo East, March 2016.

Figure 5: # of communities in which members of the local community have returned

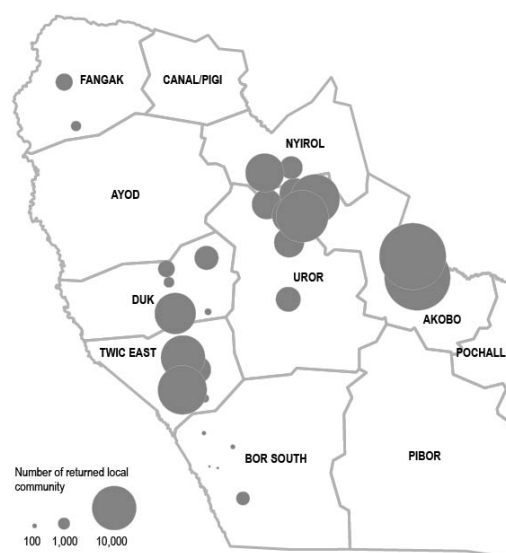


This increase in returned local populations since August was mainly reported by communities in specific counties in Jonglei, namely Twic East and Duk, as well as in parts of Greater Akobo, as Map 4 (below) indicates. Given that it is unclear where these returned local populations came from, it is difficult to explain the exact cause of this trend. However, returns in Western Jonglei could be linked to populations originally from Jonglei who resided in the Equatorias returning to their areas of origin as a result of a considerable deterioration in security since August, as was suggested to REACH by local authorities in Bor and Mingkaman in September. For Greater Akobo, it should be noted that communities which host large numbers of IDPs are also reporting high numbers of returned populations (see Map 4 and 5 for comparison).

In both Western Jonglei and Greater Akobo, **perceptions of safety played a main role in return decisions**, as it was the primary pull factor across the assessment period: in June 11 out of 18 communities reported IDPs returning to the area because it was perceived to be safe, with this increasing in the following months; 34 out of 37 communities reported this in September. For Western Jonglei this could suggest that despite an overall worsening in security conditions since August, some parts of Duk and Twic East are still perceived to be safer than other parts of the country. In Greater Akobo, this shows that not only are IDPs drawn to certain catchment areas due to their perceived safety but that local populations alike perceived these areas as safe enough to return. The

presence of food distributions and other service delivery by humanitarian actors may have been another influencing factor for these population to return, as was suggested to REACH by humanitarian actors in Akobo.

Map 5: Communities reporting returned local community, September 2016



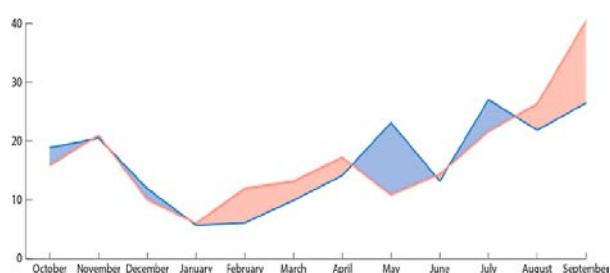
Overall, this trend of increased returns, which appears to somewhat contradict previous discussion of growing local community displacement and IDP movement, indicates that **the nature of displacement and returns in Jonglei is highly complex and needs to be contextualized within the current rapidly changing and unpredictable political climate in the country**, which underlines the importance of long-term tracking and analysis of these movements.

Displacement to Ethiopia

REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo Town, which tracks movement of South Sudanese heading to or returning from Ethiopian refugee camps, found that between June and July the net inflow of people permanently returning to South Sudan was higher

than the net outflow.²¹ As Graph 1 below shows, this trend abruptly declined between July and August, correlating with the Juba Crisis, with a **sharp increase in net outflows of South Sudanese permanently heading to Ethiopia observed between August and September**. Net outflows reached their peak in September, with an average of 40 individuals leaving South Sudan a day, the highest recorded number since Port Monitoring started in May 2015.

Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue); October 2015 to September 2016²²



Anticipation of fighting spreading to Jonglei following the crisis in July and/or fears of increased local conflict due to the approach of the dry season, making roads passable, are likely to be a major explanatory factor for this trend. As indicated in Table 2, between April and June only 4% of interviewees cited ongoing conflict as main reason for leaving, whereas this increased to 19% between July and September. However, in addition to perceived insecurity other contributing factors such as lack of food, reported by 16% of interviewees between July and September (an increase of 10 percentage points compared to April-June), as well as a lack of access to education, cited by 44% in this period, need to be taken into consideration to explain the increasing number of South Sudanese permanently leaving to Ethiopia.

Table 2: Most prevalent reason for permanently leaving South Sudan; October 2015 to September 2016

	Oct to Dec 2015	Jan to Mar 2016	Apr to June 2016	July to Sep 2016
Education unavailable	51 %	31 %	64 %	44 %
Lack of food	41 %	26 %	6 %	16 %
Ongoing conflict	1 %	2 %	4 %	19 %
Personal insecurity	7 %	28 %	11 %	6 %

With the dry season approaching, displaced populations in Akobo suggested that **in anticipation of potential increased violence in the coming months, this trend may continue, with more fleeing to seek refuge in Ethiopia**. They reported they were unlikely to return back to their area of origin in the absence of a peace agreement at the Juba-level. Moreover, the annual dry season migration phenomenon from rural areas in Greater Akobo to Akobo Town is likely to put further pressure on existing facilities in the town. This makes an upscale in humanitarian service provision in Akobo even more necessary and urgent as it is likely to see more secondary displacement to camps in Gambella if humanitarian actors are unable to respond to displaced populations' needs in Akobo.

SERVICES IN ASSESSED COMMUNITIES

Protection

Throughout June to September, there were significant safety concerns across the areas assessed. Over three quarters of villages reported men as being unsafe both during the day and night, and a third of communities reported the same for women. The vast majority of communities assessed reported that killing or injury from other groups was the main safety concern for men in this period

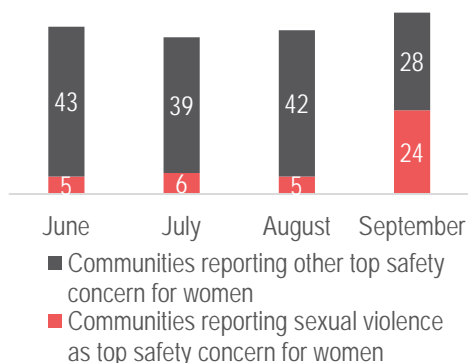
²¹ REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, September 2016.

²² REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, September 2016.

indicating that the reported SPLA and IO clashes as well as insecurity linked to local conflict among different communities continued to inform the perceptions of physical safety of Jonglei's male population.

In the night time, women were perceived as unsafe in nearly all of the assessed communities between June and September. Whereas from June to August the most frequently cited safety concern for women was killing or injury from other groups, reported by around three quarters of assessed communities in this period, this declined in September, with sexual violence being the top safety issue, reported by 24 out of 52 communities. **Although sexual violence was already reported as a safety concern between June and August** (by 5 to 6 communities, respectively) and is hence not a new phenomenon, the sharp spike reported in September, illustrated in Figure 6 below, is a worrying trend that may suggest sexual violence is becoming a characteristic feature of protection issues in Jonglei. Further, the overwhelming majority of communities reporting sexual violence in September, 22 out of 24, were from Western Jonglei, namely Duk, Twic East and Bor South counties. This finding could be contextualized within the worsening security situation observed in this part of the state since August, which may have resulted in increased levels of sexual violence towards women – a trend that has also been observed in other parts of the country.²³

Figure 6: # of assessed communities reporting sexual violence as top safety concern for women



²³ Protection Cluster: Protection Trends in South Sudan – April to September 2016, November 2016.

²⁴ Protection Cluster, Protection Trends in South Sudan, May 2016.

Both women and men were perceived to be at risk because of armed groups operating near their village either soldiers or militia allied with the government or opposition. Children also continued to be exposed to severe protection concerns: as of 31 March 2016, the Protection cluster had identified that 2,944 children from Jonglei remained missing or separated from their caregivers²⁴, with recruitment of children by armed forces and groups as well as child abductions historically also a key concern in Jonglei.^{25:26}

These findings suggest that the overwhelming majority of the population are facing severe protection concerns, despite the majority of communities throughout June-September reporting that physical protection is available. This suggests that current protection mechanisms, namely local authorities, police and local community structures, are not sufficient to physically protect communities from internal and external threats.

There is an urgent need to prioritize protection to improve the physical safety of the population living in Jonglei, in particular to affected communities outside of formal displacement sites where the majority of Jonglei's population resides. With the dry season approaching, insecurity – and with it, associated protection concerns - is anticipated to become more prevalent, possibly leading to larger scale displacement to areas perceived as “safe”, such as to established humanitarian service locations in Akobo, Mingkaman, Bor or further afield to Gambella refugee camp in Ethiopia.



Food Security

As a result of low crop production levels in 2015, many households in Jonglei had already depleted food stocks in January this year, four months earlier than usual, which led vulnerable households and IDPs to increasingly rely on fishing, wild foods and food aid to cover consumption gaps in the lean

²⁵ Reuters: Child Soldiers Freed in South Sudan but Recruitment heats up: UNICEF, 26th of October, 2016

²⁶ Sudan Tribune: Over 20 children abducted in Jonglei State, official, 19th of August, 2016.

season.²⁷ Consequently, Emergency (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes were found to be persistent in Northern Jonglei and the GPAA whereas the other parts of the state face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity levels, which, according to WFP, would likely be at least one phase worse without current levels of humanitarian assistance.²⁸ Overall, an estimated 50-60% of households across Jonglei are believed to have cultivated during the 2016 cultivation season.²⁹

Across June-August, the number of assessed communities reporting access to adequate amounts of food available remained stable at around 60%. As illustrated in Figure 7, September saw an improvement in food availability in assessed communities, with 46 out of 53 communities indicating they had access to food. This is likely to be related to the start of the green harvest season.³⁰ **However, the food security situation of those communities reporting inadequate access to food appears to have worsened in the assessment period.** Around a third of respondents reported over the June-September period that they had reduced meal sizes and spent entire days without eating, indicating the adoption of extreme coping mechanisms to deal with a lack of food. The number of respondents reporting that they gather wild food doubled from June to September, reaching 50%, suggesting that increasing populations are in search of alternative food sources. Buying less expensive food as well as borrowing money and food were other commonly reported coping strategies throughout the June to September period.

Figure 7: # of assessed communities reporting adequate access to food



Across the wet season, conflict was reportedly the main reason communities faced food access issues, as it was perceived to be too unsafe to plant. This reflects findings by FEWS NET emphasizing that conflict and local insecurity in Jonglei hindered communities from cultivating.³¹

Further, **market access has steadily declined over the wet season.** Whereas in June and July over half of the communities assessed reported a functioning market in their village, in August and September this was only reported by 18 out of 47, and 22 out of 52 communities, respectively. The declining market functionality is attributable to the impact the July crisis had on markets all over the country; insecurity, rapidly increasing transportation costs, and hyperinflation (730% year-on-year in August), and seasonal flooding disrupted and restricted trade movements across Jonglei.³² As Map 5 illustrates, markets in Fangak, Ayod, Lankien, Walgak and Panyagor were particularly affected by this, with only minimal or no market activity reported in this period.³³ These markets are highly dependent on supplies filtering in from Bor and Akobo Town, and hence also felt the repercussions of disruptions the July crisis has had on Bor and Akobo markets.

²⁷ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook Update June 2016 to January 2017.

²⁸ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook Update, August 2016.

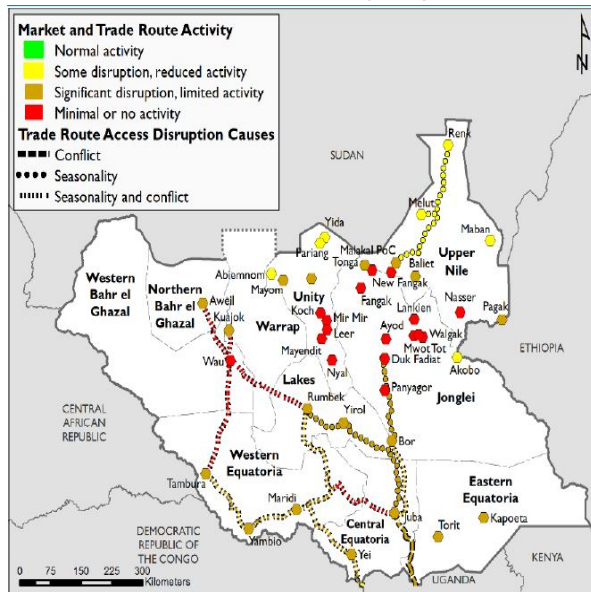
²⁹ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook June 2016 to January 2017.

³⁰ WFP: Market Price Watch Bulletin, August 2016.

³¹ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook Update, August 2016

³² WFP: Market Price Watch Bulletin, August 2016.

³³ Ibid.

Map 6: Market and trade functioning, August 2016³⁴

Despite the decline in access to markets, levels of access to food remained stable during the assessment period, which is reflective of the **majority of communities reporting they primarily relied on humanitarian assistance as food source**. Illustrative of the high reliance on NGO food distributions, over two-thirds of communities assessed reported they had received assistance in their village in the last three months, except for August where less than half of communities, 22 out of 47, reported food deliveries. This decline is likely linked to reduced access for WFP and its partners during this month as a result of the July crisis.

Table 3: Top reported food source, June to September 2016.

Food Source	June	July	August	September
Cultivation	8	8	5	20
Forage	0	5	3	4
Buying	0	4	2	3
NGO	36	28	8	25
Family	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	46	45	18	52

Despite the reported reliance, humanitarian assistance as a primary food source was cited less frequently in August and September, with cultivation,

the second most common food source, becoming increasingly important, as illustrated in Table 3. Although food security in Jonglei is projected to temporarily improve with the arrival of the harvest in the coming months³⁵, **a decline in food security levels could be expected in the lean season, which typically starts in May, if current levels of food assistance were to reduce**. Further, the reported trend of communities without adequate access to food having adopted more extreme coping mechanisms since June reflects an overall worrying trend. This is likely to be exacerbated by low market functionality as well as the potential of rising conflict with the approach of the dry season, and underscores the importance of continued food assistance to vulnerable populations to prevent catastrophic food insecurity levels as seen in other parts of South Sudan.

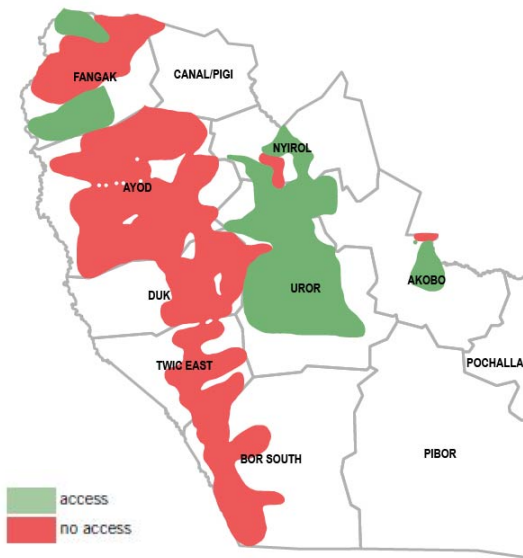
Livelihoods

Throughout the wet season, communities assessed generally reported land to be available for cultivation. However, this has not necessarily translated into high levels of agricultural activities as **agricultural inputs were available in only around a third of communities**. This may be a result of displacement and/or of generally low levels of access to agricultural inputs due to a lack of financial means. Map 7 below illustrates that the lack of agricultural inputs was particularly prevalent in communities in Western and Northern Jonglei, likely indicating both a limited potential for productive livelihoods and a heightened potential for food insecurity in this part of Jonglei. Lack of inputs indicates that these communities were likely unable to cultivate during the rainy season, suggesting a need for continued humanitarian support.

³⁴ Source: FEWS Net, cited in WFP: Market Price Watch Bulletin, August 2016.

³⁵ FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook June 2016 to January 2017.

Map 7: Communities reported access to agricultural inputs, September 2016



Further, a considerable number of communities reported over this period that tools and assets had been stolen or looted, although this number fluctuated, ranging from 21 out of 48 communities in June to 16 out of 52 communities in September, with the highest number recorded in August (25 out of 46). This is likely due to displacement arising from an increase in tensions between armed groups in Duk County, and raiding in Twic East. The lack of agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools, as well as loss of assets has had a considerable negative impact on displaced, local and returned populations' ability to restart livelihood activities, and further increases reliance on humanitarian assistance.

Shelter

Shelter types among local community members and IDPs differed across the assessment period: throughout June to September the vast majority of communities assessed reported the tukul and rakoobas, more permanent housing structures, were the most common shelter types of local community populations. IDPs, in comparison, were predominately staying in improvised shelters in June and July, as reported by over half of the IDP hosting communities in these two months, indicating that displaced populations were

particularly affected by shelter needs. However, this was mainly reported in areas with very high IDP populations, such as Akobo, Nyirol and Uror counties, suggesting that these areas had difficulties providing IDPs adequate shelters, which is likely to be linked to the high number of displaced populations in need of shelter. August and September saw a decrease in communities sheltering IDPs in improvised shelters, and an increase in IDPs reportedly staying in tukuls, with over half of IDP hosting communities reporting this as most common shelter type of IDPs. This is likely attributable to IDPs moving into more permanent housing of local community members to protect themselves against adverse weather conditions that characterized the months of August and September. This is supported by the number of local community members and IDPs sharing shelter having risen between June/July vs. August/September.

Local shelter materials such as grass, mud and wood were generally available across communities assessed. However, availability of plastic sheeting and ropes, which are commonly used for temporary post-displacement housing to address short-term shelter needs, was much lower among assessed communities, suggesting that communities may not be adequately equipped to deal with shelter needs in the event of potential future displacement. Overall, this suggests that although local communities appear to have some ability to absorb IDP shelter needs, this capacity might quickly be exhausted if displacement was to increase in the months to come, underlining the need to provide shelter materials to displaced populations. For this, Shelter actors should particularly focus on the Greater Akobo Area given the large IDP population in the area.

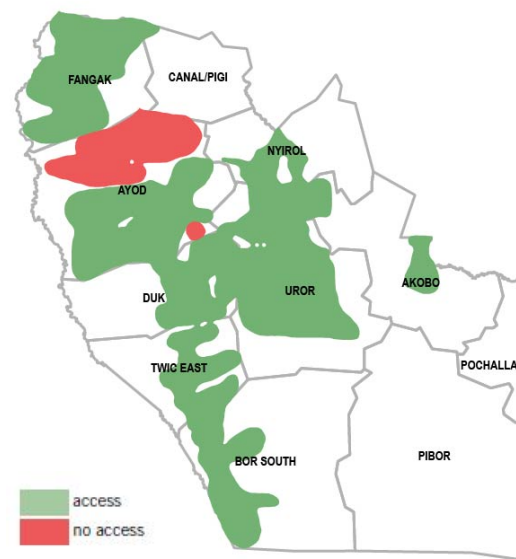
High levels of communities assessed reported that mosquito nets are in use in the community area, with this number slightly increasing throughout the period from 43 out of 48 communities in June to 52 out of 53 communities in September. Although all communities indicated that nets are being used for their intended purpose, the proportion of people using nets appears to have declined steadily from June to September. In June, 26 out of 36 communities indicated that more than half their population used mosquito nets, which dropped to 11

out of 48 in September. This might indicate **inadequate quantities of nets available, requiring increased distributions of NFIs**. REACH will be closely monitoring this in the coming quarter and explore the issue further through FGDs to better understand the cause of this trend.

Water and Sanitation

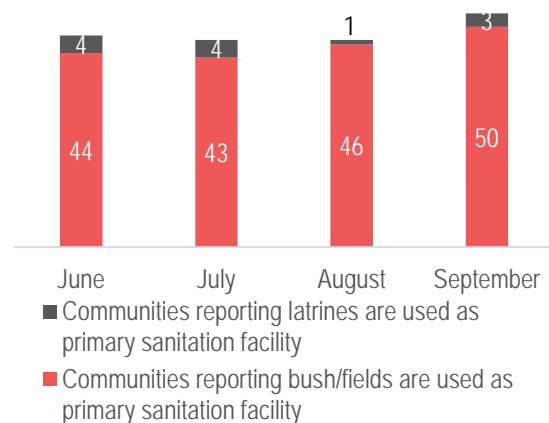
Across the wet season the vast majority of communities reported access to safe drinking water, with access levels relatively evenly distributed between Western and Eastern Jonglei, as Map 8 illustrates. This indicates that the worsening security situation in Western Jonglei appears to not have impacted levels of access to drinking water. Boreholes were the most commonly cited source of clean water across the assessment period and present in 90% of assessed communities. Maintenance of boreholes appears to not be a major issue in assessed communities, with 82% of present boreholes reportedly functional in September. Similarly, the vast majority of communities reported across the assessment period that they were able to reach boreholes in under one hour. However, as Map 8 indicates **large parts of Northern Ayod were without safe drinking water and therefore should be the focus of interventions** aiming to provide clean drinking water, which could include the construction of boreholes as well as distribution of portable water filters (cubes and LifeStraws), and water purification tablets in this part of the county.

Map 8: Communities reported access to safe drinking water, September 2016



Access to primary sanitation facilities was found to be extremely low across the assessment period. As Figure 8 below indicates, open defecation is practiced in the vast majority of communities assessed, and has slightly increased between June/July and the following two months. In fact, only 4 communities in June and July, respectively, as well as 1 community in August and 3 communities in September reported latrines are being used by most local community and IDP population members. Both, a combination of a general lack of availability of latrines as well as cultural perceptions related to sanitation practices, may explain the low use of latrines.

Figure 8: # of communities indicating bush/fields are used as primary sanitation facility



This suggests **continued severe lack of sanitation across communities assessed**, and given the critical health implications, **an up-scaled sanitation intervention by WASH actors is required**. This is of particular importance in areas of high IDP concentration and for the swampy areas of Western Jonglei, where open defecation is likely to directly contaminate drinking water sources. Numerous cholera cases that were reported in Fangak and on islands in Duk since July underscore the urgency of this.³⁶ However, WASH actors also need to take into account **the socio-cultural appropriateness of planned interventions**, to ensure effective implementation.

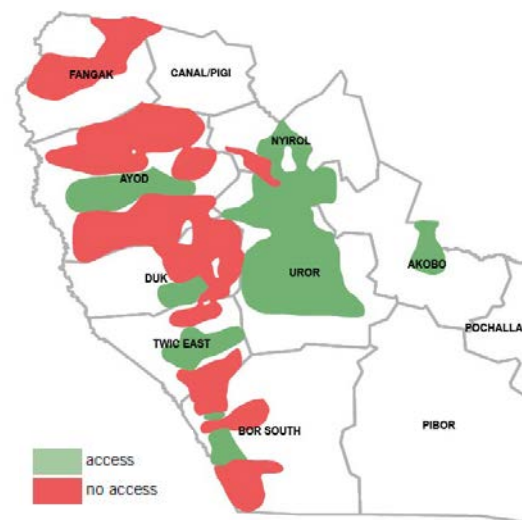
Health

Health care access remained relatively low across the wet season, with **health services reportedly available in half of communities assessed** between June and August, with a slight increase in September (33 out of 51 communities). This improvement is attributable to more communities in Southern Ayod reporting health care access in September. Across the assessment period, however, **health care access strongly varied according to geographic location**, with Eastern Jonglei having seen much better access to health services than communities in western or northern Jonglei, as shown in Map 8 below. Key health services were reportedly unavailable in large parts of Fangak, Ayod and Duk, which are also some of the most inaccessible areas of the state. Parts of Twic East and Bor South were reportedly also lacking health facilities (see Map 9).

Lack of access to healthcare may be attributable to flooding that affected some of these areas. Moreover, in July and August **around half of the communities that reported no access to healthcare indicated their health facilities had been destroyed as a result of fighting**, which suggests that the tense security situation in this part of the state has had an adverse impact on availability of healthcare. Eastern Duk, where fighting took place in August, was particularly affected, with 4 out of 6 communities reporting in this month that healthcare

facilities had been destroyed. Overall, the geographic variations across Jonglei with regards to healthcare access, indicated in Map 9, indicate that lack of access to healthcare in Western Jonglei follows patterns of clashes/cattle raiding observed in this part of the state, illustrating the impact conflict has on access to services.

Map 9: Reported level of access to healthcare, August 2016.



The geographic disparities in terms of healthcare access show that **health partners need to particularly focus on upscaling health services provision in Northern and Western Jonglei to improve currently poor access levels**.

Reported top needed medications remained similar across June-September: drugs and malaria medication were most required, followed by oral rehydration solution, paracetamol and nutritional supplements. Need for malaria treatment slightly increased in August and September, as the rain season progressed, which lines up with **nearly all assessed communities reporting across the wet season that the most common health problem was malaria, followed by diarrhea**. Populations in Jonglei have also been impacted by an increase in number of cases of visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala azar in the reporting period. Further, since the onset of a cholera outbreak in

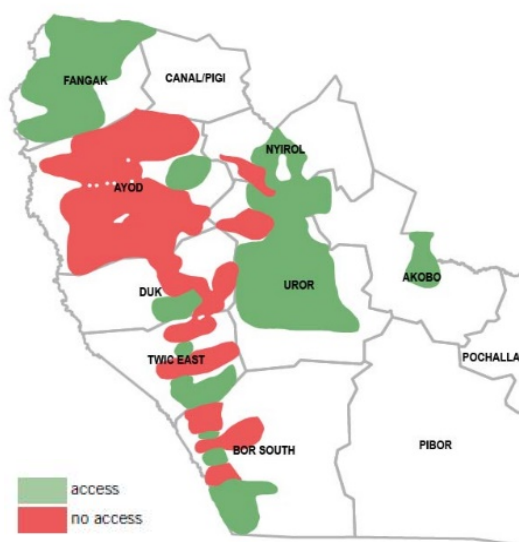
³⁶ OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin, July 2016.

Fangak and on the Duk islands (Atuek, Atul, Koyom, Moldova and Wat Kuac) in June and July, 222 cholera cases had been confirmed by September in these two areas^{37 38}, underscoring once more the need to continue efforts to improve health care access and sanitation facilities for populations residing in remote areas of Jonglei.

Education

Access to education slightly improved between June/July and August/September, primarily attributable to increases in Urur, Nyirol and parts of Bor South Counties. In June, 23 out of 48 communities reported available education services, with similar numbers reported in July. In August this increased to 31 out of 47 communities reporting access, and nearly the same ratio was reported the following month. However, the level of attainable education in communities reporting access remained low across the period; the vast majority of communities reported primary schools, with only few communities indicating the existence of secondary schools and ALPs³⁹.

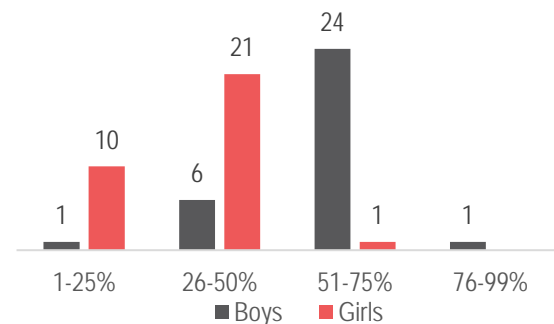
Map 10: Communities reported access to education, August 2016



As Map 10 indicates, **education access was characterized by geographic disparities across Jonglei**, with access levels generally lower in communities assessed in Western Jonglei than in the Eastern parts of the state, which may be attributable to more schools in the West having been closed or destroyed since the onset of the crisis in 2013. Further, better access in the East is also likely to be linked to the higher education-related NGO support reported in this part of the state.⁴⁰

Access to available education services also appears to be affected by strong gender disparities: as Figure 9 shows, in September, in 25 out of 32 communities where school services were available, over half of all boys of school age were attending school. This is in stark contrast to only one community reporting over half of girls of school age were attending school. This trend was similar in previous months and is likely to be related to traditional gender roles. Lack of school supplies as well as insecurity remained stable factors in the assessment period that hindered both genders from attending school, even when educational facilities were existent.

Figure 9: Reported proportions (count) of boys and girls aged 6-17 attending school in communities where education is available, September 2016.



Humanitarian agencies seeking to improve education access need to not only maintain presence in their current areas of operation but also **expand education access in communities in Western Jonglei** through rehabilitation and construction of schools and amenities. In both areas, the provision of school supplies, as well as teacher training is needed. However, longer-term programming might

³⁷ OCHA: Humanitarian Bulletin 11, August 2016.

³⁸ OCHA: Humanitarian Bulletin 15, October 2016.

³⁹ Accelerated Learning Programmes

⁴⁰ Education Cluster: Dashboard – Cumulative Results January to June 2016, June 2016.

be undermined by access constraints humanitarian actors face in parts of Jonglei as a result of conflict.

CONCLUSION

In response to worsening security in parts of Jonglei, as well as fears of a spillover of fighting, conflict-related displacement appears to be on the rise. As this report indicates, communities' access to basic services continues to be relatively low, in particular in Jonglei's West, and large proportions of the population remain dependent upon humanitarian assistance. Hence, humanitarian interventions remain essential for meeting basic needs of conflict affected population.

Given communities' enormous reliance on food assistance in the forms of GFDs as well as cash-voucher programs as primary food sources, as well as **insecurity that has prevented large parts of the population to cultivate, there is a need for continued food assistance.** This is particularly necessary in the current context of overall poor macroeconomic indicators and related poor market functionality. Further, with **only a third of communities having reported the availability of agricultural inputs, there is a clear need for distribution of seeds, tools and other inputs to support household and community cultivation in the next planting season.** Whilst this may increase community resilience to economic shocks and contribute to a decreased reliance on food assistance the outcome of such interventions are also strongly dependent on the evolution of the security situation. Geographically, these interventions should specifically target Northern Fangak, Ayod, Duk, Twic East and Bor South where a lack of agricultural inputs was particularly persistent.

Provision of shelter construction materials to displaced populations should be a priority, given they were generally found to have greater shelter needs. Interventions should particularly focus on IDP hosting communities in the Greater Akobo Area where shelter needs of IDPs were most severe. **Provision of plastic sheeting and ropes should be a key concern in the case of mass-**

displacement as availability of these materials was low across communities. It is recommended to pre-position these supplies in locations perceived to be safe to speed up distributions in the event of further displacement. Further, given declining proportions of community members using mosquito nets, there appears to be a need for increased distributions of nets.

Critical sanitation needs exist across communities assessed, with open defecation widely practiced. An upscale in the provision of socio-culturally adequate sanitation facilities is needed, in particular in areas of high IDP concentration, given the related severe health implications. **With ongoing cholera cases in the swampy areas, WASH and Health sector actors should prioritize interventions in Jonglei's remote islands.** In terms of healthcare access, it was found that **access to health services was particularly poor in Northern and Western Jonglei,** indicating health actors need to improve primary healthcare service provision in these regions. Generally, **across Jonglei, provision of malaria medication and ORS are required to treat the two most commonly reported diseases,** malaria and diarrhea. With regards to education, the **rehabilitation and construction of schools is of particularly great concern in Western Jonglei,** where education access was lowest. Equipping schools with school supplies as well as training teachers appears to be of need across Jonglei.

FORECAST

As the dry season approaches, roads will become passable, improving access to many hard-to-reach populations. However, at the same time, displacement and humanitarian needs are likely to increase given the anticipated rise in clashes and cattle raising that is likely to be observed during the dry season. The resultant impact on the population of Jonglei State is likely to be complex and unpredictable. These trends will be closely monitored in future months.