

Situation Overview: Unity State, South Sudan

October - December 2018

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

The fourth quarter of 2018 for Unity state saw an overall improvement in access to humanitarian services, however a variety of shocks throughout the period has negatively impacted the ability of communities to meet their needs for the coming months. Irregular rainfall, followed by flooding in October and November destroyed crops. This has resulted in many communities relying on displacement camps or other coping strategies to meet their needs. While conflict related incidents greatly decreased in Panyijiar, Mayendit and Leer, during this period, an increase was observed in cattle-raiding and inter-communal violence in Northern Unity (Rubkona, Guit, Mayom, Abienhom, Pariang) and Koch of Central Unity, hurting livelihoods and access to health, WASH and education services throughout the area.

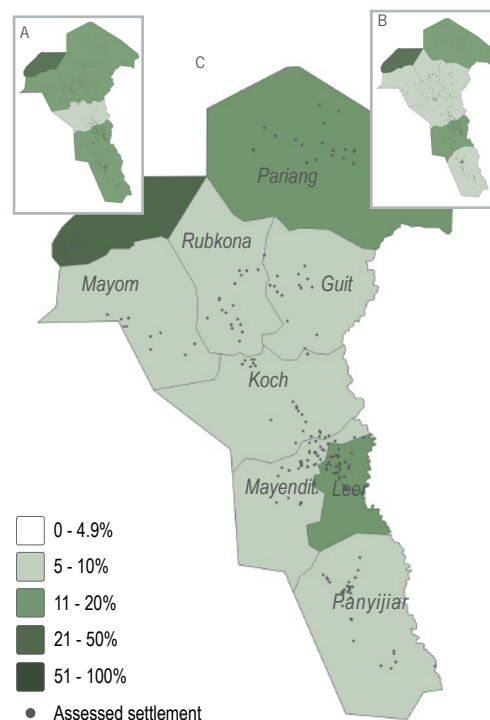
The overall situation in Leer and Mayendit continued to improve, however losses to livelihoods during the last rainy season and asset depletion from recurrent large-scale conflict since 2013, continued to impact vulnerable populations. Altogether, challenges

of key informant interviews conducted: **937**

of assessed settlements: **458**

of focus group discussions conducted: **3**

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Unity State, October (A), Nov (B) and Dec 2018 (C)



in food security throughout the state continued and will likely further dependence on humanitarian food assistance in the near future. As noted in the previous reporting period, Abienhom and Pariang were relatively secure compared to the rest of Unity State, though did face their own set of shocks

early in the quarter such as flooding and pests.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected through interviews on a monthly basis from settlements across the country.

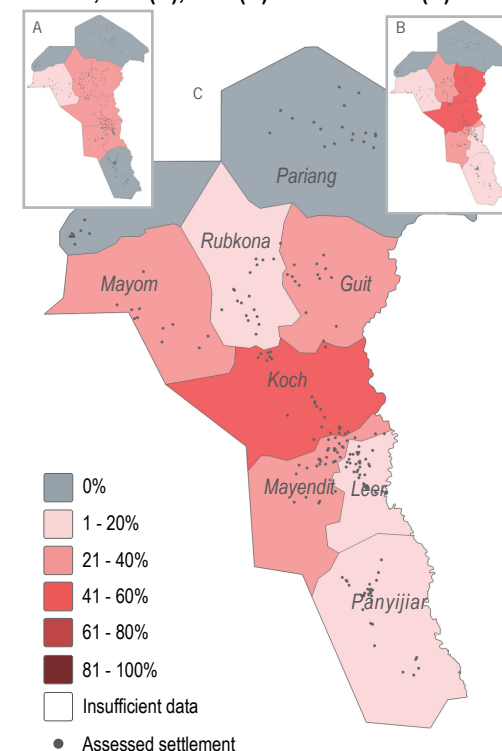
In Unity State, REACH interviewed 937 Key Informants (KIs) in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, Nyal Town, and Ajuong Thok settlement in the fourth quarter of 2018 (October, November, December). The KIs were from 458 unique settlements situated in all 9 counties in the state. Survey findings were triangulated through 3 food security and livelihoods (FSL) focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in Bentiu and Nyal, and with secondary data.

This Situation Overview focuses on changes in observed humanitarian needs across Unity State in the fourth quarter of 2018. The first section analyses protection challenges, displacement and population movement, and the second evaluates access to food and basic services.

Protection, Displacement, and Population Movements

Protection

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of deadly conflict in past month, Oct (A), Nov (B) and Dec 2018 (C)



Perceptions of safety slightly improved across the state compared to July 2018 (29%), with almost half (47%) of assessed settlements reporting most residents felt safe most of the time in December. However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting most residents felt safe most of the time reduced from 31% to

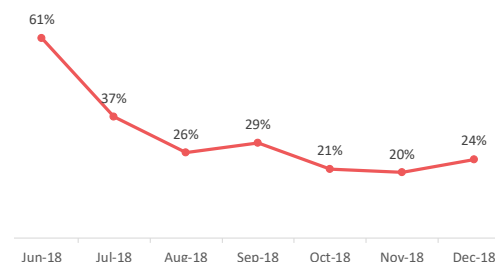
METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Unity State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a location or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Bentiu PoC site, Nyal town and Jamjang town in October, November, and December 2018.

In-depth interviews were conducted over the first three weeks of each month. The standardised survey tool includes questions on displacement trends, population needs, food security and livelihoods, and access to basic services. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.

Data was analyzed at the county level using descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis. Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of settlements for a given month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam² coverage over the period.

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incidents of deadly conflict, in Unity State



reported an incident of conflict killing a civilian, such as in Koch, Guit and Rubkona counties where there was an increase from September (28%) to December (41%). The rise in violent incidents in these counties is likely related to inter-communal violence incidents reported during this period. While the proportion of assessed settlements reporting looting as an incident more than halved in Central Unity (Koch, Mayendit, Leer) and Southern Unity (Panyijiar) from June (78%) to November (38%), in December it began to rise once again (52%). This increase in violence is likely driven partially by the holiday season and poor food security and livelihoods prospects across the state, forcing people to rely on looting and cattle raiding as coping strategies, which are in turn facilitated by ease of movement during the dry season.

The main protection concerns for men can partly explain this trend of negative coping strategies, as an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting cattle raiding and inter-communal violence was noted in

Northern and Central Unity. In December, the counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting cattle-raiding as the main protection concern for men were Guit (47%), Rubkona (41%) and Koch (27%). A slight spike in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting violence between neighbours as a protection concern for men was also noted in October in Panyijiar County (18%), but decreased by December (0%).

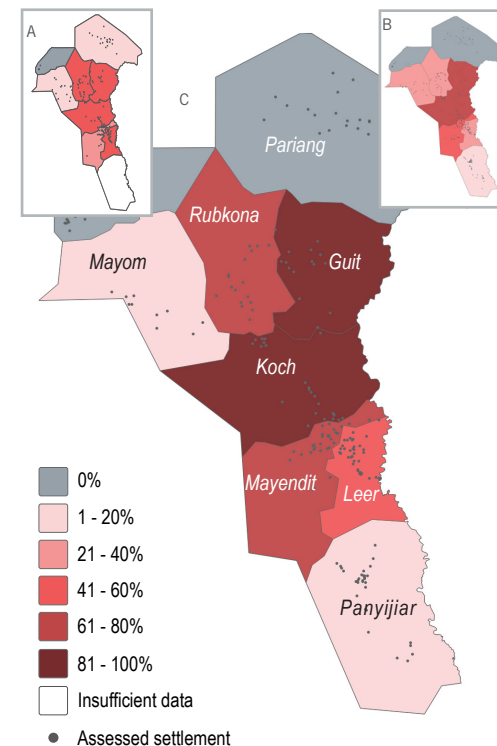
A shift was observed in protection concerns for women in Unity State, with a continual slight decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting sexual violence as main protection concern from July (18%) to December (7%). This was accompanied by a simultaneous increase in the proportion of assessed settlements that reported domestic violence as a main protection concern in July (37%) compared to December (53%). A similar trend was observed for girls, with a decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting sexual violence as a protection concern from June (20%) to December (9%). These trends may be due to an association between sexual violence and conflict-related activities and displacement, where a reduction in conflict may be reducing incidents of sexual violence¹. As such, a reduction in the reporting of sexual violence may make key informants more willing to report on other issues, such as domestic violence.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting harassment for information as a protection concern remained similar in

December as previous quarters for women (9%), girls (10%) and boys (8%). For girls, early marriage was more frequently reported by assessed settlements this quarter, with nearly one-quarter reporting the issue in December (23%), possibly due to economic strains.

While the proportion of assessed settlements in Central Unity reporting the presence of unaccompanied children has decreased since June (45%), unaccompanied children

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of looting in the previous month, October (A), Nov (B) and Dec 2018 (C)



16% from November to December in Koch, Guit and Rubkona. This may be related to the proportion of assessed settlements that

¹ Whilst these findings can inform on geographic spread of reported protection concerns, they do not report on the magnitude and scale of individual incidents, with women and girls continuing to be exposed to incidents of sexual violence during the reporting period. <https://www.msf.org/125-women-and-girls-seek-emergency-assistance-bentiu-after-horrific-sexual-violence-south-sudan>

² A payam is the administrative unit below the county-level

still remain a protection concern as some assessed settlements continued to report them in December (11%). This trend could also potentially be related to the reduction in conflict and sudden displacements.

Displacement and Population Movements

Internal displacement continued in Unity State throughout the quarter, with nearly two-thirds of assessed settlements reporting the current presence of IDPs in December (66%).

Movements continued to be reported by assessed settlements from Leer and Mayendit counties towards Panyijiar in Southern Unity, with IDPs moving within the counties as well. In Central Unity, displacements were reported by focus group participants though again most assessed settlements reported that IDPs displaced mostly within their counties of origin. These movement patterns may reflect cyclical patterns of displacement as high proportions of assessed settlements reported in December both displacements within the last months (45%) and that IDPs were returning to their settlements (61%). Displacements in Mayendit and Leer may be due to flooding that occurred early on in the quarter and movement to access food and services. Displacements in Koch, Guit and Rubkona counties are likely insecurity related due to the presence of cattle-raiding and intra-communal violence during the quarter. The proportion of assessed settlements in Unity reporting IDPs returning home after being displaced was fairly stable from October (72%)

to December (61%).

The exception to this trend was noted in Panyijiar, where there was a large increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting IDPs made up half of the settlement population. Fourteen percent (14%) of assessed settlements reported half of the settlement population was IDPs in October and 68% reported IDPs made up half in December, largely originating from Leer (58%) and Mayendit (26%) counties. This is likely reflective of cyclical movements between Leer, Mayendit and Panyijiar counties which were noted last quarter, as people move to access food assistance and other humanitarian services, supported by the fact that nearly one-quarter of assessed settlements reported movement to displacement camps as a coping strategy in December (23%), an increase from September (10%).

Self-reported refugee returnees from Sudan and Uganda were noted in this quarter with 19% of assessed settlements in December reporting returns in the last three months, with the greatest proportion reported in Leer (48%) and Mayendit (44%). Limited IDP and returnee movements were observed in Northern Unity, with the exception of a slight decrease in the reported presence of IDPs from October (31%) to December (21%), and no settlements reporting refugee returnees within the last three months in December (0%).

Situation in Assessed Settlements

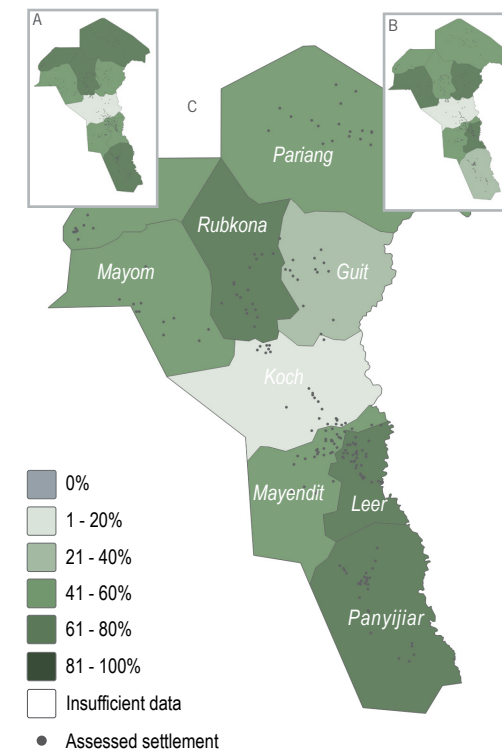
Food Security and Livelihoods

While the overall food security situation was observed to remain similar to the third quarter reporting period, there remained a heavy reliance on humanitarian assistance and negative coping strategies. A variety of conflict-related and natural shocks throughout the state have caused levels of food access to vary throughout the period. Only about half of assessed settlements (54%) reported adequate access to food in December, with key themes of lack of rain, new arrivals, intra-communal conflict, flooding, and pest infestations negatively affecting food access in various counties from October to December. Future coping will likely be affected as communities have been forced to rely on negative coping strategies such as consumption of seed stocks, households traveling to cattle camps or displacements camps for food access, or the selling/slaughtering of livestock.

In Northern Unity, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food decreased from September (70%) to December (52%), with the proportion of assessed settlements being lowest in Guit (27%) and Mayom (45%) counties, and the highest being Rubkona (71%) county.

In December for Northern Unity, assessed settlements without adequate access food most frequently reported lack of rain (26%), high food prices (18%), and disrupted food distributions (12%) as the reasons for inadequate access. While Northern Unity counties displayed different dynamics than the rest of Unity State, for the most part displaying

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food, October (A), Nov (B) and Dec 2018 (C)



stable access to food and limited reporting of conflict related shocks and barriers, though shocks varied from county to county. Guit and Rubkona specifically experienced similar challenges to food access though with different timing of shocks throughout the quarter. In Guit, the proportion of assessed settlements which had no adequate access to food in the last month reported insecurity (likely due to cattle raiding) in December (13%) and lack of rains in October (17%), which likely contributed to a decrease in food access from

September (40%) to December (13%). In Rubkona, food access was higher than the rest of Central Unity as reported by assessed settlements (71%), however a similar tale was observed as in Panyijiar, where flooding in November (10%) followed by inadequate rains in November (21%) were key barriers to food access.

Livestock diseases were also reported by the majority of assessed settlements in Rubkona (88%) and Guit (73%) in December, likely causing households to send their livestock to cattle camps earlier than usual. Pariang and Abiemnhom, while enjoying higher reported access to food than Mayom, still reported challenges in access to food in December, with the proportion of assessed settlements without adequate access to food reporting the high price of cereals (21%), disrupted food distributions (14%) and pest infestations (7%) as the main reasons.

Livelihoods were consistent with the past

Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food, Central Unity

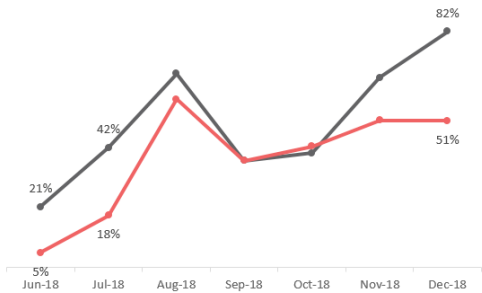
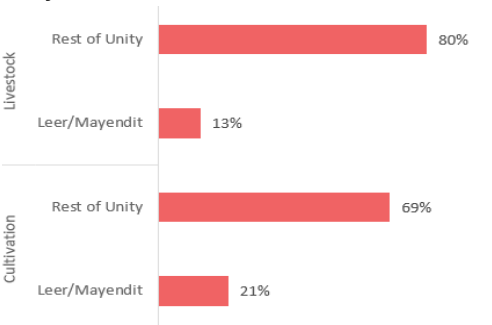


Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting crops for sustenance and livestock as a current activity, Leer/Mayendit vs. Rest of Unity State



quarter with most assessed settlements engaging in cultivation, livestock, and fishing. The exception to this was in Mayom where a sharp decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements engaged in fishing was observed from November (50%) to December (27%). This decline in fishing and aforementioned lack of rain has led to an increase in December of Mayom settlements reporting use of displacement camps as a coping strategy.

In Central Unity, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food improved compared to the previous quarter, increasing from 5% in June to 51% in December. While the previous period was characterised by loss of crops due to fighting, food distributions were scaled up in the fourth quarter as shown by the increase in proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as their main food source in June (21%) vs. December (82%).

Despite this scale-up, a spike in hunger being

reported as the worst it could be was observed in October as a high proportion of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food reported that hunger was the worst it could be in October (21%), however this decreased by December (5%), with those few assessed settlements in December reporting from Leer and Mayendit. This spike in reported hunger early in the quarter is likely related to the loss of crops during large-scale conflict during the last planting season, as well as several shocks affecting the area during this quarter. Nearly a quarter of assessed settlements with inadequate food access reported perceived unsafe access to land in October (23%) and lack of rains in November (23%) as main reasons for inadequate food access. At the end of the quarter, a third of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food in Leer and Mayendit reported new arrivals as a main reason for lack of food (34%). Despite these shocks, access to food rebounded marginally by December as the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an adequate access to food increased from September (36%) to December (64%).

A precarious food security situation reliant on food assistance may continue in the coming months as livelihoods remained hampered and coping strategies diminished this quarter. A decrease was observed in Leer and Mayendit counties of assessed settlements reporting cultivation (20%) and livestock (13%) as livelihood activities in December, likely related to seasonal trends. This is additionally reflected by a sharp decrease in December in

assessed settlements reporting having access to agricultural inputs in Mayendit (38%). This was accompanied by relatively low reported selling of livestock (11%) or heading to cattle camps (25%) compared to the rest of Unity State, possibly due to exhaustion of use of livestock as a coping strategy and the depletion of assets following years of conflict. Assessed settlements continued to report travel to displacement camps as a means of accessing food (12%). Use of these strategies is likely related to the limited coping strategies available for Central and Unity households due to years of conflict depleting assets.

In Koch County, a steadily decreasing trend was seen with just over one-tenth of assessed settlements reported having adequate access to food in December (13%) compared to September (40%). Most assessed settlements in Koch reported severe experiences of hunger in October (72%), though this declined slightly by December (58%). The lack of adequate access to food can be attributed to several shocks. The proportion of assessed settlements that reported having inadequate access to food reported pest infestations in October (28%), lack of rain in December (22%), a short growing season in December (17%), disrupted general food distributions in October (22%) and November (12%), and insecurity causing land to be unsafe to access (13%). The availability of food assistance in Bentiu has likely helped reduce the negative effects of these shocks, as focus group participants in Koch discussed sending families to the PoC for food, or gathering grass to sell to NGOs

and traders in order to purchase food.

A high proportion of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food in Panyijiar reported that hunger was the worst it could be in December (36%). As reported by focus group participants, food security challenges in Panyijiar could be partly explained by heavy flooding in November, which destroyed crops and cut off access to food assistance and wild foods. The lost crops were planted late as people tried to compensate for missed opportunities in the previous quarter during the upsurge in conflict at that time. Lastly, new arrivals were also noted as a prominent reason for inadequate access to food, with 12% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food reporting this in December.

Assessed settlements in Panyijiar reported a spike in gathering wild food in November (77%), coinciding with floods that affected the area. A decreasing consumption of stock seeds was reportedly observed in assessed settlements in Panyijiar from October (60%) to December (19%), which could be due to exhaustion of seeds to eat, or loss of seeds during replanting attempts after October flooding, as reported by focus group participants. This is additionally reflected by a sharp decrease in December in assessed settlements reporting having access to agricultural inputs in Panyijiar (61%).

As an additional impediment to resilience, the majority of assessed settlements in Panyijiar also reported the presence of livestock diseases (81%), which may likely cause households to take their livestock to cattle

camps earlier as a means of providing better nourishment and protection to the livestock. A likely side effect of this cattle migration is that it limits the households' ability to access food through selling and drinking milk. This is echoed by the fact that a high proportion of assessed settlements reported sending families to cattle camps (32%, December 2018) as coping strategies.

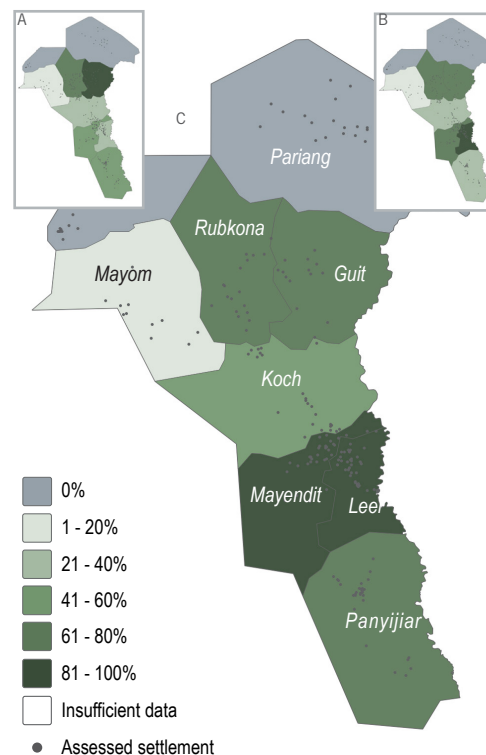
Access to Services: Shelter, WASH, Health, and Education

Shelter and NFIs

The shelter situation deteriorated slightly for host communities in Unity State, due in part to inter-communal conflicts in Central Unity, and flooding which affected parts of Central Unity and Panyijiar during this period. This is evidenced by an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people were using rakoobas (30%) and improvised shelters (8%) in December. This trend may be partially explained by spikes in assessed settlements reporting shelter damage due to conflict for Central Unity in October (24%), but which overall subsided by December (13%). Koch and Mayendit counties in particular had more than one-quarter of assessed settlements reporting shelter damage due to conflict in October (27%), and in fact remained high in December (18%), likely due to cattle raiding and inter-communal violence previously noted.

The majority of assessed settlements continued to report host communities living

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as the main source of food, October (A), Nov (B), Dec (C)



in their own homes in December throughout Unity (96%) as opposed to the bush or other structures. In June 2018, a large proportion of assessed settlements in these two counties had reported the local community living in the bush due to an upsurge of violence in May/June, however as of December nearly all assessed settlements reported local communities having returned to their own homes (89%).

Flooding was also a major concern in October,

as more than a third of assessed settlements reported households being displaced for this reason (37%), an issue which continued on through November. In October, Panyijiar was the heaviest affected with more than half of assessed settlements reporting flooding causing people to leave their homes (49%), followed by Koch, Leer and Mayendit (41%). Northern Unity counties were affected earlier than the rest of the state, with assessed settlements reporting flooding primarily in September (24%) and October (25%).

Overall, there were some improvements in IDP shelter conditions throughout the quarter in Panyijiar, however a substantial portion of IDPs are still living in inadequate shelter. In August, more than half of assessed settlements with IDPs in Mayendit, Leer and Panyijiar reported IDPs living in the open (58%), which had substantially decreased by December (13%). Most of this shift corresponds to an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs reporting IDPs living in improvised shelters from October (20%) to December (46%). The rest of Unity State continued to report relatively stable shelter conditions for IDPs, with roughly half of assessed settlements with IDPs reporting living in tukuls (50%), and a third using rakoobas in December (36%).

In Panyijiar county in December, the most needed non-food items identified by assessed settlements with IDP populations included plastic sheeting (29%), followed by mosquito nets (29%), and torches (18%). In Central Unity however, blankets (24%), plastic

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting flooding caused displacement from shelter, Northern, Central and Southern Unity.

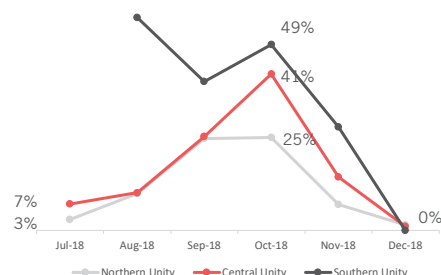
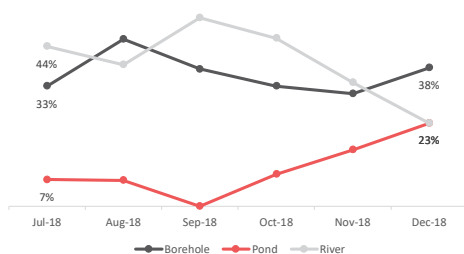


Figure 5: Use of boreholes, rivers, ponds in Mayom/Guit, July to December.

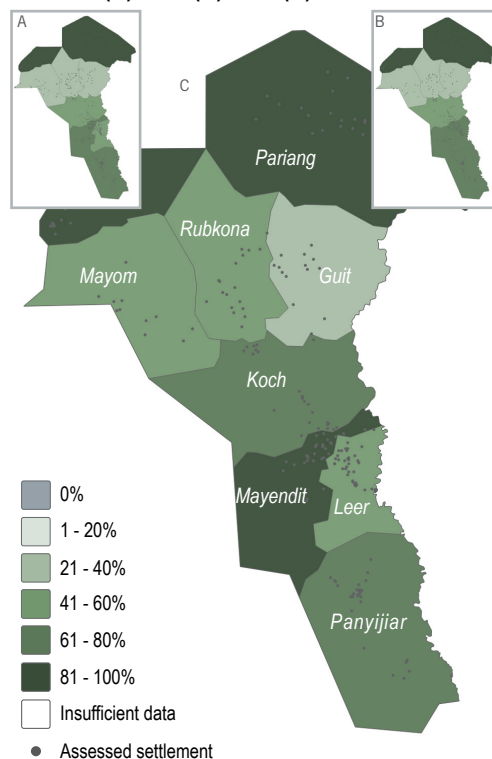


sheeting (21%) and mosquito nets (11%) were the most reported NFI needs by assessed settlements with IDPs. For Northern Unity the main reported NFI needs were buckets (23%) torches (17%) and sleeping mats (13%).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

State-wide access to improved drinking water sources remained steady throughout the quarter, as most assessed settlements in December reported having a borehole present in their settlement, particularly in Northern Unity

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to improved water source, October (A), Nov (B), Dec (C).



(75%), Southern Unity (81%), and Central Unity (79%). At the county level, the lowest borehole coverages were noted in Guit (53%) and Rubkona (58%) counties. Of assessed settlements in Unity State reporting having a borehole present, the majority reported that the borehole was functional (90%), with the highest proportions reported in Leer (81%), Koch (80%), and Guit (75%) counties.

While two-thirds of assessed settlements in Unity State reported utilising boreholes as the

main source of drinking water (66%), about one-fifth reported rivers (11%) and swamps (11%) in December instead. Use of rivers, ponds and swamps in December was most frequently reported by assessed settlements in Rubkona (47%), Guit (47%), Mayom (45%) and Leer (40%). As the dry season progressed, seasonal changes in drinking water sources was observed in Mayom and Guit counties as the proportion of assessed settlements utilising rivers decreased from October (47%) to December (23%), while ponds as the main source increased from October (9%) to December (23%). This shift of water sources may also explain the apparent increase in water collection time observed at the state level, as the proportion of assessed settlements reporting it took less than 30 minutes decreased from October (41%) to December (16%), with more settlements reporting up to an hour or even up to half a day to retrieve water.

For Unity State, insecurity as a barrier to water access has remained similar compared to the previous quarter, as no large difference was observed in the proportion of settlements reporting they were not feeling safe when accessing their preferred water source in October (19%) compared to December (12%). Exceptions to this trend were witnessed in parts of Unity where reports of insecurity as a barrier to water remained high in December for Guit (40%), Koch (29%), Leer (10%), and Mayendit (9%). While Leer and Mayendit together did show improvements from October (25%), worryingly the proportion of assessed

settlements reporting feeling unsafe accessing their preferred water source increased in Guit from November (17%) to December (40%). This increase may be explained by the shift in water sources in Guit and Mayom from October to December, as the proportion of assessed settlements reporting rivers as their main water source decreased (47% to 23%) compared to ponds (8% to 23%). With fewer sources available, residents would have to travel farther away for water access.

The majority of assessed settlements in Unity state reported livestock or animals sharing the same water sources as people in December (44%). Panyijiar showed a different trend, with less than one-fifth of assessed settlements reporting animals and humans sharing water sources (16%), as opposed to Northern and Central Unity (50%). This difference in shared water sources could potentially be due to livestock losses in Panyijiar, or communities sending their livestock to cattle camps earlier than other parts of Unity State.

Latrine usage was low throughout the state, with less than a quarter of assessed settlements reporting anyone using latrines (24%), and of these settlements the majority reporting "less than half" of households actually utilized latrines (57%). Overall, Panyijiar exhibited greater access to latrines, with more than one-third of assessed settlements reporting any use of latrines (69%) compared to the rest of Unity State (15%). The most common reason reported by assessed settlements where the majority of people weren't using latrines

in December was that none were available (54%), latrines were non-functional (15%) or for cultural reasons (13%). Fewer latrines will likely contribute to open defecation practices which may increase the risk of diarrhoeal diseases.

Health and Nutrition

Access to health care improved overall in Unity State compared to the end of last quarter, however some counties had restricted access in October. The proportion of assessed settlements that reported most people were able to walk to a health facility was similar in December (92%) compared to September (88%), though did continue an overall trend observed of increased access since June (46%). Improved access to health care facilities is likely related to the onset of the dry season and increased ease of movement due to improved road conditions. Coverage of nutrition programs appeared to improve slightly in Unity state from September (67%) to December (78%). However, similar decreases as seen with health facility access were also observed for nutrition programs in October for Mayom (38%) likely due to flooding, and a gradual decline in Guit from October (92%) to December (80%) likely due to insecurity related to cattle raiding.

Malaria was the most frequently reported main health problem across Unity State during this period, however the overall proportion of assessed settlements reporting this notably declined from October (59%) to December (32%), likely due to the onset of

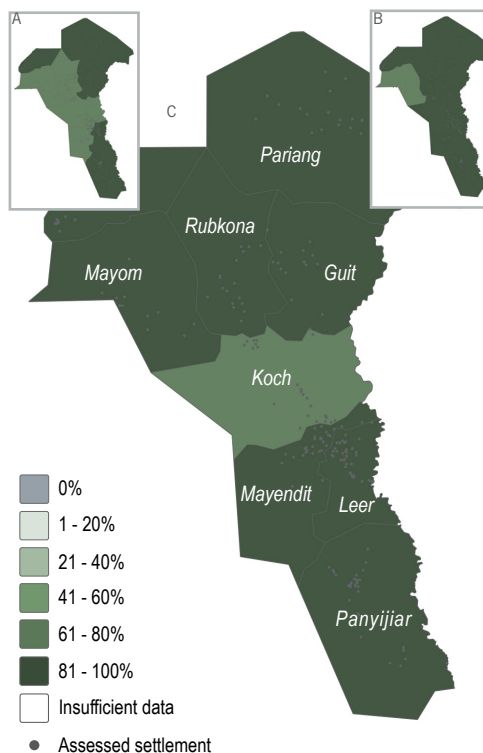
the dry season and corresponding reduction in mosquitoes. Diarrhoea was the second most common health problem, with slightly more than one-tenth of assessed settlements reporting it as a main health problem in December (12%). Counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting waterborne diseases as a main health problem in December included Koch (25%), Leer (20%), Mayom (18%), and Mayendit (13%). Additionally, some assessed settlements in Leer reported waterborne diseases as being the main cause of death in nearly one-fifth of settlements (18%) throughout the quarter. High reports of waterborne disease in assessed settlements in Leer could be related to the high reliance on unimproved water sources reported in the county.

Education

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting having access to education services remained low but fairly stable throughout the quarter, with more than half reporting having access in December (59%). Northern Unity counties reported the lowest level of access to education, with slightly more than one-third of assessed settlements reporting having access to education in December (38%).

Panyijiar continued to show high levels of access to education, with nearly all assessed settlements reporting having access to education in December (97%). On the other hand, some improvements in educational access were noted in Central Unity, driven by large gains in Mayendit from September

Map 7: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health facilities, October (A), Nov (B), Dec (C).



(43%) to December (75%). Deterioration of educational access was noted in some locations, particularly Guit and Koch counties where the proportion of assessed settlements reporting having access to education decreased from October (60%) to December (44%). Of assessed settlements without access to education services, the primary reasons for no access in December were that services were too distant (35%), there were no facilities (15%) and that teachers had stopped

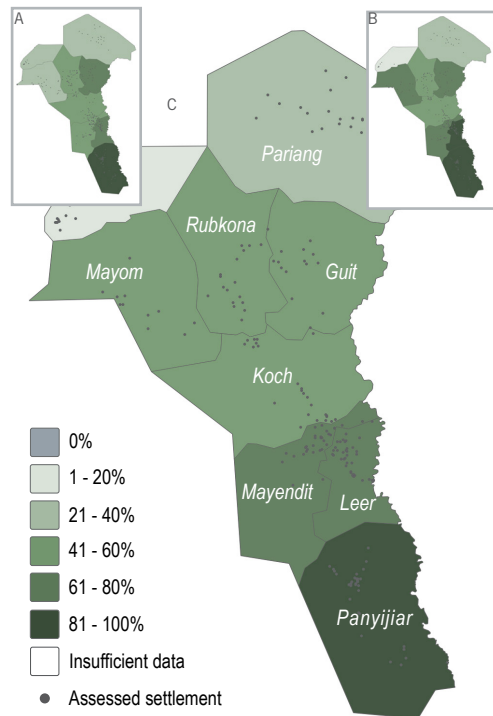
working (10%). Additionally, security was the most cited reason for lack of educational access by assessed settlements in December for Koch and Guit counties, reported by 19% of assessed settlements without access to education.

Of the assessed settlements with access to education, all reported that at least some boys and girls were attending school in December (100%). However, differences were noted in gender dynamics as the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that “more than half” of boys were attending school in December (62%) was greater than for girls (43%). At the state level, the most common reasons reported in December by assessed settlements that explain this difference are girls needing to work in the household or away from home such as in cattle camps or agriculture (15%), early marriage (7%) and lack of school supplies (6%). This is opposed to boys, for whom assessed settlements reported a lower rate not attending school due to household or work away from home in December (7%), suggesting households are prioritising boys’ education. Specifically, in Northern Unity, the need to help with work appeared to be the driving factor, as the majority of assessed settlements reported that the main reason few girls attended was because they were needed for work either at home or for agriculture in December (75%).

Conclusion

In the last quarter of 2018, Unity State

Map 8: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting availability of education facilities, October (A), November (B), December (C).



livelihoods. This continued violence, as well as flooding early in the quarter, deteriorated access to services for affected populations.

continued to face challenges in access to food, exacerbated by floods, lack of rain, conflict, pest infestations and short harvests. While Central Unity has begun to recover from the large-scale conflict that occurred in the third quarter, loss of livelihoods will likely continue to affect these populations going into 2019. In addition to this shift towards greater perceived security in Central Unity, continued localized incidents of insecurity, particularly in Koch and Guit counties, has disrupted services and

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