

# Situation Overview: Western Bahr el Ghazal, South Sudan

April - June 2017

**REACH** An initiative of  
IMPACT Initiatives  
ACTED and UNOSAT

## Introduction

Episodes of violence that occurred in Wau and Raga towns in April negatively affected displacement trends, population needs and humanitarian access in the entire Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeG) region. In the following months, occasional episodes of conflict were reported and the security situation in WBeG remained volatile, limiting humanitarian operations and putting livelihoods at risk. For humanitarian actors, access to and knowledge about areas outside of Wau town remained limited.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has been assessing hard-to-reach areas in WBeG since April 2017. This data is collected through interviews on a monthly basis from settlements across the counties of Raga, Wau and Jur River in WBeG.

Between 7 April and 27 June, REACH interviewed a total of 396 Key Informants (KIs) from 115 different settlements across Raga, Wau and Jur River counties. Forty-eight settlements were assessed in April, 34 in May and 88 in June. Over the three months, some of the settlements have been assessed multiple times through different KIs. 374 KIs were interviewed in the Wau Protection of Civilians Area Adjacent site (PoCAA), the

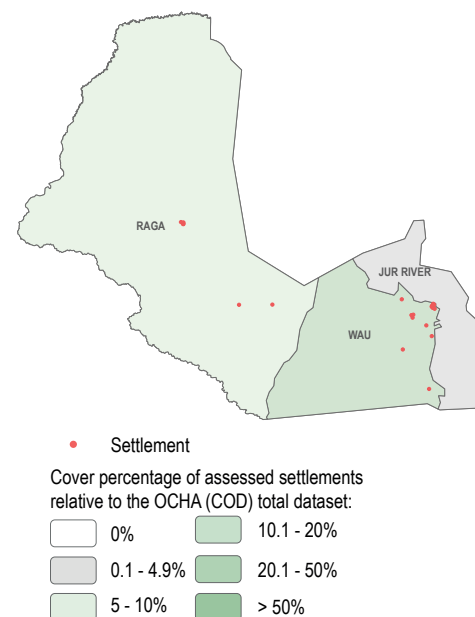
rest were interviewed in the collective centers (CCs) of Lokoloko (10), Cathedral (6), Hai Masna (5), and Nazareth (1).

In April, 84% of the interviewed KIs were newly arrived IDPs, in May 95% were new arrivals and in June 90%. New arrivals are those who had been interviewed within one month from their arrival at the location of the interview (PoCAA and CCs) and were therefore able to share up-to-date information about their area of knowledge (AoK), which in most cases were the settlements they fled. The remaining KIs, who were not new arrivals, all had recent information about certain settlements through contact with someone (usually a relative) that was living there at the time of data collection.

REACH's AoK methodology displays county level data when at least 5% of the total number of settlements in a county were assessed. In April and May, the coverage of assessed settlements was above 5% in Wau County, while in June this threshold was attained in both Wau and Raga Counties. Therefore, from the month of June the county level analysis was conducted for both Wau and Raga while in April and May it was conducted for Wau County only.

This Situation Overview is the first of its kind for WBeG and uses data collected in the months of April, May and June 2017 to provide

**Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Western Bahr el Ghazal, June 2017**



an overview of the humanitarian situation in WBeG. The findings of each month were compared among each other and triangulated with one focus group discussion (FGD) and participatory mapping exercise at the end of June as well as with secondary data collected by UN agencies and NGOs.

The first section of this report analyses displacement trends between the beginning of April until the end of June and the second section evaluates the population dynamics

in the assessed settlements, as well as access to food and basic services for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local communities.

## Population Movement and Displacement

In April, WBeG experienced episodes of violence between armed actors in the towns of Raga and Wau that led to a large displacement of persons in the counties of Raga, Wau and Jur River. While the majority of IDPs sought refuge in Wau town, an unreported number fled to the bush and into other settlements. The general security situation in the towns seemed to have stabilised following a shift in security forces patrolling Wau town and an increase of forces in Raga town. However, across the counties the feeling of insecurity and unconfirmed episodes of violence remained.

### Displacement within Wau County

Displacement within Wau County has been occurring since July of 2016, but saw a new peak on 10 April 2017, following armed clashes in Wau town.

This episode of violence forced over 17,000 people to seek refuge in Wau town's PoCAA and in the five CCs of Cathedral, Nazareth, Lokoloko, St. Joseph and ECS.<sup>1</sup> The largest influx of IDPs was into the PoCAA, which

<sup>1</sup> IOM, DTM Records 13 April-19 May

## METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in partly inaccessible areas of Western Bahr el Ghazal, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Wau Protection of Civilians AA (PoCAA) site and in the five collective centres in Wau throughout May 2017.

After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

It must be noted that this represents a **change in methodology as of December 2016**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with Situation Overviews from before December 2016**.

Note that unless specified, data was averaged across the three months and compared to previous individual months' data.

received roughly 13,000-14,000 new arrivals increasing the total population from 25,250 in March to a population of 39,165 in May.<sup>2</sup> The remaining IDPs sought refuge in CCs within Wau town. Cathedral CC, which was the largest CC in Wau at the time of the assessment, was estimated to have received around 4,000 new arrivals, bringing its initial population of 6,000 up to around 10,000 inhabitants. According to estimates, the population of IDPs in Cathedral CC could be as high as 15,000 during the night.<sup>3</sup> The swell in population at night could be accounted for by casual labourers who work outside of the CC during the day, only returning to the CC at night. However, because headcount and flow monitoring are conducted during the day, these IDPs often go unaccounted for. The situation was similar in the other CCs between April and June, though the discrepancies were smaller.

**By the end of June it was estimated that over 60,000 IDPs were residing in protected and unprotected sites in Wau Town.**

For approximately 90% of the IDPs interviewed between April to June, insecurity was the primary reason why they had left their previous location. While the main push factor was reported to be insecurity, an average of 42% of the interviewed KIs between April and June reported the lack of access to food as the secondary reason why they left their previous locations. KIs reported a link between security and access to food which was further explored in the section about food security.

The reported pull factors that influenced the

IDPs' decision to seek refuge in the PoCAA and the CCs remained unchanged over the months and were reported to be access to security, as reported as the primary pull factor by an average of 89% of interviewed KIs, and the access to food distributions as the secondary pull factor reported by 49% of KIs. While the security situation appeared to have stabilised in Wau town the perceived risks prevailed throughout the months of April to June, an indicator that the general feeling was that the situation remained volatile and could devolve again.

Despite security remaining a key push factor for displacement, the stabilising security situation allowed more IDPs to return home. IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data showed that in May and June more people were leaving the camps than entering them<sup>4</sup>. According to FGD participants and humanitarian partners, IDPs have been exiting the PoCAA and CCs and heading back to their previous locations. IOM DTM data showed that the population in the CCs did not increase since May and had actually been on a steady decrease throughout May and June.<sup>5</sup> The reported reason in the IOM DTM data was primarily the stabilisation of security in Wau County, where most IDPs came from. However, according to FGD participants, the unpredictable security situation created reluctance among some IDPs to return to their previous locations.

### Displacement from ECS CC to Hai Masna CC

In May authorities in Wau County relocated the IDPs staying in the ECS CC to a new location called Hai Masna. Hai Masna is approximately 7

KM out of Wau's town centre and characterised by fertile land ideal for agricultural activities. IOM head counts conducted between the 3rd and 15th of June, counted 686 households of a total of 4,210 individuals.<sup>6</sup> IDPs registered in ECS CC still had access to distributions taking place in Hai Masna.

Due to the rather remote location of Hai Masna there were concerns that IDPs residing there were not well protected and had limited access to livelihoods, such as to daily wage labour in Wau town.<sup>7</sup> **Access to security was the primary pull factor for IDPs to Wau County.** Due to the lack of protection in Hai Masna, it was possible that, in case of new episodes of violence and insecurity, IDPs residing in Hai Masna at the time of data collection would return to Wau town to seek refuge in the PoCAA or in one of the more centrally located CCs.

### GFD and displacement patterns

Prior to April 2017, the IDPs in the Wau CCs were receiving General Food Distributions (GFDs) on a regular basis. Due to targeted violence against humanitarian workers, GFDs in WBeG were suspended at the end of April in all the sites excluding the PoC1 and PoCAA and were planned to resume when the security situation improved. Only occasional, smaller scale food distributions done by individual NGOs and faith based institutions took place in some parts of Wau town and the CCs.

Providing the GFD suspension persisted in July and August, the assumption could be made that IDPs from CCs would try to move to the PoCAA or return back to their previous

**Figure 1: Most often reported primary and secondary reason why new arrivals in June left their settlements in Wau county.**



2 UNMISS, PoC Updates 160-166, 10 April-29 May 2017.

3 IOM, CCCM-Wau Displacement Response Update, 25 April 2017

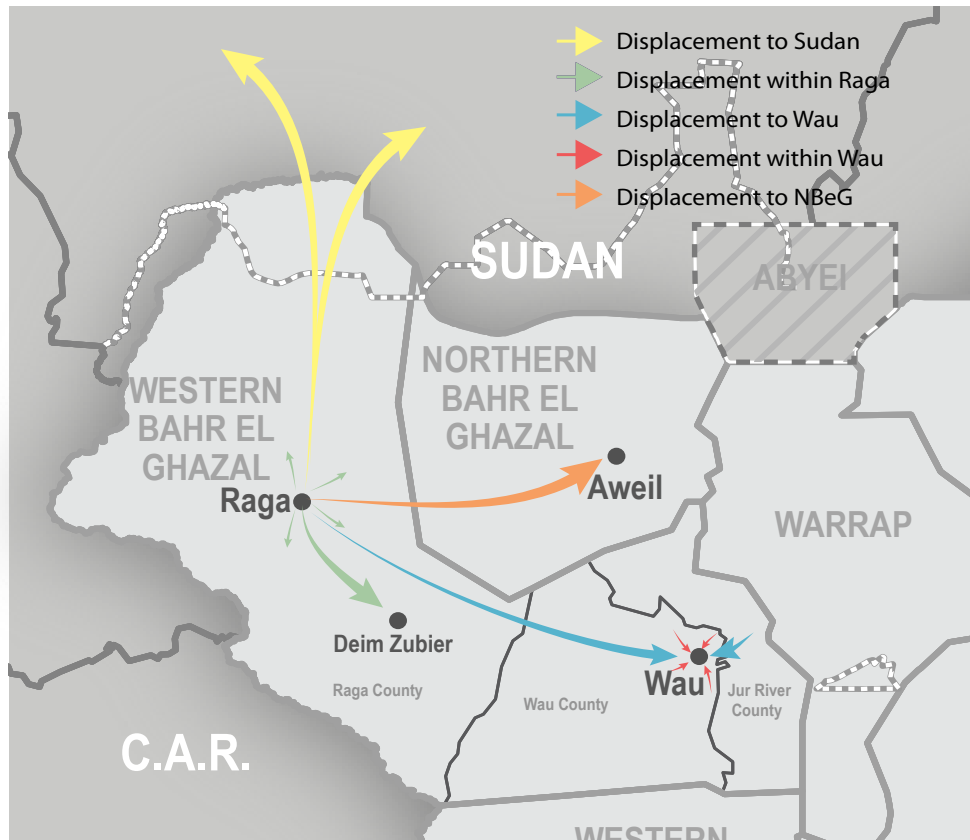
4 IOM, Wau Flow Monitoring Analysis, 17-23 June 2017

5 IOM, Wau Town Population Update, 9 May 2017

6 IOM, Wau IDP Sites Population Counting 3rd to 15th June, June 2017

7 Lack of access to daily wage labour was reported to Reach by IDPs interviewed during a field visit to Hai Masna on 2 June 2017

**Map 2: Displacement overview Western Bahr el Ghazal April to June 2017**



locations. Despite the decreasing population shown by the DTM data, PoCAA in Wau was the most densely population PoC of South Sudan in June with 39,165 IDPs sheltering on just 200,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land,<sup>8</sup> and would therefore not be able to accommodate the additional thousands of IDPs from the CCs. In the PoCAA and the CCs, humanitarian services and distributions were only given to those households and individuals who were officially registered. As

reported by FGD participants, many people from Raga stayed in the PoCAA for one month and then moved to stay with relatives in Wau County or back to Raga since they were not able to benefit from GFD in the PoCAA since the last registration occurred in April and a new registration was not expected immediately.

With low levels of food security persisting, humanitarian food distributions could

increasingly become a trigger for displacement out of the CCs and into the PoCAA.

### Displacement within and out of Raga County

In April, clashes occurred between armed actors located in the southwest of Raga Town. These clashes reportedly led to displacement of 25,000 people out of Raga towards Sudan, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Wau County and within Raga County.<sup>9</sup> An unreported number of IDPs fled to the bush in Raga while others sought refuge in Deim Zubier, where at the end of June, 2,155 households, or 8,344 individual IDPs, were sheltered in a religious institution.<sup>10</sup>

Some IDPs traveled to Wau town's PoCAA and in some cases into the CCs. According to FGD participants from Raga County, there was no organised or commercialised transport of IDPs from Deim Zubier towards Wau but the IDPs sometimes traveled for free or occasionally in exchange for 3,500 SSP in the trucks of merchants on their way to Wau Town. According to FGD participants, they did not face any security threats on the way from Deim Zubier to Wau. However, throughout April, May and June, skirmishes between armed actors south, southwest of Wau Town were reported which is why the direct road from Deim Zubier to Wau remained inaccessible for humanitarian organizations and only accessible with UN Force Protection.<sup>11</sup> Due to the limited access to Deim Zubier in the months of April and May, few humanitarian agencies were providing assistance in that area. After a UN patrol to Raga and Deim Zubier on 23-24 June it was established that humanitarian assistance in

Deim Zubier was safe and urgently needed, which led to an increase of humanitarian actors traveling to Deim Zubier through Aweil to provide assistance.

### Displacement from Jur River County to Wau Town

Displacement from Jur River to Wau Town mainly occurred in March and April on two separate occasions. In March, fighting broke out and led to the displacement of some of the Jur population towards Wau Town. According to FGD participants, in April, following the major episodes of violence in Nazareth, people from Jur River were afraid to be targeted based on their ethnicity and sought refuge in the PoC and the CCs in Wau Town.

In June, a joint peace conference to discuss peaceful ways of coexistence took place between cattle keepers in Tonj and local farmers from Jur River.<sup>12</sup> According to IOM DTM data, by June 2017 many of the IDPs returned to their homes due to the improvement in the security situation in Jur River County.<sup>13</sup>

## Situation in Assessed Settlements

### Remaining population in assessed settlements

The local population remaining in assessed settlements in Wau County as well as the IDP population residing in those settlements was mainly composed of women, a dynamic that did not change over the months.

8 UNHCR/CCCM Cluster, Wau PoC area adjacent to UNMISS Site Profile, May 2017

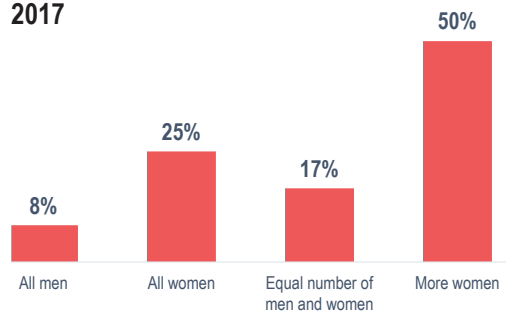
9 OCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2017

10 RRP, Mission report Field Mission to Raja & Deim Zubier 23-24 June, June 2017

11 UNDSS, Force Protection Map, June 2017

12 Eye Radio, Wau & Tonj communities adopt mechanisms to address conflicts, June 2017

**Figure 2: Gender ratio of IDPs staying in assessed settlements in Wau County, June 2017**



In Wau County, in April, 68% of assessed settlements were reportedly composed of only women or predominately women. Similarly, in May and June, 63% and 69% of assessed settlements, respectively, were reported to be composed the same.

These proportions were more balanced in Raga County where in June 50% of assessed settlements were reportedly composed of more women than men, 21% more men than women and 21% almost only women.

### IDP population in assessed settlements

In Wau County, between April and June, an average of 26% of assessed settlements reported the presence of IDPs in their communities throughout the months of April to June. Similar to the gender balance of the host community, the IDP community was mainly composed of women.

From April to June, on average, 69% of the assessed settlements in Wau County were reported to host more female than male IDPs or exclusively female IDPs. In Raga County, all the

settlements assessed in June were reported to host more female or exclusively female IDPs.

**This gender imbalance was also reflected in the IDP population within PoCAA, where the number of women was 48% larger than the number of men.<sup>14</sup>**

According to FGD participants, one explanation was that in WBeG the female population was simply much larger than the male population due to decades of civil war in which mostly men died.

**From a humanitarian perspective, a larger female population could indicate a greater need for gender specific hygiene assistance and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items such as dignity kits.**

## Food Security

### Access to food

Due to the volatile security situation and the loss of crops during episodes of violence in WBeG, food insecurity remained the most pressing humanitarian issue throughout the months of April, May and June. Insecurity had a severe effect on settlements' access to food in both Wau and Raga counties.

**Wau County experienced extremely low levels of food security with only 6% of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in April, followed by 11% in May and 9% in June. In Raga County, only 4% of the assessed settlements in June reported adequate access to food. This**

data showed that there was no meaningful improvement in food security levels over the months.

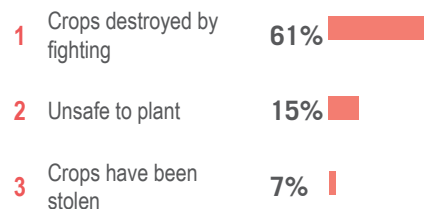
Low levels of food security were reported to be attributable to episodes of violence and the persisting insecurity across the region. Of settlements reporting no access to food, 43% in Wau and 61% in Raga County reported the main reason for no access was because crops had been destroyed.

Besides the destruction of crops, the most often reported primary reason for not having adequate access to food was that it was perceived as unsafe to plant and cultivate, as reported by an average of 17% of assessed settlements in Wau County from April to June and 15% in Raga County.

### Coping Strategies

Demonstrative of severe low levels of access to food, populations in Wau and Raga Counties were reportedly resorting to extreme strategies to cope with the lack of food.

**Figure 3: Most reported reasons why people in Raga County could not access food, June 2017.**



A high use of food consumption coping strategies was reported, the most common being limiting of the size of meals, which was reported by 22% of assessed settlements in Raga and Wau counties in April. This percentage increased to 36% in May and 34% in June. Limiting or skipping meals is not a sustainable strategy to cope with a lack of food, and could lead to long-term health issues.

In addition, the food that populations reportedly accessed appeared to be less nutritious, with foraging wild foods increasingly being reported as an alternative coping strategy by 12% of assessed settlements in Wau and Raga counties in April, 17% in May, and 24% in June. Wild foods have limited nutritional value and the dependency on seasonal patterns makes it an unsustainable coping mechanism.

### Livelihoods

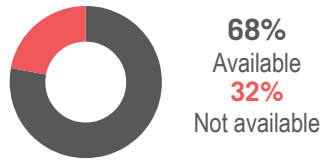
Traditionally, people in Wau and Raga counties relied on farming as their main livelihood activity.<sup>15</sup> Due to insecurity however, farming was no longer reported as the primary source of food in Raga and Wau. From April to June, only 28% of settlements assessed in Wau reported cultivation as their primary source of food. In Raga, this number was higher, with 37% of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as their primary food source. Low levels of reliance on farming was due to the destruction of crops and the perception that it was not safe enough to cultivate.

13 IOM DTM data collected mid-June 2017

14 Calculation made by REACH using IOM DTM data collected mid-June 2017

15 IOM, Village Assessment Survey, 2013

**Figure 4: Reported access to functioning markets in Wau County, April to June 2017**



Low levels of farming activity were compensated with buying food as a livelihood strategy. Over the months, in Wau County, an average of 42% of the assessed settlements were reported to rely on buying the food they consumed. In Raga County, 37% of assessed settlements reported the same. Buying food as the main livelihood strategy is dependent on the possibility to afford goods and on the access to functioning markets. In Wau County, an average of 68% of assessed settlements reported access to a functioning market. In Raga County, as many as 91% of the assessed settlements in June reported access to a functioning market. Dependency on markets as a primary resource for food is a risk, especially as the security situation across WBeG remained volatile. Security incidents such as fighting and looting can create sudden, adverse changes to the access of functioning markets. Furthermore, the access and supply to markets were made more difficult with the rainy season.

**Humanitarian food assistance**

In the absence of cultivation and due to risks associated with market dependency, humanitarian assistance remained the last resort. As mentioned, no large scale GFDs took place in WBeG outside of the PoCs ever since

episodes of violence against humanitarian workers were reported in the beginning of April and only smaller-scale food distributions from NGOs were occasionally taking place. Between April and June, an average of 27% of assessed settlements received food distributions. From the assessed settlements in Raga in June, only 16% reported having received food distributions.

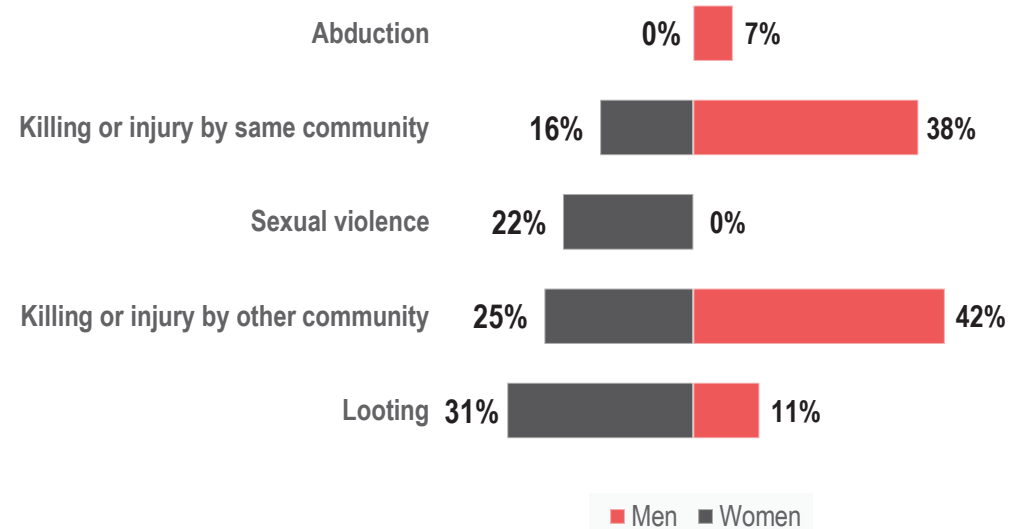
**Protection**

In April, the clashes that occurred in Raga Town and Wau Town created widespread insecurity all over WBeG. This insecurity persisted over the months from April to June during which various protection concerns were reported.

Ever since violence broke out on the 10th of April, the presence of security forces had increased in Wau Town and the surrounding area. This increase in forces stabilised the security situation in Wau Town. However, the situation in Wau County remained volatile and unpredictable with reported conflict southwest of Wau Town.

On average, from April to June, 31% of the assessed settlements in Wau County reported that men felt unsafe both at night and during the day and 16% reported that women felt unsafe at all times. In Raga, 35% of assessed settlements in June reported that men felt unsafe both at night and during the day, while 25% of settlements reported the same situation for women. The reasons men reportedly felt more unsafe than women was potentially linked to the types of protection concerns that were most often reported. Being killed or injured

**Figure 5: The most often reported primary protection concerns for men and women in Wau and Raga Counties, June 2017**



were reported as the main protection concern for both men and women in Raga and Wau counties.

For women in the assessed settlements in Wau County, the main protection concern was reported to be being killed or injured by members of the same community as reported by an average of 37% of settlements over the span of April, May and June. Compared to other regions in South Sudan, where sexual violence was reported as the main protection concern for women, in Wau County it remained comparably low in April, with only 3% of assessed settlements reporting it as the main protection concern for women. In May and June however, this percentage increased to 13% and 14% respectively. In Raga County, the primary protection concern for women was reported to be sexual violence in 39% of the assessed

settlements and being killed or injured by another community and looting by 22% of assessed settlements. **Such high percentages of assessed settlements reporting sexual violence as the primary protection concern for women in Raga County suggested there was a need to scale up protection services in these areas.**

For men in Wau County the most often reported protection concern was being killed or injured by members of another community in 54% of assessed settlements in April, 50% in May and 48% in June. Prior to June, no assessed settlements in WBeG had reported abduction as a primary protection concern for men; however, in June, 20% of assessed settlements reported that the primary protection concern for men was abduction.

In the assessed settlements in Wau, the

perceived security risk for children being killed or injured by members of a different community had decreased from 61% in April to 28% in May and 25% in June. In Raga, 20% of assessed settlements reported the same in June. Clashes occurred in the beginning of April, which possibly explained the decrease in the perceived risk of children being killed or injured by members of a different community. While no large scale armed clashes occurred after April the risks deriving from criminality prevailed. In June, the primary protection concern for children in Wau and Raga Counties was reported to be looting, in 30% and 26% of assessed settlements, respectively.

### Effects of rainy season on protection issues

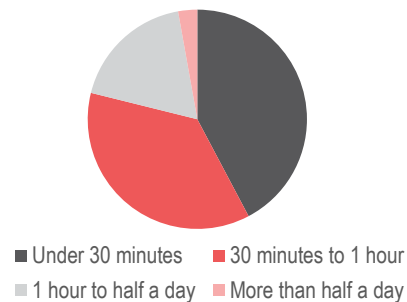
Heavy rainfall was expected to increase over the months of July and August and to potentially lead to a decrease in protection concerns between differing communities while on the other hand increase the concerns within the same community.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Health

### Access to safe water in Wau County

The percentage of assessed settlements in Wau County that were reported to have access to safe water increased from April (89%) to May (91%) and June (94%). In Raga County, access to safe water was even higher with all assessed settlements reporting the same in June. Access to water is very high in WBeG compared to many other regions in South Sudan.

**Figure 6: Reported travel time to nearest source of safe water in Wau County from April to June 2017**



The primary source of safe water remained boreholes. However, the number of assessed settlements that stated boreholes were their main water source decreased from 86% in April to 69% in May and 61% in June. In Raga, in June, 95% of assessed settlements reported boreholes were their main source of water. The settlements reporting protected wells as their primary source of safe water increased from only 7% in April to 19% in May and 22% in June.

While access to safe water sources increased, the travel time from the assessed settlements to the safe water source also increased from April to June. The percentage of assessed settlements that had access to a water source within less than 30 minutes walking distance decreased from 74% in April to 36% in June. The percentage of settlements that were at a distance between one hour to half a day increased from 4% in April to 20% in June. In Raga County, on the other hand, 79% of assessed settlements reportedly had access

to a safe water source less than 30 minutes walking distance and no settlements were reportedly located more than one hour distance away from a safe water source. The increase in travel time to safe water sources in Wau County is directly attributable to the rainy season that started in May that leads to a general deterioration of roads.

### Use of sanitation facilities

Access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities are necessary to hinder the outspread of diseases and other personal health issues. **While access to safe water was high in both Raga and Wau counties, open defecation was widespread.**

In Wau County, sanitation slightly improved from April to May but decreased again from May to June. In April, 34% of assessed settlements reported that at least half of their population were using sanitation facilities instead of open defecation. In May, this number increased to 56% of assessed settlements and in June remained similar at 50%. In Raga County, the settlements assessed in June reported that only 29% were making use of sanitation facilities. With many settlements reporting the lack of use of sanitation facilities risks of outspread of diseases linked to poor hygiene and sanitation were expected to prevail over the following months.

### Health concerns in Wau and Raga Counties

The intensifying rainy season leads to a larger mosquito population and hence to an increased risk of malaria. In line with the risks

associated with access to safe water, open defecation and the rainy season, the most often reported health problems in WBeG were malaria, typhoid and diarrhoea of which South Sudan has been widely affected in many regions.<sup>16</sup> In June, malaria was reported by 85% of assessed settlements as the primary health issue in Wau. In May, this percentage decreased to 68% but increased again to 80% in June.

While malaria remained the primary health problem between April and June, there was a slight change in the type of disease that was most often listed as the secondary health problem. In April, typhoid was the most often cited secondary health problem (44% of assessed settlements reported this), in May, both typhoid and diarrhoea were each cited as the main secondary health problems by 27% of assessed settlements. In June, the most often reported secondary health problem was diarrhoea with 46% of assessed settlements reporting this. Access to safe water and the use of sanitation facilities are both paramount to limit the spread of diseases like typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea which are commonly associated with poor hygiene and lack of access to safe water. Safe water is widely available in the settlements of Wau County, while hygiene has room for improvement due to the still widespread practice of open defecation. In Raga County malaria was reported as the primary health problem in 76% of the settlements that were assessed in June and the most often reported secondary health problem was diarrhoea (reported in 39% of

<sup>16</sup> UNICEF, South Sudan Cholera Situation Report, 26 June 2017

\* In the questionnaire the possibility to not answer is given, which explains why percentages do not always add up to 100%.

assessed settlements).

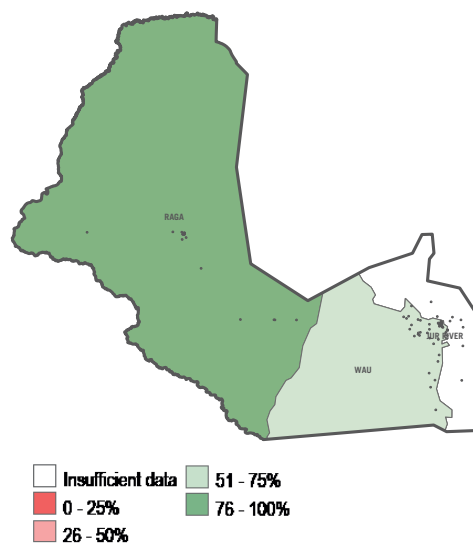
### Access to healthcare

While access to healthcare in Wau County remained high, it appeared to be declining; 63% of assessed settlements reported access to healthcare in June as compared to 72% in May and 73% in April.

In Raga County, the percentage of assessed settlements with access to healthcare was reported as comparatively higher with 86% of assessed settlements reporting access to healthcare in June.

Insecurity had a negative impact on healthcare in both Wau and Raga counties. In the assessed settlements that reported no access to healthcare, 50% of those assessed in Wau

**Map 3: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to healthcare, June 2017**



in June reported the reason for no access was due to the destruction of healthcare facilities during episodes of violence. In Raga, as many as 67% of assessed settlements reported the same. Next to the destruction of healthcare facilities, the most often reported primary reason for not having access to healthcare was the general insecurity, as reported by 25% of assessed settlements in Wau in June and 33% in Raga in June.

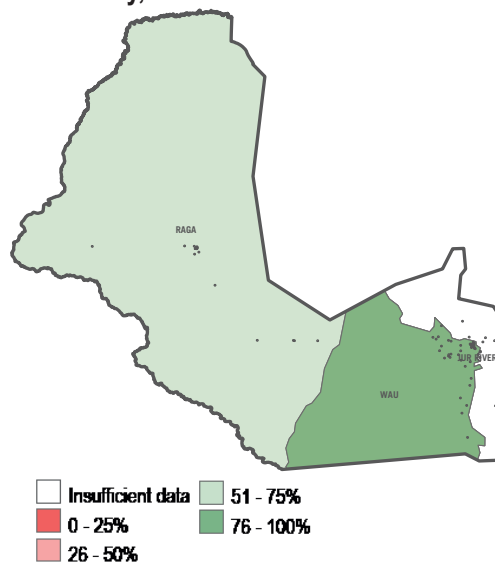
The decrease of access to healthcare from May to June in Wau County due to the destruction of healthcare facilities showed that a continuation of insecurity could possibly lead to a decrease of access to healthcare over the coming months.

### Shelter

Most assessed settlements in WBeG reported the presence of damaged shelters in their settlements, but that the scale of the damage remained relatively limited.

In June, 89% of assessed settlements in Wau reported the presence of damaged shelters, a percentage that did not change much over the months, with 90% reporting the same in May and 82% in April. In Raga, as many as 95% of assessed settlements reported the presence of some damaged shelters. Although shelter damage was high across both counties, the intensity of this damage was relatively low. Of the assessed settlements that reported the presence of some damaged shelters in Wau, 92% in April, 86% in May and 90% in June reported that only few of the shelters in their

**Map 4: Percent of settlements reporting tukuls as a primary shelter type for the local community, June 2017**



assessed settlements in Wau County between April and June. In Raga County, the reported types of shelter were similar, with 53% of assessed settlements in June reporting tukuls as the main shelter type and 47% reporting permanent structures.

In Wau County, IDPs residing in the assessed settlements were reported to live in rakoobas, in 32% of assessed settlements in Wau between April and June, and in permanent shelters, as reported by 27% of settlements. In Raga County, the IDPs were sheltered in Tukuls, in 67% of assessed settlements in June while in the remaining 33% of settlements they were staying in rakoobas. The similarity between the types of settlements in which the host communities (HCs) and the IDPs stayed showed that shelters were often shared, indicative of good relations between HCs and IDPs. Relations between host community and IDP population were reported as “good” in an average of 68% of assessed settlements between April and June in Wau County. This was comparatively much lower than in Raga County, where 100% of assessed settlements reported the relation between host communities and IDPs was good.

### Education

As with access to health care and shelter, insecurity prevented access to education for some assessed settlements in WBeG.

Overall, in Wau County access to education deteriorated, with 69% of assessed settlements reporting access to education in

settlements were destroyed. In Raga, 90% of assessed settlements reported that while shelter damage was present in most settlements, almost none of the shelters were completely destroyed in the assessed settlements. This data showed that while almost all assessed settlements reported damaged shelters, the scale of the damage was very low.

Most of the shelters in Wau County and Raga County were permanent shelters or tukuls. In Wau County, the percentage of assessed settlements reporting permanent shelters as their primary shelter type did not vary much from April to June, remaining between 54%-56%. Tukuls were the second most often reported type of primary shelter by 34%-38% of

June, as compared to 89% in May and 87% in April. Insecurity appeared to be the key reason for this deterioration, either because schools were destroyed, reported by 50% of assessed settlements in June, or because of perceived insecurity, as reported by 25% of assessed settlements. In Raga County, 83% of settlements assessed in June reported having access to education.

While school fees remained the primary reason for not attending schooling, the percentage of settlements reporting it as the primary reason for lack of attendance decreased from 87% in April, and 90% in May to 65% in June.

However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting insecurity as the primary reason for not attending school increased slightly from 12% in April to 19% in June. In Raga, 58% of assessed settlements with access to education reported fees as the primary reason for not attending schooling and 25% reported insecurity as the main reason.

This trend showed that even though the general security situation in WBeG improved, insecurity negatively affected the lives of the local populations in Wau County.

## Conclusion

Episodes of violence in April displaced people across Western Bahr el Ghazal. Most IDPs sought refuge in neighbouring countries, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and in the Protection of Civilians Adjacent Area (PoCAA) site in Wau town as well as in Wau town's five Collective

Centres (CCs). While some IDPs returned to their previous locations, most remained displaced and were in pressing need of humanitarian assistance.

The most urgent humanitarian need remained food assistance as adequate access to food remained critically low in assessed settlements in WBeG. Since a large part of the population is composed of farmers, humanitarian agencies have been facilitating farming activities through the distribution of tools and seeds. However, **the main reason for no access to food was reported to be the destruction of crops in all assessed settlements.** As insecurity remained volatile, returning to the location of origin and engaging in farming activities is perceived as a high risk, which may make some IDPs reluctant to leave PoCAA and CCs. Further, insecurity in Wau Town temporarily resulted in the suspension of all general food distributions (GFDs) in WBeG apart from the PoCs. Security is therefore paramount to guarantee sustainable food security in WBeG.

### About REACH

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

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