

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring

Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States

South Sudan April - September 2020

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Introduction

The protracted humanitarian crisis in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (W and NBeG) States continued into the second and third quarters of 2020 (April - September). Persistent climatic shocks combined with insecurity, displacement and high market prices related to COVID-19 have led to a particularly difficult lean season due to the destruction of crops and the inability to cultivate. As a result, communities were found to commonly rely on severe coping mechanisms, further compounding already difficult health and WASH-related challenges during the second and third quarters of 2020.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlements, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas of South Sudan since 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This situation overview uses this data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across W and NBeG in the second and third quarters of 2020.

Methodology

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Western Bahr el Ghazal State and Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, REACH conducts interviews with key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). These interviews were conducted in the protection of civilians (PoC) site, collective centres, and through phone calling throughout the reporting period. Findings should be considered indicative only of the situation in assessed settlements.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted on a monthly basis using a structured survey tool. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated at settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal or most credible response. When no consensus was found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements in a given month were included in the analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month may 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. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. FGDs with people displaced from hard-to-reach areas in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State and Western Bahr el Ghazal State took place throughout April - September 2020.

More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToRs](#).

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Western and Northern Bahr-el Ghazal States, April (A), June (B) and September (C) 2020



of key informant interviews conducted: **908**
of assessed settlements: **515**
of counties covered: **8 (of 8)**
of focus group discussions conducted: **22**

1. To calculate the percentage of AoK coverage, the total number of settlements per county is based on OCHA settlement lists in addition to new settlements mapped by KIs reached each month.

2. Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

Key Findings



Population Movement and Displacement: In 17 % of assessed settlements in WBeG, the presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs)⁴ was reported in September, representing an 11-percentage point decrease since January as households returned home due to reported perceptions of increased security.³ In NBeG, the presence of IDPs reportedly fell sharply from two fifths (41%) in January, to a quarter (23%) in June and then one in ten (12%) in September in assessed settlements as IDPs reportedly moved to the state capital in Aweil Centre in search of livelihood opportunities.



Food Security and Livelihoods: In September, in half (52%) of assessed settlements in WBeG state, adequate access to food was reported as settlements emerged from the seasonal lean period (May-August) and began to harvest amidst gradually easing tensions and reduced violence between communities. Conversely in NBeG, in only just over a quarter (29%) of assessed settlements in September, adequate access to food was reported, considerably lower than normally expected for this time of year. This likely reflects the difficulties faced by traditional pastoralist communities contending with the unpredictable climatic shocks - both drought and flooding - combined with movement restrictions and market access challenges. Thus, creating a situation where many people, particularly in Aweil South, experienced poor harvest seasons and as a result faced a more challenging and longer-than usual lean season.



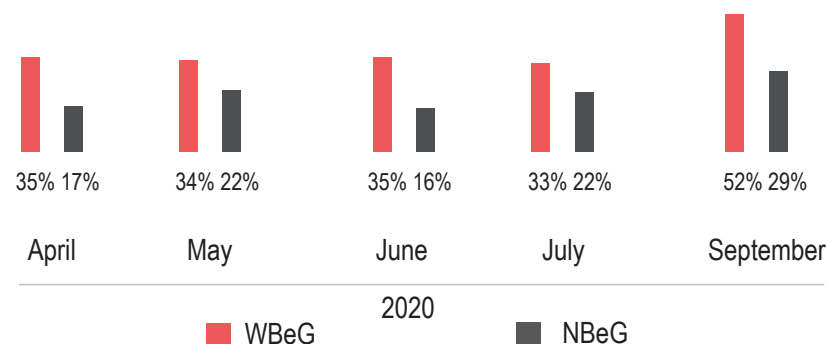
Protection: Overall in WBeG and NBeG, reported perceptions of safety remained consistent since the previous reporting period, when in 39% of assessed settlements it was reported that most people felt safe most of the time in April, this figure was 46% in September. However, in September in Jur River County, in only 6% of assessed settlements most people reportedly felt safe most of the time, likely serving as a barrier to water access and normal livelihood and consumption food security coping mechanisms.⁵



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): WASH needs appeared to have remained high particularly in NBeG, likely due to widespread flooding, and in Jur River County, WBeG due to insecurity. Damage caused to boreholes⁶ and latrines combined with access issues made them reportedly difficult to repair over the reporting period. In WBeG and NBeG in September, in over half (61%) of assessed settlements, KIs reported open defecation as latrines were reportedly either broken or inaccessible. In Jur River and Aweil South Counties, difficulties accessing water were commonly reported, in line with similarly high reporting on food security indicators. In almost half (42%) of assessed settlements in Jur River county and a quarter (24%) in Aweil South County, it reportedly took people between one hour and half a day to reach, access, and return from their preferred water source.

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements where adequate access to food was reported, April - September 2020

39% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food across Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States in September 2020.



Health: Consistent with the last reporting period, malaria was the most commonly reported perceived health problem, reported in 38% of assessed settlements in September. Findings suggest that restricted road access, flooding, and high prices have made it difficult to supply medical centres and markets with essential medicines and items like mosquito nets and plastic sheeting.



Shelter/Non Food Items (NFI): Across WBeG and NBeG in September, in the majority (78%) of assessed settlements, living in rakoobas,⁷ non-solid or temporary shelters was commonly reported. The climatic, protection and food security shocks faced across the region are likely to make these households more vulnerable as they are living in non-solid homes.



Education: Schools were closed throughout the reporting period and were not planned to begin reopening until October.⁸ In September, in approximately half (56%) of assessed settlements, there was inability access to education reportedly due to closures related to COVID-19.



Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): In September, among those settlements that had reportedly received humanitarian assistance in the six months prior to data collection in both WBeG and NBeG, approximately half (52%) were reportedly satisfied with the humanitarian assistance provided.

3. IOM - DTM WBeG state event tracking report, May

4. IDPs defined as someone forced to flee their home, but remaining within his or her country's borders.

5. South Sudan Humanitarian snapshot September 2020

6.. A borehole is bored well used for drinking purposes.

7.. Rakoobas are shelters constructed from poles and plastic tarpaulin.

8. UNICEF and UNESCO 23 September 2020. UNICEF and UNESCO welcome the decision to reopen schools in South Sudan.

→ Population Movement and Displacement

Overall, the proportion of assessed settlements where key informants (KIs) reported the presence of IDPs remained relatively consistent between April (20%) and September (14%) across WBeG and NBeG. Conflict (WBeG) and flooding (NBeG) were the most commonly reported primary push factors for those leaving, whilst reuniting with family, finding land for cultivation and hopes of greater livelihood opportunities were the primary pull factors, shared across both states.

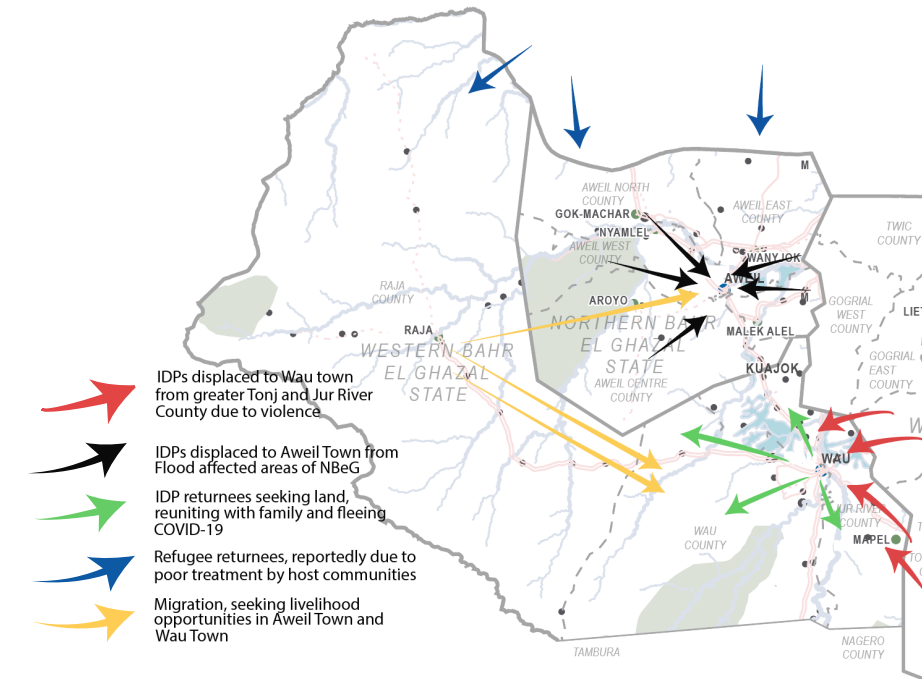
In September, in the majority of assessed settlements in Wau (62%) and Jur River (100%) either insecurity (including fighting, killing, looting and rape) or cattle raiding were reported as the main push factors for IDPs, consistent with the previous reporting period. However, in 100% of assessed settlements in Raja County, lack of access to the market was reportedly their main driver; in September, FGD participants reported that people were relocating to Wau Town and Aweil Centre in search of casual work and reduced prices.⁹

Sub-national tensions between farming and cattle keeping communities continued to be reported in assessed settlements WBeG as well as in neighbouring Warrap State throughout April and May. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), displaced persons were able to settle both in Mapel, Jur River and Hai Masna collective centre, Wau South.¹⁰ In April, in assessed settlements in Wau (36%) and Jur River (21%) Counties, the arrival of IDPs reportedly had an impact on the ability to access enough food for most people in the settlements. By September, this had halved in assessed settlements in Wau county (from 36% to 18%) suggesting that the IDP presence was no longer significantly affecting access to food, while in Jur River there was a 10-percentage point increase (31%) most likely due to continued sub-national violence in the area. In August, FGD participants displaced from Jur River County, further confirmed this finding, reporting that reduced harvests in conjunction with clashes between communities in Jur River and Tonj caused displacements to Wau Town.¹¹

In WBeG in September, in three quarters (73%) of assessed settlements, former IDPs had reportedly returned to their settlements, reporting of which has remained consistent throughout the reporting period in both April (71%) and January (76%) 2020. In assessed settlements, at the end of the dry season (April), security threats were reported to be the main driver to return home (27%), whilst following the end of the wet season (September), lack of access to land (43%) was reportedly the main driver of returning IDPs. According to IOM, most returned to places within Wau County, whilst some were moving back to Jur River despite the perceived insecurity there.¹²

Fears over COVID-19, perceived improvements in security and the desire to reunite with family were reportedly the major push factor for returnees. In April, FGD participants in Wau town reported that many IDPs had left the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site after they been encouraged by community

Map 2: Population Movement, Displacement and Migration in W and NBeG, April - September 2020



leaders to leave due to COVID-19 restrictions.¹³ In addition, the South Sudan Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster as well as FGD participants in May reported that many IDPs were also deciding to permanently leave the Wau PoC site, reportedly due to perceptions of safety and the desire to reunite with family.^{14/15}

Conversely, in NBeG, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting presence of IDPs decreased to 12% in September, possibly indicating limited movement due to flooding reducing road access.¹⁶ In assessed settlements with IDPs present, 33% were reporting that they arrived in search of better livelihood opportunities most likely due to push factors such as poor cultivation and high market prices. In September, FGD participants from Aweil East and South Counties reported that, throughout the six months prior to data collection, persistent flooding forced people to move to rural centres and higher ground. This was reportedly due to crop destruction and people who sought greater access to services, security, WASH and humanitarian food distributions. Further, participants reported that this was the second year in a row that climatic challenges had impacted their harvest season.¹⁷

Findings suggest that lack of road access and movement restrictions in general disrupted normal migration patterns throughout the lean season of June and July, impacting people who were struggling to find livelihood opportunities. IOM reported that fewer people than usual moved through

9. FGD with participants displaced from Raja County to Wau Town, September
- REACH recently conducted a market assessment in Raja county to be released early 2021

10. IOM - DTM WBeG state event tracking report, May

11. FGD with participants displaced from Jur River County to Wau Town, August

12. IOM - DTM WBeG state event tracking report, May

13. FGD participants displaced from Wau County to Wau Town, April

14. South Sudan CCCM cluster COVID-19 update, 8th - 21st June

15. FGD participants displaced from Raja County to Wau Town, May

16. FAO flood mapping, July - October

17. FGD participants displaced from Aweil East and South to Aweil Town, September

18. IOM displacement tracking report NBeG-Sudan, May

19. ICWG, IRNA, Aweil West, September

Situation Overview: Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States April - September 2020

NBeG and into Sudan, and as a result, many were affected by flooding, particularly in Aweil West in September as reported by an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) Joint flood assessment.^{18/19} Overall climatic forces in NBeG and conflict in WBeG drove movement as people sought safety, shelter and access to food throughout the reporting period.



Food Security and Livelihoods

In WBeG and NBeG, persistent flooding, the resultant poor harvest, and security concerns limited access to food across the reporting period. Overall, in September, only 39% of assessed settlements, adequate access to food was reported, representing a 14-percentage point increase since April and June (25%) (the height of the lean season) but still very low for that time of year. These findings are in line with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) food insecurity classification (IPC) projection of Phase 3 (crisis) across all counties of both states. The FEWSNET analysis concludes that food security would likely be worse in all counties if not for current or programmed humanitarian assistance. However in Jur River County, outcomes may be worse given that there is very limited humanitarian food assistance (HFA) due to access constraints and insecurity.²⁰

WBeG

In one third (33%) of assessed settlements in Jur River County where insufficient access to food had been reported in June (86%), the most commonly reported barrier to access food was crops being stolen or destroyed due to fighting. This indicator fell 12-percentage points (21%) in September but still represents a large proportion of insecurity related, food access complications, particularly as there was likely less available harvest to steal or destroy as a result of reported sub-national violence throughout the reporting period. In FGDs conducted in June with recently arrived

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in W and NBeG, September 2020

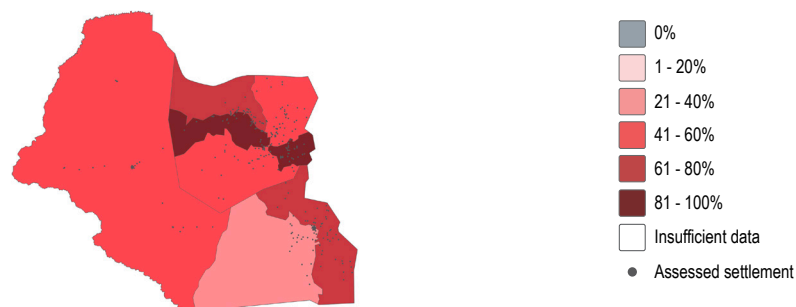


Figure 2: Proportion of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food reporting main reasons people could not access enough food in W and NBeG, September 2020²¹

	Jur River	Raja	Wau	WBeG	Aweil Centre	Aweil East	Aweil North	Aweil South	Aweil West	NBeG
Flooding	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	18%	13%	41%	33%	21%
Crops destroyed by pests	9%	0%	7%	6%	6%	10%	29%	10%	25%	15%
Crops destroyed by fighting or stolen	21%	0%	2%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Previous harvest exhausted	12%	3%	11%	9%	3%	0%	6%	0%	4%	2%
High food prices	0%	31%	28%	20%	9%	8%	3%	3%	4%	6%
Short growing season	0%	0%	0%	0%	18%	12%	6%	14%	4%	11%
Lack of rain	0%	3%	0%	1%	9%	14%	23%	10%	13%	14%
Food distribution stopped	7%	11%	15%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

IDPs from Jur River County, participants reported that they were scared to cultivate or travel to find casual labour due to fears over killings and lootings.²²

In September, in assessed settlements in Wau (28%) and Raja (30%) Counties, high prices was reportedly the main barrier to food access. In FGDs conducted with recently arrived IDPs from Wau (in May) and Raja (in August) Counties, participants reported that people could not afford essential NFIs due to the high price of food.^{23/24} Participants reported that the increase in prices was due to restricted access following COVID-19 restrictions and flooding making the roads impassable. If prices continue to increase, these difficulties can be expected to continue. In September, KIs from 59% of assessed settlements in Wau County and 47% in Raja County reported that for most people food bought from the market was the primary source of food. The REACH Joint Market Monitoring Initiative ([JMMI](#)) reported increases in the price of multi-sectoral survival minimum expenditure basket (MSSMEB) of 33% in Wau County and an average of 35% across NBeG in August, at a time when prices normally ease due to the harvest.²⁵

Due to poor harvests, market prices and insecurity, hunger has not improved as is normally expected at this time of year. In June, in almost half (41%) of assessed settlements where inadequate access to food was reported (65%) assessed settlements also experienced severe hunger. Across WBeG in September, in the majority (82%) of assessed settlements, wild foods were reportedly used as part of a main meal, which according to FGDs conducted with IDPs from Jur River in August, is irregularly high for this time of year.²⁶ Participants reported that many people are worried about what they are going to eat if the wild food dries, is too far away or too dangerous to collect.

Negative consumption coping strategies were reportedly being employed across WBeG in September. In September, in 66% and 55% of those assessed settlements where inadequate access to food was reported (47%) in Wau and Raja Counties respectively, it was reported that people were regularly skipping meals while KIs in 23% of assessed settlements in Jur River County reported that people were skipping entire days without food.

20. [FEWS.net](#) food security outcomes, September

21. Note that not all possible responses are represented, only the most common.

22. FGD Participants displaced from Jur River County to Wau Town, June

23. FGD Participants displaced from Wau County to Wau Town, May

24. FGD Participants displaced from Raja County to Wau Town, August

25. REACH [JMMI](#), September 1-7

26. FGD Participants displaced from Jur River County to Wau Town, August

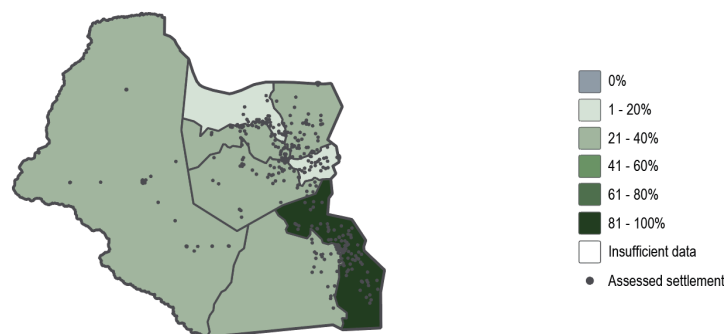
that people were skipping entire days without food. In an FGD conducted in September with IDPs from Wau County, participants reported that households were unable to employ regular coping strategies due to exhaustion of food stores (following two poor cultivations in a row), inaccessible markets and the dangers of travelling.²⁷ Finally, REACH AoK-Neighbourhoods data collected in August indicated that 8% of households in Jur River County were not consuming any cereals, animal proteins and dairy in the seven days prior to data collection and had at least one household member going an entire day and night without eating in the week prior to data collection.²⁸

NBeG

In NBeG State, households' ability to access food has seemingly been directly impacted by climatic shocks and access restrictions driving up prices and reducing livelihood opportunities. In September, FGD participants from Aweil South reported in August that hunger was higher than usual for this time of year, as usually many households would be harvesting.²⁹ Indicative of the increasingly worsening food security situation, participants also reported that the current food security situation was the worst they could remember since the Bahr el Ghazal famine of 1998.³⁰

Across NBeG in September, in over half (56%) of those assessed settlements where people were unable to access sufficient food (70%), this inaccessibility was reportedly due to the destruction of crops or pests, and in a further 15% it was reportedly due to flooding or too much rain. As a result of these climatic challenges, in 41% of assessed settlements where inability to access sufficient food had been reported in September (70%), there were reports of severe hunger, consistent with the peak of the lean season in June, likely indicating that compounding shocks have made it difficult for households to emerge from the lean season. In July and August, FGD participants recently displaced from Aweil South, reported irregular weather patterns, dry spells, late rains and flooding relatively commonly occurring since 2017 have reduced overall food stores and

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements where cultivation was reported as the main source of food, September 2020



undermined normal support networks as people do not have enough left to share.^{31/32}

Extreme consumption coping strategies were being employed across NBeG in September to mitigate against the difficult lean season, particularly in the recently severely flood affected areas of Aweil West and Aweil South Counties.³³ In September, people were reportedly skipping meals in 75% of assessed settlements in Aweil South where inadequate access to food had been reported (83%), while in 68% of those settlements, it was reported that only children would eat, and in 72% that people were relying on wild foods. An IRNA joint flood assessment conducted in September in Aweil West found that displaced households have had to limit food consumption, were unable to fish in the flood water due to lack of equipment and were cut off from other villages and markets.³⁴ This is the second year in a row flooding has greatly affected food production and consumption, with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) having recorded 21,183 tonnes of flood related cereal losses in NBeG in 2019 likely leading to the severe situation being faced by many households there at the time of writing.³⁵ Compounding this problem, in 74% of all assessed settlements in September, health problems were having at least a small impact on their ability to access food was reported, consistent with the height of the lean season in June (72%) as multiple shocks and a lean harvest season continue to complicate access to food and health facilities.

Protection

In WBeG and NBeG, perceptions of safety seemingly improved steadily, due to the expected seasonal reduction in sub-national violence and cattle raiding, through the wet season. In WBeG, in Raja and Wau Counties (WBeG), the proportion of assessed settlements where most people reportedly felt safe most of the time increased from 35% in January to 71% in September. In NBeG the proportion of KIs in assessed settlements where most people reportedly felt safe most of the time increased from 11% in January to 43% in September. Participants in FGDs conducted with recently displaced people from Wau County (June) and Aweil East and South (April) reported that (with the exception of Jur River) sub-national violence has largely reduced, which was to be expected during the wet season. Participants added that reported displacement during this time was likely caused by climatic events and livelihood seeking migration as opposed to security concerns.^{36/37}

In April in only 3% of assessed settlements in Jur River County it was reported that most people felt safe most of the time which has remained consistent up to September (6%). Furthermore, in September in one third (33%) of assessed settlements, there had reportedly been conflict in which a civilian had been killed in the month prior to data collection and in over half (58%) of assessed settlements there had reportedly been incidents of property looting in the month prior to data collection. In 25% of those assessed settlements in Jur River where difficulties to accessing water

27. FGD Participants from Wau County displaced to Wau Town, September

28. REACH AoK-Neighbourhoods data, Jur River County, August

29. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil South to Aweil Town, August

30. 1998 Famine in Sudan, [Human rights watch](#)

31. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil South to Aweil Town, July

32. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil South to Aweil Town, August

33. FAO flood mapping, July - October

34. ICWG, IRNA, Aweil West, September

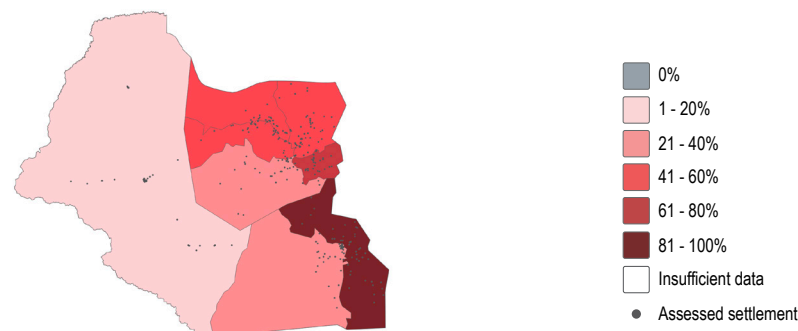
35. FAO flood mapping, July - October 2019

36. FGD Participants displaced from Wau County to Wau Town, June

37. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil East and South to Aweil Town, April

had been reported in September, KIs reported that this was mainly due to safety and security concerns. In June, FGD participants from Jur River County reported that continued feelings of insecurity were largely caused by sub-national violence within the county and were often due to migrating cattle keeping communities from Warrap state.³⁸

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements where it was reported that most people were not feeling safe most of the time, September 2020

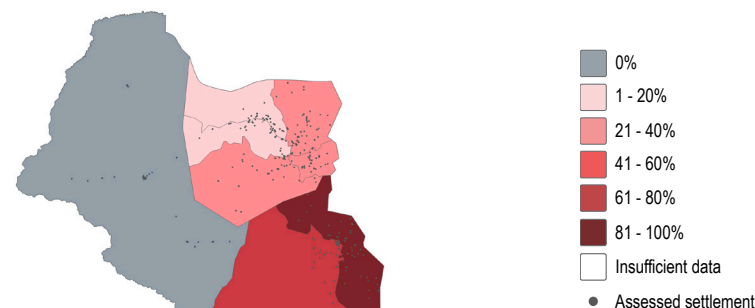


Early marriage fears for both girls and boys remained consistent across the reporting period, suggesting that early marriage is likely still being used as a mitigating factor or coping mechanism to help with the difficult financial conditions being faced in many parts of the region.³⁹ In almost one quarter (23%) of assessed settlements across both states, early marriage was reportedly the main safety concern for girls, whilst in September it was similar at 18%. Likewise, early marriage was also reportedly the main safety concern for boys in April (13%) and September (8%). The most food insecure county of both WBeG and NBeG, Aweil South (where in 82% of assessed settlements inadequate access to food had been reported in September) is also the county with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where fears of early marriage had been reported, where in 41% of assessed settlements in September early marriage was reportedly the main safety concern for girls. In September, in FGDs with recently arrived IDPs from Aweil Centre, participants reported that early marriage often increases predominantly as a response to poverty.⁴⁰



Findings suggest that flooding, supply and access issues coupled with high market prices have made it difficult for households in WBeG and NBeG to maintain good levels of hygiene and mitigate against COVID-19.

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlement where it was reported that most people were using an unprotected water source, September 2020



In September, in almost three quarters (70%) of assessed settlements, people reportedly did not wash their hands with soap, which has remained consistent across the reporting period since April. Even though, in September, in 100% of assessed settlements, most people had reportedly heard of COVID-19 and in 93% of assessed settlements people had reportedly learned how to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the virus. Despite this, participants from FGDs conducted between July and September in both NBeG and WBeG reported that COVID-19 restrictions and mitigating measures, such as hand washing and social distancing, were not being followed or taken seriously.⁴¹ Further, data collected in September through an AoK assessment pertaining to rumours highlighted that (as it has throughout the reporting period) most people do not believe COVID-19 can affect them or that it is no more dangerous than a normal flu.⁴²

The most food insecure counties of WBeG and NBeG were also reported to face WASH-related challenges most commonly. In September in Jur River County, in over a third (35%) of assessed settlements the main source of drinking water was reportedly a pond, swamp or river; an 11 percentage point increase since April. In assessed settlements in Jur River, there was a 12 percentage point decrease in reported usage of soap from 13% in April to just 2% in September. In Aweil South, over the same period, the proportion of assessed settlements where soap usage was reported fell by 20 percentage points from 33% to 13%. Participants in FGDs displaced from Aweil South reported in August that many people were unable to afford essential NFIs such as soap, whilst an IRNA conducted in Aweil West in September found that poor hygiene practices were being observed in all areas of the county increasing the risk of diarrhea and COVID-19.^{43/44}

38. FGD Participants displaced from Jur River County to Wau Town, June

39. Rapid gender analysis on [COVID-19](#), May

40. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil centre to Aweil Town, September

41. FGD IDP Participants held across both states, July - September

42. REACH rumour tracking, September

43. FGD Participants displaced from Aweil South to Aweil Town, August

44. ICWG, IRNA, Aweil West, September

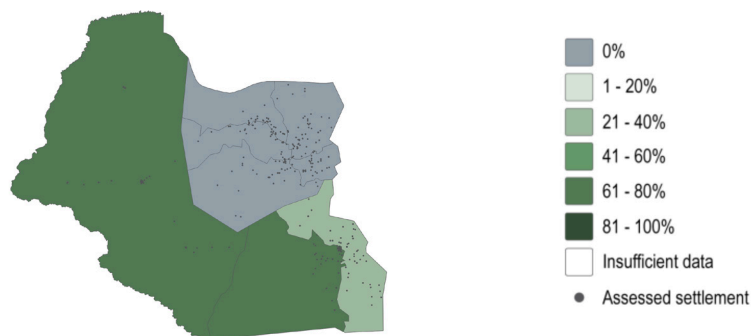
Health

Overall in W and NBeG in September, in half (48%) of assessed settlements people reportedly took between one hour and half a day by foot to reach health care facilities. In September, in those assessed settlements in Jur River from where people could reportedly walk to a health facility (87%), the most commonly reported barriers to accessing healthcare services were distance (16% of settlements), no medication available (11%), no healthcare workers (11%) and accessing such a facility being too insecure (9%). In FGDs conducted with recently displaced people in Wau (July) and Aweil South (August) Counties, participants reported that health issues have been complicated this lean and wet season due to medicine being unable to reach the settlement coupled with individuals being unable to reach health facilities.^{45/46} As a result, participants reported that people have been dying from curable diseases such as malaria and typhoid. In addition to malaria (38%), in assessed settlements across WBeG and NBeG in September coughing (22%) was the reported main perceived health problem for people in the settlement, putting communities at risk of COVID-19.

Education

Findings from FGDs conducted across the reporting period in both WBeG and NBeG confirm that schools have been closed in NBeG with only limited services operating in WBeG since the onset of the COVID-19 restrictions in April.⁴⁷ In 52% of assessed settlements in WBeG, KIs reported that education services were available within walking distance from the settlement.

Map 7: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported people are able to reach education services by foot, September 2020



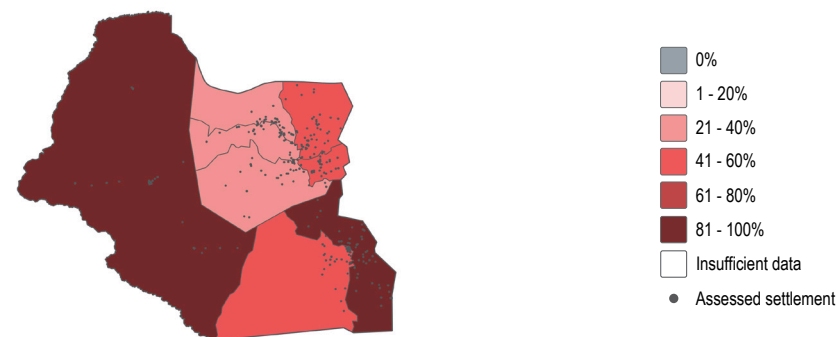
These findings are in line with government announcements indicating the reopening of some classes in September. Although issues pointed out in FGDs conducted with IDPs from Wau (April) and Aweil South (July) highlighted how there are many other barriers to education access. For girls, the main barriers reported were early pregnancy, early marriage and the need to work and for boys they were the need to work, lack of desire and 'joined military forces'.^{48/49}

Shelter/ NFI

Reliable access to shelter for IDPs varied by population group across states. In September, in 71% of the assessed settlements in WBeG where presence of IDPs was reported (16%) people were reportedly living in tukuls (similar to April when it was 67%). Whilst in NBeG in 85% of assessed settlements with the presence of IDPs in September, the most commonly reported main shelter type was reportedly 'less solid structures' such as rakoobas or improvised shelters. This represents a 23 percentage point increase since June (when the flooding began in much of the state).

Reporting on essential NFI needs was consistent across the region for the reporting period, in assessed settlements where there was presence of IDPs in September (14%), IDPs' greatest NFI needs were reportedly plastic sheets (38% of assessed settlements), mosquito nets (13%), blankets (13%), soap (10%) and torches (9%). FGDs conducted in September with participants from Wau county reported that people can access markets but due to high prices are unable to afford essential NFIs, as they are likely to have to prioritise food for now.⁵⁰ An IRNA for Aweil West conducted in August found that flood affected populations were especially in need of mosquito nets due to the high number of malaria cases there as well as plastic sheets for shelter and sleeping mats.⁵¹

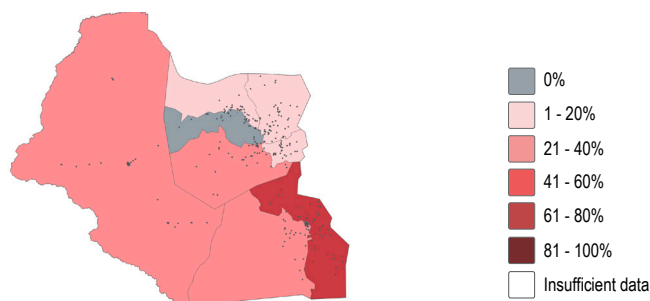
Map 8: Proportion of assessed settlements with IDP presence where NFI distributions had reportedly not occurred in the three months prior to data collection, September 2020





Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Map 9: Proportion of assessed settlements where humanitarian assistance had reportedly not been received in the six months prior to data collection, September 2020



In line with previously outlined concerns and difficulties in delivery, the most commonly reported need in assessed settlements in September in WBeG and NBeG was WASH (30%) followed by health (15%) and livelihoods (12%). In September, 48% of assessed settlements had reportedly received humanitarian assistance in the 30 days prior to data collection. In Jur River County, WBeG however, humanitarian assistance had reportedly been received in only 16% of assessed settlements, likely due to the complicated security situation. Conversely almost all (88%) of the assessed settlements in NBeG had access to humanitarian assistance in September, likely in response to the climatic shocks faced by people across the state.

In September, in almost half (45%) of assessed settlements that had reportedly received aid in the month prior to data collection (71%), people were reportedly generally satisfied, a 15-percentage point increase since April (30% of 62% of assessed settlements that had received aid). Furthermore, in assessed settlements with protection issues (6%) in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, REACH's Accountability to Affected Populations [factsheet](#) from September found that all (100%) KIs indicated "intimidation by authorities" as the main concern with humanitarian assistance in NBeG.⁵²

Conclusion

The situation across W and NBeG seems to be more difficult than would normally be expected at this time of year. This combination of poor food security and livelihoods and WASH outcomes could potentially drive nutrition needs in the future. Further, the impacts of flooding, poor harvest and inter-communal violence (particularly in Jur River County) has likely extended this year's lean season and left many communities still with depleted food stocks, which is of particular concern in Aweil South.

This has impacted access to livelihoods, food and essential NFIs across both states. Whilst across the entirety of NBeG, many assessed settlements have struggled with accessing enough food. In light of these factors, combined with continued access restrictions due to COVID-19, the population will likely require humanitarian assistance to meet both food and basic services needs across W and NBeG.

About REACH Initiative

REACH Initiative 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. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

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