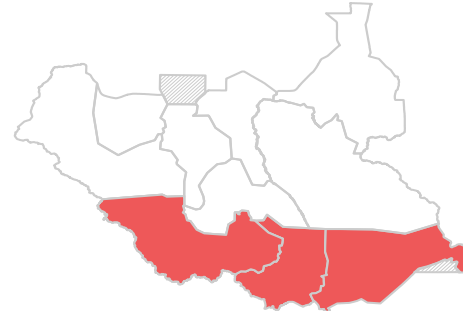


HUMANITARIAN SITUATION MONITORING

Greater Equatoria Region (GER)

November 2022 - March 2023 | South Sudan



SITUATION OVERVIEW

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Greater Equatoria Region (GER) is in the Green Belt, Ironstone Plateau, Arid, Hills, and mountains agroecological zones. The region borders the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. In GER, rain-fed subsistence farming and rearing livestock are the predominant livelihood activities conducted in the region.¹ Between November 2022 and March 2023, **communities in GER faced various shocks and stressors, including inflation, drought in Greater Kapoeta², displacements, and returns, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, and conflicts along South Sudan and CAR borders.³**

Findings from the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) indicate that **conflicts in Central Equatoria State (CES) and Eastern Equatoria State (EES) between cattle herders and host communities had resulted in killings, large displacement, and hindered access to livelihood activities – especially farming.⁴** In addition, conflicts along South Sudan borders and CAR resulted in displaced communities in Tambura County, Western Equatoria State (WES), and likely to disrupt border trade and the livelihood of the displaced population.⁵

Indicative of the prolonged droughts in Greater Kapoeta, and seemingly worst in Kapoeta East County, findings from an inter-agency assessment mission in Jie Payam suggest **displacement due to severe food and water shortages.⁶** Additionally, reported bush fire in Budi, Lafon, and Torit counties destroyed farms, shelters, and granaries and could exacerbate the food security situation for people in these counties.⁷

Findings from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicate that the food security situation was projected to **improve slightly between December 2022 and March 2023 in GER.** Nevertheless, as a result of conflicts, high food prices, and prolonged droughts which affected livestock and crop production, Kapoeta East, and Kapoeta North counties were classified in emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 17 counties in crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity classification. Additionally, EES (46%) had a notably higher population facing a crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity compared to CES (35%) and WES (21%).⁸ To support humanitarian actors' understanding of the complex dynamics of vulnerability, shocks, needs, and coping capacities in Greater Equatoria, REACH has been monitoring the humanitarian situation in hard-to-reach areas since 2015 (refer to page 2 for more details).

KEY MESSAGES

- Findings from the Area of Knowledge (AoK) suggest that the **reported presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained relatively stable in WES and CES compared to EES in March 2023.** This is consistent with findings from UNOCHA which indicate a slight increase in the population of IDPs living in GER from 617,000 people in November 2022 to 655,000 people in March 2023.⁹ Additionally, displacement was more localized within habitual states and the push factors for displacement were related to conflicts, lack of access to water, and seasonal movement.
- Across GER, **reported conflicts that affected the lives of people in the assessed settlements varied. Conflict-related gender-based violence, violent crimes, cattle raids, and attacks by armed groups against civilians or properties** were the most reported conflicts in March 2023. The reported conflict corresponds with UNOCHA's reports which suggest that conflicts between cattle herders and host communities resulted in killings, large displacement, and limited access to livelihood activities and consequently remained a key driver of humanitarian needs in CES and EES.¹⁰
- AoK data indicate that **reported access to food was relatively lower in CES and EES compared to WES in March 2023. Depleted stock, unusually high prices, crops being destroyed by pests, lack of rain, and insecurity** were the most reported reasons for inadequate access to food. This is consistent with the November 2022 IPC report which suggests climatic shocks, conflicts, and macro-economic crises as key drivers of food insecurity.¹¹
- Reported **access to healthcare services remained relatively low between November 2022 and March 2023.** Reported lack of medication, lack of healthcare workers, and distant health facilities were the most reported barriers to accessing health services in March 2023.

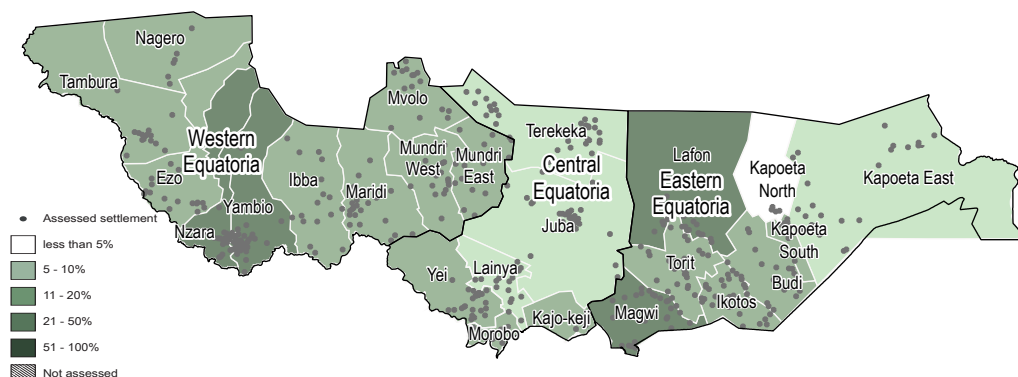
METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

To provide an overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of GER, REACH uses primary data from KIs who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). This situation overview is built on an analysis of monthly data that was collected by REACH enumerators through structured key informant interviews conducted with KIs knowledgeable about a hard-to-reach settlement throughout GER from November 2022 to March 2023. The analysis of the Regional Situation Overview (RSO) for this round focused primarily on a comparative approach between November 2022 and March 2023 to analyze potential trends on a six-month timeline and where possible, findings were triangulated with secondary sources to provide an objective analysis.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted throughout the month using a structured survey tool. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal or most credible response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.¹

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements in each month were included in the analysis.² 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 Payam³ coverage throughout the period of analysis. Furthermore, findings are not generalisable and should be considered indicative of the situation in assessed areas, unless specified otherwise. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK Terms of References](#).

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of GER, March 2023



SHOCKS & STRESSORS

Reported impacts of shocks on livelihood **slightly decreased between November 2022 (reported in 27% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (16%)**. The apparent decrease in the reported impact of shocks on livelihood could be related to seasonality in which November – March seems drier with improved access to livelihood activities such as hunting, fishing, and markets.⁴

Potentially linked to reported drought and armed conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, **reported impacts of shocks on livelihood were relatively high in CES (reported in 30% of assessed settlements) and EES (22%)** compared to WES (0%).

Of those who reported shocks impacting livelihood, unusually high prices (reported in 32% of assessed settlements), conflict (23%), and drought (20%) were the most reported shocks in March 2023. Subsequently, the proportion of assessed settlements where conflicts had reportedly impacted livelihoods in the month prior to data collection was relatively high in Kajo-keji (100%), Budi (75%), Ikotos (50%), Yei (40%), Juba (33%), and Torit (33%) counties. The apparent reported impact of shocks on livelihood could reduce income and exacerbate vulnerability to food insecurity and basic needs such as health and shelter.

In addition to that, **reports from the IPC suggest an estimated 1.26 million people in GER facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between December 2022 and March 2023**. Potentially due to chronic vulnerabilities and destitution which has been worsened by drought, macro-economic crisis, and conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, 257,000 people were projected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and one million people facing a crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity between December 2022 and March 2023.⁵

Protection incidents

Across GER, conflict-related gender-based violence (reported in 13% of assessed settlements), violent crimes (9%), and cattle raids (6%) were the most reported conflicts in March 2023. Additionally, **reported attacks on residents and property remained high in CES (13%)** compared to EES (0%) and WES (0%) in March 2023.⁶ Additionally, Kajo-keji (32%) and Lainya (40%) counties were the most reported areas in which KIs reported attacks on residents and property in March 2023. Consistent with UNOCHA reports, AoK findings suggest that reported fighting between armed groups was notably high in Ibba County in March 2023.⁷ The reported conflicts could result in limited access to livelihood and disrupted access to markets and farmlands.

Displacement and return

Findings suggest that the **reported presence of IDPs remained relatively stable in WES (64%) and CES (37%) compared to 19% in EES in March 2023**.⁸ This is consistent with findings from UNOCHA which indicate a slight increase in the population of IDPs living in GER from 617,000 people in November 2022 to 655,000 people in March 2023.⁹

Of those who reported the presence of IDPs, KIs in 81% of assessed settlements reported that IDPs arrived in the assessed settlements three or more months prior to data collection. Additionally, displacement was more localized within habitual states and the region. In CES, Juba (29%), Morobo (20%), Kajo-keji (15%), EES – Magwi (23%), Torit (23%), and Ikotos (15%), and WES – Tambura (67%) and Maridi (10%) were the most reported counties of displacement. Furthermore, in March 2023, the push factors for displacement were related to conflicts (78%), lack of access to water (9%), and seasonal movement (7%).

Consistent with findings from the inter-agency assessment on Jie Payam in Kapoeta East County from the 1st to 4th of March 2023, KIs in 33% of assessed settlements reported a lack of access to water as the push factor for displacement. The apparent high reported presence of IDPs in GER could strain available resources and deplete food stock prior to the start of the lean season (May – July).

The proportion of assessed settlements where KIs **reported the presence of IDP returnees remained stable and similar between November 2022 (reported in 42% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (42%)**. Reported IDP returnees were most commonly in Tambura (88%), Magwi (73%), Lafon (71%), Ikotos (70%), and Ezo (70%) counties. Nevertheless, findings from the protection cluster assessment in Tambura suggest that there's limited access to basic services in the areas of return and a lack of transportation for safe and dignified return.¹

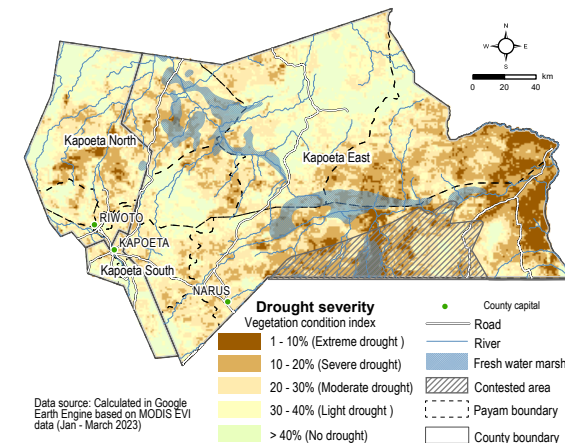
Similarly, reported presence of refugee returnees remained relatively stable between November 2022 (50%) and March 2023 (44%). Nonetheless, **reported presence of refugee returnees increased in EES from 47% in November 2022 to 60% in March 2023**. Furthermore, reported refugee returnees was high and stable in CES between November 2022 and March 2023 (60% in both months). This is consistent with findings from the United Nations Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), which suggest a slight increase in refugee returnees in GER from 372,028 people in November 2022 to 374,693 people in December 2022. Additionally, **reports from UNHCR indicate that lack of access to basic services and limited employment and livelihood opportunities were the push factors for leaving the previous countries. In contrast, the perceived improved security situation in South Sudan and reuniting with family members were the most common pull factors for returns.**² Furthermore, KIs in 60% and 25% of assessed settlements reported the arrival of refugee returnees in a month prior to data collection in CES and EES, respectively. However, findings from the Research & Evidence Facility (REF) suggest that returns to South Sudan are more pendular³ movements.⁴ Likely due to GER's location along the border, AoK findings suggest Uganda (75%), Kenya (12%), and DRC (10%) as the most reported previous countries for refugees.

Climatical shocks

Across GER, reported shocks impacting agriculture decreased from 26% in November 2022 to 9% in March 2023.⁵ Of those who reported shocks impacting agriculture, **pests and diseases (reported in 39% of assessed settlements), drought (39%), and conflict (12%) were the most reported shocks that impacted agriculture in March 2023**.

Potentially linked to the reported prolonged drought in Kapoeta East County, findings from the inter-agency assessment mission in Jie and Kassengor Payams in Kapoeta East County from the 1st to 4th of March 2023 suggest distress migration due to lack of water and food.⁶ The lack of access to water and food could have a devastating effect on the health of those in a vulnerable position, especially lactating, pregnant women, and children. Additionally, KIs in 6% and 8% of assessed settlements **reported bushfires as a reason for inadequate access to food in Lafon and Torit counties**, respectively.⁷ With the lean season approaching with depleted food stock and poor road conditions limiting access to markets, the reported bushfire could deteriorate food security and increase the vulnerability of people in the reported counties.

Map 2: Drought severity in Greater Kapoeta, January - March 2023⁸



Macroeconomics

The compounding effects of inflation continues to exacerbate humanitarian conditions in GER. Findings from the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) **indicate an increase in South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) - United State Dollar (USD) exchange rate**. The SSP - USD exchange rate increased from 616 SSP per 1 USD in November 2022 to 781 SSP per 1 USD in March 2023.⁹ Subsequently linked to the apparent increase in the SSP – USD exchange rate, prices of basic goods and services skyrocketed in March 2023 which could erode purchasing power and limit access to food, especially for market-dependent assessed settlement.¹⁰ The depreciation of SSP and the rising cost of fuel could limit access to basic services and increase humanitarian needs in GER.

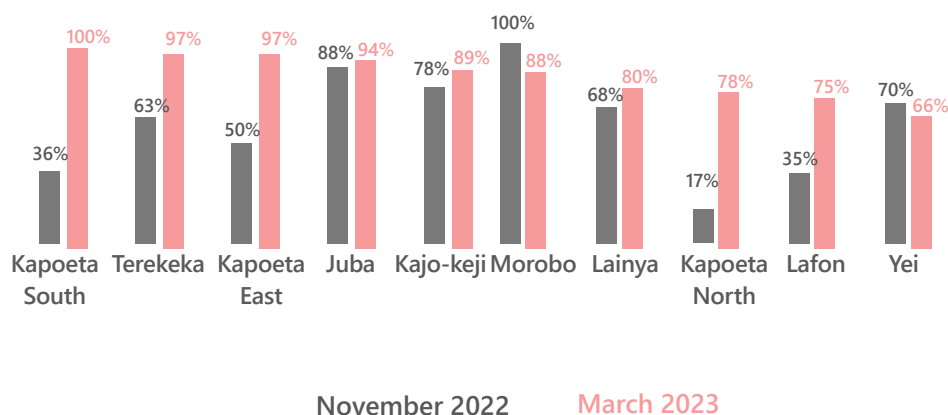
ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS & SERVICES

Availability, access, and consumption of food

Across GER, **reported access to enough food remained relatively stable between November 2022 (reported in 68% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (59%)**. The reportedly stable access to enough food in GER is consistent with findings from the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) which indicate an increase in cereal production in 2022.¹ Thanks to the reliable rainfall, availability of land, and agricultural inputs which likely resulted in better harvests and availability of pasture for livestock.²

Despite reported access to enough food across GER, **CES (14%) and EES (47%) reportedly had notably lower reported access to enough food in March 2023**.³ Of those who reported inadequate access to food in March 2023 (41%), depleted stock (27%), unusually high prices (17%), crops being destroyed by pests (14%), lack of rain (10%), and insecurity (10%) were the most reported reasons for limited access to enough food. Likely because of limited access to enough food, KIs in 69% and 73% of assessed settlements reported hunger being severe in CES and EES, respectively. The reported inadequate access to food could affect food consumption and utilization, particularly for those in a more vulnerable position. Reported rising inflation and conflicts could impact the food security and livelihood activities of people in the assessed settlements.

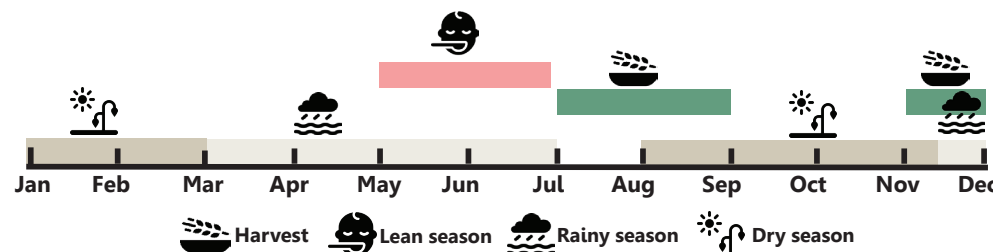
Figure 1: Top ten counties in GER where KIs reported most people were unable to access enough food, November 2022 - March 2023.



In March 2023, the most reported food sources* across the region were markets (77%), cultivation (64%), forage (27%), social networks (27%), and own livestock (21%). Moreover, reported livestock⁴ as a food source was notably high in Kapoeta North (78%), Kapoeta South (90%), and Kapoeta East (94%) however this could be challenging with the reported drought which seemingly impacted the availability of pasture for livestock in Greater Kapoeta.⁵

Potentially linked to seasonality, **reported engagement in cultivation decreased from 83% in November 2022 to 45% in March 2023**.⁶ Of those who reported that people engaged in cultivation, KIs in 70% and 62% of assessed settlements reported that people had access to seeds and agricultural tools, respectively. Additionally, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people had access to land for cultivation remained notably high between November 2022 (98%) and March 2023 (97%). AoK findings suggest that reported cattle ownership was notably high in EES (reported in 47% of assessed settlements) compared to CES (12%), and WES (5%). The apparent high reported cattle ownership in EES could be due to the people's livelihood activities - more people prefer livestock to cultivation in some counties of EES.

Figure 2: Seasonal calendar, Greater Equatoria - Green Belt agroecological zone.



Access to markets and barriers

During the reporting period (November 2022 – March 2023), **reported access to markets remained very high between November 2022 (reported in 100% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (100%)**. Despite reported market access, KIs in almost half (49%) of the assessed settlements reported that people experienced challenges while accessing markets in March 2023.

Of those who reported barriers, long distances (reported in 89% of assessed settlements), lack of transportation (78%), and poor road conditions (40%) were the most reported.⁷ Indicative of the persistent inflation in South Sudan, **unusually high prices of goods (reported in 88% of assessed settlements), unavailability of some goods (56%), and lower quality of some goods (33%) were reported as barriers faced at the market in March 2023**.⁸ The reported unavailability of goods at the market and unusually high prices could worsen with the lean season approaching which likely exacerbates humanitarian needs across GER.

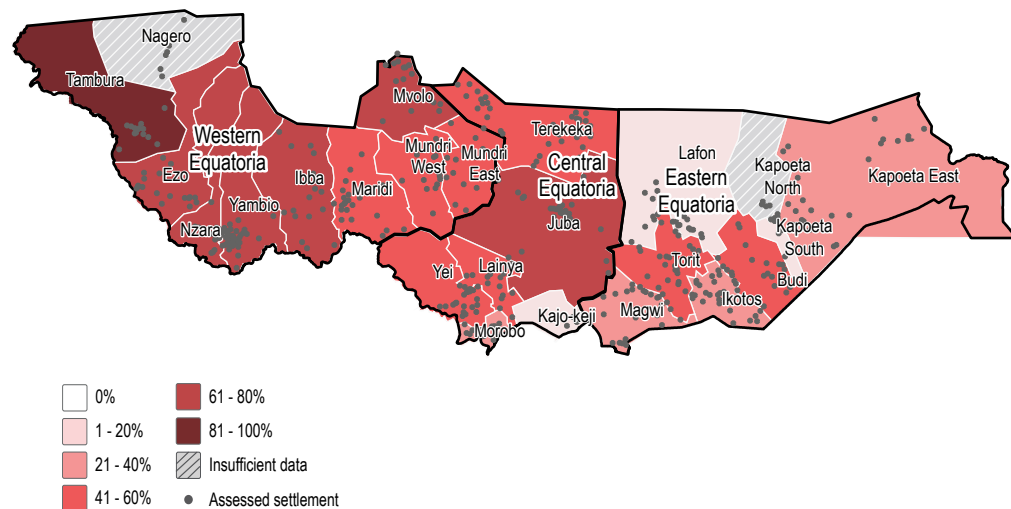
* KIs could select multiple-choice options.

Access to water sources and barriers

Overall, **reported boreholes as the main water source increased from 1% in November 2022 to 44% in March 2023**. The apparent increase in reported boreholes as the main water source could be due to increasing hydrogeological pressure because of relative rainfall that supported the availability of underground water.¹ Nonetheless, likely due to the proximity and availability of open water and unprotected wells, KIs in 21% and 22% of assessed settlements reported open water and unprotected wells as the main water sources, respectively. Furthermore, KIs in 15% of assessed settlements reported that people spent a long time of one hour to half day to access water. The apparent longer time spent accessing water could have a negative impact on food utilization and livelihoods.

In GER, **reported perception of safety concerns while accessing preferred water sources remained low between November 2022 (reported in 4% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (4%)**. Nevertheless, KIs in assessed settlements in Lainya (20%), Kapoeta North (11%), and Ikotos (10%) counties reported that people felt unsafe while accessing their preferred water sources in March 2023. The reported perception of feeling unsafe to access preferred water sources could be related to ethnic conflicts, multiple cattle raids, and armed conflicts between cattle herders and host communities in some counties of Eastern and Central Equatoria states.²

Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements in GER where KIs reported unprotected water sources as the main drinking water sources, March 2023.



Access, use, and barriers to latrines

Across GER, **reported access to and use of latrines remained consistently low between November 2022 (reported in 31% of assessed settlements) and March 2023 (22%)**. Potentially linked to cultural reasons and livelihood activities of the communities – especially pastoralism, KIs reported limited access to and use of latrines in CES (22%) and EES (48%).³ In March, **lack of latrines (reported in 40% of assessed settlements), cultural-related reasons (21%), and damage to latrines (15%) were the most reported barriers limiting access to and use of latrines**. In addition to the low access to and use of latrines, reported handwashing remained low between November 2022 and March 2023. KIs in 44% of assessed settlements reported that people washed their hands with water only and 15% reported that people did not wash their hands. Reported use of unimproved water sources, low access to and use of latrines, and poor handwashing practices could result in waterborne diseases.

Access to health services and limitations

AoK Findings suggest that **reported access to a primary health care center (39%) and primary health care unit (40%), and a functional hospital (15%) were consistently lower between November 2022 and March 2023 (26% reported primary health care center, 48% reported primary health care unit and 19% reported a functional hospital)**. Additionally, reported lack of medication (81%), lack of health-care workers (49%), distant health facilities (32%), and overcrowding at the health facilities (29%) were the most reported barriers to accessing health services in March 2023. Reflective of the armed conflicts across CES and EES, KIs in assessed settlements reported insecurity close to the health facilities as a barrier to accessing health services in Yei (53%), Lainya (36%), Kapoeta East (27%), and Juba (13%) counties. Indicative of the distant health facilities, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people spent from one hour to half a day accessing health facilities was notably high in Terekeke (63%), Kapoeta East (57%), Morobo (50%), and Yambio (40%) counties. The longer time spent accessing health facilities could influence decision-making processes while seeking health services.

Perception of safety and access to protection services

Findings suggest that people's perception of safety most of the time increased from 63% in November 2022 to 76% in March 2023. On the contrary reported **feeling of safety was relatively low** in Lainya (33%), Kajo-keji (43%), Juba (50%), Morobo (50%), and Budi (54%) counties. The apparently low perception of safety could be due to conflicts between armed cattle herders and farmers which likely reduced the perception of safety for most people in EES and CES. This is consistent with the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) which recorded 31 armed clashes, 44 attacks on civilians, and 4 incidences of looting and destruction of property across GER between November 2022 and March 2023.⁴ AoK findings indicate that alcohol usage (reported in 42% of assessed settlements) and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV - 43%) were the most reported protection concern for boys and women, respectively.

COPING & ADAPTATION

In March 2023, CES and EES stood out on the reported use of extreme coping strategies. KIs in 14% and 7% of assessed settlements reported that people skipped entire days without food before data collection in CES and EES, respectively.¹ Mitigating food consumption gaps by use of extreme and unsustainable coping strategies may imply deteriorating food security conditions which could affect health and recovery and likely worsen with the lean season approaching (refer to figure 3 below).

Figure 3: Food consumption coping strategies reportedly used by people in the settlements in the month prior to data collection in March 2023.²

	WES	CES	EES
Reliance on less preferred and less expensive food	Medium	High	Medium
Reduction of portion size at meal times	Very high	High	Medium
Reduction in the number of meals eaten per day	Very high	High	Medium
Adults restricting food consumption so that children could eat	Very low	Low	Very low
Skipping entire days without eating	Very low	Low	Very low

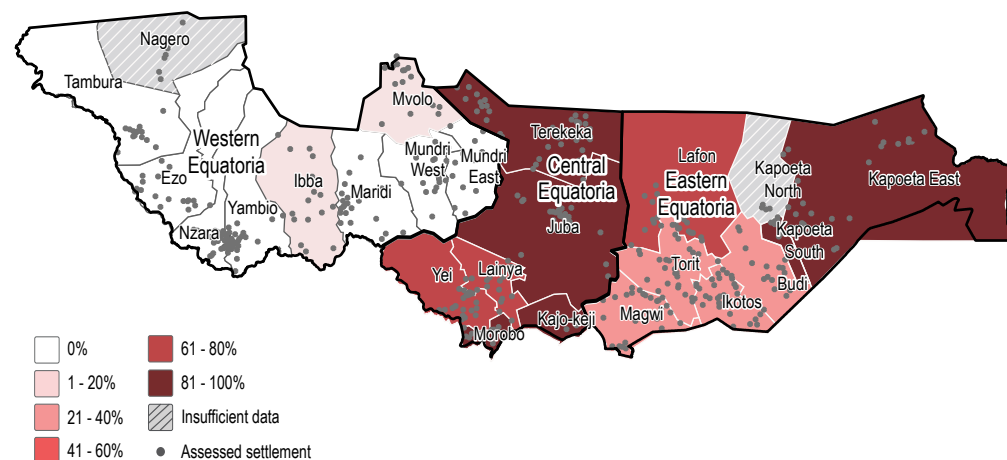
Overall, the proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people engaged in unsustainable livelihood strategies to cope with a lack of food varied in March 2023 (see details in the table below). Additionally, employing these crisis coping strategies has a negative impact on communities' ability to recover from shocks as it erodes. Note that the lack of KIs and/or low proportions of KIs reporting liquidation of assets may be due to communities having exhausted the possibility of employing these strategies, rather than not needing them in the first place (see figure 4).

Figure 4: Livelihood coping strategies reportedly used by people in the settlements in the month prior to data collection in March 2023.²

	WES	CES	EES
Begging food or money to buy food expensive food	Very high	Very low	Very low
Consuming seeds meant for the next planting season	Medium	Low	Low
Selling productive assets	Very low	Low	Low
Slaughtering more livestock than usual	Very low	Very low	Medium

Indicative of reported inadequate access to enough food (see map 4 below), the use of extreme food consumption and crisis livelihood coping strategies were more common in CES and EES.

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements in GER where KIs reported most people were unable to access enough food, March 2023.



CONCLUSION

Findings suggest that from November 2022 to March 2023, **humanitarian needs were driven by various shocks such as conflicts between armed cattle herders and farmers, persistent economic shocks due to inflation, new arrivals, prolonged drought in EES, and reported inadequate access to food in CES.** The reported localized conflicts have likely disrupted access to livelihood opportunities, markets, and farmland for assessed settlements and KIs reported people employing extreme coping strategies such as skipping entire days without food to cope with consumption gaps. In addition, the multiple shocks could generate a high level of humanitarian needs across GER and are likely to deteriorate during the lean season (May – July). Moreover, reported unusually high prices of fuel, food, and basic needs could reduce purchasing power and limit access to services and could worsen during the rainy season with poor road conditions. With the lean season approaching, **access to enough food could worsen in Greater Kapoeta, Terekeka, Juba, Kajo-keji, Morobo, Lainya, Kapoeta North, Lafon, and Yei counties.** In addition, the reported prolonged drought in Kapoeta East County resulted in distress migration due to water and food shortages.

ENDNOTES

PAGE 1

¹ FEWS Net. [Livelihood Zone Map and Description for the Republic of South Sudan. 2018](#)

² Greater Kapoeta consists of Kapoeta South, Kapoeta North, and Kapoeta East counties.

³ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023; Association for Catholic Information in Africa, Centenary celebrations launch for South Sudanese catholic parish postponed amid insecurity, 28 April 2023; UNMISS, Human Rights Division, brief on violence affecting civilians, January – March 2023.](#)

⁴ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, November 2022; UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023](#)

⁵ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023; Association for Catholic Information in Africa, Centenary celebrations launch for South Sudanese catholic parish postponed amid insecurity, 28 April 2023; UNMISS, Human Rights Division, brief on violence affecting civilians, January – March 2023.](#)

⁶ IRNA report, South Sudan, Jie Payam, Kapoeta East County, Eastern Equatoria State, March 2023; [Radio Tamazuj. Drought and hunger drive the Jie out of their homes, 2 March 2023; Africa Press, four starve to death in drought – hit Kapoeta East, 21 February 2023; Africa Press, thousands scramble for limited water in Kapoeta East County, 21 March 2023.](#)

⁷ [Radio Tamazuj. Fire destroys over 200 houses, granaries in Lafon County, 21 February 2023; Radio Tamazuj. Eastern Equatoria declares emergencies in Lafon, Budi, and Kapoeta East counties, 27 February 2023;](#)

[USAID, South Sudan, Complex Emergency, Factsheet #3, Fiscal Year 2023, 31 March, 2023.](#)

⁸ [IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2022.](#)

⁹ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, November 2022; UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023](#)

¹⁰ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, November 2022; UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023; UNMISS, Human Rights Division, brief on violence affecting civilians, January – March 2023](#)

¹¹ [IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2022.](#)

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¹ Note that the number of KIs interviewed per month per settlement varied depending on accessibility and teams' capacity. From November 2022 – March 2023, between one to four surveys were collected per month per settlement.

² 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.

³ Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

⁴ [FEWS Net. Livelihood Zone Map and Description for the Republic of South Sudan. 2018](#)

⁵ [IPC. South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2022.](#)

⁶ The Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) recorded 31 armed clashes, 44 attacks on civilians, and 4 incidences of looting and destruction of property across GER between November 2022 and March 2023. Note that ACLED compiles data on "political violence." ACLED data is compiled using open sources and is not exhaustive. Rather, for the purposes of this situation overview, it should be considered indicative of conflict trends.

⁷ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023; UNMISS, Human Rights Division, brief on violence affecting civilians, January – March 2023](#)

⁸ [Radio Tamazuj. Over 800 IDPs from Central Equatoria arrive in Mundri, 15 February 2023.](#)

⁹ [UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, November 2022; UNOCHA, South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2023](#)

PAGE 3

¹ [Protection Cluster, South Sudan, Western Equatoria \(Yambio, Tambura, and Ezo counties\) protection report, March 2023; RURUGENE, South Sudan, returnees in dire need of food assistance, Tambura County, WES, 20 March 2023; Research & Evidence Facility, South Sudan's decades of displacement: understanding return and questioning reintegration, January 2023.](#)

² [UNHCR, South Sudan, overview of spontaneous Refugee returns, November 2022](#); [UNHCR, South Sudan, overview of spontaneous Refugee returns, December 2022](#); [IOM-DTM, South Sudan, Return and reintegration survey in South Sudan's former breadbasket, CES, Kajo-keji, Morobo, Lainya, and Yei counties, 9 March 2023](#).

³ This refers to a situation in which refugee returnee households have temporarily returned to their areas of origin with the intention of crossing the border again after a few months.

⁴ [Research & Evidence Facility, South Sudan's decades of displacement: understanding return and questioning reintegration, January 2023](#).

⁵ The reported decrease in shocks impacting agriculture is related to seasonality – most people have reliance on rain-fed agriculture and between November – March, there's inadequate or no rainfall.

⁶ IRNA report, South Sudan, Jie Payam, Kapoeta East County, Eastern Equatoria State, March 2023; [Radio Tamazuj, Drought and hunger drive the Jie out of their homes, 2 March 2023](#); [Africa Press, four starve to death in drought – hit Kapoeta East, 21 February 2023](#); [Africa Press, thousands scramble for limited water in Kapoeta East County, 21 March 2023](#).

⁷ [Radio Tamazuj, Fire destroys over 200 houses, granaries in Lafon County, 21 February 2023](#); [Radio Tamazuj, Eastern Equatoria declares emergencies in Lafon, Budi, and Kapoeta East counties, 27 February 2023](#).

⁸ MODIS EVI data, January – March 2023.

⁹ [REACH, South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) 1-7 November 2022](#); [REACH, South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) 1-7 March 2023](#)

¹⁰ [REACH, South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) Dashboard March 2023](#); [ClIMIS South Sudan, "Exchange Rate." Source: FAO, Accessed 31 May 2023](#); [WFP, South Sudan Situation Report #310, 28 February 2023](#).

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¹ [South Sudan 2022 Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(CFSAM\) summary of findings](#)

² [UNFAO, South Sudan Dekadal weather update, 11 May 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Central Equatoria 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Western Equatoria 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Eastern Equatoria 2022](#)

³ [IPC, South Sudan IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, November 2022](#); [WFP, South Sudan Situation Report #310, 28 February 2023](#).

⁴ The apparent high reported livestock as a food source could be related to rearing livestock as a livelihood activity in these counties.

⁵ [FEWS NET, South Sudan, Food Security Outlook June 2022 – January 2023](#).

⁶ [FEWS Net, Livelihood Zone Map and Description for the Republic of South Sudan, 2018](#)

⁷ Reported market barriers in March 2023 were similar to November 2022.

⁸ [REACH, South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) 1-7 November 2022](#); [REACH, South Sudan Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) 1-7 March 2023](#); [WFP, South Sudan Situation Report #310, 28 February 2023](#).

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¹ [UNFAO, South Sudan Dekadal weather update, 11 May 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Central Equatoria 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Western Equatoria 2022](#); [WFP-VAM, South Sudan, seasonal rainfall and vegetation, visualization, Eastern Equatoria 2022](#)

² IRNA report, South Sudan, conflict-affected population in Lomoru and Ohila, Torit County, Eastern Equatoria State, 13 January 2023; [Radio Tamazuj, MPs demand justice for Lainya County murder victims, 7 March 2023](#); [WFP, South Sudan Situation Report #310, 28 February 2023](#); [UNMISS, Human Rights Division, brief on violence affecting civilians, January – March 2023](#).

³ [FEWS Net, Livelihood Zone Map and Description for the Republic of South Sudan, 2018](#)

⁴ ACLED compiles data on "political violence." ACLED data is compiled using open sources and is not exhaustive. Rather, for the purposes of this situation overview, it should be considered indicative of conflict trends.

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¹ Note that the low proportions of KIs reporting the use of extreme food consumption strategies indicate food insecure settlements.

² Very low (0 - 10%), low (11 - 30%), medium (31 - 69%), high (70 - 90%), and very high (91 - 100%)

ABOUT REACH

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).