Overview

The continuation of conflict since December 2013 has created a complex humanitarian crisis in South Sudan; restricting humanitarian access and hindering the flow of information required by aid partners to deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need. To address information gaps faced by the humanitarian response in South Sudan, REACH employs its Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology to collect relevant information in hard-to-reach areas to inform humanitarian planning and interventions outside formal settlement sites.

Using the AoK methodology, REACH remotely monitors needs and access to services in the Greater Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions. AoK data is collected monthly, through multi-sector interviews with the following typology of key informants (KIs):

- Newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month

- Persons who have been in contact with someone living in a hard-to-reach settlement, or have visited one in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)

- Persons who remain in a hard-to-reach settlement, contacted through the phone

Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed have more than one KI reporting on the settlement. In these cases, data is aggregated[1] at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the Terms of Reference (ToRs).

All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed with that specific response.

The findings presented in this factsheet are indicative of the broad food security and livelihood trends in assessed settlements in February 2023, and are not statistically generalisable.

Assessment Coverage
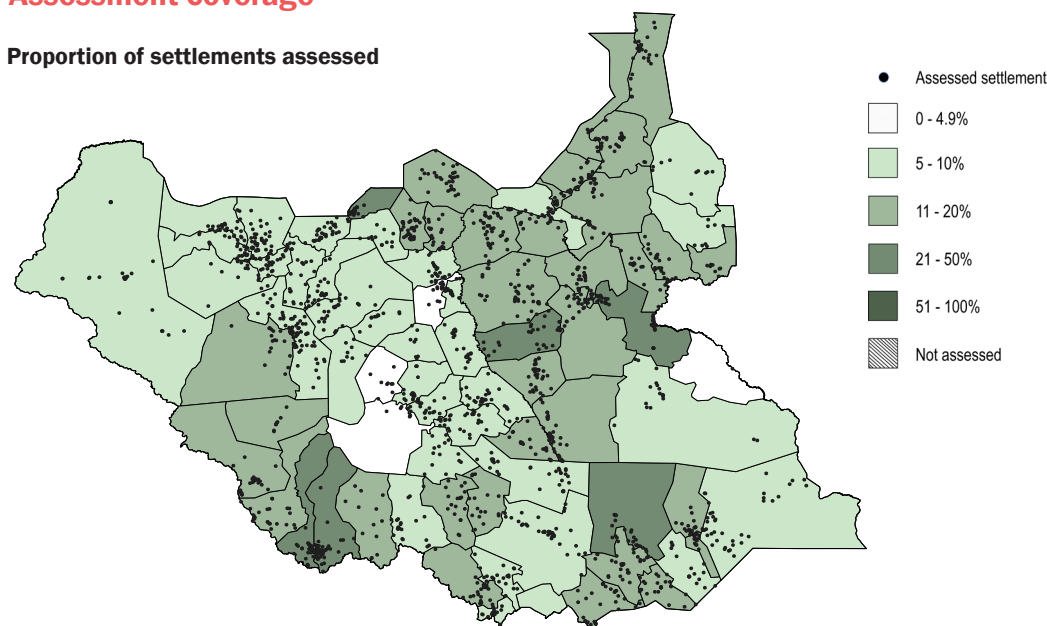
2185 Key informants interviewed

1910 Settlements assessed

78 Counties assessed
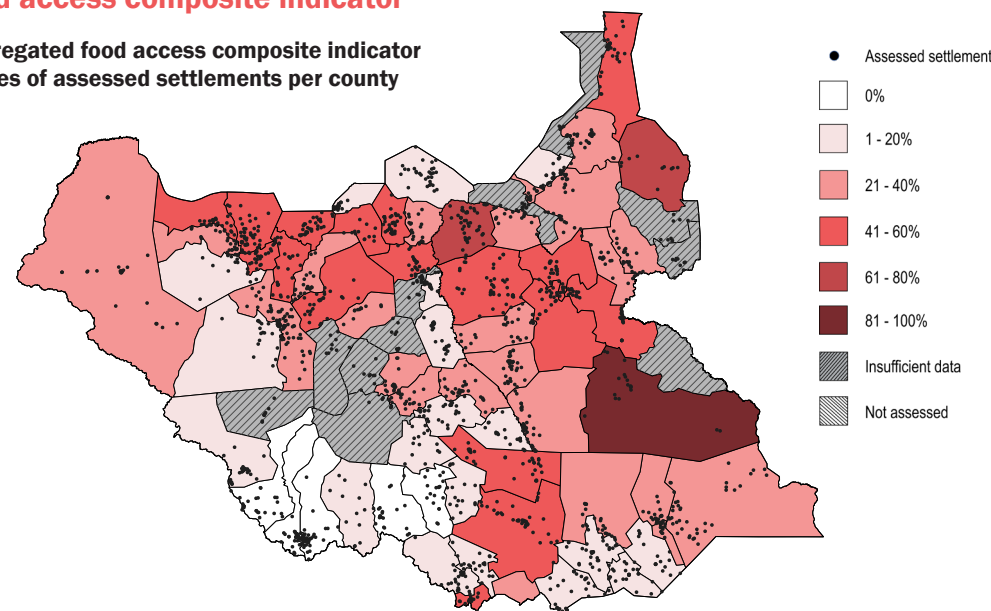
74 Counties with 5% or more coverage[2]

Assessment coverage

Proportion of settlements assessed

- Assessed settlement
- 0 - 4.9%
- 5 - 10%
- 11 - 20%
- 21 - 50%
- 51 - 100%
- Not assessed

Food access composite indicator

Aggregated food access composite indicator scores of assessed settlements per county

- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed

[1] During cleaning and aggregation counties which do not reach a consensus or report "don't know" are recoded as NA thus lowering subset sizes. Additionally, unless otherwise specified all questions have a recall period of 30 days prior to data collection.

[2] Data is only represented for counties in which at least 5% of settlements have been assessed. The most recent OCHA Common Operational Dataset (COD) released in March 2019 has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations.

This food access composite indicator aims at measuring both levels of adequate access to food as well as severity of perceived hunger and application of severe consumption-based coping strategies. The composite was created by averaging the 'yes' responses on the following indicators; with all indicators considered to have the same weight:

- Most people do not have access to sufficient food
- Skipping days to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food
- Perceived hunger from inadequate food access: severe or "worst it can be"
- Wild foods known to be making people sick consumed all the time

For more information on this factsheet please contact:
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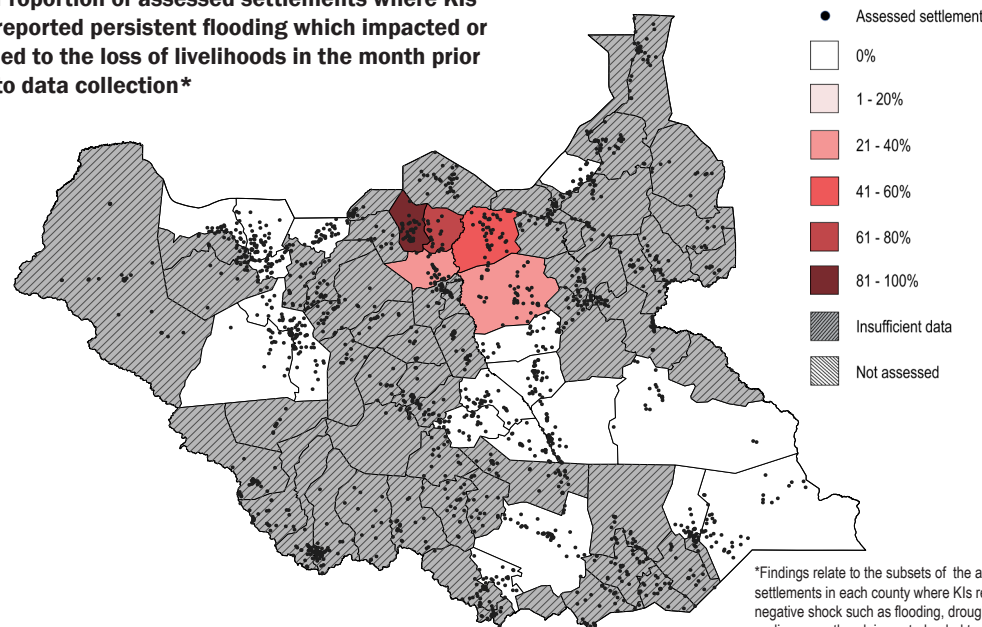
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Shocks

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that a negative shock such as flooding, drought, conflict, or disease outbreak impacted or led to the loss of livelihoods in the month prior to data collection

- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed
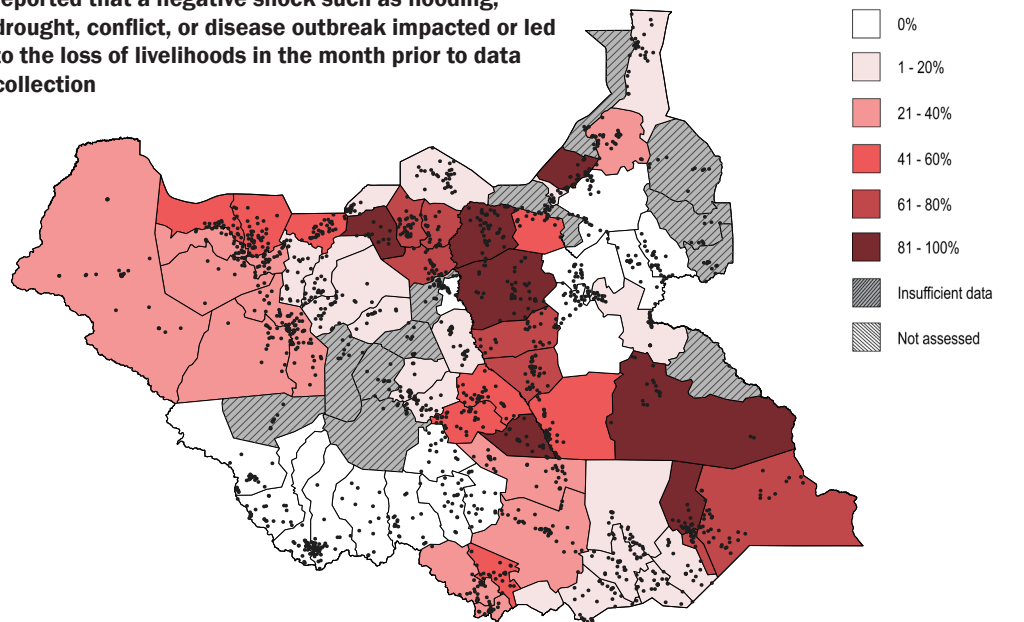
Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported persistent flooding which impacted or led to the loss of livelihoods in the month prior to data collection*

- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed

*Findings relate to the subsets of the amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported a negative shock such as flooding, drought, conflict, or disease outbreak impacted or led to the loss of livelihoods in the month prior to data collection

Shocks: IDPs*
Counties with assessed settlements where KIs reported the presence of IDPs or returnees as having a negative impact on the ability to access adequate food

Pibor (n=13)   **100%**

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported the arrival of IDPs wiithin the last month. There were no other counties which met the observations threshold for reporting.

Shocks: conflict food access*
Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported conflict or insecurity as the main reason some people in the settlement were unable to access adequate food

County	%
Pibor (n=18)	**100%**
Yei (n=11)	**36%**
Kajo-keji (n=16)	**25%**
Duk (n=10)	**20%**
Morobo (n=17)	**17%**

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported most people were not able to access adequate food.

Shocks: hunger*
Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported hunger was "worst it can be"

County	%
Kapoeat East (n=40)	**100%**
Pibor (n=19)	**100%**
Mayendit (n=16)	**100%**
Fangak (n=46)	**100%**
Kajo-keji (n=100)	**100%**

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported most people were not able to access enough food. In assessed settlements in Kapoeta North, KIs also reported 100% that hunger was "the worst it can be".

Shocks: conflict impact*
Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported conflict as the primary reason most people's ability to engage in livelihood activities has decreased in the month prior to data collection

County	%
Fashoda (n=22)	**91%**
Pibor (n=18)	**78%**
Twic (n=14)	**50%**
Duk (n=15)	**20%**
Lainya (n=11)	**18%**

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported that people's ability to engage livelihood activities had decreased in the month prior to data collection.

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Food access

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people were unable to access adequate food in the month prior to data collection
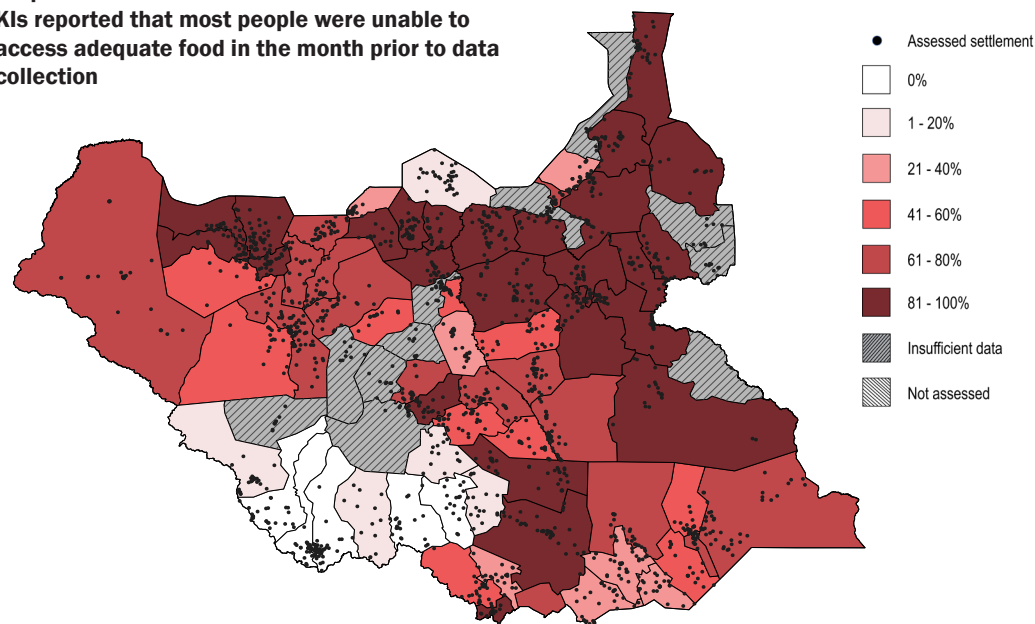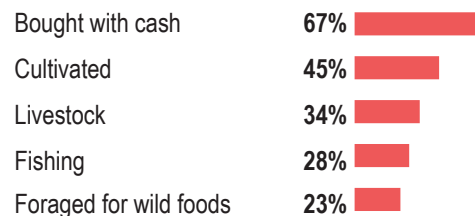

- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported hunger was "worst it can be"*

- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed

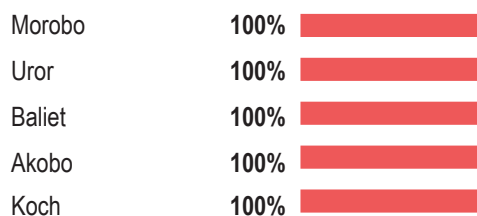*Findings relate to the subsets of the amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported most people were not able to access adequate food.
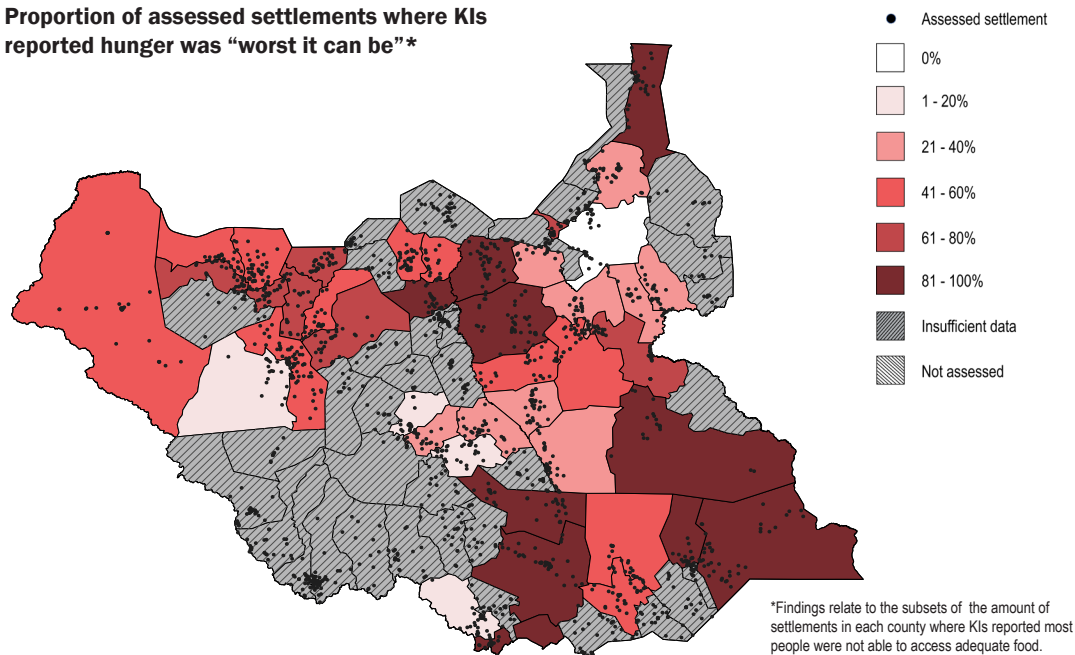
Food sources

Top five most commonly reported sources of food in the settlement, by proportion of assessed settlements

|	
Bought with cash	67%
Cultivated	45%
Livestock	34%
Fishing	28%
Foraged for wild foods	23%

Inadequate access to food

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported most people were unable to access enough food

Morobo	100%
Uror	100%
Baliet	100%
Akobo	100%
Koch	100%

In assessed settlements in Aweil North, Nyirol, Ayod and Fangak, KIs also reported 100% that most people were unable to access enough food

Food coping: wild foods

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported consumption of wild foods that are known to make people sick

Maban	90%
Pibor	79%
Gogrial West	65%
Bor South	55%
Mayom	46%
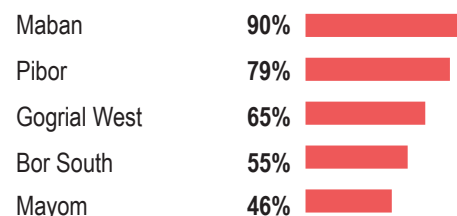
Food coping: skipping days*

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that people go entire days without eating as a coping strategy
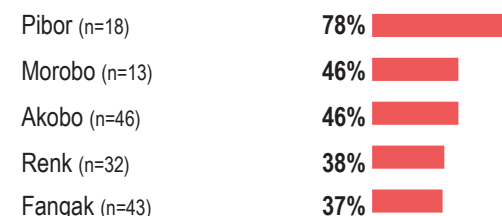
Pibor (n=18)	78%
Morobo (n=13)	46%
Akobo (n=46)	46%
Renk (n=32)	38%
Fangak (n=43)	37%

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported most people were not able to access enough food.

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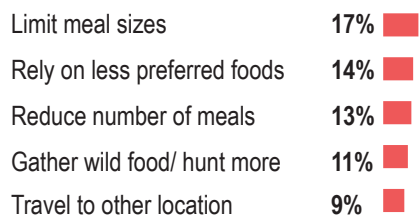REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Livelihoods: negative shocks

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported a negative event which led to the loss of livelihoods, in the month prior to data collection

County	%
Fangak	98%
Fashoda	96%
Pibor	95%
Ayod	92%
Kapoeta North	88%
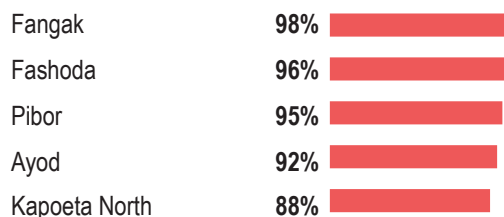
Livelihoods: coping

Top five most commonly reported livelihood coping strategies used in the month prior to data collection to mitigate a negative event which led to the loss of livelihoods, by proportion of assessed settlements
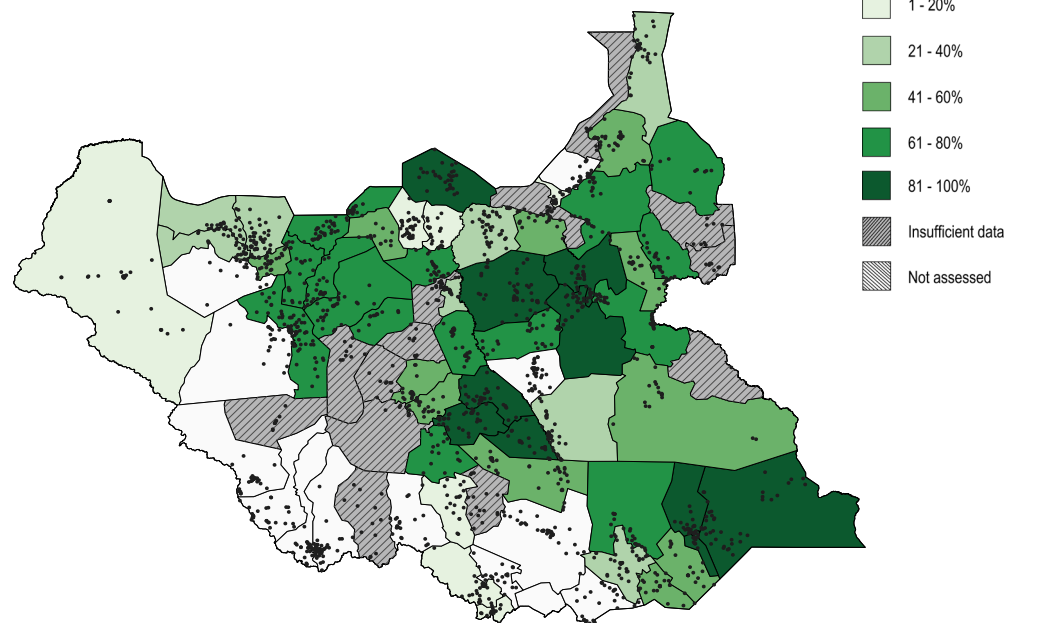
Strategy	%
Limit meal sizes	17%
Rely on less preferred foods	14%
Reduce number of meals	13%
Gather wild food/ hunt more	11%
Travel to other location	9%

Livelihoods: casual labour

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that casual labour is a common livelihood activity in the settlement

County	%
Baliet	100%
Mundri East	88%
Ibba	86%
Renk	84%
Morobo	69%
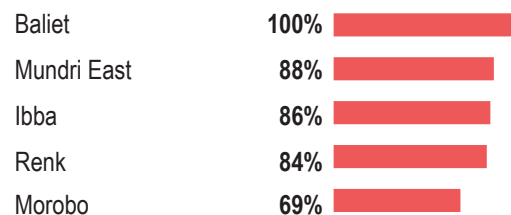
Livelihoods: livestock

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people in the community possessed, and had physical access to cattle in the month prior to data collection

Legend:
- Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
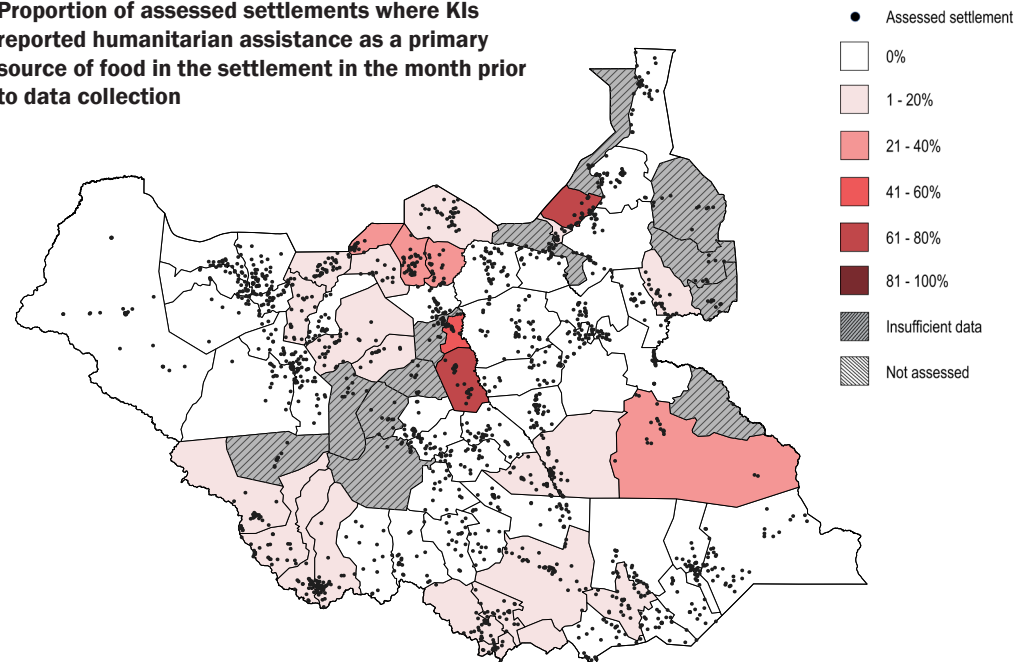- Not assessed

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Markets

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported physical access to a functioning market in the month prior to data collection

- • Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed
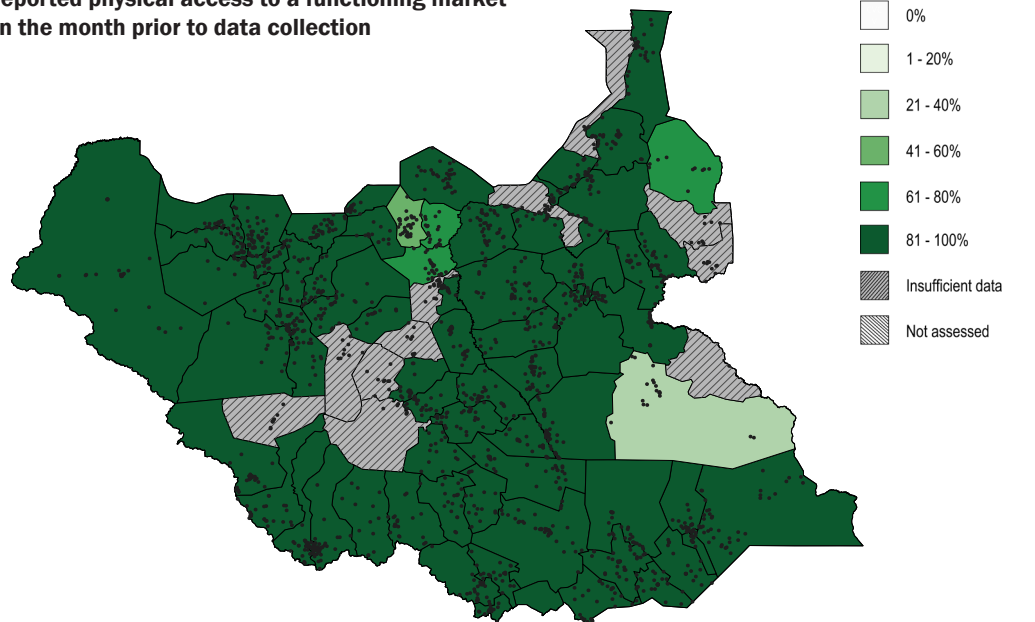
Food source: humanitarian aid

Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported humanitarian assistance as a primary source of food in the settlement in the month prior to data collection

- • Assessed settlement
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
- Not assessed

Food source: purchasing

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported purchasing as a primary source of food in the settlement

Twic East	100%
Mundri West	100%
Morobo	100%
Baliet	100%
Rumbek Center	100%

In assessed settlements in Kako-keki, Kapoeata South and Maridi KIs also reported 100% that purchasing as a primary source of food.

Food source: livestock

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported livestock as a primary source of food in the settlement

Nyirol	96%
Yirol East	96%
Uror	91%
Yirol West	90%
Pariang	84%

Food source: humanitarian aid

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported humanitarian assistance as a primary source of food in the settlement

Fashoda	68%
Panyijiar	62%
Leer	50%
Mayendit	47%
Guit	30%

Livestock disease*

Top five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that there has been a disease outbreak that resulted in cattle dying in the month prior to data collection

Fangak (n=12)	92%
Awerial (n=18)	89%
Gogrial West (n=13)	85%
Tonj North (n=18)	78%
Yirol West (n=22)	77%

*Findings relate to the subsets of (n) amount of settlements in each county where KIs reporting people in the settlement possess cattle.

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	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	19
2	Akobo	41
3	Aweil Centre	17
4	Aweil East	50
5	Aweil North	23
6	Aweil South	27
7	Aweil West	22
8	Awerial	22
9	Ayod	42
10	Baliet	24
11	Bor South	53
12	Budi	17
13	Canal/Pigi	18
14	Cueibet	8
15	Duk	28
16	Ezo	29
17	Fangak	46
18	Fashoda	25
19	Gogrial East	23
20	Gogrial West	23
21	Guit	20
22	Ibba	14
23	Ikotos	27
24	Juba	42
25	Jur River	57
26	Kajo-keji	26
27	Kapoeta East	40
28	Kapoeta North	25
29	Kapoeta South	11
30	Koch	24

	County	No. of assessed settlements
31	Lafon	23
32	Lainya	20
33	Leer	18
34	Longochuk	8
35	Luakpiny/Nasir	23
36	Maban	10
37	Magwi	28
38	Maiwut	9
39	Malakal	17
40	Manyo	9
41	Maridi	22
42	Mayendit	16
43	Mayom	13
44	Melut	36
45	Morobo	13
46	Mundri East	16
47	Mundri West	20
48	Mvolo	14
49	Nagero	9
50	Nyirol	27
51	Nzara	32
52	Panyijiar	26
53	Panyikang	9
54	Pariang	31
55	Pibor	19
56	Pochalla	1
57	Raja	31
58	Renk	37
59	Rubkona	35
60	Rumbek Centre	20

	County	No. of assessed settlements
61	Rumbek East	21
62	Rumbek North	8
63	Tambura	33
64	Terekeka	33
65	Tonj East	11
66	Tonj North	28
67	Tonj South	9
68	Torit	31
69	Twic	33
70	Twic East	35
71	Ulang	17
72	Uror	23
73	Wau	44
74	Wulu	7
75	Yambio	51
76	Yei	32
77	Yirol East	28
78	Yirol West	31