

SOUTH SUDAN

Tensions and peace drivers between refugees and host communities in Kaya camp, Maban County

Executive summary

September 2017



REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

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Introduction

Violence between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) in Sudan's Kordofan State and Blue Nile State began in 2011, resulting in large scale displacement across the Sudan and South Sudan border. With over 130,000 housed in the four refugee camps established in Maban County, Upper Nile State: Doro, Gendrassa, Kaya, and Yusif Batil,¹ a number of humanitarian agencies have been operational in the camps under the coordination of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Additionally, internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been moving to the area around the four refugee camps since the onset of the South Sudan crisis in December 2013, primarily Mabanese from surrounding areas to the south and west of the county.

Due to a variety of factors, relations between the host community and refugees have remained tense, resulting in, at the time of assessment, hundreds of people being killed as a result of conflict between these communities in Maban.² While localized conflict between host community and IDPs is not common, tensions between the two communities remain high.

This summary presents the main findings of an assessment conducted by REACH, supported by the United States Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), to understand the tensions and conflict between refugees and host and IDP communities around Kaya camp, as well as the different drivers of peaceful coexistence identified among communities.

This assessment builds on previous studies conducted by REACH in 2015² and 2016³, as well as Danish Demining Group (DDG) in 2012⁴ and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in 2016⁵. The 2015 REACH conflict assessment in Gendrassa and Batil covered in depth the relationships of IDPs in Offra with the host community, hence a special focus was given in this assessment to the relations between the refugees from Kaya and the host community from Offra and Kuola (Map 1).

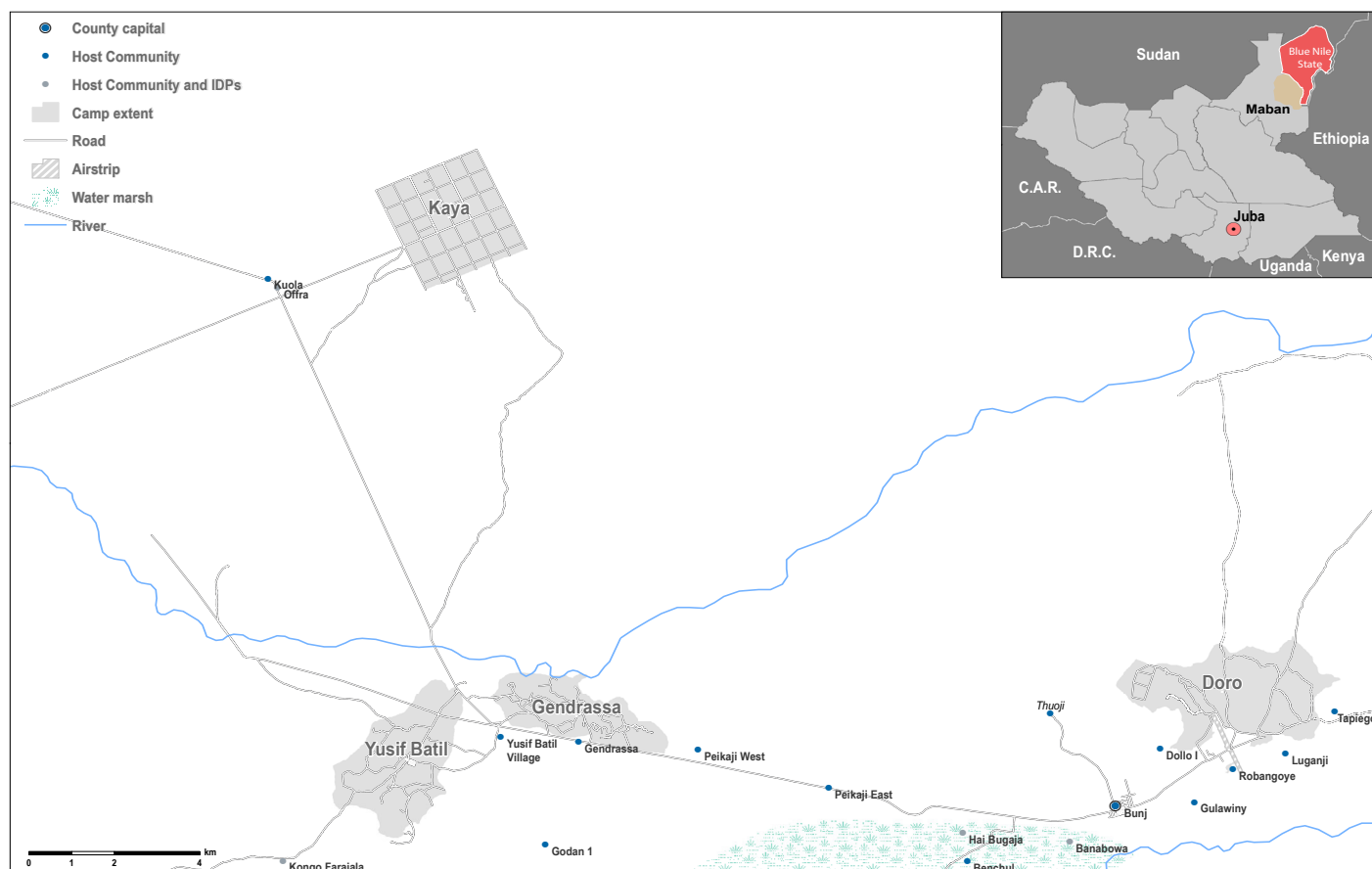
Overall, refugees and host communities reported that livelihoods and access to basic services were their primary concerns, rather than security. Access to services and resources was the predominant reason cited for security incidents between refugees, members of the host community and IDPs.

Methodology

In order to understand the tensions, as well as possible drivers of conflict and relations between communities, three groups were assessed in three different communities: Refugees from Kaya refugee camp, host communities from Offra and Kuola, and IDPs groups living together with the host communities in Offra.

A mixed methods approach using quantitative and qualitative methodology was used for this assessment, which took place during April and May 2017. Quantitative data was obtained through 917 household surveys with the three population groups (Table 1) with a 95% of confidence and 5% margin of error.

Map 1: Maban County refugee camp area, Upper Nile, South Sudan



1. Latest data available on the [UNHCR Information Sharing Portal](#), July 2017
2. [UNHCR Press Release](#), June 2017
2. Mapping of Tensions and Disputes Between Refugees and Host Community in Gendrassa, Maban, REACH, December 2015.
3. Conflicts and Tensions between communities in Maban County,

South Sudan, REACH, December 2016.
4. Displacement, Disharmony and Disillusion – Understanding Host-Refugee Tensions in Maban County, South Sudan, Danish Demining Group (DDG), 2012.
5. Conflict and Cohesion in Maban: Towards Positive Refugee/Host Community Relations, DRC, March 2016.

Table 1: List of household surveys conducted per location

	Kaya camp	Kuola	Offra
Number of household surveys	675	103	139

Qualitative data was obtained through ten focus group discussions (FGDs) with refugees and host community members (Table 2), as well as three key informant interviews (KIs) with community leaders and NGO staff.

Table 2: List of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted

	Men	Women	Youth
Kaya camp (refugees)	1 FGD, 9 participants	1 FGD, 9 participants	1 FGD, 7 participants
Offra (host community)	1 FGD, 10 participants	1 FGD, 9 participants	1 FGD, 6 participants
Offra (IDPs)	1 FGD, 8 participants	1 FGD, 10 participants	-
Kuola (host community)	1 FGD, 8 participants	1 FGD, 8 participants	-

Conflict incidents and resolution

This section presents the main findings about security incidents and concerns of host communities, refugees and IDPs around

Kaya. Further, it presents the main potential drivers of conflict in the future identified by refugees and host communities, as well as the current conflict reporting mechanisms communities have in place.

Host Community

Security Incidents

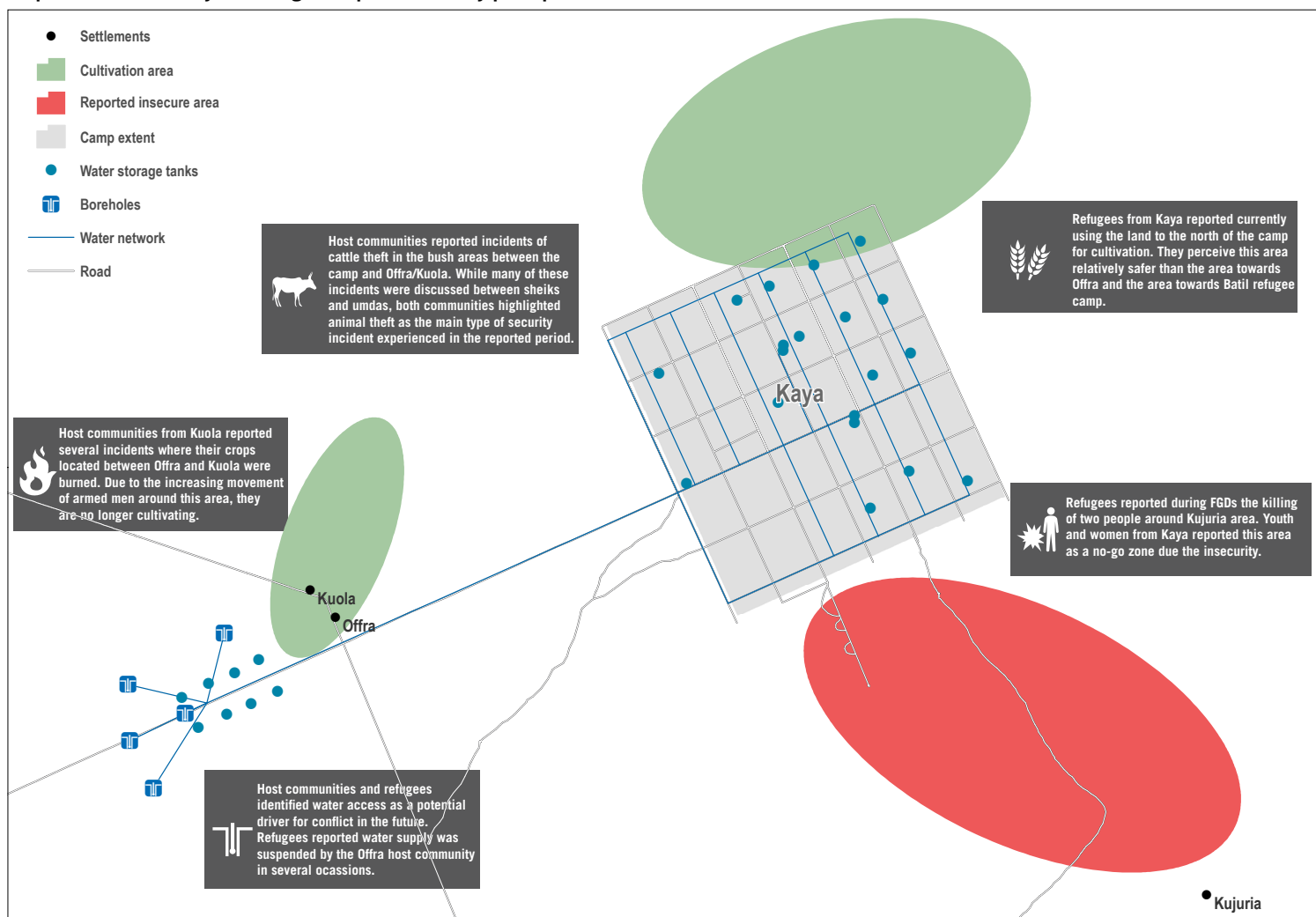
During FGDs host communities' participants reported that despite the recent security incidents, they do not think security is their main issue of concern, instead the key concern is access to health, water and livelihoods.

Host community members from Offra and Kuola reported January 2017 to April 2017 was a period of higher insecurity period compared to the same period of the previous year. Most of the assessed households reported the main security incident they had experienced was physical attack, followed by theft of personal belongings or livestock (Figure 1).

Assessed households from the host communities reported that most security incidents occurred across host community areas, with around half of them attributed to other host community members (48%) and refugees (31%). During FGDs, participants attributed these incidents mostly to the refugees.

During FGDs, host community participants from Kuola reported several incidents of the theft of goats as well as attacks to their gardens reportedly by refugees. Fears of continued robberies had resulted in

Map 2: Host community and refugees reported security perceptions and zones

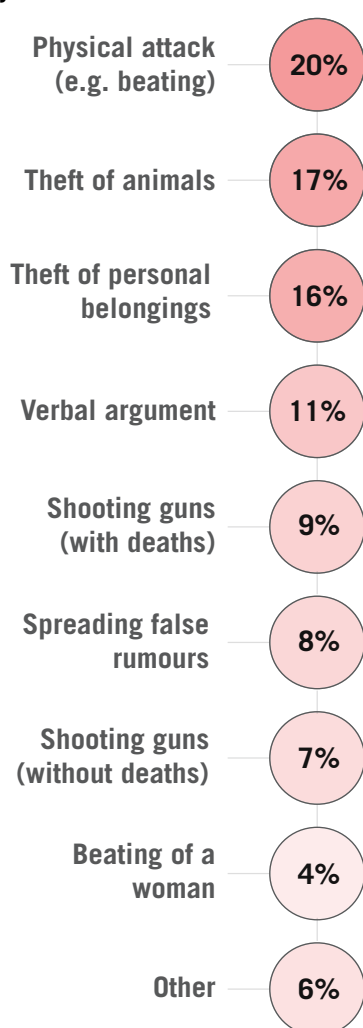


members of the host community patrolling their gardens and homes at day and night. They also reported that several incidents occurred when some gardens belonging to the host community were burned, which also coupled with an increase of movement of patrolling groups of armed men from the host communities and refugees around the area. According to the FGD participants, these incidents discouraged cultivation as land designated for cultivation was not safe to plant during the reporting period.

During FGDs, host community members from Kuola reported tensions with IDPs. Kuola host communities perceive that IDPs have more jobs with NGOs, in part because IDPs live closer to NGO programmatic sites. In addition, they perceived that IDPs received more services, because the host community lives further away from key service delivery points, such as health clinics, schools and water points.

When asked about who these incidents were reported to, 33% of assessed households said that they reported incidents to their sheik, while around 19% of the respondents reported they went directly speak with the person involved in the incident. From the FGDs, host community from Kuola reported taking many of the cases to the police in Jamam especially after the episodes of animal and crop theft.

Figure 1: Percentage of security incidents (January-April 2017) reported by assessed households from host communities



During FGDs, host communities' participants reported that the peak of tensions with the refugees came during the aftermath of December 2016 incidents around Doro camp when clashes between refugees and host communities resulted in dozens of people killed. On that occasion, some host community members that were inside Kaya camp reported experiencing security incidents after the news of the clashes between refugees in Doro and host communities reached Kaya camp.

"I was beaten in Kaya market when the Doro incident happened in December. I was there and got caught there when the incident happened. When things like that one happened, we usually go and talk with the sheik. If the sheik doesn't solve the issue, then we go to talk with the Umda"

- Man from the host community, Offra⁶

Refugees

Refugees from Kaya camp reported that the security situation around the camp in the period during January 2017- April 2017 was tense. For assessed refugee households, the main reported security incident was theft of animals or personal belongings (Figure 2), with the incidents attributed to both refugees (54%) and host communities (41%).

During FGDs, refugees reported the theft of goats as the main security issue that was dividing refugees and host communities, although they recognized in many cases some refugees might not have been involved in the incidents. In light of the lack of adequate processes to identify those responsible for security incidents, refugees are often assumed to be behind most security incidents happening in the area.

During FGDs, refugee participants highlighted that in comparison to other refugee camps in Maban, the security situation with host communities around Kaya was in general better. However, this situation changed during January 2017 after the December 2016 incidents that occurred around Doro refugee camp, in which Mabanese host community members and refugees from Doro were killed. In the aftermath of these events, the security situation became tense between the refugees and Mabanese host community living around the other refugee camps, including those of the Offra and Kuola communities around Kaya camp.

"When something happens in other camps, we fear that something could happen to us because we are all refugees. During December incidents there were not problems inside the camp, but if we were going outside to cut firewood or to collect materials for shelter, it was not safe."

- Refugee sheikh, Kaya Camp⁷

Refugees also reported during FGDs about locations they have not accessed since December because of fears of reprisals by the host community.

"We are no longer going towards Kujuria village because we have lost two of our people there. There is also a footing path from Kaya camp to Doro camp, that we used to use to get the fish, but we are not using it anymore because it is no longer safe"

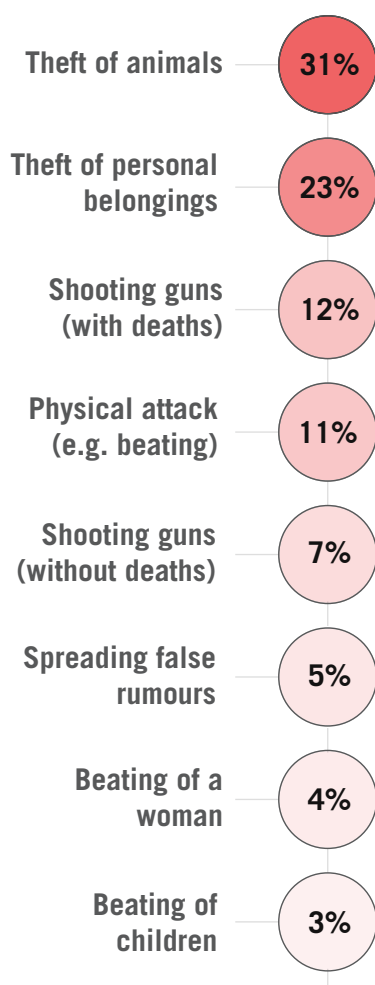
- Refugee sheikh, Kaya Camp⁷

6. Quote from an FGD with men from Offra on 24 April 2017

7. Quote from an FGD with refugee sheikhs from Kaya on 3 May 2017

8. Quote from an FGD with refugee women from Kaya on 2 May 2017

Figure 2: Percentage of security incidents (January-April 2017) reported by assessed households from refugees in Kaya camp



Frequently, refugees reported in FGDs that access to water might be a potential driver for conflict in the future with the host community. The main motorized borehole supplying water to both the host communities and refugees, is located in Offra and connected to Kaya camp through a water pipe system. Refugees reported when security incidents happened in the past between the refugees and the host community. The host community in Offra would cut the refugee's water supply, and refugees had to spend hours and sometimes even days without water.

"If there is any problem between host communities and refugees in Doro or Batil camps, Mabanese host communities from Offra close the water, causing us a lot of problems. In those cases, we have to go to the Haffir built by ACTED, but this is very far, it is 3 hours by foot one way."

- Refugee woman, Kaya Camp⁸

Refugees reported their security incidents to different structures and levels inside their own communities. According to the assessed refugee households from Kaya, when a security incident happens to them or their community, they usually report it to their sheiks (32%). A smaller portion of assessed households (11%), reported that they asked support from family

and friends after the incident to attack the responsible party. During FGDs, refugees reported that serious cases such as murder or rape were also reported to the Umdas. Refugees only reported these types of crimes to the police, while members of the host community reported all of the security incidents that they experienced.

IDPs

IDPs did not report any particular issues with the refugees, although relations between both communities were non-existent at the time of the assessment.

Although most IDPs came from the same county as the host community, during FGDs IDPs noted that there were some tensions reported between the two communities.

IDP respondents reported shooting guns (36%) as the main security incident they experienced during the assessed period. Many of the IDPs were recently displaced from areas where conflict was taking place, likely explaining why gun shots were the most frequently reported security incident. During FGDs, IDPs also reported their main security concern was related to incidents that occurred when trying to access to the water points. Most of the incidents were attributed to other host community members.

"When we arrived to the area, there were some tensions with the host communities because we did not have any land to cultivate and they were not allowing us to collect water from the water points but now we know each other a bit better and we managed to solve the issues better"

-Man, IDP community, Offra⁹

Often, during FGDs host communities from Kuola expressed issues with the IDPs related to access to food distributions or to jobs. The same issues were perceived by the IDPs.

IDPs reported their security incidents to their sheiks and to government authorities. Around 18% of assessed IDP households said they ignored the incident and did not report it to anybody. Despite some minor tensions between some of the host communities and the IDPs, most of these incidents were reportedly been solved through meetings between the Sheiks and Umdas from both communities.

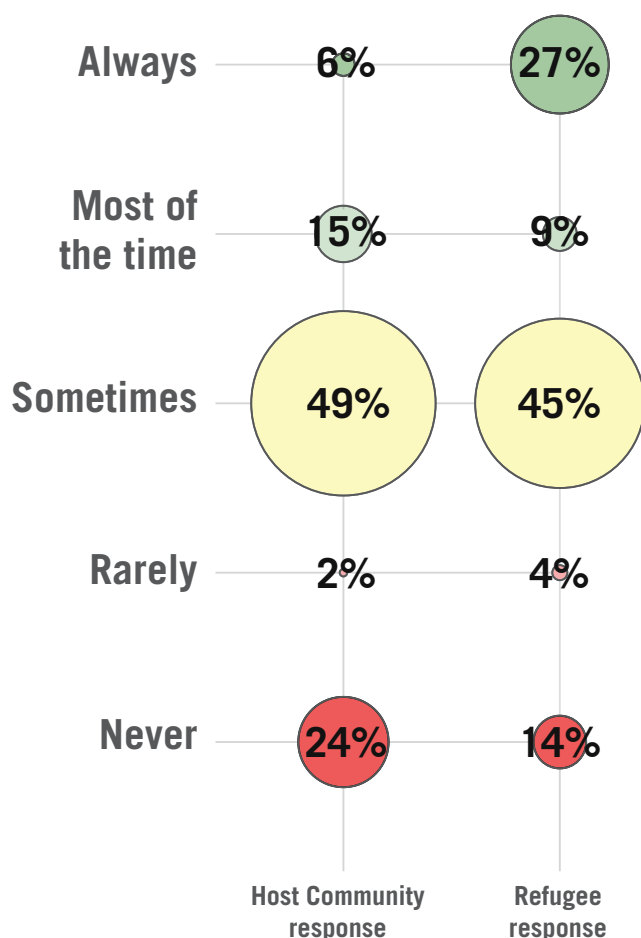
Relations between communities: common challenges and cooperation

This section presents the main findings on the reported relations between refugees and host communities, including the common issues both communities are facing. It also presents the current ways refugees and host communities are communicating and collaborating to each other, and the spaces and type of interactions they commonly have.

Overall, both communities reported broadly positive impressions of interacting with refugee or host community counterparts. Refugees and host communities identified some common issues related to access to services and resources, and recognized at the same time that addressing those issues together would benefit both communities.

Assessed households from host communities (42%), refugees (65%) and IDPs (35%) reported lack of employment opportunities as their main concern, followed by lack of basic resources including access to clean water, food and land. At the time of the assessment, the lack of a secondary school was also a concern for both communities, as reported during FGDs.

Figure 3: Reported level of comfort when meeting a member from the other community refugees/host community



"We share many issues with the refugees such as the lack of a secondary school for our youth and the jobs shortage"

- Man from the host community, Offra¹⁰

In addition to sharing common challenges, assessed households reported frequent interaction on a daily and weekly basis, with both communities reporting positive impressions of these interactions. Over half of assessed households from the host community reported meeting with refugees on a weekly or daily basis, with 30% reporting many times a week, and 22% saying at least once a day. Similarly, over half of assessed refugee households reported meeting members of the host community many times a week (29%) or at least once a day (28%).

When communities were asked how they felt during those interactions, 45% of assessed households from the refugees reported that they sometimes felt comfortable or safe during those interactions with refugees and 27% reported that they always felt comfortable during these meetings. Only 14% reported that they never felt comfortable or safe during the meetings with host community members. On the other hand, 49% of assessed host community households reported they felt safe sometimes and 15% most of the time. 24% of assessed households from the host communities reported they never felt safe or comfortable when meeting refugees (Figure 3).

According to assessed households from the host communities (54%) and refugees (83%), the main place where most of these encounters take place is the road between Offra and Kaya camp. Other common places reported by the host community respondents were the Clinics in Kaya camp (12%) and the Kaya market (12%).

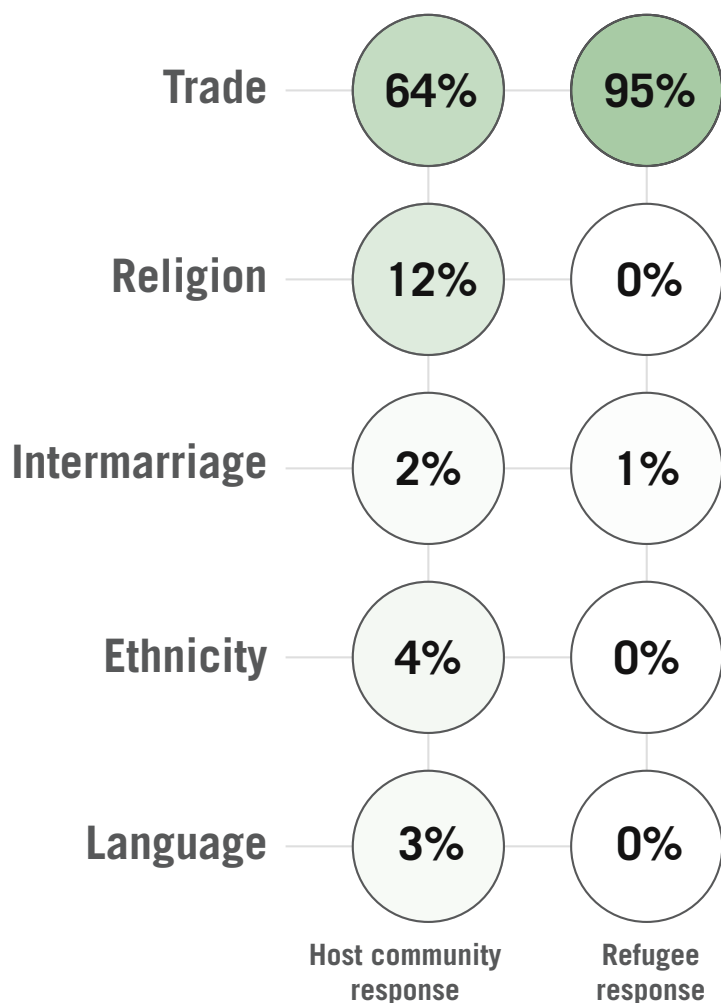
When asked about what usually happens at these encounters, most respondents from assessed households from the refugees (75%), host communities (66%) and IDPs (65%) reported positive reactions or activities such as mutual smiles and greetings, business exchange or drinking coffee together. During FGDs, refugees also highlighted some places inside the camp where they usually meet host community members in more structured activities such as the community centre and NGO offices.

Some of the places where we mostly interact with the host communities are the tukul of the community centre, ACTED office, the market, and some of us even have Mabanese living inside the camp as neighbours"

- Refugee sheikh, Kaya Camp¹¹

Assessed households from the refugees and host communities also reported mutual activities which have brought both communities together. 64% of respondents from the host community reported the most important factor they shared with refugees was trade and 12% reported they shared the religion. Reflective of host community perceptions, 95% of refugees' respondents reported they share trade with host communities (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Reported factors that bring refugee and and host community members together

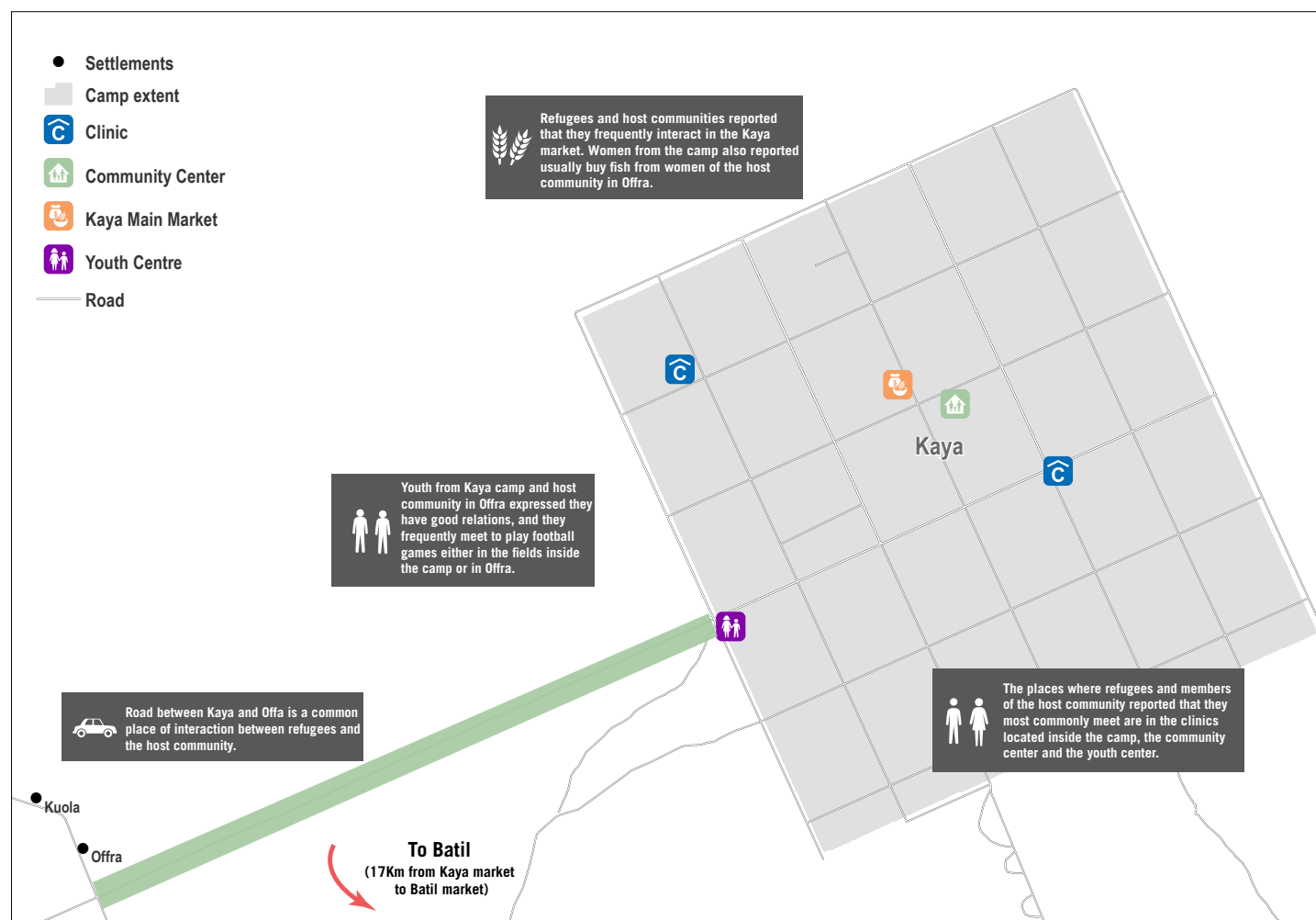


Refugee women during FGDs reported very good relations with women from the Offra host community. They reported sometimes sharing tea and buying fish from the women from the host community. In cases when children went missing in either host community's areas or the camp, women reported communicating with the other women from the host communities to return the children to their relatives.

Although trade was the most frequently cited shared activity between refugees and host communities assessed households, access to markets was reported to still be a challenge. During FGDs, refugees and members of the host community reported challenges accessing different markets in the greater Maban area. At the time of data collection, refugees were only accessing Kaya market, while the host community reported only accessing Kaya market and Bunj. For refugees, limitations to access other markets were related to the cost of the transportation to Batil refugee camp or Bunj town and the security situation along the road, in the case of the refugees. Both refugees and host communities reported during FGDs that the road to Batil market is not safe and they can only go there by car.

The limited access to markets and other livelihoods sources were highlighted as concerns by women in both the refugee camps and the host communities during FGDs. Due to security risks, women usually have more restricted movements than their male counterparts, which impacts on their ability to access different livelihoods activities such as the collection of firewood or trade in other markets. While this particular issue was reportedly impacting more refugee women than women from the host community, it was commonly brought by women from both communities during FGDs.

Map 3: Host community and refugees reported meeting places



Peaceful coexistence initiatives

This section presents the main findings on the level of participation in, and perceptions of communities about existing peace building initiatives conducted by humanitarian actors in Maban with refugees and host community.

When refugees and host communities were asked about if whether they thought somebody was trying to play a positive role in bringing both communities together, 74% of refugee assessed households and 43% of host communities assessed households reported that they agreed.

When asked about who was playing this positive role, around 26% of assessed host communities households answered community leaders (i.e. sheiks), political leaders (18%) and youth (17%) while assessed refugee households reported mainly political leaders (33%) and individuals inside the communities (18%). Around 15% of the assessed households from the refugees highlighted the positive role youth was playing to enhance peaceful coexistence between both communities. IDP assessed households (59%) pointed out the community leaders as the main ones playing a positive role to build peace between communities.

The major role youth was playing in promoting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities was also highlighted during the FGDs. Youth from Offra and from Kaya camp often reported common activities and friendships including football, chess games, parties, meetings to discuss common issues, among others.

“Relationship with youth from Offra is okay. Last month we had a party, we have monthly meetings together where we discuss about NGOs’ work, who is responsible for health, and have been giving material for shelter construction. We also have a team together helping and constructing shelters for disabled people from both the refugees and host communities. We have also participated together in environmental cleaning in Offra and Kaya”

- Refugee youth, Kaya Camp¹⁷

At the time of the assessment, different peace-related initiatives supported by NGOs, UNHCR and local authorities were in place across Maban with refugees and host communities though not with IDPs. These initiatives aimed to promote a better understanding between communities and to enhance peaceful coexistence. These initiatives included but were not exclusive to: the peace committees,¹² the joint courts,¹³ UNHCR/DRC

12. Led by HDC in the host communities and DRC in the refugees with support from UNHCR and CRA. These committees are composed by leaders from both communities, mainly Sheiks and Umdas, to discuss issues related to peaceful coexistence

13. Aimed to bring together traditional justice system and statutory South Sudan justice through a public prosecutor. Was not functional

at the time of the assessment in Kaya area.

14. Community based committees reporting on protection issues and mediation in conflicts.

15. Trainings with communities on conflict resolution

16. Recreational activities bringing together members from the host communities and refugees.

protection networks,¹⁴ DRC conflict management programme,¹⁵ HDC peace tours,¹⁶ JRS peace trainings and DDG violence reduction programme.

Refugees mentioned during FGDs that some of these peaceful coexistence initiatives supported by the NGOs facilitated spaces for communities to discuss some pending issues such as cases of theft. They reported some of these meetings were helpful for communities to talk about many of these security-related issues. However there was no regularity in these meetings and often they struggled to attend the meetings when no transportation or refreshments were provided.

“Last year somebody from the refugees stole a goat and we recovered it and gave it back to the host community, and since then we are okay. We have been discussing these issues with the host community of Offra between Sheiks and also during the DRC Protection Networks”

- Refugee sheik, Kaya Camp¹⁹

“We know about the peace committees and other trainings from DRC on peace. We also think Radio Salaam has played an important role in promoting peace among communities, and we think these efforts when driven by the own communities are working. However, NGOs can do even more to promote peace by creating more spaces for football and other sports, and to promote more activities between both communities allowing them to interact more”

- Man from host community, Offra¹⁸

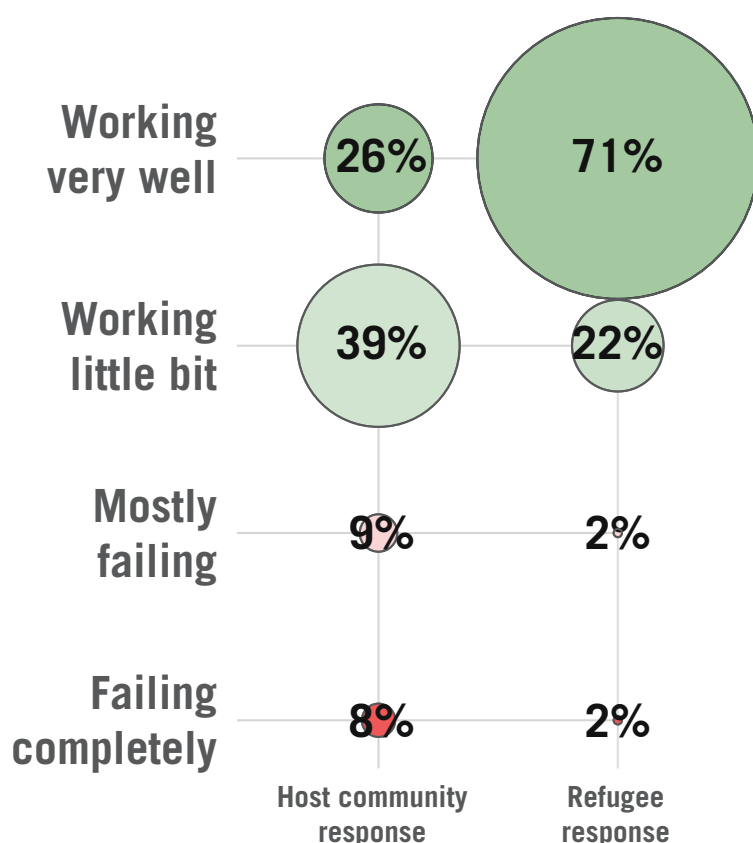
When refugees and host communities were asked about their opinion if these peaceful coexistence initiatives were working or not, around 40% of assessed host communities' households reported these initiatives were working little bit, while 26% said they were working very well. On the other side, 70% of assessed refugee households reported these initiatives are working very well, while 22% reported they are working a little bit.

The differences between refugee and host communities is similar to those reported in previous conflict reports by REACH in 2016 in Gendrassa/Batil²⁰ and Doro camps²¹, and reflect proportionally more inclusion of the refugee population into the different peaceful building efforts, in comparison to the host community.

During FGDs, host communities in Offra reported they have participated in peace building activities with the refugees. However host community from Kuola reported they have not been taking part in any peaceful coexistence-related initiatives or trainings.

IDP assessed households (74%) reported they felt that these initiatives were working a little bit and this might be reflecting the fact that IDPs have not been part of many of the peaceful coexistence-related activities, therefore they are less aware about existent initiatives.

Figure 5: Reported perception on how effective have been the peaceful coexistence initiatives from host communities and refugees



During FGDs, it was observed that the knowledge of the existence of different peace initiatives did not imply the understanding of their purpose or objectives. As reported by KIIs²¹ in previous REACH reports, these could be partly explained by the origin of many of these initiatives which were externally designed by NGOs and UNHCR, and were brought to the communities directly in the implementation phase.

As discussed earlier, the main ways refugees and host communities are interacting is through information and commercial channels, rather than specific peaceful coexistence activities. Further, as expressed by refugees and host communities in FGDs, there appears limited understanding of the objective behind existing peace initiatives, designed by humanitarian actors in Kaya refugee camp, therefore more attention should be given to bottom-up initiatives.

This highlights the need to enhance peace and negotiation drivers already existing in both communities and support communities in coming together under their own bottom-up initiatives, rather than adapting top-down designed initiatives. This would contribute to the ownership of the peace-building initiatives by their own communities.

17. Quote from an FGD with refugee youth from Kaya on 3 May 2017

18. Quote from an FGD with men from Offra on 24 April 2017

19. Quote from an FGD with refugee sheikhs from Kaya on 3 May 2017

20. Conflicts and Tensions between communities in Maban County,

South Sudan, REACH, December 2016.

21. Conflict and Tensions between communities around Doro Camp, Maban County, South Sudan, REACH, January 2017

Conclusions

Main findings from the assessment showed different dynamics between refugees and host communities around Kaya refugee camp, in comparison to those reported by previous REACH reports around Gendrassa, Batil and Doro refugee camps. While the competition over natural resources and livelihood opportunities is still a cause of tensions among refugees and host communities, overall assessed households from both communities reported a good relationship.

Assessed households also identified potential drivers of conflict, as well as peace building opportunities and coexistence drivers between refugees and host communities. Findings around the awareness and participation about peaceful coexistence initiatives were in line with the findings in previous conflict reports in Doro, Gendrassa and Batil. However, around Kaya camp, communities, in particular the youth, were more involved in peace building activities, mostly after their own initiative.

Like in previous REACH conflict reports, assessed IDP households reported some tensions with the host communities when accessing basic services such as water. Furthermore, they reported not having participated in any peaceful coexistence initiative in Maban.

The following are the conclusions from the main findings of the assessment:

Livestock theft: main security concern

Assessed households from the host communities in Offra and Kuola, as well as refugees from Kaya camp, reported low-level tensions between both communities due to the theft of animals and personal belongings. During FGDs, intrusions and damage to gardens was also a common security incident reported by assessed households from both communities. Although during FGDs, these incidents were more frequently attributed to the other community (refugees or host communities respectively), the quantitative survey indicated that across the wider population, these incidents are also attributed to members of their own community. This reflects that although assessed households identify theft as one of main security incidents, there is no consensus about who is responsible because of a reported lack of accountability or justice mechanisms to refer to after incidents have occurred.

Water: potential driver of conflict

Assessed households from both the refugee and host communities identified water access as a potential driver of conflict. Refugees reported that when there are security incidents in other camps, host community from Offra have suspended the water supply towards Kaya camp creating tensions between refugees and host communities. On the other side, host communities reported they are sometimes blamed for suspensions of the water supply, when failures were sometimes

related to technical issues with the borehole generator. This highlights the importance of addressing common water access with both communities, as well as the close supervision of the water supply by UNHCR and NGOs. Proper and reliable communication procedures regarding water supply should be put into place to avoid misunderstandings between refugees and host community and therefore to prevent future incidents from escalating.

Security incidents in other camps

The influence of the security situation in other camps near Kaya refugee camp was repeatedly mentioned by both the host community and refugees during FGDs. They reported that although there is a relatively good relationship between host community of Offra and refugees from Kaya camp, incidents in other camps have repercussions in Kaya, often resulting in movement restrictions and fears of spill-over security incidents. This highlights the importance of enhancing prompt communication with communities as soon as incidents happen in other camps to avoid the subsequent escalation and spreading of security incidents in neighbouring areas.

Incident reporting and reactions

From the quantitative survey, around 35% of assessed households from both host communities and refugees indicated that they reported security incidents they experienced to their sheiks. During FGDs participants confirmed this and reported some of the incidents were solved through negotiation between Sheiks and Umdas from both communities. It was also reported that community members sought justice directly with the perceived perpetrators. In terms of prevention, some communities reported during FGDs they were patrolling their areas in response to increasing insecurity. These reported reactions suggest that propensity to violence is still high inside both communities. Both host communities and refugees have had prolonged exposure to many years of conflict, trauma and displacement, increasing the likelihood of violent reactions to perceived threats. Future peaceful coexistence programmes need to address this propensity to resort to violence.

Access to livelihoods: shared issues

Both refugees and host community reported on FGDs and the quantitative survey on common challenges such as access to livelihoods and services. This highlights the importance of mainstreaming peaceful coexistence into the different livelihoods-related initiatives with the host communities and refugees, especially where common community infrastructure is involved, such as markets. Inclusive livelihoods interventions that benefit both refugees and host communities will considerably help to improve not only their access to resources and services,

but also relationships between the communities. For example, trade was the most frequently cited reason for interactions between refugees and host communities and therefore a mechanism to explore for future livelihoods initiatives seeking to mainstream peaceful co-existence. From FGDs, refugees and host communities made clear will be more interested in the dialogue process if they can see concrete changes in their lives.

More inclusion of host communities into Peaceful-Coexistence programs.

Assessed refugee households from Kaya camp were more familiar with the different ongoing peace initiatives, while assessed households from the host community showed less knowledge of and engagement with these activities, specifically the host community from Kuola. This highlights the need for more inclusion of the host community into different peaceful coexistence initiatives, especially those that are geographically more spread out or far from major communities.

Youth's role in Kaya and Offra

In comparison to previous REACH assessments in Gendrassa, Batil and Doro where youth were frequently mentioned as an actor directly involved in the conflict, in this assessment youth were frequently identified as a very important peace building actor, and youth from Offra and Kaya reported a very good relationship. According to KIs, this is likely because youth have been interacting in spaces created by both communities, and the initiative to create this space was driven by the community, rather than a top-down intervention. This contrasts with some initiatives undertaken in other camps i.e. Doro, which were designed by humanitarian actors, and participants were the invitees rather than the creators of their own initiatives.

Highlighting the role of youth in their communities and advocating for initiatives that promote the importance of youth's peace-building engagement in close proximity with their families and surroundings is essential. Consequently, it is imperative for any program targeting youth in these communities to take into account the motivational forces of the youth and involve them early on in the planning process to foster community ownership of the peace process.

Gender mainstreaming

This assessment highlights gender differences in communities' coping mechanisms, their involvement in communal activities and their freedom of movement.

Male youths from refugee communities reported during FGDs a high level of engagement with inter-community activities. However women from both communities reported less involvement. Likewise, women reported during FGDs

less involvement in the different peaceful coexistence initiatives undertaken with both the host community and the refugees. This suggests the need to mainstream gender into the peaceful coexistence initiatives as well as in livelihoods activities.

IDPs: more inclusion into peace programmes

At the time of their arrival, IDPs reported very good relations, largely because they come from nearby towns and villages. However, relations have deteriorated in recent months due to incidents during food distributions, when accessing to water points and tensions related to access to jobs. Relations between IDPs and refugees were not reported to be tense.

During FGDs, IDPs expressed interest in taking part in peaceful co-existence initiatives. However, at the time of the assessment, none of the ongoing peaceful co-existence initiatives actively engaged with the IDP population.

The main findings of this assessment around Kaya refugee camp, together with the previous REACH assessments in Gendrassa, Batil and Doro refugee camps, are intended to inform humanitarian interventions with the host communities and refugees in Maban county. This assessment showed some drivers of tensions between refugees and host communities, and between host community and IDPs around Kaya refugee camp in Maban County. It also showed some opportunities for peace building initiatives as well as the need to mainstream peaceful coexistence in humanitarian interventions, specially food security and livelihoods, in Maban County.