

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

January to March 2019

REACH An initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives
ACTED and UNOSAT

Introduction

Insecurity related to cattle raiding and inter-communal violence reported across various parts of Jonglei continued to impact the ability to cultivate food and access basic services, sustaining large-scale humanitarian needs in Jonglei State, South Sudan. By March 2019, approximately 5 months since the harvest season, settlements struggled to extend food rations to the same extent as reported in previous years.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants with knowledge of a settlements and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs).

This Situation Overview provides a trends analysis for developments in displacement, food security and livelihoods, protection, shelter and non-food items (NFI), WASH and health across Jonglei State from January to March 2019, with reference to changes from the last quarter of 2018.

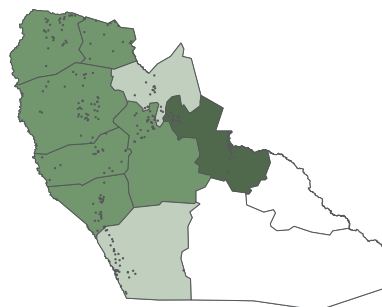
of key informant interviews conducted: **1,210**

of assessed settlements: **422**

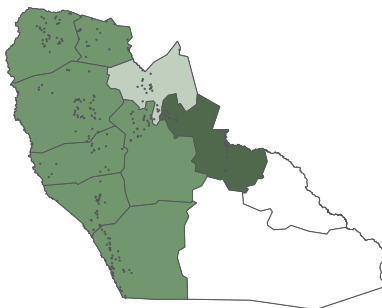
of counties covered: **9 (of 11)**

of focus group discussions conducted: **12**

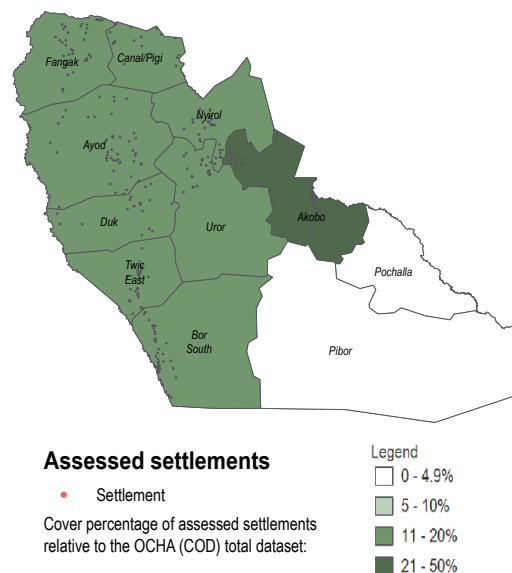
Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, January 2019



Map 2: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, February 2019



Map 3: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, March 2019



Key Findings

Shocks characterised by insecurity and environmental factors continued to drive displacement in Jonglei State to regions with well-known access to resources (either self-sustainable or through humanitarian assistance) or security. This reportedly put pressure on resources in host communities, whilst those displaced reported being exposed to risks such as looting and targeted violence during their journeys. Reflective of the high

needs, REACH port and road monitoring (PRM) data suggested that between January and March 2019, there was a higher net-outflow of people moving outside of South Sudan to countries such as Ethiopia. Those who returned from Ethiopia reported the main pull factors as family reunification and scoping security and safety conditions. Fewer reportedly returned in anticipation of accessing basic services.

Whilst key indicators remained unchanged from the previous reporting period, **needs**

METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data from key informants who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). Information for this report was collected from key informants in Bor Protection of Civilians site, Bor Town and Akobo Town in Jonglei State in January, February and March 2019.

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 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.

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements¹ in a given month were included in analysis. 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 payam² coverage over the period. Canal/Pigi has been excluded from the overall trends analysis of Jonglei state, however this Situation Overview will analyse this county separately.

Quantitative findings were triangulated with FGDs and secondary sources. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToRs](#).

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. Ibid.

across Jonglei remained high, with most counties reporting low access to clean water (especially in the swamp areas in the north west), education, and health services. Whilst access to food remained stable compared to the previous quarter, **insecurity and environmental factors impacted food security**. Amongst counties assessed, Canal/Pigi reported the lowest proportion of assessed settlements with adequate access to food (0% in March 2019), likely due to poor water access for cultivation, and FGD participants from across the State reported insecurity impacting access to cultivation sites. Furthermore, these factors may have encouraged a higher reliance on food assistance as the primary source of food in much of Jonglei, an increased trend since December 2018. Moreover, consumption coping strategies in response to these needs suggest a continued depletion of assets and erosion of resilience to future shocks.

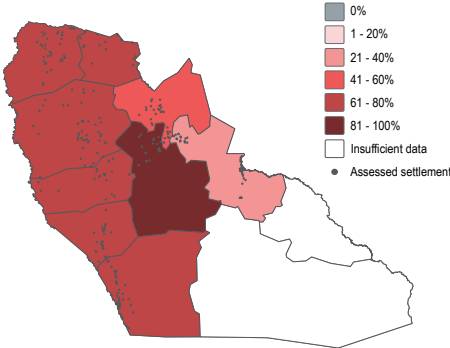
Insecurity continued to drive protection concerns. Domestic violence remained the most frequently reported protection concern, particularly in Bor South and Fangak; the largest increase in the latter county. FGDs in Bor South and Uror also highlighted concerns with women at risk to sexual violence outside of the home due to their household role of finding alternative sources of livelihoods such as collecting wild foods outside of the settlement. Furthermore, early marriage was a key concern for girls, reportedly high in Canal/Pigi, possibly driven by the need to secure more resources such as cattle through bride price. Cattle raiding continued to affect both men and young boys. Child abduction, often

associated with cattle raids, was reportedly widespread and a key concern for protection regarding young boys with frequent reporting in Duk and Twic East.

Whilst protection concerns, especially those linked to intercommunal violence, remained high, **a positive reduction in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting shelter damage** due to conflict as well as conflict incidents resulting in at least one death has been noted compared to 2018. Perceptions of safety in settlements assessed are also higher than in 2018.

Access to health services and water sources remained poor but stable compared to the previous reporting period, and some counties reported stress on existing facilities due to reportedly high population movement to urban areas, notably in Fangak. Assessed settlements in Ayod, Fangak and Canal/Pigi reported serious issues with access to clean water, with many reporting rivers and swamps as the primary water source.

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in the settlement, March 2019:



Furthermore, latrine use remained low due to a lack of facilities, raising concerns over the proximity of defecation to water sources, especially in areas where rivers and swamps are the main water source.

Education remained a priority for assessed settlements in Jonglei State, with many households reporting education as a pull factor for movement and displacement as many education facilities either do not exist or cannot educate over Primary Eight. In assessed settlements in Jonglei, boys continued to have the highest school attendance, declining slightly during the lean season due to commitments to agriculture and cattle keeping, particularly in Nyirol and Twic East.

Population Movement and Displacement

Displacement across Jonglei State remained stable since the previous reporting period; 64% of assessed settlements reported the presence of IDPs in their settlement in March 2019 (66% in December 2018). Furthermore, IDP arrivals continued to arrive predominantly from settlements within Jonglei State (64% of assessed settlements in March 2019). Over a third (39%) of assessed settlements reported that the most recent arrivals came 6 to 12 months ago, with 11% reporting arrivals in the last 3 months.

Displacement during the first quarter of 2019 was largely characterised by the need to find access to food and basic services and fear of

insecurity.

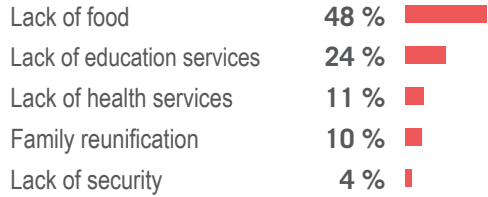
Food, water and service-driven movement

Access to food and livelihoods was a driving force in displacement patterns across Jonglei in the first quarter of 2019.

REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) in Akobo tracks movement of South Sudanese traveling to and returning from Ethiopia, most often to the refugee camps in the Gambella region. PRM tracking in Akobo across the first quarter of 2019 indicated that, amongst those assessed, there was still a higher number of individuals and households reportedly moving to Ethiopia than returning to South Sudan, primarily for service delivery that remained difficult to access in South Sudan.³ The lack of food remained the highest reported push factor for individuals departing from Akobo (48% in March).⁴ The daily average number of individuals recorded leaving Akobo for Ethiopia decreased from 43 in February to 30 in March. Key informants reported this could have been due to the low levels of the Pibor river hindering boat access from Akobo to Ethiopia.

In some areas, access to clean drinking water reportedly motivated displacement.

Figure 1: Most reported reasons for leaving Akobo for locations in Ethiopia in March 2019:



3. REACH Port and Road Monitoring: Akobo March 2019.

4. Ibid.

Key informants in Fangak reported a high number of IDPs displaced to urban centres to try and access boreholes, subsequently increasing population density in urban areas⁵ and likely straining access to water there in turn. Simultaneously, settlements typically dependent on pools during the dry season, especially in Kombo and the surrounding areas, were displaced to the river sides in the western part of the county perhaps due to seasonal low access to water.⁶

Education also provoked movement both within Jonglei and outside of South Sudan. Twenty-four percent (24%) of individuals recorded by REACH PRM departing from Akobo reported their main pull factor as to access better education services; this has reportedly remained unchanged since December 2018.

Insecurity-driven displacement

Displacement continued to be driven by insecurity provoked by high rates of cattle raiding, revenge killings and child abduction. In Uror county, mass displacements from the northern Jonglei conflict in 2017 reportedly continued to put pressure on settlements in the north of the county, stressing resource availability and provoking displacement in two main directions. Primarily, groups moved to the Bor PoC site using the Pajut Poktap road in January 2019, intending to stay permanently due to the provision of security. Secondly, others reportedly moved to Akobo Town to then access camps in the Gambella region of Ethiopia.⁷






Focus group discussions with participants from Jalle⁸, Bor South reported an attraction to Bor Town due to perceptions of better safety. Those who could not reach Bor Town fled to swamp areas such as Kuei island following incidents in December 2018. Some individuals who were previously in Kuei island reportedly moved to Bor Town due to the lack of medical facilities, food, shelter and protection after their initial displacement there.

In January 2019 over 10,000 individuals, mainly women and children, were affected by a cattle raid in Akobo East, perhaps contributing the sustained flows of households captured in REACH PRM data collection moving to Ethiopia and Akobo West.⁹ Furthermore, although outside of REACH AoK coverage, cattle raiding incidents in Pibor resulting in the loss of lives and livestock¹⁰ encouraged displacement, however this was only within the county and to Ethiopia due to limited access to northeastern and southwestern Jongle due to insecurity.

Self-reported returns to settlements in Jonglei State

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of returnees in their settlement increased from 42% in December 2018 to 61% in March 2019. At the end of the first quarter, 26% of assessed settlements reported that returnees arrived in the previous 3 to 6 months, similar to December 2018. Some of these movements were reportedly motivated by family reunification,¹¹ and others temporary visits to assess the security

Figure 2: Most reported reasons for inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in March 2019:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|---|
| Food distribution stopped | 27 % |  |
| High prices of food | 10 % |  |
| Insecurity | 10 % |  |
| No livestock | 5 % |  |
| Pests destroyed crops | 3 % |  |

situation.

Perceived improvements in the security situation encouraged some to return to settlements in Jonglei State. Whilst the average number of individuals returning from Ethiopia did not increase during the reporting period (an average of 21 individuals a day in February and March), some incentives to return remained associated with perceived changes in security (48% of assessed households reported this as a reason to return to South Sudan in March).¹³ The majority of returnees received information on the current conditions in Akobo from those regularly passing back and forth between Akobo and the Gambella region¹⁴; this could have encouraged individuals to report perceived changes to the security situation as a pull factor. Although many have visited Akobo during the reporting period to see how security conditions evolve, FGD participants in Akobo reported that a temporary visit to families is part of this scoping activity.¹⁵ Reflective of this and similar to previous months, 34% of assessed individuals in March 2019 reported returning to re-join or temporarily visit their

families.¹⁶

Deteriorating conditions and tensions with the host community in Ethiopia reportedly triggered movements back to South Sudan, demonstrating that some of the returns movements were driven by strong push factors in host countries. The proportion of households arriving in Akobo reporting tensions with the host community as the main push factor increased from 12% to 36% from January to March 2019. Violence in the camps was reported as a key protection concern for women, who were reported as particularly targeted by the violence.¹⁷

Further return movements from other countries back into South Sudan were reportedly encouraged by push factors in host countries than improvements in conditions in Jonglei. In Fangak, FDG participants reported that returns from Sudan were driven by deteriorating conditions in Sudan.¹⁸ Meanwhile, assessed settlements in Canal/ Pigi county also reported returns coming from Sudan (South Kordofan and El Jebelian in Khartoum), Ethiopia and Melut.¹⁹ Households that were originally from Canal/ Pigi county reported migrating back after confidence-building exercises started in November 2018 to increase river access.

Situation in Assessed Settlements

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Restricted food production coupled with

5. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak displaced to the Bor PoC site, Jan 2019.

6. Ibid.

7. FGD with Key Informants from Uror, Jan 2019.

8. The area is particularly prone to cattle raiding due to the presence of many cattle camps in one area.

9. OCHA, South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot (January 2019).

10. FEWSNET South Sudan Food Security Outlook Update April 2019.

11. FGD with Key Informants Returning from the Gambella Region to Akobo Town, March 2019.

12. REACH Port and Road Monitoring: Akobo March 2019.

13. REACH Port and Road Monitoring: Akobo March 2019.

14. FGD with Key Informants Returning from the Gambella Region to Akobo Town, March 2019.

15. Ibid.

16. REACH Port and Road Monitoring: Akobo March 2019.

17. FGD with Key Informants Returning from the Gambella Region to Akobo Town, March 2019.

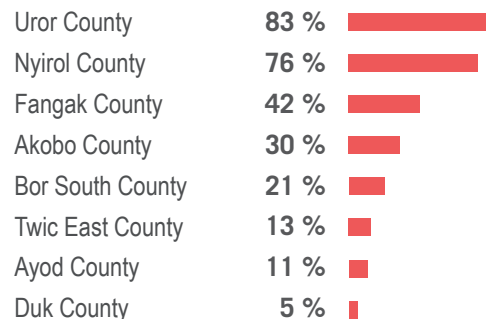
18. FGD with Key Informants in Fangak, January 2019.

19. FGD with Key Informants from Canal/ Pigi in Malakal. January 2019.

insecurity continued to compromise food security in Jonglei State. Whilst the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food and severe hunger remained similar to the previous quarter (54% and 19% respectively in December, 59% and 28% respectively in March 2019), data from the first quarter of 2019 continued to demonstrate disruption to primary food sources such as cultivation due to insecurity and environmental factors. In January 2019, pockets of populations identified as being in IPC Phase 5 “Catastrophe” could be found in five counties, two of which are in Jonglei State; Canal/ Pigi and Pibor.²⁰ Whilst this Situation Overview does not report on findings from Pibor county (see Map 1-3), the situation in Pibor is of great concern given the severity of acute food insecurity as evidenced by the IPC.

Likely as a result of seasonal factors, assessed settlements in Jonglei reported an increased reliance on food distributions, which became the highest reported source of food in March 2019 (33% of assessed settlements

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as the main food source in March 2019:



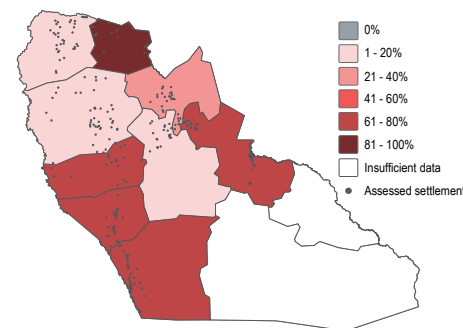
in Jonglei). This increased from only 18% at the end of the previous reporting period. In December 2018, 2-3 months after the main harvest, cultivation was reported as the main source of food by assessed settlements (31%); by March 2019, this had declined to 21%. Whilst this can be partly attributed to the depletion of food stocks from the previous cultivation season, focus group discussions from the first quarter of 2019 highlighted the impact of insecurity and environmental factors on typical cultivation practices and also coping strategies to overcome food shortages during the onset of lean season.

Bor South, Twic East and Duk

With the exception of Akobo (see section below), Duk, Twic East and Bor South remained to have the lowest levels of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food (only 26%, 33%, and 38% in March 2019 respectively). Whilst unchanged in Bor South, this decreased by 18 and 15 percentage points in Duk and Twic East respectively from December 2018.

Similar to state-wide trends, reporting of cultivation as the main source of food decreased in the region across the reporting period. In March 2019, 0% of assessed settlements in all three counties reported cultivation as the main source of food, decreasing from 24% and 20% in Twic East and Bor South respectively, but unchanged in Duk. In March 2019, the main source of food was purchased in assessed settlements in Twic East and Bor South (42% and 26% respectively), and bartering was the main means to access food in Duk

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in March 2019:



(21%). Whilst expected that cultivation is not the main source of food at this time of year, typical coping strategies to overcome the food shortages have been compromised by security, as will be subsequently outlined.

FGD participants from Duk reported insecurity considerably impacting typical means to access food.²¹ 56% of assessed settlements in March reported insecurity as the main reason people could not access enough food. As insecurity reduced access to food and typical livelihoods, individuals in Duk reportedly moved to Duk Island, relying on food distributions that were delivered in January 2019 with few incentives to attempt cultivation due to the anticipation of further displacement. Some households in this region reportedly developed “small scale farms” within their compound to avoid insecurity outside of the settlement.²²

Similarly, areas such as the north of Bor South reported restricted access to cattle and cultivation due to recurring cattle raiding incidents. It was reported that large numbers of livestock were taken by raiding in January and

February,²³ reducing the cattle available to sell in order to acquire money to buy food on the local markets. In Twic East, FGD participants reported localised conflict impacting access to the swamp areas to fish. Furthermore, as a result of the restricted access to this livelihood, households reported resorting to sharing food with families and selling assets to buy goods on the market.²⁴

Ayod, Fangak and Canal/Pigi

In March 2019 assessed settlements in Ayod and Fangak reported that 89% and 82% respectively had adequate access to food, unchanged from the previous reporting period (84% and 81% respectively). A high proportion of assessed settlements in Ayod and Fangak reported cultivation as their main source of food (81% and 50% respectively), however there was a 23 percentage point decrease in Fangak from December 2018. Similar to state-wide trends, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements in Fangak reporting NGO distributions as their main source of food, increasing from 8% in December 2018 to 42% in March 2019.

Whilst cultivation was reported as the main source of food, harvest outputs in some areas were likely minimal due to environmental factors and insecurity. FGD participants from Ayod reported many individuals eating seeds rather than planting them due to both hunger and delays in the rains to plant.²⁵ It is possible that assessed settlements reported cultivation as the main source of food, yet resorted to eating seeds during periods of food insecurity (20% of assessed settlements

20. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: Current IDP Acute Food Insecurity Situation for January 2019.

21. FGD with Key Informant from Duk, in Bor Town, March 2019.

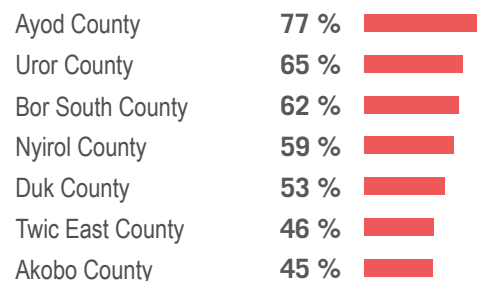
22. Ibid.

23. FGD with Key Informants from Bor South, Jalle, in Bor Town, February 2019.

24. FGD with Key Informants from Twic East, in Bor Town, March 2019.

25. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod to Bor PoC site, January 2019

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting reducing meal sizes as a coping strategy in March 2019:²⁶

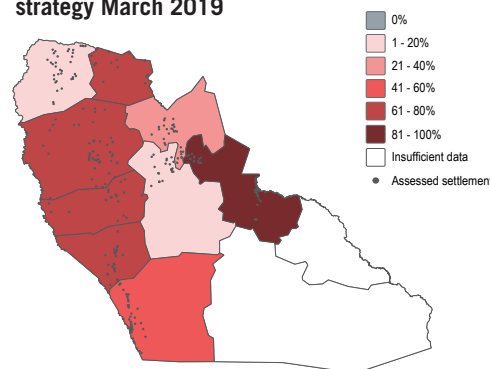


reported disease outbreak amongst livestock in March, with a 35 percentage point increase in reporting since December 2018 among assessed settlements in Fangak. FGD participants in Fangak reported that market prices for cattle decreased due to the disease. More individuals tried to sell cows in order to buy food but were unsuccessful due to the lack of demand.³⁰ Furthermore, in Fangak many cattle owners could not access veterinary services due to reported insecurity on the roads within the area.³¹

AoK data collection has obtained sufficient coverage in Canal/Pigi since January 2019, therefore analysis will be separated due to the inability to make comparative trends analysis with other counties. In March 2019, 0% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food, with 27% of assessed settlements reporting new arrivals impacting access to food. FGD participants supported this by reporting an increase in households returning to Canal (some unregistered), putting pressure on host community resources.³² Seventy-three percent (73%) of assessed settlements reported hunger to be severe for most people because they could not access enough food.

Although the majority of assessed settlements reported cultivation (60%) as the main source of food, harvest outputs were likely minimal as a result of insufficient rains (13% of assessed settlements in March 2019 reported the lack of rain compromised access to food).³³ Whilst existing data for Canal/Pigi raises concerns, future data collection will enable further

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting consuming wild foods as a coping strategy March 2019



analysis.

Greater Akobo

Unchanged from the previous reporting period, only 32% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in Akobo County. Despite a large NGO presence in Akobo Town, food distributions were reportedly shared with non-registered households, putting pressure on food availability (6% of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food reported new arrivals as the main reason). This could be attributed to the fact that Akobo Town is a high transit and final destination for IDPs and returnees due to the known presence of distributions and access to Ethiopia.³⁴ In Nyirrol, 83% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in March 2019, unchanged from the previous reporting period. Uror was the only county in March 2019 where access to food had slightly improved, with a small increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to food, rising from 71% to

83% between December and March 2019.

The primary source of food reported by assessed settlements in Nyirrol and Uror was NGO distributions (76% and 83% respectively) in March, a considerable increase from December 2018 (25% and 47% respectively). In Akobo, whilst 30% of assessed settlements reported NGO distributions as their main source of food, purchased food was the highest reported food source (42%) in March. This could be attributed to aforementioned difficulties with food distributions shared with unregistered IDPs, and the presence of a larger market in Akobo Town.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of assessed settlements in Akobo in March reported that conflict and looting had a large impact on the ability to access enough food (16% was the average across Jonglei). Similarly in Uror, despite small reported improvements in adequate access to food, FGD participants reported that several factors have made cattle-raiding a bigger threat to food security than before. Farms in Uror have reportedly not been cultivated due to insecurity from cattle raiding, and insecurity has also meant that many cannot go into the woods to hunt and forage. Furthermore, access to local markets has been hindered as many routes to major markets have reportedly become insecure.³⁵ Internal displacements within the county due to insecurity has reduced access to cereals such as maize, as IDPs were away from their area of origin due to fear of attack during the key planting months in 2018.³⁶

26. Quantitative data regarding coping strategies in Fangak was excluded for this quarter's analysis.

27. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod to Bor PoC Site, March 2019.

28. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod to Bor PoC site, January 2019

29. Ibid

30. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak to Bor PoC site, January 2019.

31. Ibid.

32. FGD with Key Informants from Canal/ Pigi in Malakal. January 2019.

33. Ibid.

34. FGD with Key Informants Returning from the Gambella Region to Akobo Town, March 2019.

35. FGD with Key Informants from Uror, Jan 2019.

36. Ibid.

Coping strategies

Likely in response to food insecurity driven by insecurity and environmental factors, coping strategies were reportedly adopted to overcome limited access to food and livelihoods.

Similar to December 2018, borrowing food remained the most commonly reported consumption-based coping strategy, with 65% of assessed settlements in Jonglei State reporting this in March 2019, perhaps indicative of the reported reliance on resources by those registered in certain settlements (see shelter and non-food items section). In December, 42% of assessed settlements reported sending children to neighbours as a consumption-based coping strategy, this reduced to 19% in March. FGD participants from Ayod and Fangak reported a depletion of assets in the community meaning that it was harder for families to feed other children, possibly explaining the considerable decrease. Meanwhile, in March assessed settlements continued to report on households limiting food portions (68%) reducing the number of meals, (51%) as well as adults skipping meals (31%) in order to make food stocks last longer. Whilst the proportion of assessed settlements reporting these coping strategies remained stable, it suggests that settlements remain vulnerable to shocks that could impact access to food.

Selling home assets was the highest reported livelihood coping strategy in Jonglei State, with 65% of assessed settlements reporting this in March 2019, unchanged from the previous reporting period. This can be attributed to the

forementioned selling of livestock in Fangak. For host-communities, asset selling was reported by FGD participants as a means to make money to buy food when they cannot be procured through cultivation or other livelihoods.

FGD participants reported insecurity restricting typical coping strategies. As typically anticipated when stocks from the previous year's harvest run low, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting most individuals eating wild foods as part of the main meal, rising from 38% to 51% between December 2018 and March 2019. However, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that less than half of their main meals have included wild foods increased slightly from 17% in December 2018 to 30% in March 2019. FGD participants from Jalle, Bor South, reported that the gathering of wild foods, a commonly adopted coping strategy during the lean season, has been reduced due to insecurity of foraging in forest areas outside of Jalle.³⁷

Similarly, in Twic East, localised conflict has limited residents' typical coping strategies such as fishing in the swamp areas. Those affected by conflict relied on reducing meal sizes and prioritising children's consumption over adults (75% and 54% of assessed settlements respectively in March).³⁸ Across Jonglei State, 68% of assessed settlements reported reducing portion sizes as a consumption-based coping strategy in March 2019.

Protection

Insecurity across assessed areas of the

State continued to drive protection concerns, which in turn negatively impacted populations' access to services. The proportion of assessed settlements across Jonglei reporting populations feeling safe most of the time remained relatively high but unchanged from the previous reporting period (68% of assessed settlements in March). Nonetheless, a high number of assessed settlements (32%) remained to feel insecure, with the highest reporting in Duk (53%), Twic East (42%) and Nyirol (41%).

Cattle raiding and child abduction continued to characterise protection concerns in Jonglei State. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of fatal conflict remained unchanged (13% in March 2019), however there was a 26 percentage point increase in assessed settlements in Duk reporting fatal incidents, likely as a result of cattle raiding. Child abduction, often associated with cattle raids, remained the primary protection concern for boys across Jonglei, with 10% of assessed settlements reporting this in March. Similar to the previous reporting period, these concerns were most acute in Duk and Twic East with 21% and 33% of assessed settlements respectively reporting this as a major issue. This perhaps contributed to the higher proportion of KIs in assessed settlements in this region reporting that most people felt unsafe most of the time.

Early marriage remains a key protection concern. Unchanged from the previous reporting period, 28% of assessed settlements in Jonglei State reported this as the primary protection concern in March; Duk,

Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs in Jonglei reporting IDPs staying in improvised shelters in March 2019:

| | | |
|------------------|------|-------------|
| Duk County | 54 % | <div></div> |
| Uror County | 30 % | <div></div> |
| Twic East County | 27 % | <div></div> |
| Nyirol County | 24 % | <div></div> |
| Bor South County | 10 % | <div></div> |
| Akobo County | 0 % | |
| Ayod County | 0 % | |
| Fangak County | 0 % | |

Twic East and Bor South had the highest reported proportion of assessed settlements with early marriage as a primary protection concern (84%, 75% and 67% respectively), with increases of 14 and 23 percentage points in Twic East and Bor South respectively.

A reduction in access to cattle in local markets is also reportedly resulting in families facilitating marriage for their daughters sooner, in order to replenish cows sold during high food insecurity. This is especially the case in regions such as Canal/ Pigi where 27% of assessed settlements reported early marriage as a protection concern in March.³⁹ FGD participants from Canal/Pigi also reported that the lack of access to market stock means people are unable to buy back cattle sold in the market for cash, as they would have done in previous years, which has increased the pressure to obtain a bride price payment. This aligns to earlier reports of frequent instances of cattle raiding in the Jalle area of Bor South.

Reporting on protection concerns regarding women remained stable across the reporting

37. FGD with Key Informants from Bor South, Jalle, in Bor Town, February 2019.

38. FGD with Key Informants from Twic East, in Bor Town, March 2019.

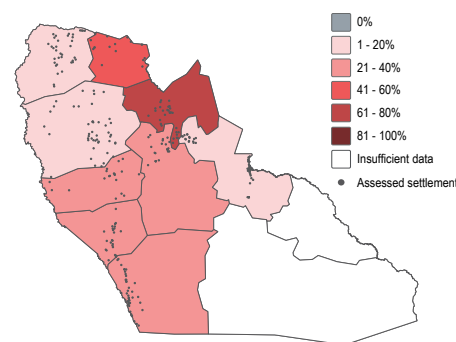
39. FGD with Key Informants from Canal/ Pigi in Malakal. January 2019.

period for assessed settlements in Jonglei State. Domestic violence was the main protection concern for women, with 25% of assessed settlements reporting in March 2019, unchanged from the previous reporting period. Meanwhile, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting protection concerns surrounding injury or fatal incidents directed towards women remained consistent to the previous reporting period (7%). FGD participants reported external factors such as sexual violence compromising female security, particularly when women moved to areas around the settlement to forage for wild foods and collect firewood.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Across population groups, IDPs remain living in the poorest shelter conditions in Jonglei State, with 14% of assessed settlements with IDP presence reporting improvised shelters as their main shelter type across the whole of Jonglei. There was a decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs in Duk reporting those IDPs living in improvised shelters, reducing from 82% in December 2018 to 54% in March 2019. Of assessed settlements hosting IDPs, 58% in Duk reported that the most recent IDPs arrived 6 to 12 months ago. This decline in improvised housing could be attributed to improvements to shelter support over the time IDPs had spent in assessed settlements. In Canal/ Pigi, it was reported to be difficult for new arrivals and formerly displaced households to ration food as they are staying in impermanent shelter.⁴⁰ There were attempts to ration food at the end

Map 7: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting educational services were not available March 2019



of the rainy season, however food stocks were destroyed when their shelters were destroyed by rains. In response, households reported fear of relying on the approach of storing food as much and depended much more on local markets.⁴¹ This can be a risky strategy as it makes families more vulnerable to market shocks.

Assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs reported that most IDPs were living with the host community (79%, unchanged from the previous reporting period). This does suggest a sustained reliance on host community hospitality to sustain IDPs in many areas, especially those who are unregistered for food and NFI distributions the local area. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of assessed settlements with an IDP presence reported this demographic as the main source of NFI supplies in March 2019, with only 15% of assessed settlements reportedly getting them from NGO distributions. Notably, 76% of assessed settlements in Fangak reported a reliance on NGO distributions for NFI items in March 2019.

Key informants from Ayod reported that they can no longer share resources due to asset depletion, as they would have nothing remaining to sustain their own families.⁴² Mosquito nets continue to be the highest reported NFI need for assessed settlements across the whole of Jonglei State (20%).

Shelter damage was not commonly reported across Jonglei State (0%). In the previous quarter, assessed settlements in Nyirol reported damage to shelter (13%) with more than half of assessed settlements that experienced damage reporting that half of the shelters were destroyed because of fighting. Perhaps the decrease in reporting of shelter damage from Nyirol country can be attributed to community capacity to re-build with relatively lower levels of conflict in the region. While protection concerns persist (see protection section), large-scale conflict appears to have stayed relatively low in Jonglei, especially in counties such as Uror and Nyirol, where assessed settlements had previously reported conflict impacting infrastructure.⁴³

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Health

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of boreholes remained the same across Jonglei State, with 84% of assessed settlements reporting any boreholes present in the community, 100% of which were reportedly functioning.

However, assessed settlements in Fangak reported that only 29% have boreholes present in their settlement. This raises

concerns of the risk of waterborne diseases spreading in Fangak, due to swampy conditions. Where they do exist, reportedly in semi-urban centres, population density due to displacement (see displacement section above) puts pressure on existing facilities.⁴⁴ Reflective of this reportedly low access to improved water sources, local populations are reporting swamps and rivers as their main water source (79% of assessed settlements in March 2019), raising concerns over the risk of waterborne diseases spreading and poor sanitary conditions. FGD participants have reported widespread diarrhoea among children and adults as a consequence.⁴⁵

WASH concerns were reportedly high in Canal/ Pigi and Ayod also. Seventy-three percent (73%) of assessed settlements in Canal also reported rivers as their main water source, with an increased presence of diseases but limited access to health facilities, which is also reportedly impacting settlement members' ability to cultivate and engage in livelihoods.⁴⁶ FGD participants from Ayod reported similar qualitative findings, with populations around Nayin settlement reportedly engaged in tensions over the one functioning borehole.⁴⁷ Protection concerns were raised by participants who reported that many families remain in queues for more than three days without accessing the water point, resulting in many women reportedly standing in these queues during the night.⁴⁸ Fifty-two percent (52%) of assessed settlements reported that no individuals were using latrines in their assessed settlement. Of these assessed settlements, 35% reported it was because no facilities were available.

Unchanged from the previous reporting period,

40. FGD with Key Informants from Canal/ Pigi in Malakal. January 2019.

41. Ibid.

42. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod to the Bor PoC site, January 2019.

43. REACH Situational Overview, Jonglei State, January-March 2018.

44. FGD with Key Informants from Fangak to Bor PoC site, January 2019.

45. Ibid.

46. FGD with Key Informants from Canal/ Pigi in Malakal. January 2019.

47. FGD with Key Informants from Ayod to the Bor PoC site, January 2019.

48. Ibid.

93% of assessed settlements were able to walk to health care services in Jonglei State. This could be attributed to road access still being relatively good during the dry season. However, 47% of assessed settlements in Canal/ Pigi reported that there was not a healthcare service within walking distance. Of assessed settlements in Canal/Pigi reporting that health care services were not available, 57% of assessed settlements reported this was because the facilities had never been there. In northern parts of Urur, FGD participants reported an inability to move to Lankien (Nyiröl County) in search of better healthcare services due to security issues on the main road between the two counties.⁴⁹

Malaria remained the most commonly reported main healthcare problem across Jonglei State, reported by 32% of assessed settlements. This could be linked to a lack of mosquito nets and infrastructure within shelters.

Education

Education remains a priority for assessed settlements in Jonglei State, with many households reporting education as a push factor for movement (see displacement section above). In March 2019, 72% of assessed settlements reported the presence of at least one education service within walking distance. Similar to the previous reporting period, of assessed settlements who reported no access to education services within walking distance, the lack of facilities to begin with was the highest reported reason across Jonglei State (35% in March), with 100% of assessed

settlements in both Fangak and Ayod reporting this, matching reported reasons for people travelling from these areas to outside of South Sudan, as previously reported.

Attendance for school was higher amongst boys than girls. 52% of assessed settlements in Jonglei reported that more than half of the population of boys were attending school, and proportions were similar across all counties. During the same period, 25% of assessed settlements in March reported that more than half of the population of girls were attending school in Jonglei State, with higher proportions reported in Akobo county (60%) and Bor South (35%). Of assessed settlements reporting that not all girls were attending school, the primary reason was so that they could work in the household (11% in March). Of assessed settlements who reported that not all boys attended school, the main reason was due to commitments to agricultural work (19% in March), related to commitments to taking cattle away from the settlement for grazing.

Conclusion

Insecurity and environmental factors in assessed settlements across Jonglei continue to impact the everyday access to basic foods and services. Whilst overall trends have remained consistent since the previous reporting period, concern surrounding this sustained stress on resources and difficulty to adapt everyday coping strategies common in the lean season should be monitored in the coming months as increasingly settlements are relying on humanitarian distributions.

Whilst all assessed counties in Jonglei State demonstrated acute needs, existing data from Canal/Pigi raises particular concerns around food security, WASH, protection and access to healthcare. Canal/Pigi was classified as Phase 4 for acute food insecurity in January 2019 by the IPC, with some populations in Phase 5.⁵⁰ Future Situation Overviews will be able to provide a more detailed trends analysis in subsequent months to better-monitor the situation.

Fangak and Ayod both reported critical WASH conditions. Fangak is also experiencing internal displacement from other areas of the county, as well as arrivals from Upper Nile and Unity States, putting increasing pressure on already-strained resources. Meanwhile, access to food and livelihoods is a pressing need in Jonglei State, most prominently reported in Duk, Twic East and Akobo with only 26%, 33% and 32% of assessed settlements respectively reporting adequate access to food (59% as the State average). This was most likely due to the impacts of insecurity and environmental factors, with displacement indicative of the need to find better-access to services. Anticipated post-harvest improvements did not manifest when factors such as drought impacted cultivation, and conflict prevented access to vital livelihoods and alternative coping strategies during dry season. This means households are entering the 2019 lean season with fewer food stocks than anticipated. This has resulted in an increased reliance on food distributions across many counties in Jonglei State. Furthermore, protection needs related to high levels of inter-communal violence across various parts of Jonglei, are still pressing and

impact populations' ability to access food, driving household members to adopt dangerous coping strategies to meet basic needs such as early marriage and going further afield to collect food.

To conclude, whilst needs in Jonglei State have not dramatically risen, and indicators usually associated with larger-scale conflict such as reported shelter damage due to conflict and perceptions of safety have seen an improvement since the previous reporting period, many high needs have been sustained. This raises important questions as to the long-term impact on settlements in Jonglei State who have seen the depletion of assets due to years of conflict. Coping strategies appear to be increasingly limited compared to previous years, and key indicators of critical hunger such as consumption-based coping strategies such as limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals continued to be reported as used by assessed settlements.

About REACH Initiative

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

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49. FGD with Key Informants displaced from Urur to the Bor PoC site, March 2019.

50. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: Current IDP Acute Food Insecurity Situation for January 2019.