

# Assessment of hard to reach areas: Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

April, 2023  
South Sudan

## KEY MESSAGES

- In 62% of assessed settlements, people reportedly did not have access to adequate food in the month prior to data collection.
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to adequate food, 54% reported that hunger was "severe".
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to adequate food, 55% reported reducing meals (frequency) as one of the coping strategies used to mitigate a lack of adequate food.

## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

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.

## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The general assessment objective is to assist humanitarian actors in making more informed decision about the scale, scope and location of the humanitarian response through providing detailed information on humanitarian needs, displacement dynamics, and service access in hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan.

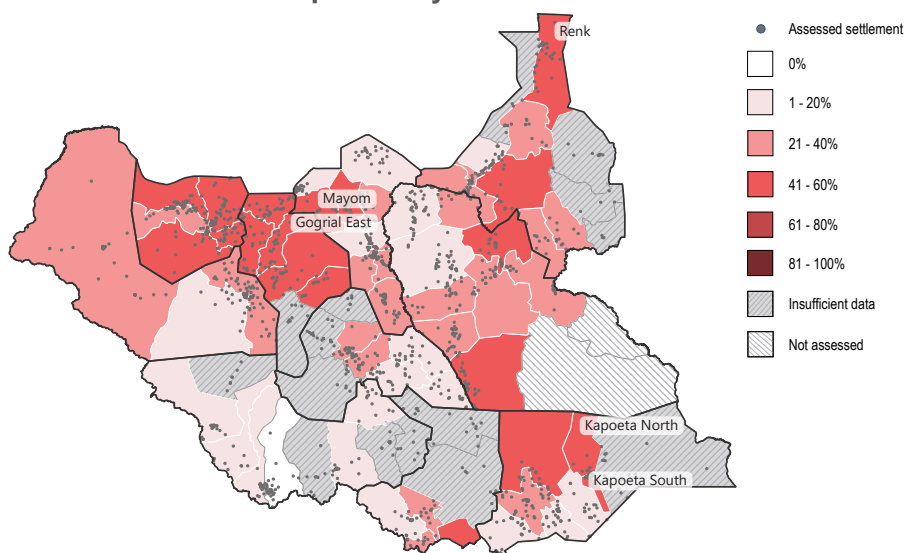
### METHODOLOGY:

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 Key informants (KIs).

The findings presented in this factsheet are indicative of the broad food security and livelihood trends in assessed settlements in April 2023, and are not statistically generalisable. Please see full methodology detailed on page (4).

All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed with that specific response. Map labels highlight the top 5 counties reporting a certain indicator and/or all counties reporting 100% of a certain indicator.

**Figure 1: Aggregated food access composite indicator by percentage of assessed settlements per county**



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 (as perceived by KIs).<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 2: Top 5 most reported reasons for inadequate access to food across South Sudan by proportion of (n=927) assessed settlements where food access was reported to be inadequate**

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Not enough food in stock     | 29% |
| High prices                  | 22% |
| Ceasing of food distribution | 12% |
| Flooding/too much rain       | 8%  |
| Crops destroyed by pests     | 5%  |

## LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS

Figure 3: 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

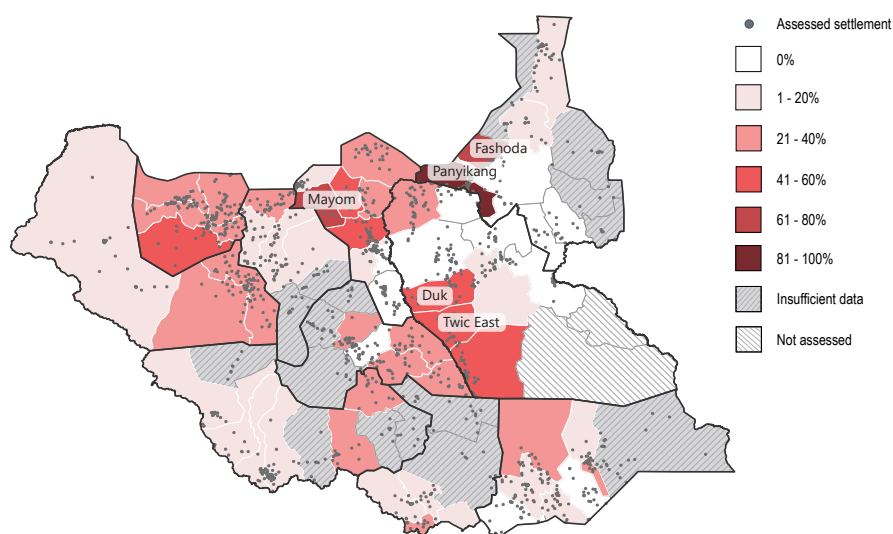
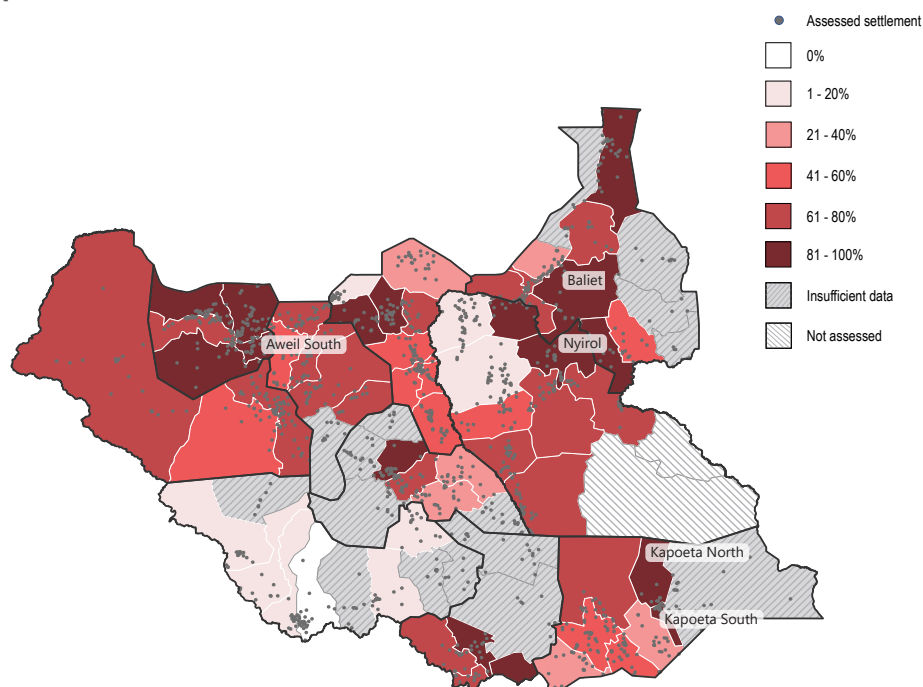


Table 1: In the last month, which shock event has impacted or led to loss of livelihoods in the settlement, by proportion of assessed settlements where a livelihood shock was reported

| County    | Loss/Decrease in aid | Conflict | Displacement | Flooding | Rising prices | Don't know | Non Consensus | Assessed settlements where livelihoods shocks were reported (n) |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|------------|---------------|---|
| Fashoda   | 6%                   | 94%      | -            | -        | -             | -          | -             | 16  |
| Twic East | 27%                  | -        | 20%          | -        | 40%           | 7%         | 6%            | 15  |
| Duk       | 8%                   | -        | 50%          | -        | 42%           | -          | -             | 12  |
| Panyikang | -                    | 82%      | -            | 18%      | -             | -          | -             | 11  |
| Mayom     | -                    | -        | -            | 91%      | 9%            | -          | -             | 11  |

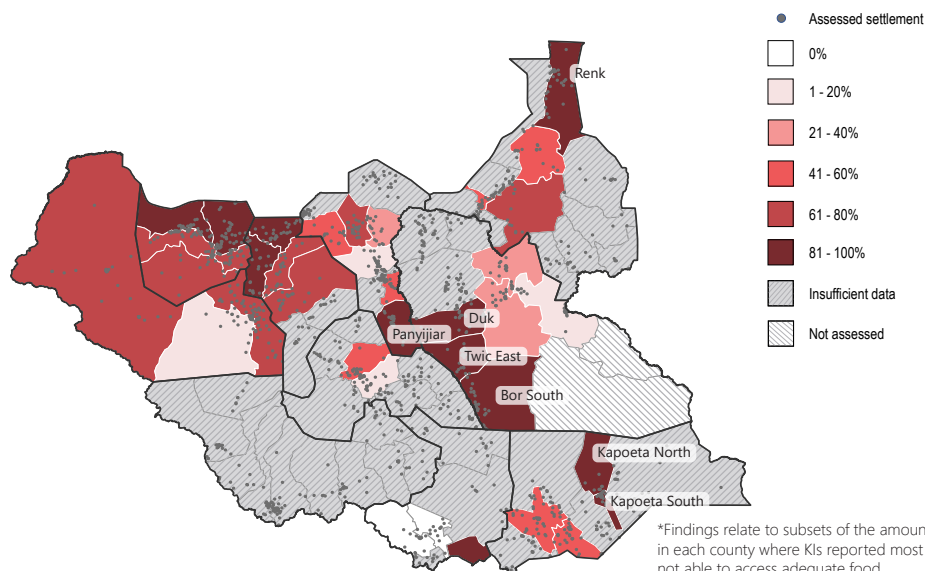
## FOOD ACCESS

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported that most people were unable to access adequate food in the month prior to data collection



**Table 2: Reported reasons people couldn't access food in counties, by proportion of assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported**

| County        | Food distribution stopped | High prices | Not enough land for cultivation | Not enough livestock | Not enough food in stock | Crops destroyed by pests | Flooding | No consensus | Assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported (n) |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------|--|
| Aweil South   | -                         | 50%         | 5%                              | 5%                   | 35%                      | -                        | 5%       | -            | 20   |
| Nyirol        | 58%                       | 21%         | -                               | -                    | 5%                       | -                        | -        | 16%          | 19   |
| Kapoeta South | 8%                        | 69%         | -                               | -                    | 23%                      | -                        | -        | -            | 13   |
| Kapoeta North | 8%                        | 38%         | -                               | 8%                   | 46%                      | -                        | -        | -            | 13   |
| Baliet        | 18%                       | -           | -                               | -                    | 36%                      | 36%                      | -        | 9%           | 11   |

**Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported hunger was "severe" and/or "worst it can be", in the month prior to data collection\***

## FOOD COPING

**Table 3: Reported food coping consumption practices by proportion of assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported**

| County        | Skip eating | Children alone eat | Reduce meals (frequency) | Less expensive meals | Limit meal size | Wild food consumption | Assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported (n) |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| Renk          | 14%         | 21%                | 32%                      | 68%                  | 39%             | 46%                   | 28   |
| Twic East     | -           | 71%                | 38%                      | 100%                 | 83%             | -                     | 24   |
| Bor South     | -           | 75%                | 36%                      | 97%                  | 83%             | 3%                    | 36   |
| Kapoeta North | -           | -                  | 77%                      | 85%                  | 38%             | 100%                  | 13   |
| Kapoeta South | -           | -                  | 85%                      | 100%                 | 31%             | 85%                   | 13   |
| Duk           | -           | 46%                | 77%                      | 100%                 | 62%             | -                     | 13   |
| Panyijiar     | 57%         | 79%                | 36%                      | 100%                 | 7%              | 21%                   | 14   |

|    | County         | No. of assessed settlements |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Abiemnhom      | 25                          |
| 2  | Akobo          | 23                          |
| 3  | Aweil Centre   | 18                          |
| 4  | Aweil East     | 46                          |
| 5  | Aweil North    | 23                          |
| 6  | Aweil South    | 20                          |
| 7  | Aweil West     | 31                          |
| 8  | Awerial        | 16                          |
| 9  | Ayod           | 40                          |
| 10 | Baliet         | 11                          |
| 11 | Bor South      | 48                          |
| 12 | Budi           | 18                          |
| 13 | Canal/Pigi     | 12                          |
| 14 | Cueibet        | 17                          |
| 15 | Duk            | 25                          |
| 16 | Ezo            | 14                          |
| 17 | Fangak         | 40                          |
| 18 | Fashoda        | 24                          |
| 19 | Gogrial East   | 22                          |
| 20 | Gogrial West   | 20                          |
| 21 | Guit           | 17                          |
| 22 | Ibba           | 8                           |
| 23 | Ikotos         | 30                          |
| 24 | Juba           | 7                           |
| 25 | Jur River      | 49                          |
| 26 | Kajo-keji      | 19                          |
| 27 | Kapoeta East   | 22                          |
| 28 | Kapoeta North  | 13                          |
| 29 | Kapoeta South  | 13                          |
| 30 | Koch           | 26                          |
| 31 | Lafon          | 15                          |
| 32 | Lainya         | 13                          |
| 33 | Leer           | 18                          |
| 34 | Longochuk      | 5                           |
| 35 | Luakpiny/Nasir | 12                          |
| 36 | Maban          | 9                           |
| 37 | Magwi          | 22                          |
| 38 | Maiwut         | 6                           |
| 39 | Malakal        | 19                          |
| 40 | Manyo          | 6                           |
| 41 | Maridi         | 17                          |
| 42 | Mayendit       | 19                          |
| 43 | Mayom          | 14                          |
| 44 | Melut          | 16                          |
| 45 | Morobo         | 12                          |
| 46 | Mundri East    | 7                           |
| 47 | Mundri West    | 9                           |
| 48 | Mvolo          | 12                          |
| 49 | Nagero         | 7                           |
| 50 | Nyirol         | 19                          |
| 51 | Nzara          | 19                          |
| 52 | Panyijiar      | 31                          |
| 53 | Panyikang      | 12                          |
| 54 | Pariang        | 22                          |
| 55 | Raja           | 32                          |

|    | County        | No. of assessed settlements |
|----|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 56 | Renk          | 33                          |
| 57 | Rubkona       | 26                          |
| 58 | Rumbek Centre | 23                          |
| 59 | Rumbek East   | 26                          |
| 60 | Rumbek North  | 8                           |
| 61 | Tambura       | 18                          |
| 62 | Terekeka      | 16                          |
| 63 | Tonj East     | 10                          |
| 64 | Tonj North    | 22                          |
| 65 | Tonj South    | 9                           |
| 66 | Torit         | 41                          |
| 67 | Twic          | 27                          |
| 68 | Twic East     | 31                          |
| 69 | Ulang         | 10                          |
| 70 | Uror          | 17                          |
| 71 | Wau           | 41                          |
| 72 | Wulu          | 8                           |
| 73 | Yambio        | 34                          |
| 74 | Yei           | 16                          |
| 75 | Yirol East    | 20                          |
| 76 | Yirol West    | 20                          |

## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The Key informants interviewed for AoK fall under the following three categories:

- 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

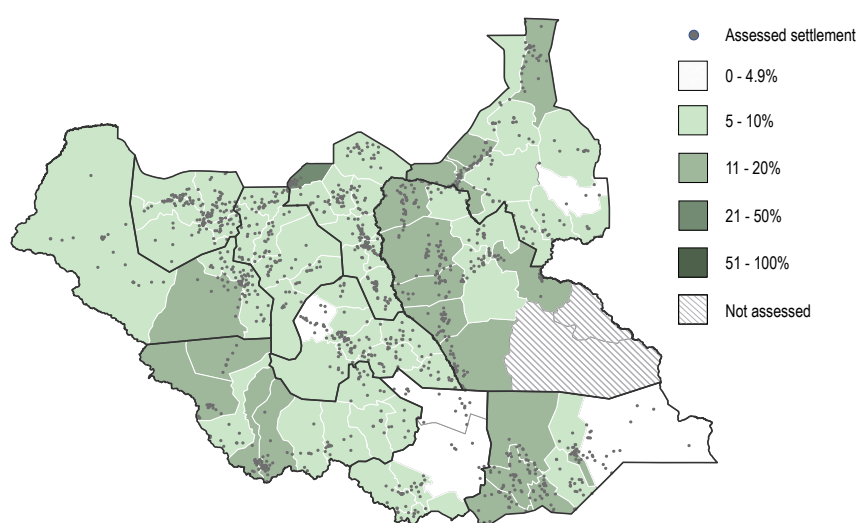
Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed have more than one

KI reporting on the settlement. In these cases, data is aggregated<sup>1</sup> at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#).

## ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

**1729** Key informants interviewed | **1526** Settlements assessed

**76** Counties assessed | **71** Counties with 5% or more coverage<sup>2</sup>



## ENDNOTES

PAGE 1

<sup>1</sup> 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

## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).