



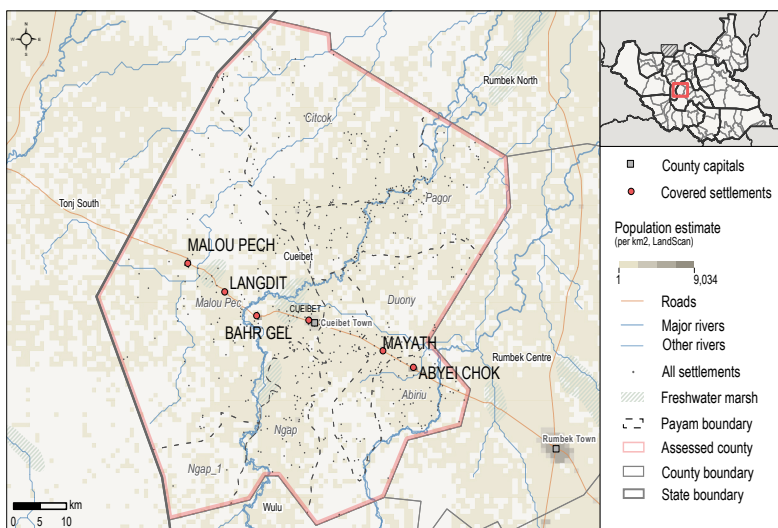
# Northern Cueilbet County Rapid Assessment

Lakes State, South Sudan, November 2021

## KEY FINDINGS

- Throughout 2021, a series of compounding shocks and stressors have resulted in displacement, particularly towards larger towns, while simultaneously preventing vulnerable populations in the north of Cueilbet County from displacing to access livelihoods, food, and services. Assessment findings suggest that displacement options for populations in northern Cueilbet have largely been determined by internal and cross-border conflict lines. As such, those that could displace moved southward, through highly insecure, and increasingly flooded areas.
- Widespread insecurity, until July 2021, and subsequent flooding have reportedly prevented many people in the north of Cueilbet County from cultivating. According to focus group discussion (FGD) participants, the small number of households that have harvested will likely exhaust their cultivated food stocks by December 2021, three to four months earlier than usual. Assessment findings suggest that **vulnerable groups are attempting to fill atypically severe and prolonged food consumption gaps by relying almost solely on wild foods**, the utilisation of which appears to be low given a reported lack of dietary diversity.
- Hunger related deaths were reported by FGD participants displaced from Tiap Tiap and Pagor. Reporting was highest amongst vulnerable groups that had managed to displace, particularly those without cattle. Hunger related death reports were triangulated by community leaders from assessed locations.
- Cyclical raids have reportedly resulted in a decrease in cattle herd size in northern Cueilbet. Cattle are typically relied upon most heavily during periods of acute food insecurity, and form the cornerstone of an effective community coping mechanism. **However, in the coming months, cattle are likely to be far from the settlement, limiting access to milk and livestock products for the most vulnerable**, who, due to high levels of insecurity, reportedly are much less likely to travel with the herds to seasonal grazing areas than in previous years.
- Assessment findings suggest that **physical and financial access to markets is atypically low**. An increase in the number of cattle being sold has reportedly pushed livestock prices down, a trend that is likely to continue. Moreover, the failure of the white sorghum harvest is expected to limit market supply, resulting in staple prices remaining high, limiting the ability of vulnerable groups to financially access markets.
- Access to humanitarian food assistance (HFA) is likely to remain low in the near-term. According to service providers and FGD participants, beneficiaries have faced continuous barriers to accessing HFA throughout the year. **The centralisation of distribution points from June onwards has particularly affected vulnerable beneficiaries from Pagor, Tiap Tiap, Citcok, and Duony**. Provision of, and improved access to, HFA throughout the 'harvest' season period will be crucial in reducing severe food consumption gaps for vulnerable populations who have minimal access to traditional livelihood activities.
- Health and nutrition facilities have reportedly remained operational throughout the year, however, according to humanitarian service providers, **facilities have been operating below full capacity**. Insecurity between January and July 2021 reportedly limited supply and had a negative effect on health seeking behaviour, often resulting in the **most vulnerable not being able to access stabilisation, referral and inpatient services**. Since July, health seeking behaviour has reportedly improved, however, flooding has continued to limit supply, resulting in medical supplies being exhausted atypically early.

Map 1: Northern Cueilbet assessment coverage map



## INTRODUCTION: VULNERABILITY AND ACUTE EVENTS

Tensions between communities within Cueilbet County, which reportedly began in 2012, have intensified in recent years, resulting in widespread insecurity. These dynamics have been further compounded by a simultaneous intensification of clashes between communities in Cueilbet County and communities from neighbouring counties, particularly Rumbek North and Rumbek Centre.<sup>1</sup> Violence has increased the scale, scope, and complexity of civilian needs in Cueilbet County, resulting in large-scale displacement, while simultaneously imposing substantial movement barriers, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.<sup>2</sup>

Since July 2021, the security situation within Cueilbet County has improved substantially. However, atypically severe flooding, beginning in the same month, has further compounded the ability of vulnerable populations to engage in traditional livelihood activities, to engage in distress migration, to access lifesaving humanitarian

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services, and to implement typical coping strategies that are usually relied upon in times of stress.

In light of recent shocks and stressors, REACH conducted a rapid assessment in northern Cueibet County (Map 1), with the objectives of i) gaining a snapshot of current humanitarian needs and gaps, ii) identifying variations in needs between different geographic areas and population groups, iii) understanding the impacts of years of cumulative shocks on the ability of households to engage in traditional livelihood activities, and iv) understanding the effect of shocks on the ability of communities support and protect the most vulnerable.

### HISTORICAL PERIODS OF HUNGER

Respondents from northern Cueibet County named the years of 1998 and 2021; a practice that is typically shaped by extreme events (see Table 1). The year of 1998 was reportedly characterised by mass displacement and severe drought that decimated livestock populations, resulted in harvest failure and prevented wild foods from growing, limiting coping capacity and resulting in widespread excess mortality.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the identification of pockets of Phase 5 (Catastrophic food insecurity) populations in Cueibet County during the January 2019 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis,<sup>4</sup> FGD participants reported that hunger in 2020/2021 was, and continues to be, worse, and have named this current period 'Ruon chok aboor' (The year of hunger caused by flooding).

**Table 1: Names given to recent years, according to FGD participants from northern Cueibet County**

2020/ 2021	Ruon Chok Aboor - 'The year of hunger caused by flooding'
1998	Ruon Chok Paweer - 'The year of hunger caused by fragmentation'
	Ruon Chok Abur - 'The year of hunger caused by having no cattle'
	Ruon Chok Mabor Abanban - 'The year when the hunger came fast and the land was white' (This is a reference to the colour of the land, which is usually green, but turned white because of drought).

### POPULATION MOVEMENT

According to FGD participants, populations in the north of Cueibet County faced considerable barriers to movement in 2021 (see 'uncrossable due to tensions' in Map 2). Barriers to movement were primarily a consequence of insecurity (until July, when insecurity reportedly began to decrease) and flooding. In the near term, assessment findings suggest that floodwaters are unlikely

### METHODOLOGY

The assessment comprised of two main qualitative methodological components: focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). Data collection took place between the 15 and 23 November. During this period, a total of 19 FGDs were conducted with host community members and IDPs in Cueibet Town, Langdit, Mayath, Abyei Cok and Malou Pech, in Cueibet County. The FGD component consisted of three thematic areas: i) shocks as they relate to food security and livelihoods, ii) population movement and displacement, and iii) susceptibility to famine conditions. Separate FGDs were held for men and women, and participants were grouped by location of origin. In addition, a total of 9 KIIs were conducted with humanitarian service providers and market traders. The KII component consisted of one thematic tool, targeted towards understanding health and nutrition service provision and access. Additionally, the team conducted informal, semi-structured interviews with local NGOs, authority officials, and community representatives.

The assessment findings are indicative of the situation at the time of data collection, and are not statistically representative of the area's population.

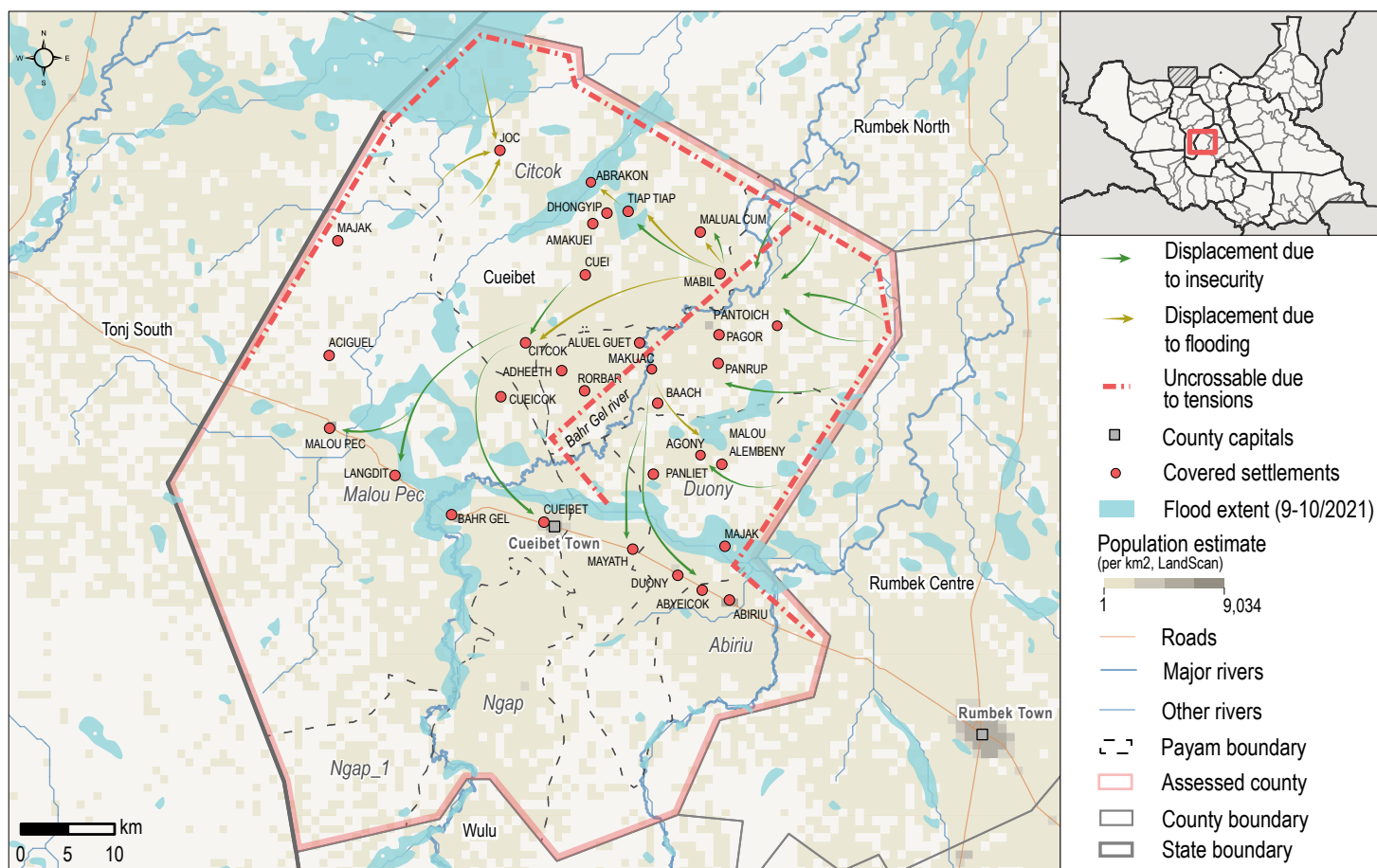
to disperse, limiting movement. In the medium term, assessment findings suggest that disarmament campaigns in Cueibet County and surrounding counties could further compound movement barriers.

- Assessment findings suggest that, throughout 2021, clashes between communities within Cueibet County, and with communities in neighbouring counties, have intensified, simultaneously resulting in widespread population movement, and increasing barriers to movement (see Map 2).
- Insecurity has reportedly resulted in the movement of populations from remote areas, particularly those along the borders with the neighbouring counties, and populations in close proximity to internal conflict lines, towards larger, populated settlements, such as Pagor and Tiap Tiap, which were reportedly deemed to be more secure (see Map 2). FGD participants consistently reported that vulnerable groups, particularly older persons, female headed households, and disabled persons, were less likely to displace due to insecurity, and often remained in their settlements. These dynamics were reportedly related to the perception that vulnerable groups were less of a target, if a settlement were to be attacked, and could therefore continue to engage in livelihood activities to some extent.
- Internal and external conflict lines have meant that the populations that have been able to displace from northern Cueibet, have only been able to move down to the south, to larger towns along the Wau-Rumbek road. According to FGD

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**Map 2: Population movement as reported by KIs in northern Cueibet**



participants, proximity to conflicting communities reportedly increased insecurity while displacing to the south and acted as a barrier to movement throughout 2021. FGD participants also reported that the presence of family members acted as an important pull factor. Socially unconnected individuals have reportedly faced additional barriers to displacement, as they would have limited support in areas of displacement.

- Whilst populations that did not displace were reportedly able to cultivate to some extent, persistent insecurity meant overall access to cultivated food stuff was limited and reduced the ability of highly vulnerable populations to engage in normal seasonal movements with the cattle camps to access milk, particularly between December and March (see Livestock section).
- In addition to insecurity, since July, flooding has continued to simultaneously drive population movement and create additional movement barriers, particularly for the most vulnerable populations that were physically unable to walk to reach the main road.
- Barriers to movement have, according to FGD participants and humanitarian service providers, limited access of the most vulnerable to lifesaving humanitarian services, such as health and nutrition facilities and food distribution points, and to markets (see Markets section).

## FOOD AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

### Cultivation

Insecurity has reportedly limited access to land for cultivation in 2021. According to FGD participants, households in Cueibet County that have been able to cultivate have largely done so in smaller plots in close proximity to their homestead. However, since July, atypically severe flooding in northern Cueibet has reportedly destroyed crops and limited harvest yields, which are likely to be depleted three to four months earlier than usual. Communities in the north of Cueibet County are likely to experience atypically severe, widespread and prolonged food consumption gaps, especially if displacement options and access to humanitarian services remain limited.

- Cueibet County is an area of deficit crop production and, according to FGD participants, harvested food stocks are the main source of food between the initial harvest in August/September until March/April, when food stocks are typically exhausted.<sup>5</sup> However, after several years of compounding shocks and stressors, most people have reportedly not been able to harvest, while for those that have been able to harvest, food stocks have been exhausted already or are reportedly expected to be exhausted by December 2021.



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- Years of persistent insecurity have reportedly limited the ability of households to access extended plots of land, away from the settlement, which typically provide the vast majority of household food stocks. The households that cultivated larger plots of land in 2021 reportedly incurred substantial risks, such as ambushes and attacks, and as a result, most people reportedly cultivated much smaller plots, often using hand tools, in closer proximity to the homestead.
- Three consecutive years of atypical seasonal rainfall have compounded land access barriers, further limiting harvest yields. FGD participants reported that, in a normal year, seasonal rains would typically begin in April, however, a drought-like period between April and June 2021 meant that planting was delayed. This dry-spell was reportedly followed by extremely heavy rainfall in July resulting in widespread flooding, particularly in the north of Cueibet County. According to FGD participants, flooding destroyed most of the remaining crops and limited the ability of highly vulnerable populations to displace to access alternative sources of food and livelihoods.
- A reported lack of cattle, and challenges of moving cattle to land outside the settlement, are likely to reduce the ability of farmers to fertilise their land, possibly reducing harvest yields in the future. Furthermore, consistently poor harvests have likely substantially reduced the ability of households to save seeds for future harvests. This is concerning in terms of immediate food security, and longer term social mobility and coping capacity.
- In the near term, communities in the north of Cueibet County are likely to experience atypically severe, widespread, and prolonged food consumption gaps, unless humanitarian access improves.

## Livestock

Livelihoods in northern Cueibet are centred around the keeping of cattle. Cattle are traditionally kept in cattle camps that move seasonally to access grazing land, salt licks, and water; but also to be closer to settlements at key times of year to support with cultivation and the provision of milk (see Map 3). Moreover, cattle function as a central coping mechanism during times of need: the vulnerable (older persons and young children) can stay in the cattle camps to access milk and cattle can be liquidated to buy food products. However, findings suggest that the functionality and access to these cattle-centred coping mechanisms have likely decreased or been exhausted.

- Cattle ownership in northern Cueibet has likely decreased as a result of long-term insecurity, repeat onset flooding and livestock disease. FGD participants commonly reported themselves or people in their communities not having access to cattle, having liquidated cattle during times of needs, having lost cattle as a result of raids, or, for women, having lost cattle as a result of losing their husbands (as women reportedly

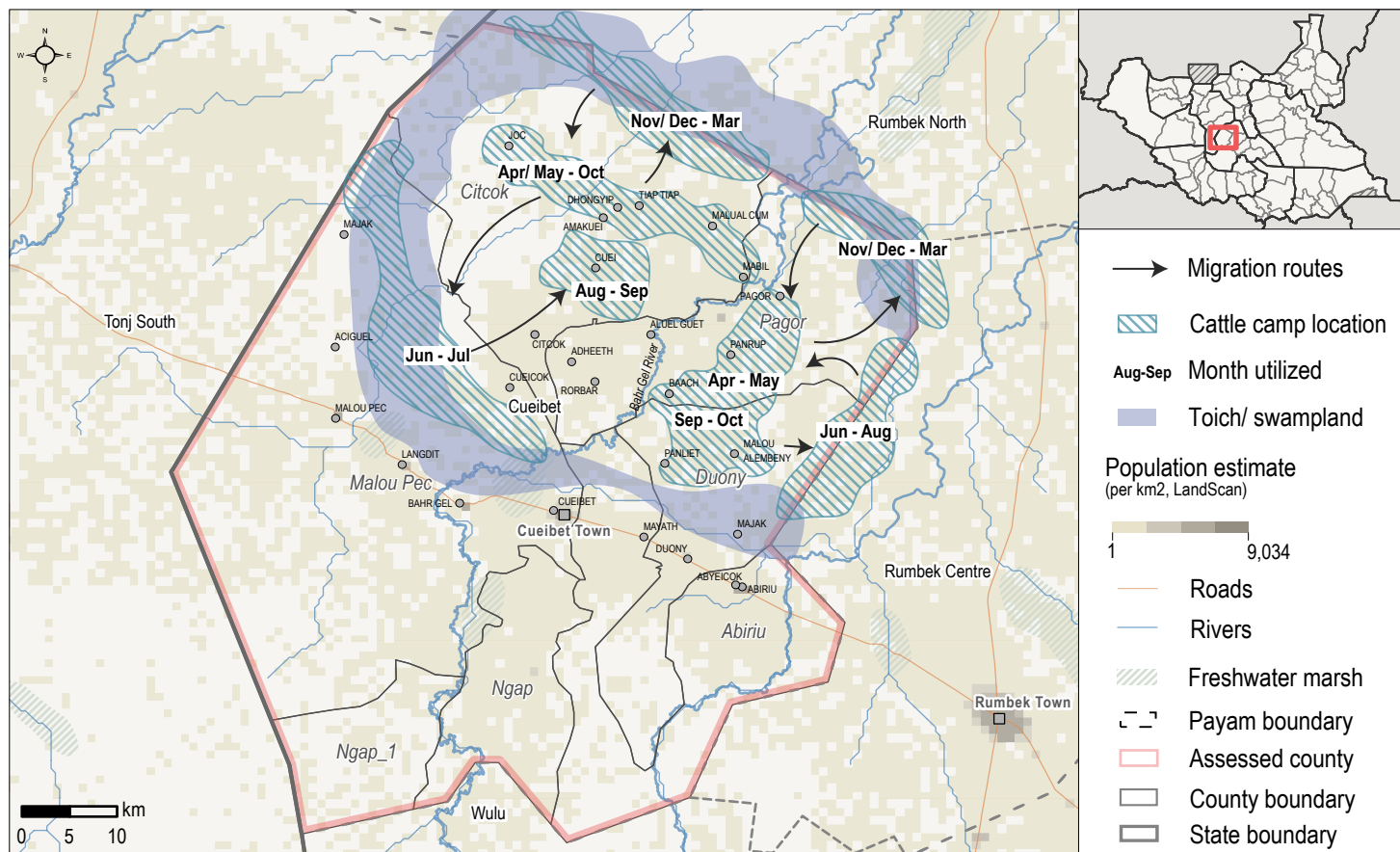
cannot directly own cattle). In addition, humanitarian service providers reported that the cattle of northern Cueibet are the least vaccinated cattle in the county (because they are difficult to reach), and that they have perceived an increase in cattle mortality driven by diseases. These findings indicate that prices of cattle from these areas are likely to continue to decrease, and that larger numbers of cattle will become difficult to sell because of increased disease (see Market section).

- Findings suggest that the cattle camp demographics have changed, with participants reporting that only young men (who can tend cattle and fight) and adolescents (who can tend cattle or run if there is conflict) are now present in the camps; whereas before, vulnerable people such as young children or older persons were kept with the cattle camps so that they could access livestock products, such as milk, and the support of the camp.
- This likely reduction in cattle ownership and change in cattle camp demographics suggests that the ability of cattle camps to function as a coping mechanism for vulnerable people has reduced. FGD participants and KIs consistently reported that households that did not own any cattle nor had any relatives owning cattle, could only access cattle (for milk or to liquidate for sale) by begging or through chief's courts to reclaim cattle debt. However, with cattle likely being moved far from the settlements from December to March to access the swamps near Rumbek North, insecurity will likely pose access barriers for those wanting to employ this mechanism (see Map 3). All the while, humanitarian service providers reported that cattle camps in northern Cueibet have spent less time in settlements in October/November than usual (because of lack of harvested sorghum stalks for cattle to eat due to the poor harvest), and that cattle have already been moving towards these grazing lands in November. Moreover, the period between December and March is the time of peak food insecurity in the camps, as it is normally the time of lowest milk production in the year because of relative poor access to grazing land.
- Indicative of limited access to cattle elevating vulnerability, in FGDs with participants who did not have access to cattle, some participants reported being aware of hunger-related deaths and zero-sum coping behaviour, e.g. the decision of whether to try to take a malnourished/sick child to the nearest health facility, many miles away, and then and then perhaps not being able to receive adequate treatment versus staying in the settlement and hoping to survive on wild foods, consumption of which often results in sickness.
- The period between December and March is also generally associated with a high likelihood of violence, as grazing lands are most contested at the peak of the dry season. FGD participants reported that, if cattle-related conflict were to increase at this time, then cattle camps would most likely return to their settlements. While this would allow for increased

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**Map 3: Cattle migration routes as reported by KIs in northern Cueibet**



access to cattle for vulnerable populations, findings suggest that this could lead to increased contestation of water and grazing land close to the settlements, and potential increase of conflict between communities of Panyar, Waat, Pagok, and Kongor (or between these sections), leading to additional shocks.

- In summary, those who have been unable to harvest and do not own cattle are likely experiencing an almost complete collapse of livelihood coping mechanisms, a likelihood that is particularly severe considering the current consumption coping mechanisms that are being employed by this population group in relation to wild food consumption.

### Wild foods

Wild food consumption in Cueibet County is common throughout the year, but is most heavily relied upon by poorer households between April and August/September, when food stocks are exhausted.<sup>6</sup> Findings suggest that even during this period of high wild food reliance, most households try to consume a variety of wild foods. This is because overconsumption of particular wild foods, mainly Thou (Lalop) and Cui (Tamarind), can reportedly cause sickness. However, at the time of the assessment, vulnerable households were reportedly knowingly consuming wild foods that made themselves and their children sick as they were not able to access alternate livelihood or consumption coping mechanisms.

- Findings suggest that, this year, there has been an atypically early introduction of wild foods into the diet, with a particularly high reliance on Cui (that can be eaten raw or mixed with water) and Thou (the skin of which can made into flour, the seeds can be chewed, and the leaves boiled), especially for those who do not have cattle to liquidate.
- The atypically early introduction of Thou and Cui into the diet as primary staples likely means that the most vulnerable groups will likely be relying on wild foods for an extended period of time until the next harvest period in August/September 2022. This is concerning given the high reported prevalence of sickness that consuming wild foods in abundance can cause. In order to mitigate this, FGD participants reported mixing wild foods as much as possible, while also being aware that seasonal exhaustion of wild foods will lead to a higher reliance on less-preferred elements, such as the leaves of Thou (called Apam).
- These wild fruits also reportedly serve as one of the only income generating activities for poorer households, some of whom reportedly travel for approximately one to one and half days to bring wild foods to sell in markets along the main road. One FGD participant reported that she had made approximately 2,500 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP), the equivalent of around 6 United States Dollars (USD), for the maximum amount of wild fruit that could be brought from her settlement to Malou Pech Market for a three-day round trip.

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- The consumption of wild foods that are known to make people sick is indicative of a collapse of alternate livelihoods and coping mechanisms other than selling those same wild foods. FGD participants from these vulnerable groups reported that they are engaging zero-sum coping mechanisms caused by the combination of food sources that make them sick and weak, a relative collapse of livelihoods, and the barriers to accessing health and nutrition services (see Health and Nutrition Service Provision section).

## MARKETS AND FINANCIAL ACCESS TO FOOD

Physical and financial market access appears to be atypically low, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in the north of Cueibet, who are unable to physically travel to marketplaces along the main road. Increased sale of cattle, a common livelihood coping strategy, has reportedly reduced cattle prices, while prices for market goods are atypically high, seeing a substantial reduction in cattle keepers' terms of trade.

- Cattle owners, particularly from Tiap Tiap and Pagor, reportedly faced atypically high barriers to liquidating livestock to purchase market goods. Insecurity and flooding have limited movement towards marketplaces, most of which are situated along the Wau-Rumbek road. However, despite these barriers and reflective of the deteriorating food security and livelihoods situation, there has been a reported increase in the number of cattle being brought for sale. According to cattle market auctioneers in Mayath, Langdit and Abyei Cok, cattle prices have decreased by an estimated 40% relative to the same period last year, and this has been further exacerbated by the reportedly poor body conditions of cattle coming from Tiap Tiap and Pagor.
- Cattle market auctioneers reported that, in the near term, increased cattle sales are likely to continue to drive livestock prices down. This is concerning given that market prices for staples, such as red sorghum, are reportedly likely to remain atypically high, resulting in a deterioration in the terms of trade of cattle relative to staple market goods. A trade union leader reported that white sorghum is usually harvested in November and December, bringing market prices down, however, the reported failure of the harvest will likely mean the staple food stuffs will remain atypically expensive for a prolonged period.
- Findings suggest that food from markets will be largely inaccessible to vulnerable groups, particularly female-headed households, older persons, and persons with disabilities, who reportedly face disproportionate barriers to physically access markets.

## SOCIAL NETWORKS AND ACCESS TO FOOD

Findings suggest that community level coping capacity has been negatively affected by a continued erosion of livelihoods and a

consequent lack of assets within the community to redistribute. Cattle forms the cornerstone of an effective community coping mechanism in Cueibet County, yet cattle are likely to be far from the settlements in the coming months.

- FGD participants commonly reported that, during the 1998 Bahr el Ghazal famine (see Table 1), communities in Cueibet were highly reliant on cattle and would share food and livestock with each other.<sup>7</sup> However, a reported intensification of intercommunal clashes within Cueibet County from 2012 onwards has reportedly led to a breakdown in community-wide sharing and has limited the ability of different groups to depend on others in times of need.
- Assessment findings suggest that a lack of social connectedness has posed a substantial barrier to highly vulnerable groups to engage in stress migration as a coping mechanism throughout 2021.

## HUMANITARIAN FOOD ASSISTANCE (HFA)

According to a humanitarian service provider KI and FGD participants, beneficiaries have faced continuous barriers to accessing HFA throughout the year. These barriers reportedly increased in June, particularly for vulnerable populations in Pagor, Tiap Tiap, Citcok, and Duony, as distribution points were moved from these areas due to inaccessibility, resulting in beneficiaries having to travel for several days to access HFA (see Map 4). Provision of, and improved access to, HFA throughout the 'harvest' season, would play a crucial role in reducing severe food consumption gaps for vulnerable populations who have minimal access to traditional livelihood activities.

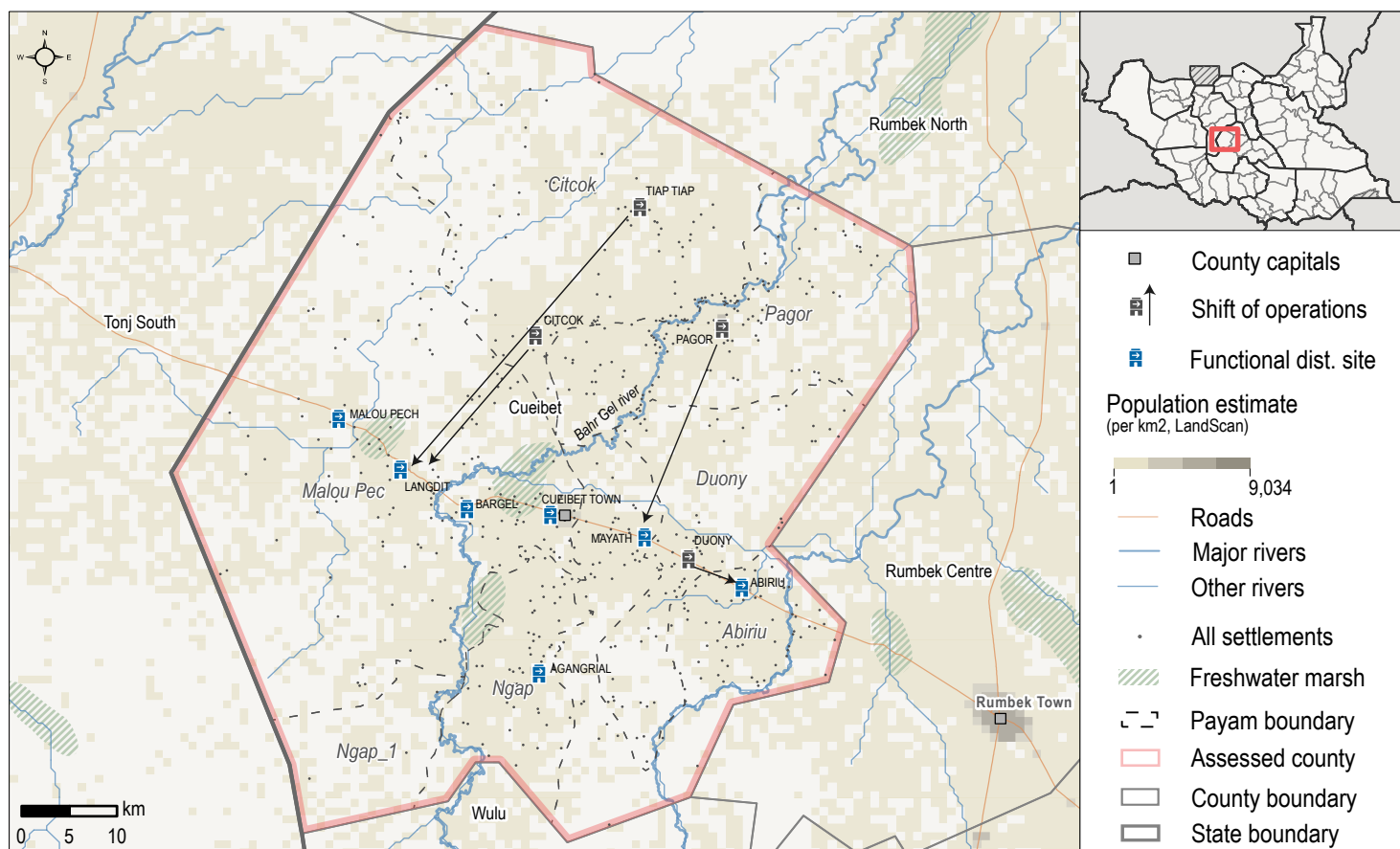
- According to a humanitarian service provider KI, the lean season HFA response in Cueibet usually runs from March to August, however, this year, distributions ended in September, a month later than planned. Despite a one-off food distribution, scheduled for December 2021 targeting populations in northern Cueibet, the humanitarian service provider KI reported that there is unlikely to be any further assistance between December and March 2022. This is concerning given the findings outlined in the 'Food availability and access section', as findings suggest that food consumption gaps will likely continue to persist in the near to medium terms.
- Food supplies are not typically prepositioned in Cueibet County, due to consistent road access throughout the year. However, according to FGD participants and the humanitarian service provider, insecurity, flooding and long distances have posed substantial challenges for vulnerable beneficiaries, particularly older persons, persons with disabilities, and female headed households, to access distribution points.
- Assessment findings suggest that vulnerable populations in isolated areas, particularly Pagor, Tiap Tiap and Citcok,



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**Map 4: HFA distribution sites as reported by service providers in Cueibet, as of November 2021**



have faced persistent barriers to accessing good throughout 2021. According to the humanitarian service provider KI, distribution sites in Tiap Tiap and Citcok become inaccessible during the rainy season (May to November) and during this period, distributions for these sites are moved to Langdit (see Map 4). Humanitarian service providers reported that it can take beneficiaries, who are registered on the basis of elevated vulnerability, up to two days of travelling through highly insecure and heavily flooded areas to collect food assistance and return to their settlement. Similarly, during the same period, distribution points for communities in Pagor and Duony are moved to Mayath and Abyecok respectively (see Map 4). Pagor is an estimated eight hours walk from Mayath, and service providers reported that beneficiaries from Pagor stay overnight in Mayath before returning to their settlement the following day.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICE PROVISION AND ACCESS

According to humanitarian service providers, while health and nutrition facilities have remained operational through the year, facilities have been operating below full capacity. Insecurity between January and July 2021 reportedly limited supply and had a negative effect on health seeking behaviour, often resulting in the most vulnerable not being able to access stabilisation, referral,

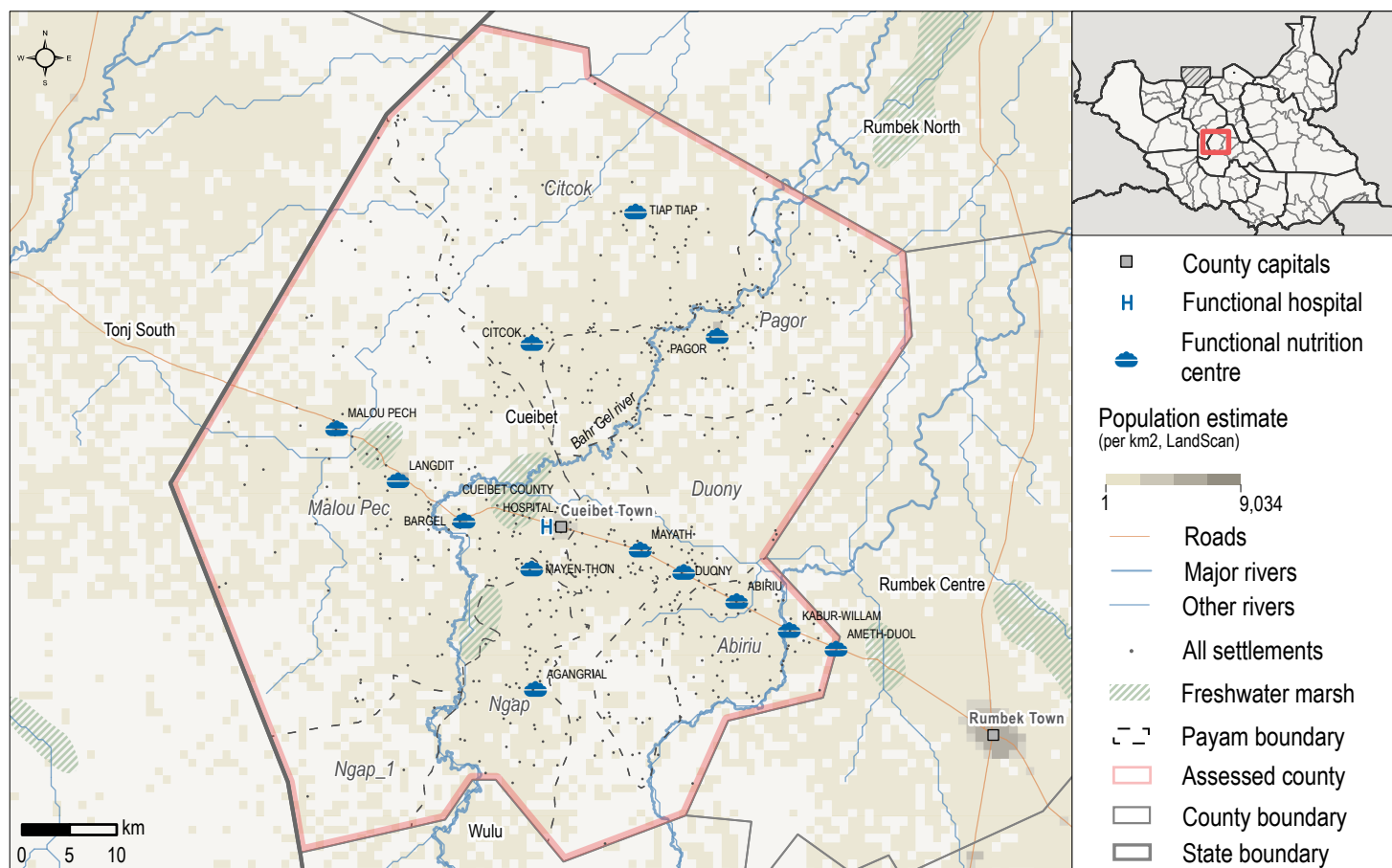
and inpatient services. Since July, health seeking behaviour has reportedly improved, however, flooding has continued to limit access and supply, resulting in medical supplies being exhausted.

- Throughout 2021, insecurity and flooding have reportedly limited the ability of humanitarian service providers to transport health and nutrition supplies to facilities across Cueibet County, particularly to Chit Chok, Pagor, Tiap Tiap and Duony. While facilities have, for the most part, remained operational throughout the year, supply challenges have reportedly meant that all facilities have operated below full capacity. Between January and July 2021, service providers reported that humanitarian convoys were only able to resupply facilities in the north of the county using heavily armed escorts, due to the risk of attacks and ambushes. These risks also impacted referrals to Cueibet Hospital, which is the only facility in the county that provides inpatient services. Since July, flooding has limited supply to northern Cueibet, and service providers reported that they have been relying on community members to carry supplies to facilities north of the main road, where flooding is most severe.
- In addition to having impacted supply, findings suggest that insecurity has also had a negative effect on health seeking behaviour, particularly for vulnerable groups in areas where insecurity was highest, such as Chit Chok, Pagor, Tiap Tiap and Duony. Indiscriminate attacks on women reportedly

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**Map 5: Nutrition centre presence as reported by service providers in Cueibet, as of November 2021**



deincentivised service access, and service providers reported that there was a substantial decrease in the number of women accessing ante-natal care relative to the same period last year. Ability to conduct community outreach, to identify highly vulnerable populations such as older persons and persons with disabilities who often face high barriers to accessing services, simultaneously reportedly decreased during this period, due to security threats to staff members.

- Furthermore, access to stabilisation centres was also affected. Stabilisation centres provide treatment to children suffering from severe acute malnutrition and medical complications. According to humanitarian service providers, there was only one stabilisation centre in Cueibet County. Between January and July 2021, populations from Tiap Tiap and Pagor were reportedly unable to access the centre. Flooding has continued to limit access, with FGD participants displaced from Tiap Tiap reporting that it can take vulnerable populations up to two days to access the centre. This is concerning given severe food consumption gaps and sitting flood water that is likely to lead to an increased prevalence in malaria and other waterborne diseases.
- According to a humanitarian service provider KI, there has been increased pressure on health and nutrition services, as vulnerable groups that were reportedly unable to access

services between January and July 2021 reportedly began to seek care from August onwards. This has reportedly resulted in drugs and nutrition supplies being exhausted atypically quickly, resulting in continued service provision gaps. Flooding has also limited the functionality of the statewide referral system, as ambulances were reportedly unable to travel north of the main road, to access vulnerable populations.

## CONCLUSION

Assessment findings suggest that a series of compounding shocks and stressors have resulted in widespread livelihood collapse in the north of Cueibet County, which have reportedly manifested in excess mortality, particularly in Tiap Tiap and Pagor. An inability to rely on traditional livelihood activities has been compounded by movement barriers, which have prevented people, particularly the physically vulnerable and socially unconnected, to undertake displacement journeys to access food, markets, and livelihood activities. Assessment findings suggest that highly vulnerable groups that have been unable to displace have low dietary diversity and are depending almost solely on wild foods, which appear to be underutilised and to be causing sickness.

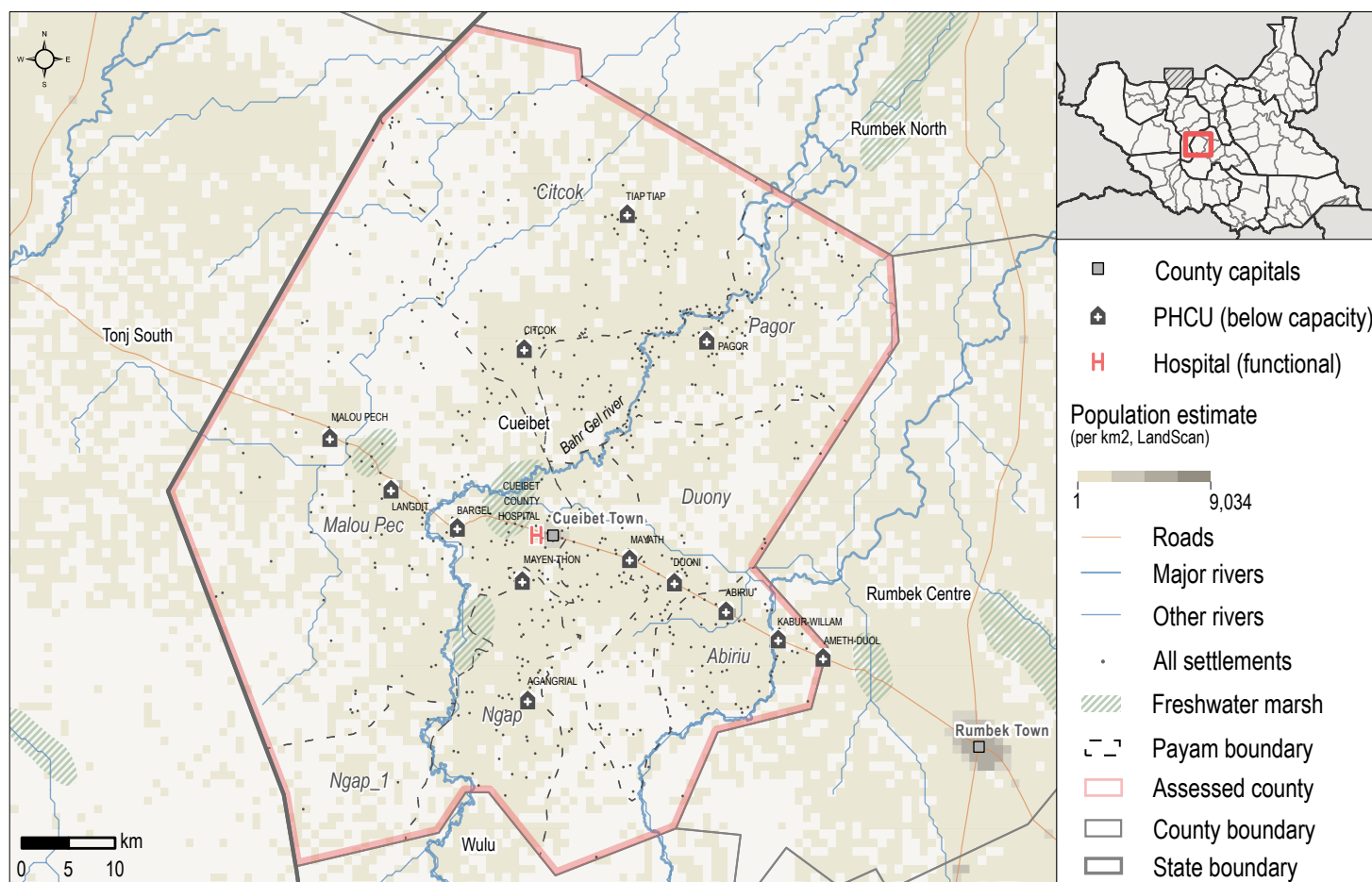
Access to food is unlikely to improve in the near term as cattle will move far from the settlement, and, as such reliance on wild foods is expected remain atypically high. Movement barriers have limited



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**Map 6: Healthcare presence as reported by service providers in Cueibet, as of November 2021**



the supply of, and access to, lifesaving humanitarian services, particularly for communities in Tiap Tiap and Pagor. Barriers to accessing inpatient services, stabilisation centres, ante-natal care and community outreach, have likely affected the most vulnerable populations. As such, the continued delivery of humanitarian services throughout the harvest season, particularly health and nutrition services and HFA, will be essential to prevent the food consumption deficit from manifesting in critical malnutrition and excess mortality.

## ENDNOTES

1. World Food Programme. Greater Tonj conflict dynamics. Internal. August 2021.
2. *ibid.*,
3. Luka Deng. The Sudan Famine of 1998. 2002.
4. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. [IPC acute food security and nutrition analysis, October 2020 – July 2021](#). October 2020.
5. Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). [Livelihoods Zone Map and Descriptions for the Republic of South Sudan](#). August 2018.
6. *ibid.*,

### About REACH Initiative

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).

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