

# Situation Overview: Greater Bahr el Ghazal Region, South Sudan

July - September 2019

**REACH** An initiative of  
IMPACT Initiatives  
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## Introduction

Persistent shocks including flooding in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG) and insecurity in some parts of Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal (WBeG) sustained high humanitarian needs in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal (GBeG) region between July and September 2019. Because of insecurity and logistical challenges, humanitarian actors are struggling to access critical information required for humanitarian planning and response.

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 settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This Situation Overview uses this data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across GBeG in the third quarter of 2019.

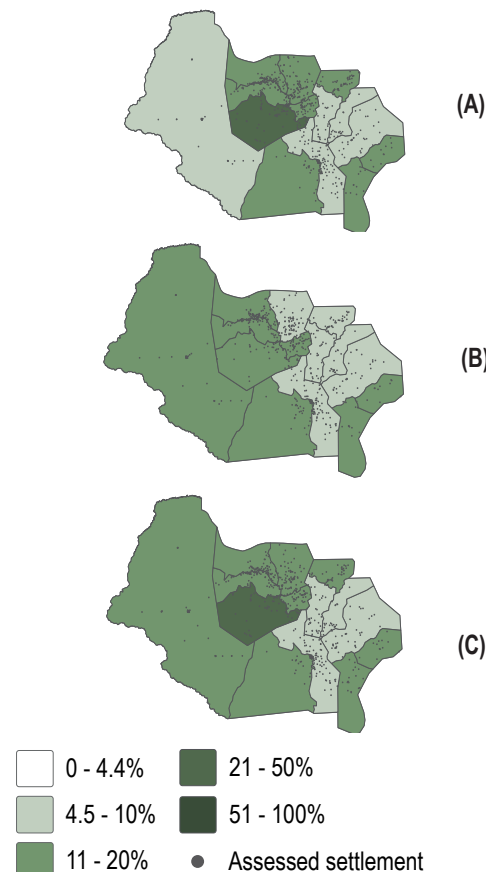
## Key Findings

- In the third quarter of 2019, **population movement and displacement** were driven by flooding in NBeG and some parts of Warrap, and conflict in Jur River County in WBeG and Tonj East County in Warrap State.
- Nineteen percent (19%) of assessed settlements in GBeG reported adequate access to **food** in September. Whilst reported

adequate access to food in Warrap remained relatively high (47% of assessed settlements in September), conflict in parts of WBeG and flooding across NBeG likely contributed to poor food security, with 17% and 3% of assessed settlements respectively reporting inadequate access to food in September.

- Persistent insecurity was likely the main driver of **protection** concerns across the region with 79% of assessed settlements reporting that most people felt unsafe in September. This perception of insecurity may be due to reported episodes of localised cattle raiding and inter-communal violence. Whilst men and boys' reported main protection concerns were directly related to conflict, women and girls reportedly faced sexual and gender-based violence from within their communities.
- Across the region, 80% of assessed settlements reported access to **health** services in September. Malaria was the most commonly reported cause of death, reported by 39% of assessed settlements, followed by waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera and typhoid, reported by 20% of assessed settlements in September. The two main reasons reported for lack of access to health care services were lack of drugs and health personnel in assessed settlements.
- Access to functioning boreholes remained relatively high this quarter, with 57% of

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of the GBeG region, July (A), August (B) and September (C) 2019



# of key informant interviews conducted: **2,469**

# of assessed settlements: **1,721**

# of counties covered: **14 (of 14)**

# of focus group discussions conducted: **3**

## METHODOLOGY

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, and Warrap 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 the protection of civilians (PoC) site, collective centres, and through phone calling in July, August, and September 2019.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted on a monthly basis 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 was found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.

Only counties with interview coverage of at least 5% of all settlements 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 payam<sup>2</sup> coverage over the period.

Quantitative findings were triangulated using secondary sources of information.

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. Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

3. Tukul is a hut made of grass-thatched-roof and mud walls, which is very popular across South Sudan.



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assessed settlements reporting borehole as the main source of **water**. The relatively high proportions of assessed settlements reporting use of wells and surface water as the main sources of water contributed to a high risk of waterborne disease outbreak this quarter.

- Poor **sanitation** was driven by low access to latrines, with 58% of assessed settlements in GBeG reporting no access to latrines in their settlement, and a further 18% reporting they were too overcrowded to be used.
- A high proportion (89%) of assessed settlements reported tukul<sup>3</sup> as the main shelter type for host communities in September. In assessed settlements with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), tukul and rakooba<sup>4</sup> were the main shelter types for IDPs, reported by 39% and 38% of assessed settlements respectively. The main **Non-Food Items** (NFI) needs reported in assessed settlements with IDPs were plastic sheeting (30%), mosquito nets (16%) and sleeping mat (7%).
- Access to **education** services remained comparable between June and September. Overall, 87% of assessed settlements reported access to education services within walking distance in September. However, access to education services was lowest in Jur River County (WBeG) with 75% of assessed settlements reporting no access in September, likely due to conflict and lack of infrastructure. Across the region, reported school attendance for girls deteriorated during the third quarter. The most commonly

reported reasons why girls were not attending school were unaffordability of school fees, distant facilities and early pregnancies.

## Population Movement and Displacement

### Displacement due to flooding

In the third quarter of 2019, seasonal flooding reportedly caused displacement in NBeG and Warrap states. In Warrap, between July and September, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting flooding as the main reason for people leaving settlements in Gogrial West County, from 8% to 21%, and in Twic County, from 0% to 13%. In line with this, 79% and 64% of assessed settlements reported the presence of IDPs in Gogrial West and Twic counties respectively in September, possibly due to flooding in these areas. The reported flood-related displacement has likely worsened humanitarian situation for the affected areas.

### Displacement due to conflict

Persistent inter-communal violence and cattle raiding were found to drive displacement in Greater Tonj.<sup>5</sup> In Tonj East County, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting conflict as the main reason for people leaving the settlement, from 20% in July to 42% September. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of assessed settlements in Tonj East County reported large scale displacement in September, likely due to conflict. The ongoing peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts aimed

at resolving inter-communal conflict in Tonj East may help to reduce violence and encourage IDPs to return to their homes in the near future.<sup>6</sup> In the third quarter, there was a decrease from 70% in July to 30% September in the proportion of assessed settlements that reported IDPs had returned during the three months prior to data collection.

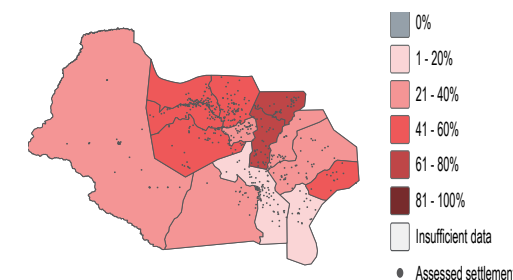
Insecurity reportedly drove people from their homes to seek refuge in areas perceived to be safe. In September, 16% of assessed settlements reported insecurity and killing as the main reasons why the newly arrived IDPs left their settlement in Raja County. Similarly in Wau County, which host most IDPs from Raja and Jur River counties, insecurity and killing were reported by 53% of assessed settlements with IDPs as the main reasons why the newly arrived IDPs left their settlement. Indicative of continuing displacement, the population of IDPs in Wau Protection of Civilians (PoC) site reportedly increased from 13,042 in August to 14,706 in September.<sup>7</sup> Wau County hosted most IDPs from Jur River and Raja counties because it was reportedly seen as more secure and stable with better security and access to better services.<sup>8</sup>

## Situation in Assessed Settlements

### Food Security and Livelihoods

Across the region, 19% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in September, in line with the August Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

**Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs, September 2019**



update which classified all the GBeG states in Phase 3 (crisis) with most of NBeG in Phase 4 (emergency).<sup>9</sup> Continued food insecurity was likely caused by persistent conflict, prolonged dry spells and flooding in some parts of the region.

### Warrap State

Overall, 47% of assessed settlements in Warrap State reported adequate access to food in September, a 20-percentage point increase from June. Nearly half (49%) of assessed settlements in Warrap reported cultivation as their main source of food in September, while 21% of assessed settlements reported subsisting on bought food.

Adequate access to food was reported by increased proportions of assessed settlements in Tonj North and Tonj South counties in the third quarter of 2019. A high proportion of assessed settlements in Tonj North County (64%) and Tonj South County (89%) reported adequate access to food in September. This increase may be attributed to cultivation, which was reported as the main source of food in Tonj

4. Rakooba is a temporary transitional shelter made of poles and iron sheet or plastic sheeting.

5. Greater Tonj in this report refers to Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South counties.

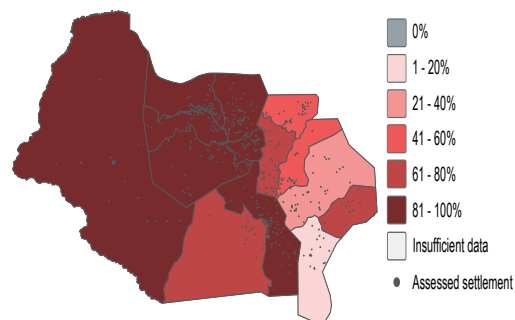
6. UNMISS, [UNMISS visits conflict-ridden Tonj East area to build trust and confidence](#), September 2019.

7. IOM DTM, [Population Count: Wau PoC site & collective centres, September 2019](#).

8. IBID

9. IPC, [South Sudan: Acute Food Security Snapshot August 2019 – April 2020](#).

**Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in GBeG, September 2019**



North County and better market access in Tonj South County.

In Tonj East County, persistent inter-communal violence and cattle raiding disrupted farming activities and displaced the population. As a result, the market became an alternative source of food in Tonj East County, as indicated by a high proportion (72%) of assessed settlements reporting that bought food was their main source of food in September. This increased reliance on market for food may be indicative of a poor harvest, which may be attributed to the disruption of livelihoods caused by the ongoing conflict in the county.

Adequate access to food was reported by increased proportions of assessed settlements in Gogrial East and Gogrial West counties in the third quarter of 2019. Reported adequate access to food increased between June and September in Gogrial West (from 0% to 21%) and Gogrial East (from 4% to 42%), likely due to seasonal harvest in the third quarter. Indicative of the respite provided by the

seasonal harvest, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that hunger was severe declined between July and September: from 43% to 25% in Gogrial East County; and from 67% to 53% in Gogrial West County.

In Twic County, 44% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in September. The county was classified by the IPC under Acute Malnutrition Phase 4 in August 2019.<sup>10</sup> The most commonly reported reasons by assessed settlements with regards to inadequate access to food in September were destruction of crops by flooding and new arrivals, reported by 19% and 11% of assessed settlements respectively. This was further supported by the prevailing perception of worsening food insecurity with 31% of assessed settlements reporting that hunger was severe in September.

Access to food for those reliant on markets may have been affected by rising food prices. Assessed settlements, which reported inadequate access to food in Gogrial West (35%), Tonj East (50%) and Twic (47%) counties reported that an increase in prices of cereals had a large impact on their ability to access food in September. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, prices of cereals like sorghum, maize and wheat in Juba increased significantly between December 2018 and July 2019.<sup>11</sup> Increased prices in Juba tend to have a knock-on effect for Warrap because markets are dependent on Juba for supplies.

## Northern Bahr el Ghazal State

Northern Bahr el Ghazal was found to experience severe food insecurity with 3% of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in September. The reported low proportion of settlements reporting adequate access to food may be attributed to destruction of crops by flooding and crop pests during the third quarter of 2019, reported by 27% and 25% respectively of assessed settlements in September, which reported inadequate access to food.

Although the whole state experienced flooding, a high proportion of assessed settlements which reported inadequate access to food in Aweil West (40%), Aweil South (38%) and Aweil East (32%) counties reported destruction of crops by flooding as the main reason for lack of food in September. In addition to flooding, destruction of crops by pests was reported as the second main reason for lack of food by assessed settlements which reported inadequate access to food in Aweil East (28%), Aweil South (20%) and Aweil West (21%) counties in September.

The reported destruction of crops by flooding reportedly left farmers vulnerable without harvest, leading to chronic dependence on market. As a result, only 11% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as their main source of food in September. Indicative of continued dependence on markets for food, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting market as their main source of food remained comparable between June (41%) and September (37%). In September, 64%

assessed settlements reported that most people engaged in casual labour as a livelihood activity across NBeG. This was particularly the case in Aweil North County, where 78% of assessed settlements reported casual labour as a livelihood activity. This reliance on market purchased food is concerning as settlements in these counties would typically rely on cultivated food at this time of the year.

## Western Bahr el Ghazal State

Seventeen percent (17%) of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in September, unchanged since the previous quarter. Inadequate access to food was likely a result of inter-communal conflict, depletion of livelihood assets and poor access to markets in the state.<sup>10</sup>

The commonly reported sources of food in WBeG were market and cultivation. In Jur River County, 74% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as their main source of food in September. Despite the rising food prices, 69% of assessed settlements in Wau County reported market as their source food in September. The main reported reasons for inadequate access to food across WBeG were high food prices and interruption of food distribution, reported by 15% and 14% of assessed settlements respectively in September.

Food assistance also likely played a critical role in ensuring access to food. A quarter (25%) of assessed settlements in WBeG reported receiving food assistance in September. According to the IPC analysis for August,

10. IPC, [Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis August 2019 to April 2020](#).

11. FAO, [Country Information Brief - South Sudan, August 2019](#).



Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting consumption-based coping strategies in GBeG, September 2019<sup>13</sup>

	WBeG	Warrap	NBeG
Spending entire days without eating	28%	15%	13%
Reducing number of meals	47%	54%	67%
Only children eating	62%	12%	38%
Limiting meal size	81%	65%	61%

provision of humanitarian assistance played a major role in preventing further deterioration in food security.<sup>11</sup>

Persistent local tension in Jur River County had a negative impact on farming activities as 8% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in September, a 13-percentage point decrease from June. Of the assessed settlements that reported inadequate access to food in September, the main reasons were that food distributions had stopped (14%), theft of crops (13%), lack of rain (14%) and destruction of crops by animals feeding on farms (11%), and conflict and looting (33%).

In Wau County, 33% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food in September. Inflation characterised by increasing food prices in different parts of the country may have contributed to the reported low levels of adequate access to food. For instance, 29% of assessed settlements in Wau attributed lack of food to high market prices in September.

Coping strategies

To cope with food insecurity, populations in GBeG adopted both moderate and extreme coping strategies including reducing the number of meals and eating wild foods that are known to make people sick.

Reducing the number of meals was prevalent in NBeG, where 96% assessed settlements reported that people consumed one meal a day in September. This finding was supported by FGD participants in Aweil Centre County who reported that this coping strategy was widespread with nearly every household in the area eating one meal a day over the last two years.<sup>12</sup>

Prioritising children eating before adults was reported in WBeG; in September 43% of assessed settlements in Wau County and 67% in Raja County. Furthermore, in Jur River County, skipping entire days without meals was employed to cope with food insecurity, reported by 41% of assessed settlements in September. This coping strategy was also reported in Tonj East County, Warrap, where 67% of assessed settlements reported spending entire days without meals in September.

Indicative of severe food insecurity in September, assessed settlements reported that people ate wild foods that had made people sick in NBeG (48%) and Warrap (26%). In Warrap, this coping strategy was reported by a high proportion of assessed settlements in Gogrial West (44%), Tonj East (58%) and Gogrial East (21%) counties.

The reported adoption of the above coping strategies across the region suggests severe food insecurity and a difficult lean season ahead.

Protection

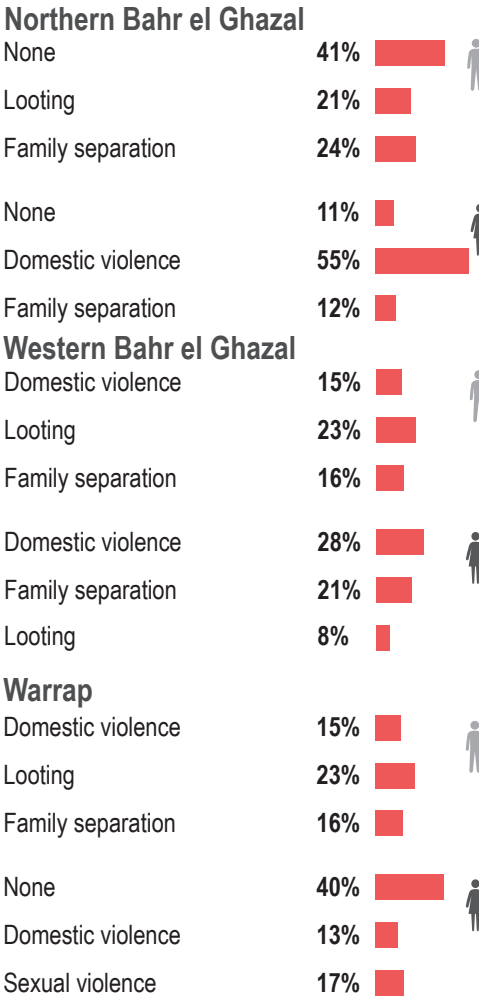
Across the region, protection concerns were driven by conflict as well as sexual and gender-based violence. The combination of these factors resulted in 79% of assessed settlements reporting most people were feeling unsafe in September.

Of particular concern this quarter was Tonj East County, where 83% of assessed settlements reported incidents of conflict resulting in the death of at least one civilian in September, a 33-percentage points increase from July.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict and looting increased from 40% in July to 75% in September in Tonj East County. Reportedly as a result of insecurity, there was an increase from 30% in July to 58% in September in the proportion of assessed settlements where conflict was reported as the main protection concern for men. Similarly, a high proportion of assessed settlements were found to report conflict-related protection concerns for boys, at 58% in September.

The proportion of assessed settlements in Wau and Raja counties reporting incidents of conflict resulting in the death of at least one civilian remained low: 0% in Wau County and 7% in Raja County in September. In Jur River County, between July and September, there was a

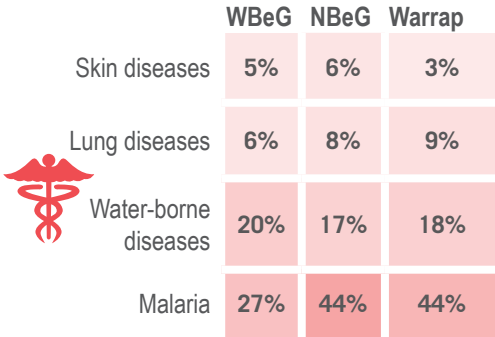
Figure 2: Most commonly reported protection concerns for men and women in assessed settlements, September 2019



reduction from 53% to 0% in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the death of at least one civilian due to conflict. The reported reduction in violence may improve humanitarian

12. REACH, FGD discussion notes for Aweil Centre, November 2019.  
13. There are multiple answers to this question. Only answers relating to the most extreme coping strategies were selected to illustrate the severity of the situation in assessed settlements .

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting main health concerns in the GBeG region, September 2019<sup>15</sup>



access and delivery of assistance to the conflict-affected populations in WBeG, where a decrease in the proportions of settlements reporting conflict-related incidents has been signaled.

Sexual and gender-based violence

For women and girls, the most commonly reported protection concerns across all assessed settlements in September were domestic violence (36% of assessed settlements) and early marriage (27%). In NBeG, domestic violence was reported in more than half (55%) of assessed settlements as the main protection concern for women in September. Girls faced early marriage, which was reported by 39% of assessed settlements and domestic violence in 42% of assessed settlements in September across NBeG.

Health

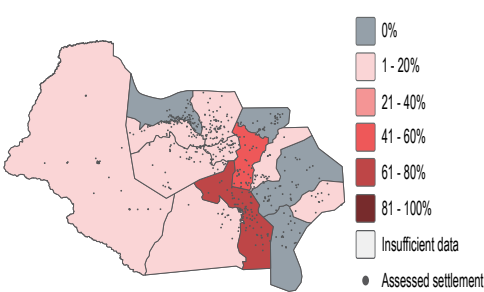
Overall, 80% of assessed settlements across the region reported access to health services in September. Western Bahr el Ghazal had

the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health services with 61% as compared to 93% for Northern Bahr el Ghazal and 84% for Warrap in September.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health care services was low in Jur River County, WBeG where the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health care services decreased from 37% in July to 25% in September. A similar situation was reported in Gogrial West County between July and September with a decrease from 63% to 44% in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health care services. This may be attributed to flooding which reportedly cut off communities from accessing health services (see population movement and displacement section above).

The primary health problems reported in assessed settlements were malaria (40%), waterborne diseases (18%) and lung diseases (8%) in September. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting malaria as the main health

Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting no physical access to facilities providing health services in GBeG, September 2019

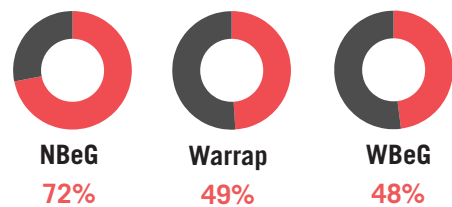


concern has nearly doubled from 23% in June to 40% in September. This increase is supported by the World Health Organisation’s (WHO’s) weekly Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response report for September, which showed that malaria cases had exceeded thresholds in 11 counties including Wau County, and was responsible for 69% morbidities and 29% mortalities across the country.<sup>14</sup> In line with WHO findings, malaria was the leading cause of death reported by 39% of assessed settlements in September. The reported increase in malaria may be attributed to the rainy season.

Malaria was trailed closely by waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera and typhoid, reported in 20% of assessed settlements in GBeG in September. The prevalence of these diseases might be linked to WASH constraints affecting the region (see WASH section below).

Despite increased proportions of assessed settlements reporting access to health care services in GBeG, some parts of the region may not be fully equipped to deliver services. Of particular concern are Gogrial West and Jur River counties, where 21% and 15% of assessed settlements respectively reported that people were unable to access health care services because there were no nearby health facilities in September. Additionally, lack of personnel, (reported by 18% and 10% of assessed settlements in Gogrial West County and Jur River County respectively) and lack of drugs, (reported by 15% of assessed settlements in Jur River County) were the main reasons why health care services were not

Figure 4: Reported proportion of assessed settlements not using latrines in GBeG, September 2019



available in September.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to boreholes remained high in the third quarter, with 57% of assessed settlements reporting access to functioning boreholes across the region. Of those settlements that reported access to functioning boreholes, 55% of them reported borehole as the main source of water.

Some sections of the population reported drinking from surface water sources; 19% of assessed settlements reported river, pond or swamp as the main sources of drinking water, and a further 16% reported wells. The relatively high proportions of assessed settlements reporting use of wells and surface water as the main drinking water sources contributed to a high risk of waterborne disease outbreak this quarter.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to functioning boreholes was low in WBeG with 16% of assessed settlements reporting the presence of functional boreholes in September. The proportion of assessed

14. WHO, South Sudan ISDR Bulletin Week 40, September 2019.  
15. There are multiple answers to this question. Only answers relating to the most commonly reported health problems were selected to illustrate the severity of the health situation in assessed settlements.

settlements reporting access to safe drinking water sources was low in Jur River County, where 30% of assessed settlements reported pond, river or swamp as the main sources of drinking water, and 46% reported livestock and other animals using the same water sources as people. Aweil West County also reported low access, with 25% of assessed settlements reporting drinking surface water (pond, river or swamp). Reliance on surface water sources may expose populations to the risk of water-borne diseases because surface water sources such as rivers, swamps and ponds are easily contaminated.

Long walking distances to safe water sources reportedly limited access. In September, all counties besides Raja and Tonj East counties had low proportions of assessed settlements reporting access to the preferred water source within 30 minutes walking distance. Access was particularly low in NBeG, where 13% of assessed settlements reported access to the main water source within 30 minutes walking distance.

Additionally, safety issues may have prevented people from accessing their preferred water sources. Further demonstrating a deteriorating security situation, 92% of assessed settlements in Tonj East County reported not being able to access their preferred water source in September because they feared for their safety. This may be explained by persistent inter-communal conflict in the county, which has created protection challenges for various groups including women and girls who are

predominantly responsible for fetching water for their families (see protection section above).

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to sanitation facilities was low across the region, with 41% of assessed settlements reporting access to latrines in September. Lack of latrines likely posed a major health risk for populations in NBeG, which had the lowest proportion (28%) of assessed settlements that reported that people were using latrines in September. The likelihood of waterborne disease outbreak was particularly high in the flood affected areas of NBeG and Warrap, especially in Aweil Centre, Aweil South and Twic counties, which had the highest proportions of assessed settlements reporting people not using latrines in September, at 72%, 89% and 78% respectively.

A low proportion of assessed settlements reported use of basic hygiene practices such as hand-washing. In September, 29% of assessed settlements reported that most people were using soap to wash their hands. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of assessed settlements reported using only water and 23% reported using ash with water to wash their hands in September. Poor hygiene combined with poor sanitation may present serious health risks including spread of waterborne and skin diseases in the region. There has been little or no change in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting on these indicators since the second quarter of 2019, suggesting a chronic need for investment in WASH facilities and hygiene awareness education.

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

The main shelter type used by host communities across the region was tukul, reported by 89% of assessed settlements in September. In assessed settlements which reported the presence of IDPs, both tukul and rakooba were reported as the main shelter types by 39% and 38% of assessed settlements respectively.

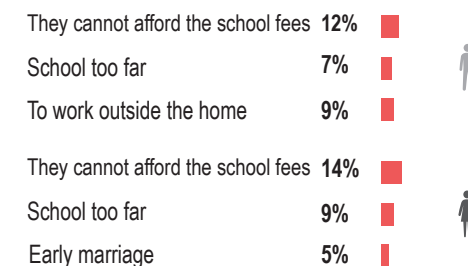
The most commonly reported shelter types for returnees in assessed settlements were rakooba (16%) and tukul (17%) in September. These types of shelters offer limited protection from bad weather and may require repeated repairs to last longer. Indicative of possible integration, 84% of assessed settlements that reported the presence of returnees reported these were living amongst host communities in September across the region.

In September, the main NFI needs in assessed settlements across GBeG were plastic sheeting (32%), mosquito nets (23%) and blankets (10%). These needs are likely unmet as suggested by the low proportion (20%) of assessed settlements which reported distribution of NFIs in September.

## Education

Access to education services remained comparable to the second quarter, with 87% of assessed settlements reporting access to education services within walking distance in September. The main reasons reported in assessed settlements with no access to education services were lack of facilities (26%), lack of teachers (18%), and teachers having

**Figure 5: Main reasons why boys and girls were not attending school in GBeG, September 2019.**



fled (15%).

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education services was lowest in WBeG, with 42% of assessed settlements reporting no access to services in September, and particularly low in Jur River County, where 18% of assessed settlements reported access; this may be attributable to conflict, which reportedly resulted in displacement in Jur River County.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting more than half of girls (aged 6-17 years) attending school declined slightly from 40% in June to 29% in September. Attendance was particularly low in Aweil South and Tonj East counties, where 6% and 8% of assessed settlements respectively reported that more than half of girls attended school in September. In Aweil South County, the most commonly reported reasons why girls were not attending school in assessed settlements in September were early marriage (23%) and early pregnancies (14%). Reflective of the volatile context, insecurity was reported by 33% of assessed settlements as the main reason

why girls were not attending school in Tonj East County.

Although the proportion of assessed settlements reporting more than half of boys attending school remained the same since June, there was a decrease in Tonj East County, Warrap and Jur River County, WBeG. In each of these two counties, 0% of assessed settlements reported that more than half of boys attended school in September. The most commonly reported reasons why boys were not attending school were insecurity in Tonj East County, reported by 42% of assessed settlements; and in Jur River, the need to work at home and outside the home reported by 27% and 24% of assessed settlements respectively. Food insecurity may have encouraged poor attendance as children from vulnerable families are required to work to support their households.

## Conclusion

The persistence of food security shocks has weakened livelihoods across the region. As a result, access to food may remain a challenge in assessed settlements which reported inadequate access to food across GBeG in the coming lean season.

The proportions of assessed settlements reporting access to basic services including health, WASH and education remained relatively high. However, ongoing localised violence has caused displacement, and increased competition over existing services, worsening access and contributing to higher humanitarian needs.

## 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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