

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

March, 2023  
South Sudan

## KEY MESSAGES

- In 59% 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, 62% reported that hunger was "severe".
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to adequate food, 62% 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.

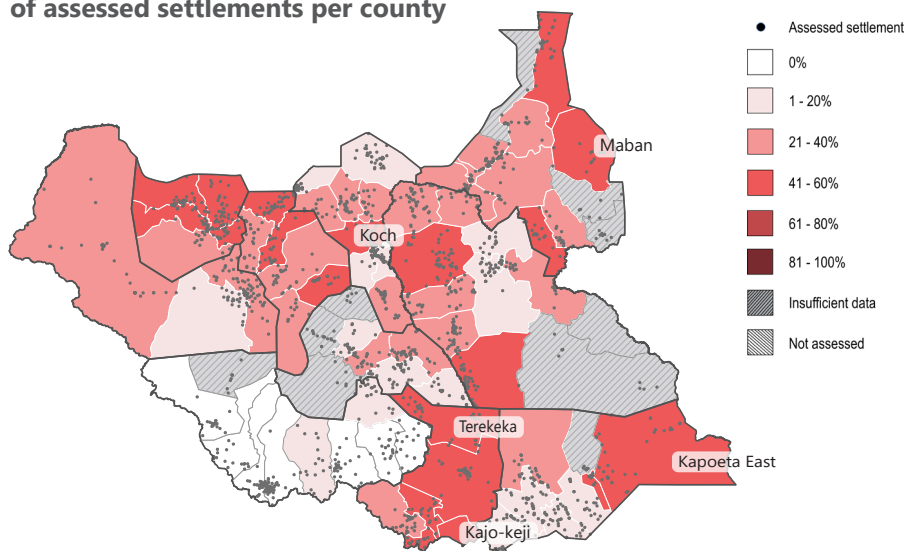
### METHODOLOGY:

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 March 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.

**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=1143) assessed settlements where food access was reported to be inadequate**

Not enough food in stock	27%
High prices	19%
Ceasing of food distribution	13%
Flooding/too much rain	7%
Conflict/insecurity	6%

## 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

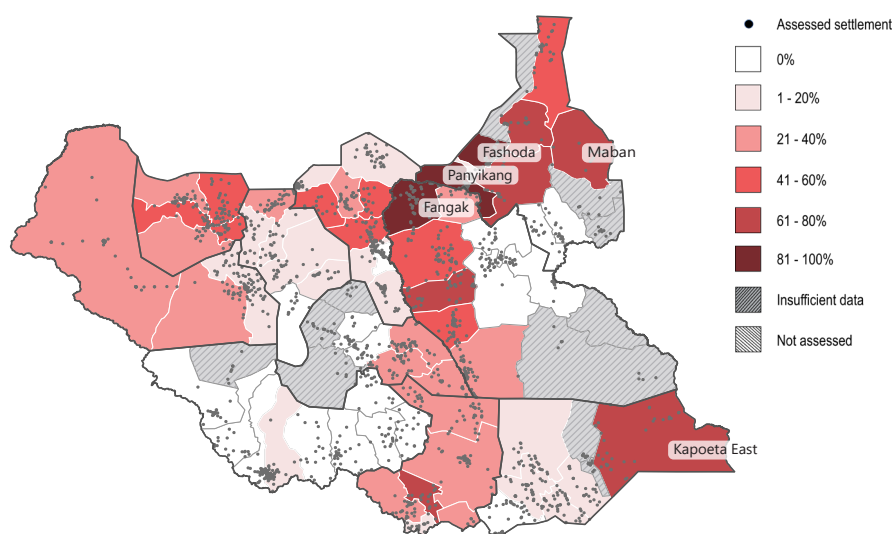
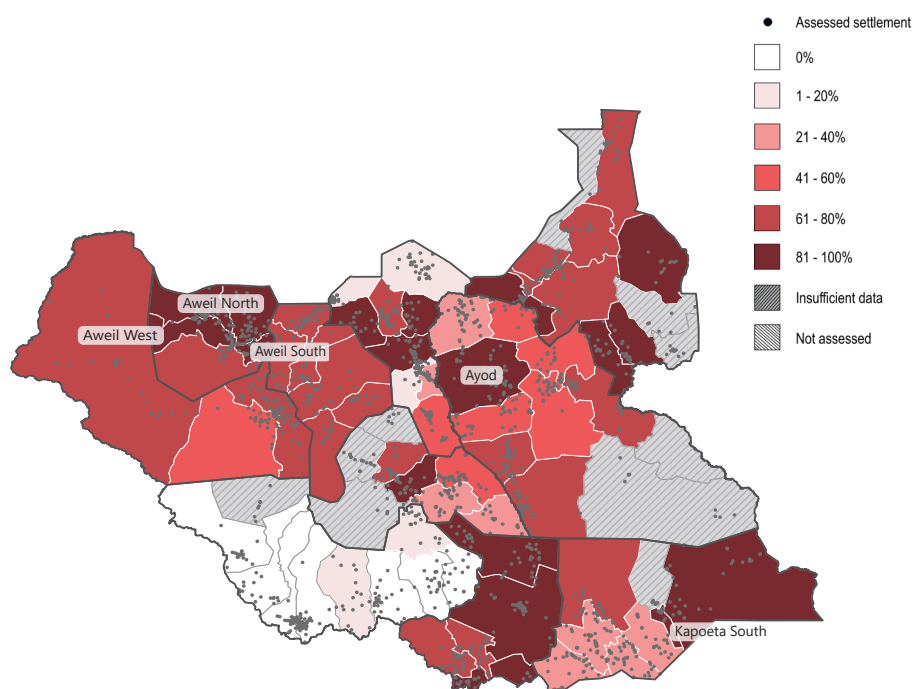


Table 1: In the last month, which shock event has impacted or led to loss of livelihoods in the settlement, by proportion of assessed settlements where a livelihood shock was reported

County	Loss/Decrease in aid	Disease outbreak amongst cattle	Conflict	Displacement	Drought	Flooding	Rising prices	Assessed settlements where livelihoods shocks were reported (n)
Panyikang	-	-	82%	-	-	18%	-	11
Fashoda	-	-	97%	-	-	3%	-	35
Fangak	4%	10%	3%	3%	-	-	80%	30
Kapoeta East	10%	5%	-	-	40%	-	45%	20
Maban	-	-	14%	-	-	57%	29%	11

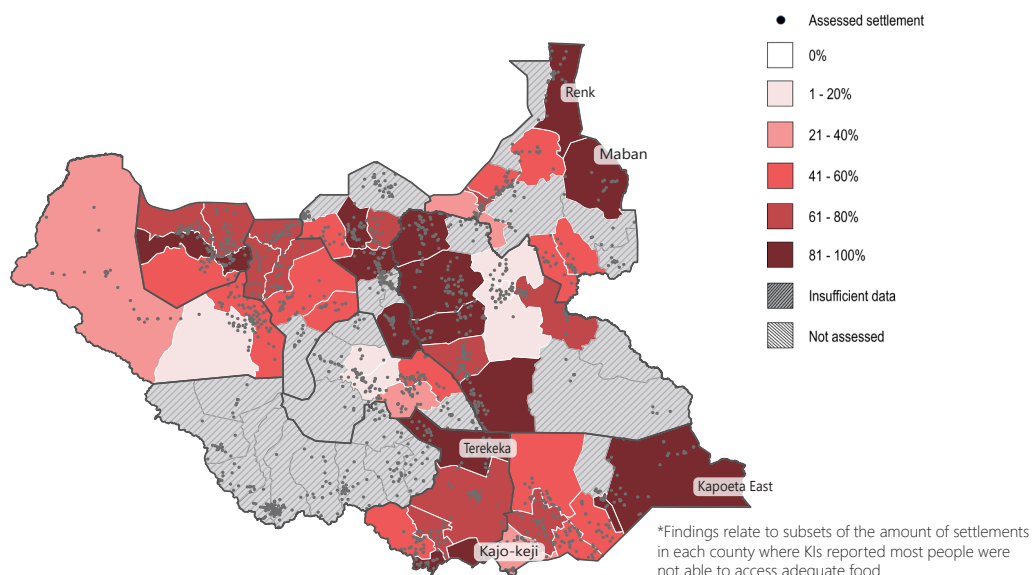
## FOOD ACCESS

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	Assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported (n)
Ayod	44%	46%	-	-	10%	41
Aweil North	-	41%	-	7%	52%	27
Aweil West	-	41%	4%	5%	50%	22
Aweil South	10%	37%	-	-	53%	19
Kapoeta South	11%	78%	-	-	11%	9

**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 hunger was reported as "severe" and/or "worst it can be"**

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)
Kajo-Keji	10%	21%	91%	92%	87%	-	24
Kapoeta East	10%	13%	70%	47%	65%	97%	31
Maban	11%	30%	70%	78%	89%	11%	10
Renk	5%	32%	33%	79%	85%	15%	19
Terekeka	9%	27%	82%	82%	64%	36%	33

	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	21
2	Akobo	32
3	Aweil Centre	19
4	Aweil East	41
5	Aweil North	28
6	Aweil South	19
7	Aweil West	22
8	Awerial	19
9	Ayod	50
10	Baliet	15
11	Bor South	65
12	Budi	26
13	Canal/Pigi	16
14	Cueibet	16
15	Duk	33
16	Ezo	23
17	Fangak	47
18	Fashoda	42
19	Gogrial East	24
20	Gogrial West	23
21	Guit	16
22	Ibba	17
23	Ikotos	39
24	Juba	34
25	Jur River	53
26	Kajo-keji	28
27	Kapoeta East	32
28	Kapoeta North	9
29	Kapoeta South	10
30	Koch	34
31	Lafon	24
32	Lainya	15
33	Leer	20
34	Longochuk	7
35	Luakpiny/Nasir	16
36	Maban	12
37	Magwi	37
38	Maiwut	8
39	Malakal	14
40	Manyo	5
41	Maridi	28
42	Mayendit	22
43	Mayom	14
44	Melut	18
45	Morobo	16
46	Mundri East	19
47	Mundri West	18
48	Mvolo	16
49	NA	1
50	Nagero	8
51	Nyirol	23
52	Nzara	36
53	Panyijiar	33
54	Panyikang	11
55	Pariang	30

	County	No. of assessed settlements
56	Pibor	10
57	Pochalla	1
58	Raja	43
59	Renk	25
60	Rubkona	28
61	Rumbek Centre	21
62	Rumbek East	22
63	Rumbek North	8
64	Tambura	26
65	Terekeka	36
66	Tonj East	14
67	Tonj North	24
68	Tonj South	11
69	Torit	38
70	Twic	35
71	Twic East	40
72	Ulang	18
73	Uror	24
74	Wau	52
75	Wulu	7
76	Yambio	52
77	Yei	32
78	Yirol East	36
79	Yirol West	34

## 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

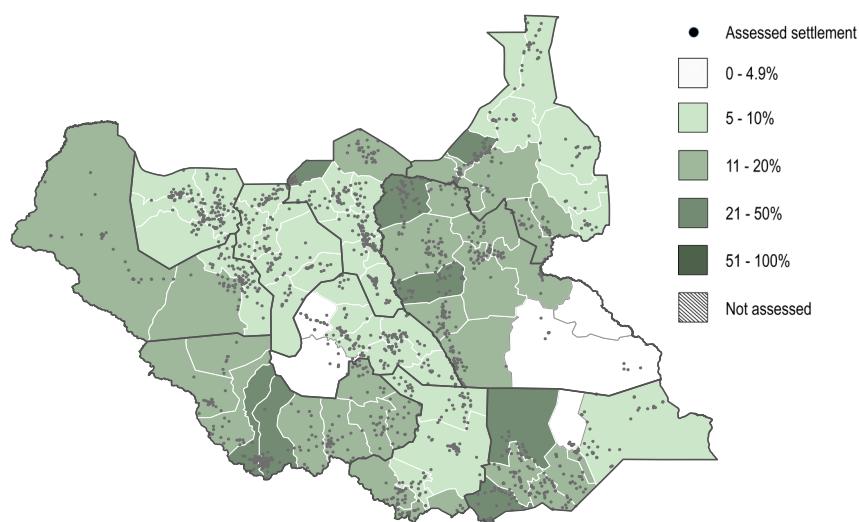
Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed have more than one

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

**2223** Key informants interviewed | **1941** Settlements assessed

**79** Counties assessed | **74** Counties with 5% or more coverage<sup>2</sup>



## ENDNOTES

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<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).