



South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement Crisis

December 2020

Overview

The continuation of conflict since December 2013 has created a complex humanitarian crisis in the country, 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.

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 and through multi-sector interviews with the following typology of Key Informants (KIs):

- KIs who are newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have left a hard-to-reach settlement in the last month
- KIs who have been in contact with someone living in a hard-to-reach settlement, or have been visiting one in the last month (traders, migrants, family members, etc.)
- KIs who are remaining in hard-to-reach settlements, contacted through 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 at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#).

All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed with that specific response.

The findings presented in this factsheet are indicative of the broad trends relevant to population movement (displacement and returns) in assessed settlements in December 2020, and are not statistically generalisable.

Assessment Coverage

2,560 Key informants interviewed

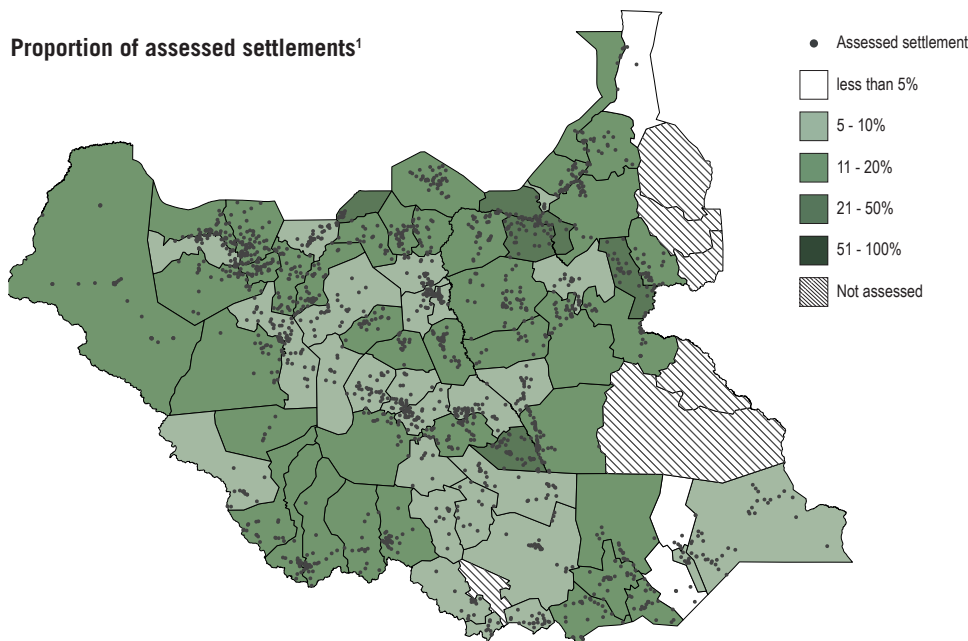
1,966 Settlements assessed

72 Counties assessed

69 Counties with 5% or more coverage¹

Assessment coverage

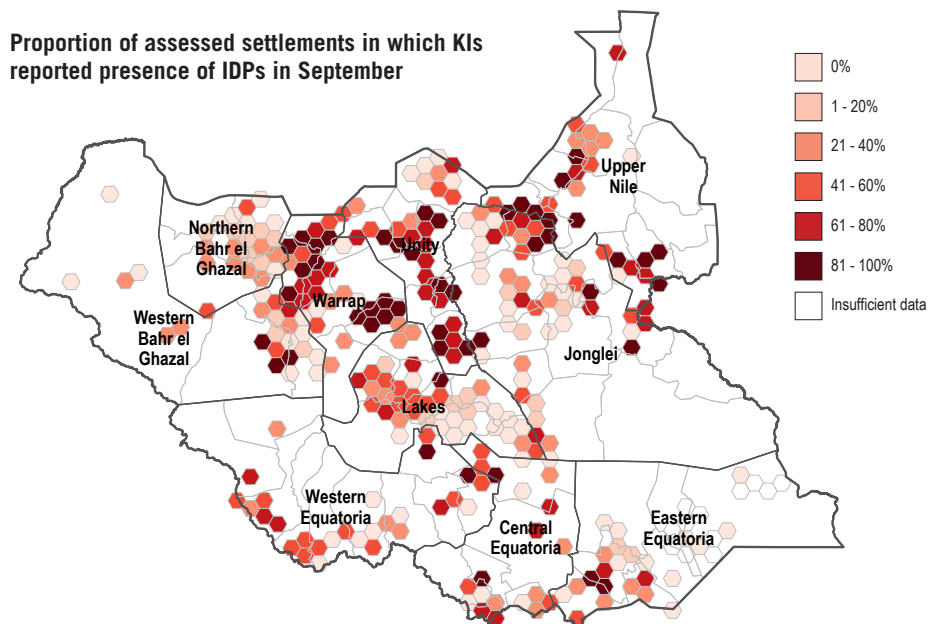
Proportion of assessed settlements¹



¹Data is only represented for counties in which at least 5% of settlements have been assessed. The most recent OCHA Common Operational Dataset (COD) released in March 2019 has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations, and for the number of settlements in each county.

IDP Presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of IDPs in September



Given limitations in analyzing data using sub-county administrative boundaries in South Sudan, the country was divided into a 500km² hexagon grid for analytical and display purposes. The distance between the opposite sides of each hexagon represents 15km, approximating one day's walking distance as well as the size of a basic service unit.



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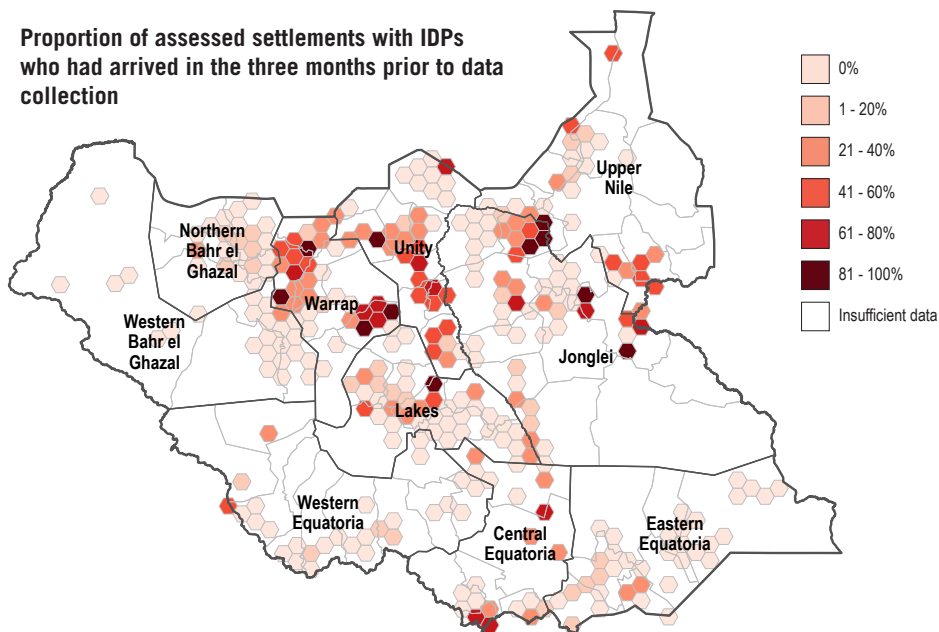
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Displacement and Population Movement

Proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs who had arrived in the three months prior to data collection



Key Displacement Trends

In addition to data collected through the Area-of-Knowledge (AoK) surveys, REACH tracks secondary sources on population movement to triangulate AoK findings and to track additional movements or drivers that are not well-reflected in AoK data.

- In October [OCHA reported](#) that in Tonj East County intercommunal fighting displaced about 18,000 people and an additional [5,000 people were reportedly displaced](#) in November.
- Large-scale sub-national violence throughout 2020 [displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Jonglei](#), and the effect of this displacement was compounded by flooding in the second half of the year including in Akobo County.² The combination of these shocks has most likely triggered food insecurity in multiple counties in the state, while in Canal Pigi pockets of communal fighting in late 2020 may have exacerbated the food insecurity initially triggered by flooding, [according to EyeRadio](#).
- Reflective of the reported main push and pull factors reported in Koch being related to the security situation, spikes in cattle raiding from November 2020 in Koch County have reportedly caused loss of lives and property, as well as displacement of people, according to participants of a recent focus group discussion conducted by REACH in Bentiu Protection of Civilians Site (PoC).³

Proportion of IDPs

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population and recent IDPs had arrived in the 3 months prior to data collection

Tonj East	62%
Canal Pigi	53%
Akobo	41%
Koch	38%
Gogrial West	37%

Push factors⁴

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main push factor reported by county

Insecurity (Tonj East)	100%
Lack of food (Canal Pigi)	56%
Lack of food (Akobo)	81%
Insecurity (Koch)	71%
Flooding (Gogrial West)	73%

Pull factors⁴

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main pull factor reported by county

Improved security (Tonj East)	100%
HA access (Canal Pigi) ⁵	87%
Food access (Akobo)	53%
Improved security (Koch)	73%
Shelter (Gogrial West)	42%

Counties of Origin⁴

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main county of origin reported by county

Tonj East (to Tonj East)	100%
Canal Pigi (to Canal Pigi)	87%
Akobo (to Akobo)	68%
Koch (to Koch)	93%
Gogrial West (to Gogrial West)	100%

² IRNA Report: Akobo East, Jonglei State 14th–15th October 2020

³ REACH, Focus Group Discussions, Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) Site, Rubkona County, February 2021.

⁴ Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the presence of IDPs AND arrivals in the three months prior to data collection.

⁵ Access to humanitarian assistance



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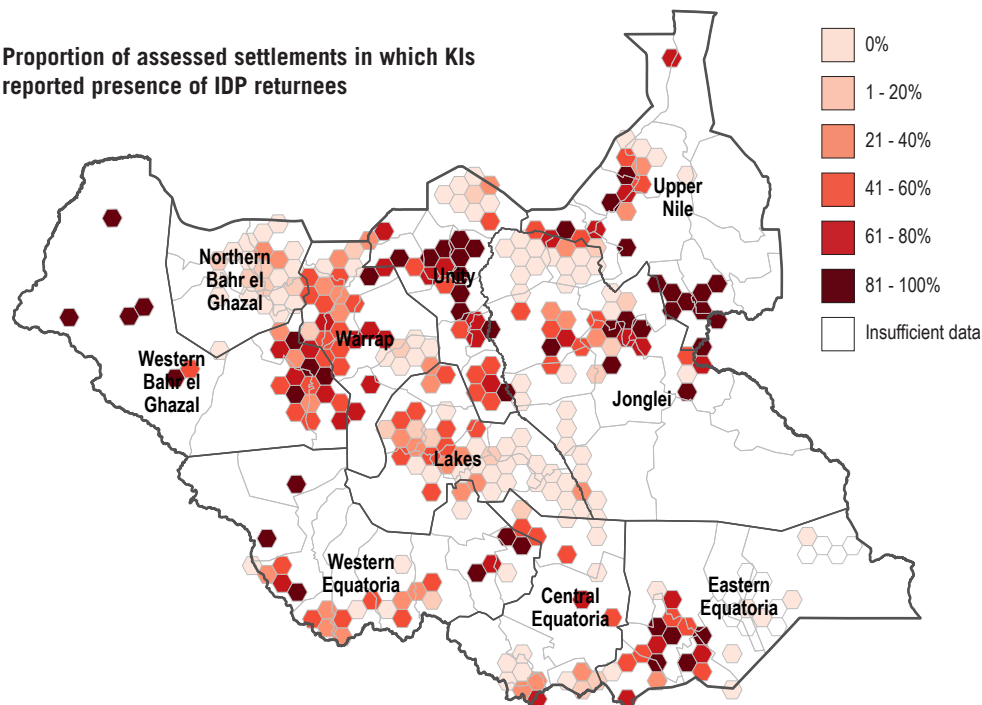
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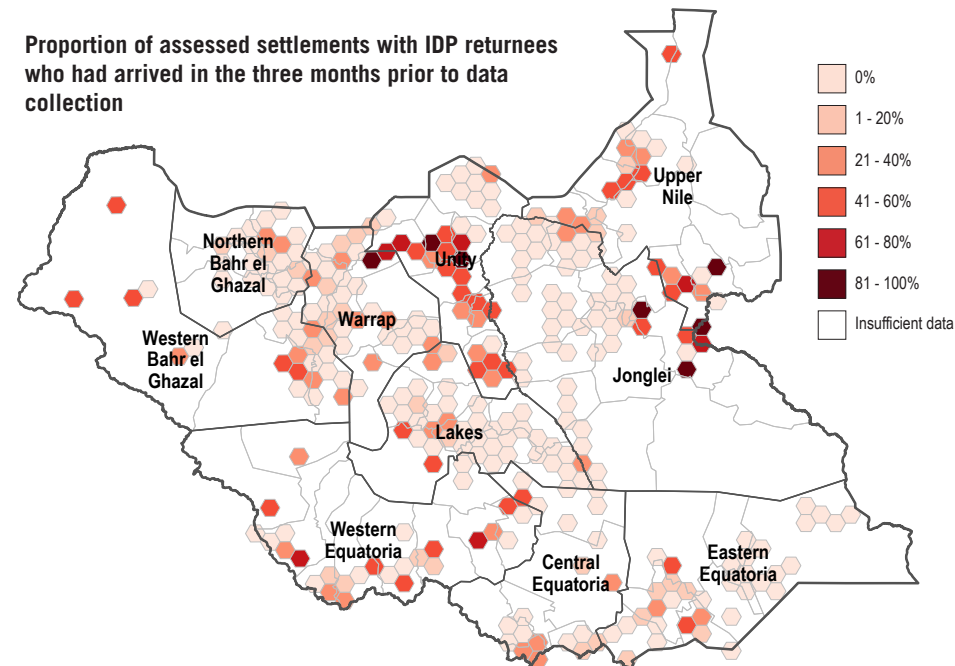
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IDP Returnee Presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of IDP returnees



Proportion of assessed settlements with IDP returnees who had arrived in the three months prior to data collection



Presence of recent IDP Returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with IDP returnees and IDP returns in the 3 months prior to data collection

Rubkona	80%
Akobo	66%
Fashoda	60%
Mayom	58%
Leer	55%

Push factors⁶

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main push factor reported by county

Insecurity (Rubkona)	45%
Insecurity (Akobo)	50%
No IGA access (Fashoda) ⁷	45%
Insecurity (Mayom)	70%
Far from home (Leer)	50%

Pull factors⁶

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main pull factor reported by county

Improved security (Rubkona)	50%
Improved security (Akobo)	77%
Access to IGAs (Fashoda)	40%
Improved security (Mayom)	80%
Returning home (Leer)	50%

Counties of Origin

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main county of origin reported by county

Rubkona (to Rubkona)	100%
Akobo (to Akobo)	44%
Fashoda (to Fashoda)	100%
Mayom (to Mayom)	50%
Leer (to Leer)	60%

⁶ Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the presence of IDP returnees AND arrivals in the three months prior to data collection.

⁷ Income generating activities



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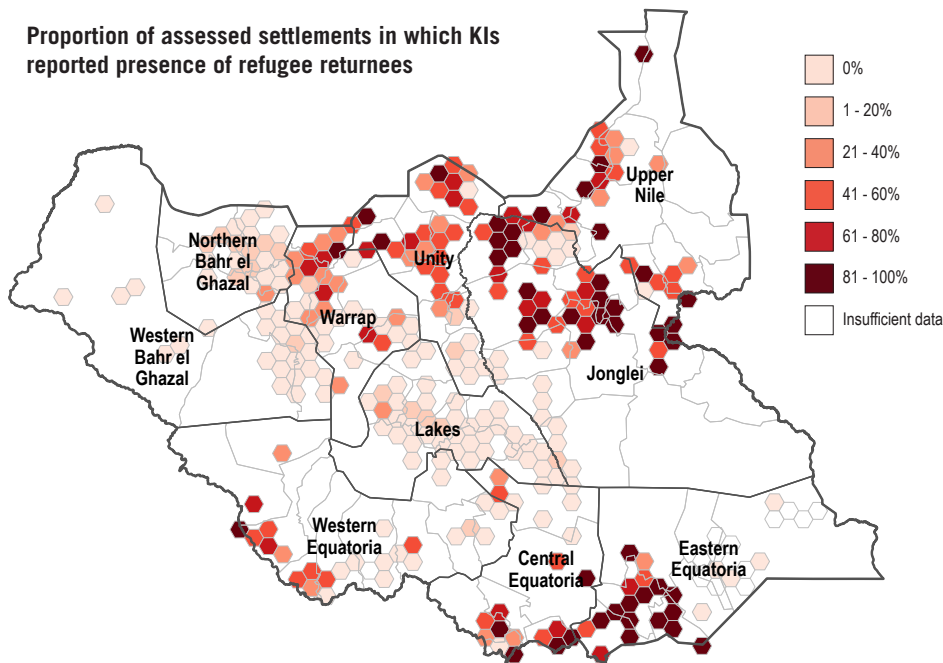
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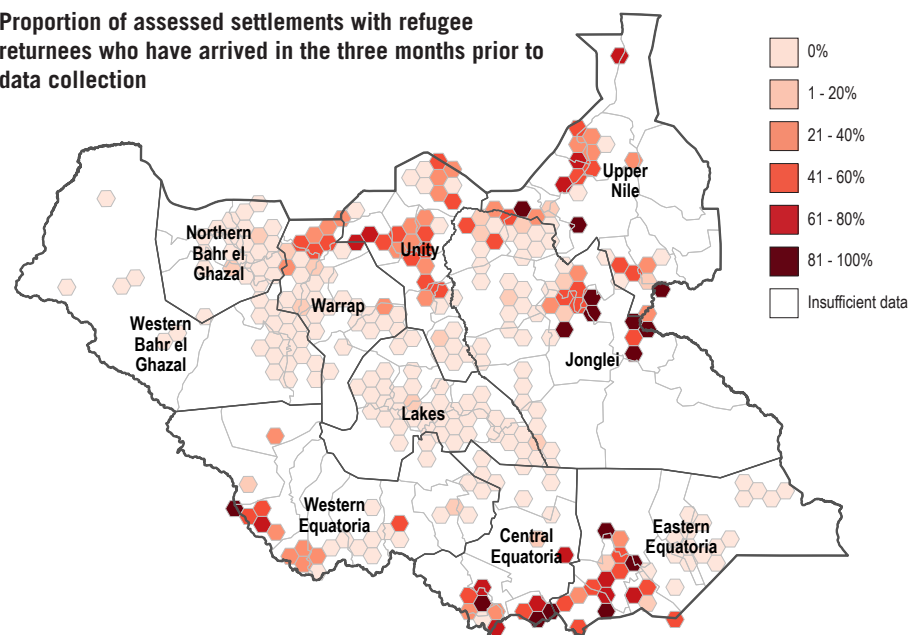
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Refugee Returnee Presence

Proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported presence of refugee returnees



Proportion of assessed settlements with refugee returnees who have arrived in the three months prior to data collection



Presence of recent refugee returnees

Top 5 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements with refugee returnees and refugee returns in the 3 months prior to data collection

Akobo	92%	<div></div>
Manyo	90%	<div></div>
Kajo-Keji	76%	<div></div>
Fashoda	65%	<div></div>
Lafon	64%	<div></div>

Push factors^a

In those five counties (see chart to the far left), main push factor reported by county

Insecurity (Akobo)	72%	<div></div>
Lack of food (Manyo)	33%	<div></div>
Lack of food (Kajo-Keji)	31%	<div></div>
No IGA access (Fashoda)	44%	<div></div>
Insecurity (Lafon)	50%	<div></div>

Pull factors^a

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main pull factor reported by county

Improved security (Akobo)	76%	<div></div>
Improved security (Manyo)	55%	<div></div>
Food availability (Kajo-Keji)	43%	<div></div>
Access to IGAs (Fashoda)	27%	<div></div>
Improved security (Lafon)	55%	<div></div>

Countries of Origin

In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main country of origin reported by county

Ethiopia (to Akobo)	80%	<div></div>
Sudan (to Manyo)	100%	<div></div>
Uganda (to Kajo-Keji)	100%	<div></div>
Sudan (to Fashoda)	100%	<div></div>
Uganda (to Lafon)	77%	<div></div>

^a Percentages are given among assessed settlements in each county that reported the presence of refugee returnees AND arrivals in the three months prior to data collection.