

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

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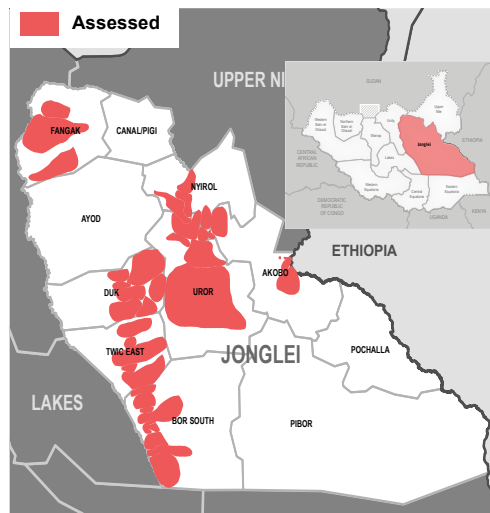
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Introduction

Displacement trends, population needs and humanitarian access all continue to be negatively affected by ongoing localised inter-community conflict and sporadic clashes since renewed fighting broke out in Juba in July 2016. Since September, anticipated worsening security, along with a lack of food, has triggered displacement to Akobo Town and outflows of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia persist since the July Crisis. Overall, humanitarian needs remained high in October as insecurity and the consequences of years of violence continue to negatively impact populations' access to basic services and ability to meet basic needs.

To inform the response of humanitarians working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH is conducting an ongoing assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan, for which data on communities across the Greater Upper Nile region is collected on a monthly basis. Between 10 and 28 October, REACH interviewed 981 Key Informants (KIs) from 39 communities in 7 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State. 365 KIs were interviewed in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 331 in Akobo Town, 277 in Bor Town and 8 in Nyal.

Findings have been triangulated using focus group discussions (FGDs), secondary data, and previous REACH assessments of hard-to-reach areas of Jonglei State¹. New arrivals,



Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, October 2016

representing 38% of KIs, were specifically targeted during the data collection phase to ensure up-to-date information about the villages from which new arrivals had been displaced.

This Situation Overview provides key findings related to displacement trends and the humanitarian situation in assessed communities in Jonglei State. The first section analyses displacement in Jonglei State in October, and the push and pull factors that shaped patterns of displacement this month. The second section evaluates the population dynamics in the assessed communities, as well as access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

Population Movement and Displacement

In October 2016, Jonglei remained a politically divided state, split between SPLA-controlled areas to the west in the surrounding areas of Bor, SPLA/IO-controlled areas to the east, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in the Murle and Anuyak dominated south east. Tensions between communities and violent confrontations related to cattle raiding continued to affect the state in October. Further, several deadly road ambushes were reported in Western Jonglei, especially around Duk Padiet, Poktap and Panyagor.² The Greater Akobo Area in Jonglei's East continued to report revenge killings.³

Although **no incidents of mass displacement were reported within Jonglei** in October, Jonglei's IDP population of 378,820⁴ remained displaced as a result of persistent tensions linked to the broader national conflict as well as local inter and intra-community conflict. As a result, **no large-scale returns were reported from Jonglei's main IDP hosting sites** (Akobo Town, Bor Town, Bor PoC, as well as communities in the state's interior such as around the Waat-Walgak-Lankien area). Similarly, conditions for return also remained unfavourable for IDPs from Jonglei who had fled to neighbouring Lakes State to seek shelter and support at the Mingkaman

Spontaneous Settlement following the start of conflict in December 2013.

Further, FGDs conducted by REACH with new arrivals in Akobo Town in October, suggested that, **since September, growing numbers of populations have been moving from Waat, Lankien and Walgak to Akobo Town**. However, given the dynamic nature of population movements within Greater Akobo, it was not possible to verify the number of new arrivals. According to respondents, the start of the dry season has made populations fearful of antagonistic communities attacking their villages as roads become passable. General food shortages, resulting from low cultivation levels linked to insecurity, coupled with lack of access to clean water, were cited as other major factors driving populations to Akobo Town. This trend is likely to continue in the months to come, as populations from Greater Akobo regularly migrate to Akobo Town during the dry season⁵, which will put further pressure on facilities in the town, and therefore is likely to require upscaled humanitarian service provision.

Displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia continued in October. REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo Town, which tracks movement of South Sudanese heading to or returning from Ethiopian refugee camps, found that in October the net outflow of people permanently heading to Ethiopia was higher

¹ REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis, Assessment of Hard to Reach Areas in South Sudan - Jonglei State, Factsheets April - August 2016

² Radio Tamajuj: Duk relief coordinator killed in road ambush, 4th of November, 2016.

³ CEPO: An INGO staff killed in Akobo, 8th of October 2016.

⁴ OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, October 2016.

⁵ REACH: Multi-Sectoral Overview of the Humanitarian Needs in Akobo East, March 2016.

METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who receive regular information from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Origin”.

Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Akobo Town, Bor Town, as well as in Nyal in Unity State, throughout October 2016.

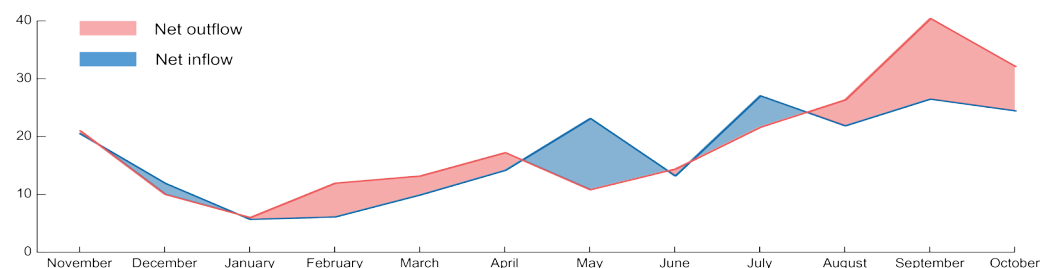
The first phase of the assessment methodology involved a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant communities in Jonglei State, as well as the identification of key informants. In-depth interviews were then conducted with selected participants using a standardised survey tool comprising questions on displacement trends, population needs, and access to basic services.

After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the community level, and communities were assigned the modal response. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

It should be noted that when no consensus could be found for a community, that community was not included in reporting. This, combined with the fact that sometimes only a subset of respondents are asked certain questions depending on their answer to a previous question, is why the total number of communities reported on may differ throughout this report.

than the net inflow - a trend that has been observed since the July Crisis, when the net outflow started to surpass net inflows.⁶ Although October saw a decrease in net outflows compared to September, with 30 individuals a day leaving South Sudan (40 in September), the continuing outflow is a worrying trend and the number of departures to Ethiopia in October were still at a higher level than at any other point pre-July 2016, as shown in Graph 1. The reasons for permanently leaving appear to be mixed, with 49% of respondents indicating they left due to a lack of education access, 22% citing lack of food and 13% reporting ongoing conflict as main reason. Interestingly, ongoing conflict was cited less frequently in October than in September (reported by 36% in September), with other factors such as education and food access having become more important push factors this month. This indicates that access to basic services in KIs' previous locations appears to be worsening. Overall, if security was to worsen in Central Jonglei during the dry season, as anticipated by FGD respondents, Akobo Town, as well as camps in Gambella would require a large-scale humanitarian response.

October also saw **the arrival of people in Jonglei displaced from other parts of South Sudan**. New arrivals displaced from Central Unity due to active conflict were reported by authorities in New Fangak, with the majority of people originating from Leer, Koch, Mayendit and Guit counties.⁸ Further, local authorities in Bor Town and Mingkaman indicated the arrival of populations originally from Jonglei who had



Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue); October 2015 to October 2016.⁷

resided in Yei (Central Equatoria), and were now returning to Jonglei due to fighting in the Equatorias (see next page for further detail).

Push factors for leaving pre-crisis location reported by new arrivals

A lack of security was cited as the most important reason that led 76% of newly arrived KIs, representing 38% of the total number of respondents, to leave their pre-crisis location. This was reported by respondents from all 8 assessed counties from which new arrivals originated. However, in Greater Akobo (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo Counties) a lower percentage of new arrivals reported this as the primary reason (65-78%), compared to KIs from Duk, Twic East and Bor South in Western Jonglei where all reported insecurity. This can be explained by the tense security situation in Western Jonglei, which remains a conflict hotspot between SPLA and SPLA-IO. In contrast, according to FGD respondents, displacement in Eastern Jonglei is not only security-related but also driven by seasonal variations in access to water and food.

Flooding that destroyed crops in Northern Jonglei and ongoing insecurity appear to have had a negative impact on populations' access to food, with 71% of newly arrived KIs reporting inadequate access to food as the second most important push factor. All IDPs respondents from counties which have been affected by flooding, such as Fangak and Twic East, reported a lack of food as the second most important reason to leave their homes.

Pull factors for choosing current location reported by new arrivals

Pull factors largely mirror the reported push factors. Sixty-five per cent of KIs reported perceived security as the primary reason for moving to their current location, while 57% of KIs cited proximity to food distributions as the second most important reason. The majority of newly arrived KIs were interviewed in Akobo Town where a monthly General Food Distribution (GFD) takes place, indicating that food distributions can act as strong driver for population movement.

⁶ REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, October 2016.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, October 2016.

Recent Returns to Jonglei from Yei

These findings are based on 4 FGDs and 4 KI interviews REACH conducted in Mingkaman and Bor Town between 17 - 31 October with new arrivals who had resided in Yei since the crisis in December 2013, and were now returning to Jonglei State or residing at the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement due to active conflict in Yei.

Origin of newly arrived returnees

Duk, Twic East and Bor South Counties

Pull factors to Yei post-December 2013

1. Some respondents chose to come to Yei for its perceived sense of security.
2. Other KIs had moved to Yei due to the presence of family members, job opportunities and perceived good access to services in the town.

All respondents indicated they had perceived life in Yei to be good, mainly because it had remained largely unaffected by instability pre-July 2016.

Push factors from Yei post-July 2016

1. All respondents described insecurity and violence related to active conflict and deadly attacks on civilians as a main reason for leaving Yei. Looting and related loss of assets were also reported.
2. Active conflict in the area adversely impacted respondents' ability to access food as freedom of movement was reportedly heavily restricted, preventing them from pursuing income generating work in town and accessing nearby rural villages to search for food and tend to their farms, resulting both in a lack of access to food as well as lack of access to livelihood activities.
3. Overall, access to basic services was reportedly extremely low as a result of fighting.

Displacement route from Yei post-July 2016

Yei - Juba - Bor Town or Mingkaman

The vast majority of respondents indicated they had used a government-organised vehicle or airplane to move from Yei to Juba. However, Juba was not perceived to be safe enough to stay, and due to KIs originating from Jonglei where they perceived access to services to be better, they moved onto Bor or Mingkaman. The majority of KIs used government-organised buses and vehicles for their onward journey to Jonglei/Lakes States.

Arrival date in Bor Town / Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement

October 2016, with respondents reporting other newly arrived returnees came in September.

Pull factors to Bor Town / Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement post-July 2016

Pull factors mirror the push factors that displaced people from Yei:

1. All KIs cited perceived security in Bor and Mingkaman as the primary reason for moving to these locations, with a perception amongst newly arrived Mingkaman residents that Mingkaman was more safe than Bor town.
2. Access to humanitarian services, in particular inclusion in GFDs in Bor Town and Mingkaman, was also cited by all respondents. However, at the time of data collection, it appeared that new arrivals had not yet been included in food distributions and were primarily relying on family members/relatives or other IDPs and the local community to fulfill their basic needs.

Intentions to stay / leave Bor Town and Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement

Responses by KIs differed, with some indicating they intended to stay until peace comes to Jonglei and South Sudan as a whole, while others said they would move to other locations if they were unable to access humanitarian services, in particular the GFDs. All KIs said they would leave if security in Bor/Mingkaman would deteriorate.

All KIs indicated they would want to move back to their ancestral homes in other parts of Jonglei. A stable peace, as well as the presence of food distributions and access to basic services in their areas of origin were cited as conditions that would enable them to permanently return to Jonglei.

Humanitarian Implications

Although REACH has been unable to verify the number of new arrivals from Yei as they had not been officially registered at the time of data collection, reports by local authorities and KI responses indicated that a conservative estimate would suggest figures to be in the hundreds. As many new arrivals reported to have lost their assets as a result of fighting in Yei and have been unable to transport their belongings, they are likely to be particularly vulnerable, implying a need to access humanitarian assistance in Bor Town and Mingkaman. With KIs stating that remaining populations in Yei are likely to move once they have the financial means for transport, this trend may continue, suggesting that more people from Yei who are likely to be in need of aid might arrive in the weeks to come. REACH will continue to closely monitor these trends to inform humanitarian actors in Bor and Mingkaman.

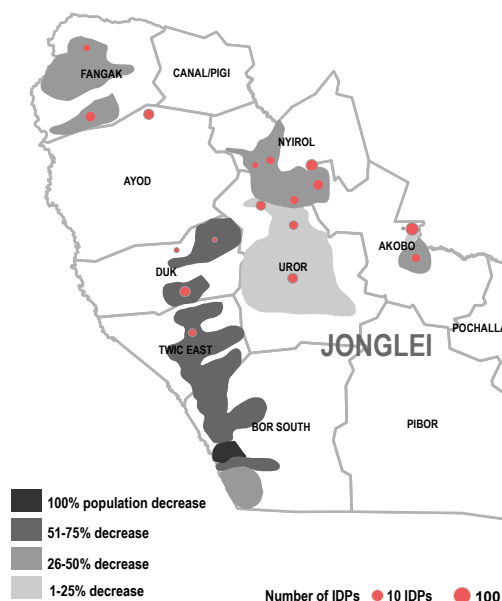
Situation in Assessed Communities

Demographic profile

Remaining population in assessed villages

Although none of the assessed communities reported being entirely de-populated in October, all communities reported at least some of the local population had fled their villages. However, there appears to be no increase in the number of communities reporting population displacement since September. As was the case in the previous month, Western Jonglei was worst affected by displacement of local community members, with the 43% of communities reporting a 50-75% decline of populations in Duk, Twic East and Bor South. By contrast, currently less conflict-affected counties in Northern and Eastern Jonglei reported a 25-50% decrease. Overall, conflict was cited as the most important cause for the displacement by all but one of the assessed communities. Similarly, security was the primary reason for local populations who remained in their current location. This suggests that both local populations leaving and those remaining were sensitive to and cognisant of changes in the security context.

The majority of communities (64%) reported that remaining local populations in their village were currently residing in their own homes. However, 36% of communities reported that remaining members of the local community had moved to nearby villages, with all communities reporting this being located in Western Jonglei.



Map 2: Reported local community population decrease, and reported IDP populations, October 2016

This indicates clear geographic disparities across the state that are likely to be linked to the tense security situation in parts of Western Jonglei.

IDP population in assessed villages

Fifty-six per cent of assessed communities reported that they were hosting IDPs in October, with an average reported IDP population of 528 (though individual reports ranged from 10 to 3,000 per village). This represents an increase since September, where 22 out of 53 communities reported the presence of IDPs. It generally fits into a trend of the number of IDP hosting communities continually increasing since the July crisis. Although Duk, Twic East

and Fangak also hosted some IDPs, the overall highest concentration of IDPs in communities assessed was reported in the Greater Akobo area, with a large presence of IDPs outside of formal displacement sites in Akobo Town as well as around Waat, Walgak and Lankien.

The most commonly cited pull factor for IDPs to their current location was security, reported by 95% of IDP hosting communities, which is similar to the number of communities having reported this in the previous month. Access to food was cited as second most important pull factor by the majority of communities. Push factors that would influence IDPs decision-making to leave their current location mirror the primary pull factors.

Protection

Despite nearly all communities assessed (97%) reporting that physical protection is available through police services, local authorities and community watch groups, the majority of communities reported that men and women did not feel safe either during the day or night in their villages. Fifty-three per cent of assessed communities reported that women would be unsafe at any time of day if they had to leave their shelter, with the remaining communities reporting that women were only perceived as safe during the day time. Nearly 90% of villages reported men to be unsafe during both the day and night.

Killing or injury from other groups is the main safety concern for women (as reported by 61% of assessed communities), followed by

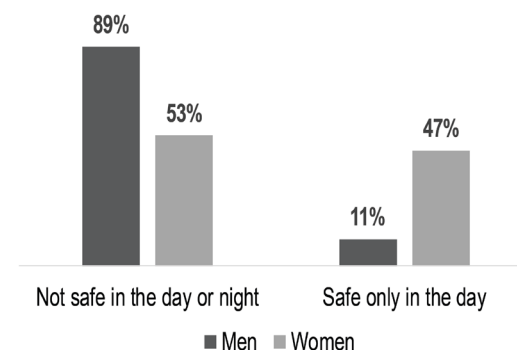


Figure 1: % of assessed communities reporting unsafe during day and night or during night, October 2016

sexual violence. However, less communities reported sexual violence as top safety issue in October (36% of communities) compared to September (47%). **Killing or injury from other groups was also the main safety concern for men (97%).** Armed groups operating near villages were cited as biggest protection threats for populations in assessed communities.

Overall, these findings are in line with those of previous months, indicating that the vast majority of communities assessed perceive the physical safety of their populations as under threat. Consequently, there is an urgent need to prioritize protection to improve the physical safety of the population living in Jonglei, in particular to affected communities outside of formal displacement sites. With the progression of the dry season, this is of particular urgency as insecurity – and with it, associated protection concerns and displacement – is anticipated to become more prevalent.

Shelter

Shelter conditions appear to have improved for local communities compared to September. As illustrated in Figure 2, the most common type of shelter reportedly used by local communities was the tukul (86% of assessed communities), followed by the rakooba (14%). The proportion of communities reporting that local community members stay in tukuls has almost doubled since September (44% of communities). Further, less communities, 37% in October compared to 60% in September, reported that at least a proportion of local community members are living outside without adequate shelter. This positive trend may be attributable to better weather conditions with the dry season that could have enabled local communities to rebuild permanent shelters.

Although the majority of IDPs also lived in tukuls (67%), shelter needs of IDPs generally appear to be greater compared to local communities, with 23% of communities reporting IDPs to be primarily staying in improvised shelters. The majority of communities reporting this are located in Fangak and Akobo Counties. This may be linked to floods in Northern Jonglei having destroyed shelters, as well as the fact that these locations saw some of the highest IDP concentrations in the state. These two reasons could have negatively impacted local communities' ability to absorb IDPs shelter needs. Although all IDP hosting communities reported to be sharing shelters with IDPs, this appears to be insufficient to ensure adequate shelter access as 76% of communities reported

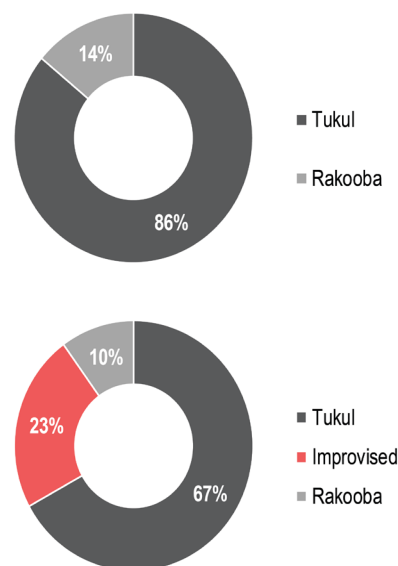


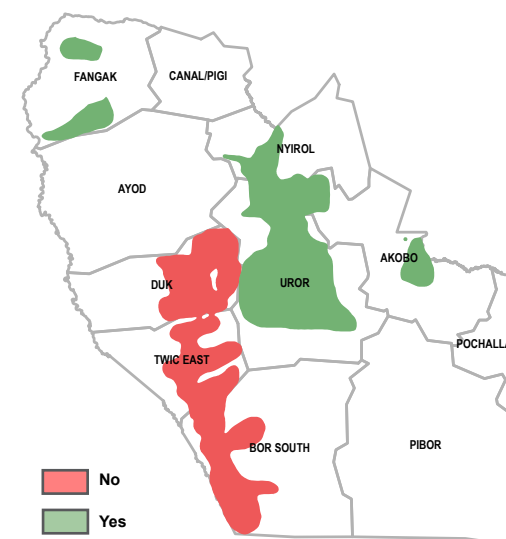
Figure 2: Most common shelter type reportedly used by local community (top) vs. IDPs (bottom), October 2016.

that at least some of the IDP population in their village was sleeping outside. This represents an increase since September when 62% of assessed communities reported the same. Declining levels of access to shelter materials typically used for the construction of temporary shelters may explain this trend. In October, access to NGO distributed ropes and plating sheeting was reported by only 11% and 14% of respondents, compared to 23% and 30% in September, respectively. These findings are a strong indication that **IDP shelter needs outside of formal displacement sites remain high.**

Food security

Only 48% of assessed communities reported that they had adequate access to food in October, representing a considerable decrease from September, when 87% of assessed communities reported the same. There are strong geographic disparities with regards to food access as all communities reporting inadequate food access were located in Duk, Twic East and Bor South Counties, as demonstrated in Map 3. This largely reflects FEWS Net current food security outcomes for October 2016, which indicate that areas in Western Jonglei face IPC Phase 3 levels ('Crisis'), compared to the rest of the state where IPC Phase 2 levels ('Stressed') are prevalent.⁹ However, FEWS Net projections, which suggested that food security levels were likely to improve in the October 2016-January 2017 period with the arrival of the harvest in October as households have higher food access during this time, have been somewhat contradicted by the considerable increase in the number of communities reported no adequate food access since September.¹⁰

Reasons for inadequate food access reflect the instable security situation in Western Jonglei as 83% of communities without adequate food access reported as first most important reason that it was too unsafe to access food by their preferred method such as through cultivation. Ninety-five per cent of communities identified the destruction of crops as the second most important reason, in most cases likely due to flooding. This was also reported



Map 3: Communities reporting access to adequate amounts of food, October 2016.

in a previous FEWS Net assessment from August 2016, which found that above-average floods in Twic East and other parts of Jonglei since June inundated crops.¹¹ Overall, 61% of communities reported that a food distribution took place there in the past three months. The majority of communities reporting this were located in Greater Akobo and Northern Jonglei, with communities in Duk, Twic East and Bor South reporting much lower access to food distributions (27% compared to 94% of communities in Eastern and Northern Jonglei). These disparities with regards to food access are perhaps an indication that humanitarian actors need to scale up their level of food distributions in Western Jonglei. However, this is also largely dependent upon the evolution of security conditions in these areas.

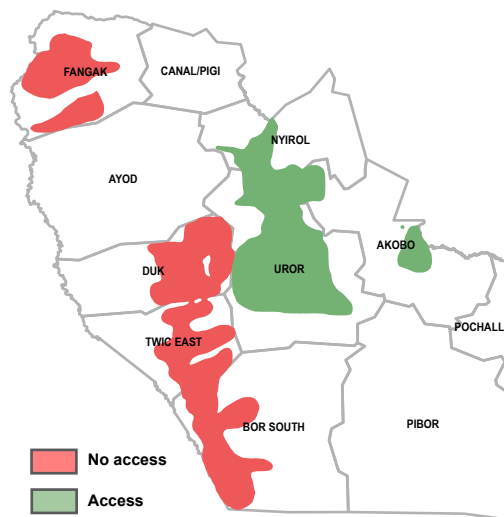
9 FEWS NET, "Food Security Outlook: October 2016 to May 2017".

10 Ibid.

11 FEWS NET: South Sudan Food Security Outlook, August 2016.

Fifty-one per cent of communities cited humanitarian aid as primary source of food, and cultivation was reported by 34% of assessed communities, with a 4 percentage point decrease in communities reporting this since September. Foraging for wild food was identified by 9% of communities in October. Overall, these findings are similar to those of previous months. However, it appears alarming that **despite the arrival of the harvest season, only a third of communities are able to rely on their own production for food access.** These trends are attributable to instability and flooding having impeded cultivation. The impact of these two factors may have been stronger than initially projected by FEWS Net, as the onset of the harvest has not translated into more communities relying on cultivation as a main source of food nor in an overall increase in communities reporting adequate access to food, as previously mentioned.

Only 38% of communities assessed reported they have access to a market. According to FEWS Net October analysis, market access in Central and Northern Jonglei was extremely restricted, with markets in Ayod, Lankien, Fangak, Walgak and Duk Padiet having 'minimal or no activity', and Panayagor market facing 'significant disruption' in October.¹² The state's main markets, located in Bor and Akobo Towns, were functioning but also experienced reduced activity. These disruptions are directly linked to the impact the renewed conflict since July has had on market and trade functionality. Poor overall macroeconomic conditions, having resulted in an all-time inflation high of



Map 4: Communities reporting access to agricultural inputs, October 2016

836% in October¹³, further exacerbated this, with market prices across the country having risen considerably since July. Consequently, this often makes purchasing food from the market an unviable option even for those populations who can physically access a market. As a result, cultivation and aid are likely to remain the most important food sources in the months to come.

With many parts of Jonglei experiencing limited physical and economic access to food, food assistance continues to be required in the months to come, in particular as food security is likely to worsen between February - May 2017 when households will likely have depleted food stocks. This, in addition to anticipated increased conflict and related displacement during the dry season, is projected to deteriorate food security outcomes in several counties into IPC Phase 4 ('Emergency').

Livelihoods

All communities assessed reported that land was available for cultivation. However, land access has not necessarily translated into high levels of agricultural activities as **agricultural inputs were available in only 38% of communities.** Reflective that insecurity negatively affects longer term livelihoods and food security, no communities reported that agricultural inputs were present in more conflict-affected Western Jonglei. The lack of adequate access to food reported in Western Jonglei appears to support this and is partly attributable to communities having been unable to cultivate during the rain season. Further, 53% of assessed communities reported that most of the farming tools and assets in the community had been looted. Overall, these findings indicate a need for distributions of agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools, with Western Jonglei being a priority area for humanitarian actors aiming to support livelihood activities.

As in September, 30% of assessed communities reported that at least one major cattle raid had taken place in the past six months. Of those reporting a raid, 20% reported that personal property other than cattle had been damaged, none reported that community infrastructure such as a school or health facility had been damaged, and 40% reported that displacement had occurred as a result of the raid. Nearly half of all communities assessed (44%) reported that they had moved their cattle to a safer location.

Water and Sanitation

All assessed communities reported access to safe drinking water (borehole). Among them, 44% of communities, for which a consensus could be determined (36 communities), reported that the safe water could be accessed by walking for less than half an hour, with the remaining communities reporting it takes them up to one hour. However, with only 59% of existing boreholes reportedly functional, maintenance of boreholes is likely to be an issue. In the future, this may negatively impact access to safe water as pressure on functioning boreholes is likely to increase in the dry season when other water sources such as rivers become less available.

Access to primary sanitation facilities was found to be extremely low, with no community reporting the use of latrines. Open defecation is hence widely practiced. This can be attributed to a general absence of latrines, as well as the fact that open defecation is an entrenched practice that will require substantial hygiene promotion activities to eliminate. **Sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion therefore remain a priority need in Jonglei State.** New suspected cholera cases in Ayod in October, adding to cholera outbreaks in Duk and Fangak where cases have been confirmed,¹⁴ underscore the importance and urgency of this, and indicate that the **swampy areas of Jonglei remain a priority intervention area** as open defecation is likely to directly contaminate drinking water sources there, further spreading the disease.

¹² FEWS NET, "Food Security Outlook: October 2016 to May 2017".

¹³ OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin Issue 19, 6 December 2016.

¹⁴ OCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian Bulletin Issue 16, 20 October 2016.

Health

Fifty-four per cent of assessed communities reported access to healthcare, with access strongly varying according to geographic locations as Eastern Jonglei reported much higher levels of availability of health services than communities in Western Jonglei. Of the communities reporting no access to health services, 42% reported that health services never existed in the first place, indicating low access levels to healthcare prior to the December 2013 Crisis. Others reported that previously existing services were abandoned, looted, destroyed or otherwise unable to function due to fighting (25% of communities).

Malaria was identified as the biggest health concern by all communities assessed, which corresponds to findings of the South Sudan Health Cluster which reported that malaria was the top cause of communicable diseases-related morbidity in the January-August 2016 period, accounting for 43% of deaths.¹⁵ Forty-four per cent of communities assessed reported typhus as the second most important health problem, and alarmingly 38% cited malnutrition as the second most common issue, which saw a 10 percentage point increase since September. Top-needed medications identified by KIs remained similar to previous months: drugs and malaria medication were most required, followed by ORS, paracetamol and nutritional supplements.

Education

Around half of assessed communities reported access to education services in October (mainly pre-primary and primary schools). This represents a decrease in education access since September when education was available in two-thirds of communities assessed. As in previous months, education access was lowest in Duk, Twic East and Bor South Counties, which is partly attributable to education-related NGO support being focused on other parts of Jonglei. Further, the number of schools having been closed or destroyed in Western Jonglei since the onset of the crisis in 2013 may be higher than in the Central and Eastern parts of the state - an IOM Conflict and Displacement Timeline covering conflict in Jonglei between 2014-2016 indicates that conflict hotspots have mainly been in Bor South, Duk, and Ayod counties (as well as Pibor and Pochalla, which are currently not assessed by REACH).¹⁶

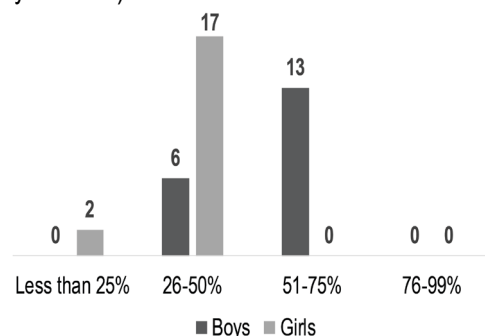


Figure 3: Proportion of girls aged 6-17 years reportedly attending school compared to boys, by number of communities (where education is available), October 2016

Access to available education services also appears to be affected by strong gender disparities. Of the 19 communities reporting

access to education, none reported that more than 50% of girls were attending school, while 13 communities reported the same for boys. This trend was similar in previous months and is likely to be related to traditional gender roles. Lack of school supplies (78% of communities assessed), as well as insecurity (17% of communities) remained the main reasons that hindered both genders from attending school, even when educational facilities were existent.

Conclusion

Increased conflict in Jonglei in August 2016 as a result of renewed fighting in Juba, ongoing high tensions between SPLA and SPLA-IO, as well as localised inter-community conflict continued to negatively affect displacement trends and humanitarian needs in October. Although no considerable SPLA and SPLA-IO clashes were reported in October, the trend of increased population movement within Greater Akobo observed since September continued in October. Similarly, there was a persistent outflow of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia, although the number of people leaving has declined since September. Overall, with both a perceived lack of security, as well as food insecurity being strong push factors explaining this population movement, this trend is likely to continue as security is anticipated to deteriorate in the dry season.

Access to basic services (most notably food, health and education) has remained low since the beginning of the July crisis, and continues to do so in October. Most worryingly, food security appears to have become a bigger challenge in October, in particular in Western Jonglei, despite the onset of the harvest. This is

attributable to cultivation having been impeded by insecurity and flooding, and limited access to markets. Shelter trend of local community members, in contrast, have seen a positive development with the use of tukuls widely reported. WASH, health and education needs have largely remained similar to September, with strong geographic disparities reported between Central/Eastern Jonglei and conflict-affected Duk, Twic East and Bor South where access levels were generally found to be lowest.

While improvements in humanitarian access are expected with the beginning of the dry season and the consequent rehabilitation of roads, instability is also expected to increase as armed groups will be able to mobilise more easily. It is therefore likely that the volatile security context will continue to have a negative impact on population needs and on humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas.

About REACH Initiative

REACH 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. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

For more information, you can write to our in-country office: southsudan@reach-initiative.org or to our global office: geneva@reach-initiative.org.

Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

¹⁵ South Sudan Health Cluster: Bulletin #5, 23 September 2016.

¹⁶ IOM South Sudan: DTM Displacement and Conflict Timeline Jonglei 2014-2016, December 2016.