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 March 2021, and are not statistically generalisable.

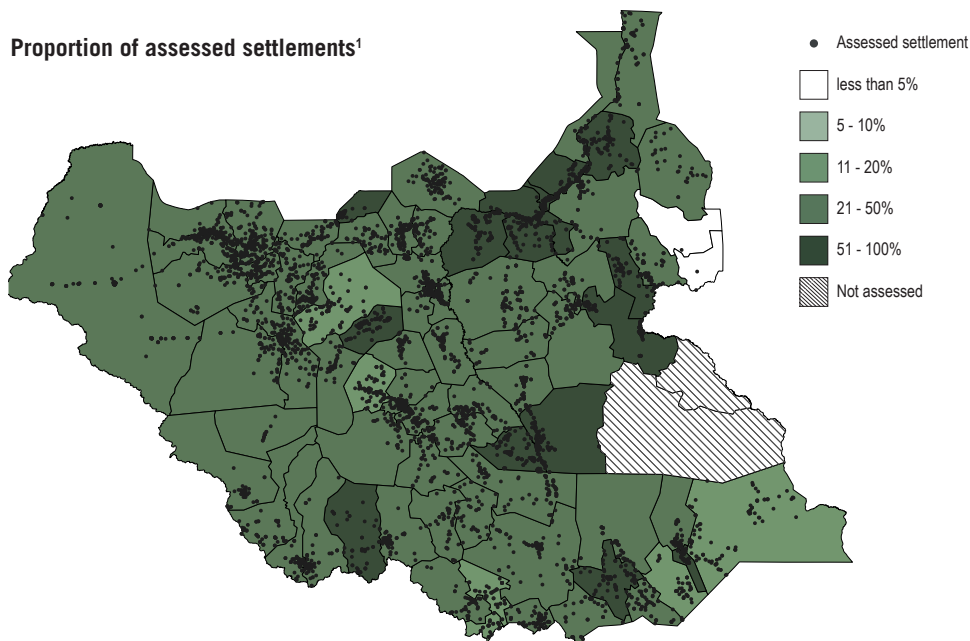### Assessment Coverage

2,933 Key informants interviewed

1,238 Settlements assessed

74 Counties assessed

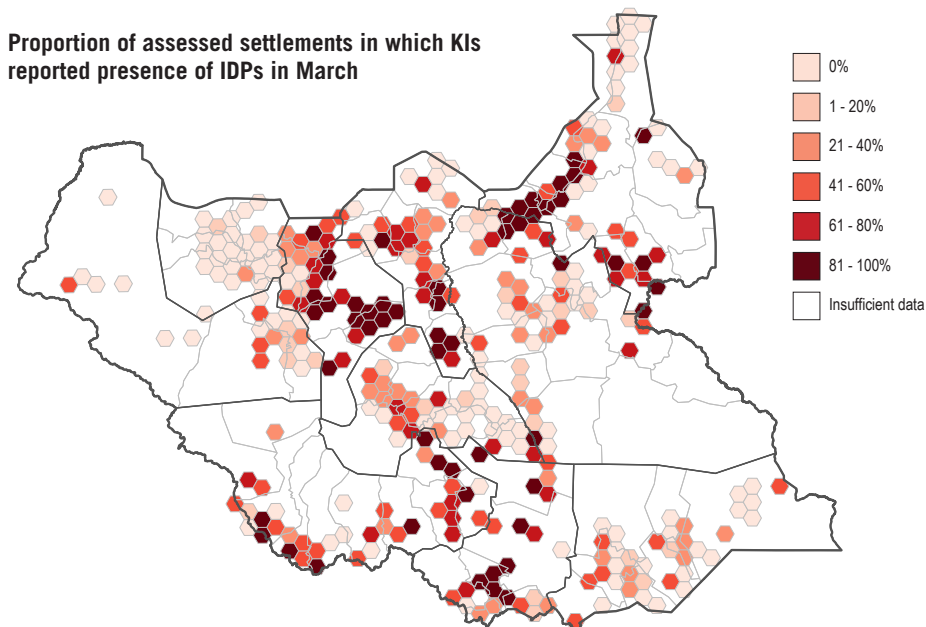**74** Counties with 5% or more coverage[1]

Assessment coverage

Proportion of assessed settlements[1]

- • Assessed settlement
- less than 5%
- 5 - 10%
- 11 - 20%
- 21 - 50%
- 51 - 100%
- Not assessed

[1] Data 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 March

- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data

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.

Displacement and population movement

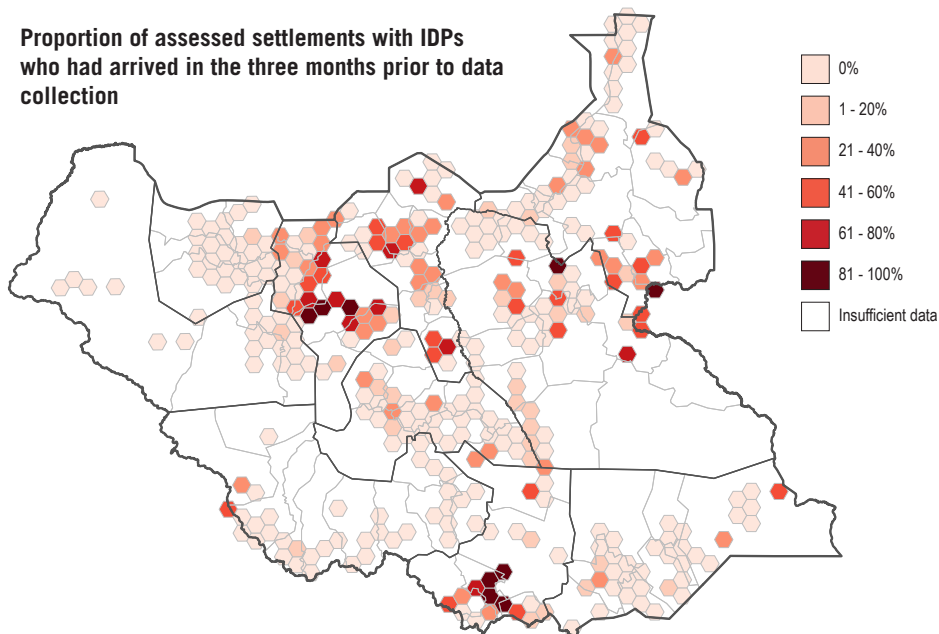**Proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs who had arrived in the three months prior to data collection**

- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data

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 the five counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements in which IDPs reportedly made up at least half of the population and where IDPs arrived in the three months prior to data collection, recent arrivals were mostly from other settlements within the county with the exception of Gogrial East, where IDPs were reportedly from Tonj North.

- The increased sub-national violence in Greater Tonj continued to displace thousands of people from their homes. According to OCHA as of January nearly 19,000 people were reportedly sheltering in Gogrial East County. In March an estimated 50,000 people were reported as displaced from locations across Greater Tonj to Gogrial East and Wau counties, and to other settlements in Greater Tonj.

- Unprecedented 2020 flooding which displaced many people across the country reportedly continued to displace people in 2021 in Leer County. According to recently conducted focus group discussions with participants from Leer county, the water level remains high for most parts of lowland areas, and most people who were initially residing in those areas are still in displacement situations in Leer town and other high ground areas[2].

Proportion of IDPs		Push factors[3]		Pull factors[3]		Counties of origin	
Top five 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 three months prior to data collection		**In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main push factor reported by county**		**In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main pull factor reported by county**		**In those five counties (see chart on the far left), main county of origin reported by county**	
Gogrial East	53%	Insecurity (Gogrial East)	100%	Security (Gogrial East)	71%	Tonj North (to Gogrial East)	60%
Tonj East	39%	Insecurity (Tonj East)	100%	Security (Tonj East)	100%	Tonj East (to Tonj East)	83%
Tonj North	38%	Insecurity (Tonj North)	100%	Security (Tonj North)	100%	Tonj North (to Tonj North)	95%
Tonj South	26%	Insecurity (Tonj South)	100%	Security (Tonj South)	100%	Tonj South (to Tonj South)	56%
Leer	22%	Flooding (Leer)	53%	Access to shelter (Leer)	63%	Leer (to Leer)	47%

[2] REACH, Focus Group Discussions in Nyal town, Panyijiar County and Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) Site, Rubkona County, April 2021
[3] 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.

REACH An initiative of IMPACT Initiatives ACTED and UNOSAT

South Sudan - Population Movement and Displacement

Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan

IDP returnee presence

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

Legend:
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
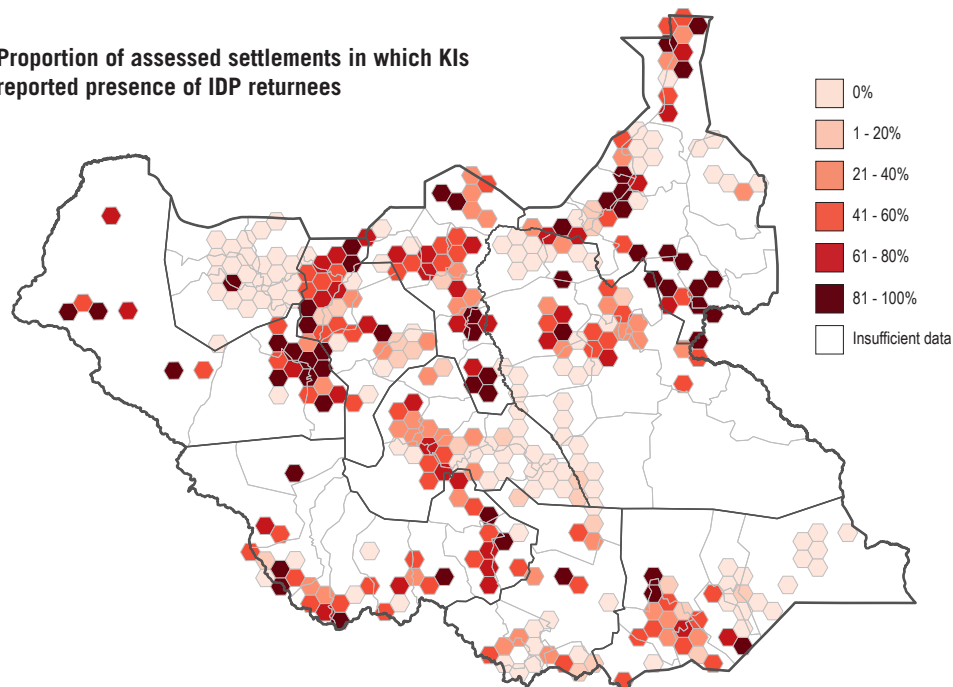
Proportion of assessed settlements with IDP returnees who had arrived in the three months prior to data collection

Legend:
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
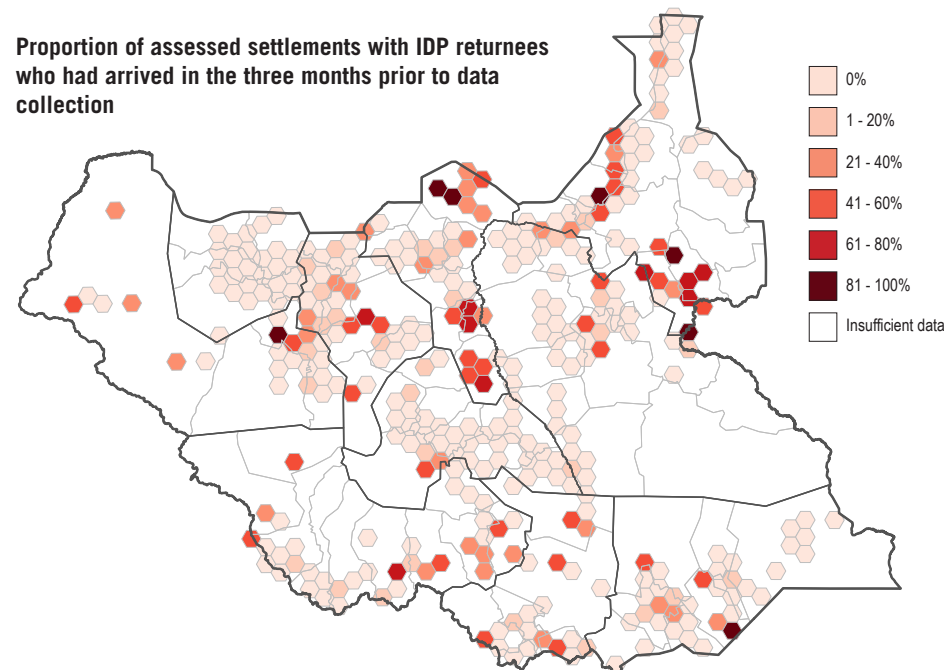
Presence of recent IDP returnees

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

County	%
Luakpiny/Nasir	63%
Fashoda	61%
Mayendit	60%
Ulang	59%
Leer	58%

Push factors[4]

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

Factor	%
No access to land (Nasir)	36%
No IGA[5] access (Fashoda)	46%
Far from home (Mayendit)	71%
Far from home (Ulang)	55%
Far from home (Leer)	75%

Pull factors[4]

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

Factor	%
Land access (Nasir)	33%
Returning home (Fashoda)	29%
Returning home (Mayendit)	71%
Returning home (Ulang)	55%
Returning home (Leer)	70%

Counties of origin

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

County	%
Nasir (to Nasir)	35%
Fashoda (to Fashoda)	100%
Rubkona(to Mayendit)	57%
Nasir (to Ulang)	44%
Rubkona (to Leer)	68%

[4] 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.
[5] Income generating activities

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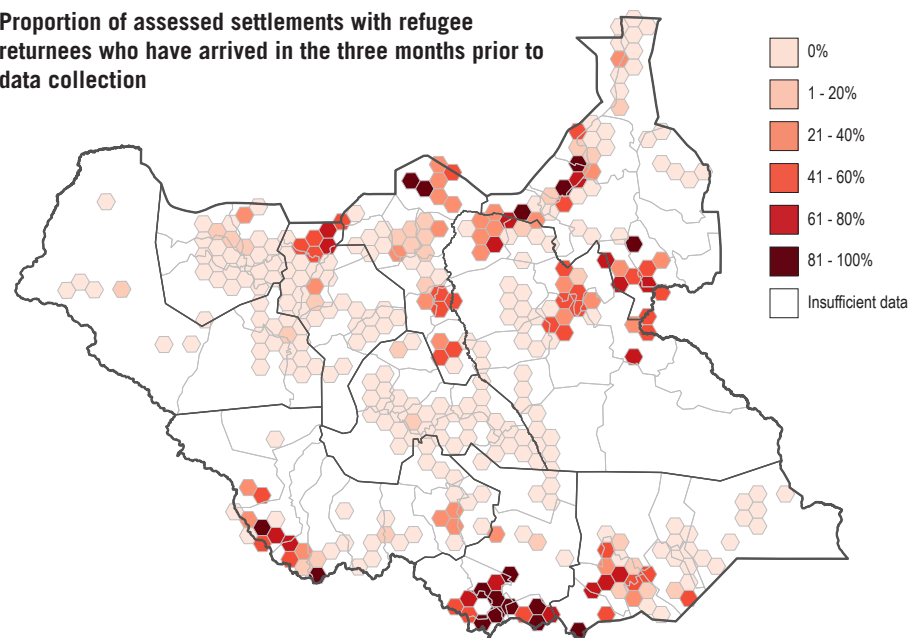
Refugee returnee presence

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

Legend:
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data
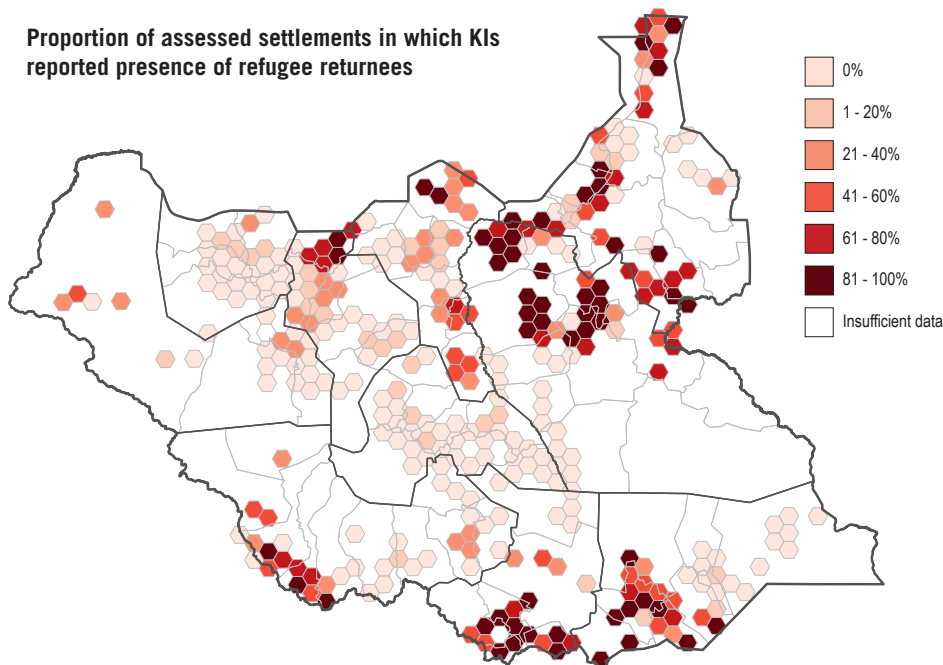
Proportion of assessed settlements with refugee returnees who have arrived in the three months prior to data collection

Legend:
- 0%
- 1 - 20%
- 21 - 40%
- 41 - 60%
- 61 - 80%
- 81 - 100%
- Insufficient data

Presence of recent refugee returnees

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

County	%
Morobo	100%
Lainya	90%
Kajo-Keji	88%
Fashoda	86%
Magwi	71%

Push factors[6]

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

Factor (County)	%
Lack of food (Morobo)	86%
Lack of food (Lainya)	81%
Lack of food (Kajo-Keji)	50%
No IGA access (Fashoda)	44%
Lack of food (Magwi)	50%

Pull factors[6]

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

Factor (County)	%
Land access (Morobo)[7]	43%
Returning home (Lainya)	67%
Food availability (Kajo-Keji)	46%
Security (Fashoda)	26%
Land access (Magwi)[8]	33%

Countries of origin

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

Country (County)	%
Uganda (to Morobo)	100%
Uganda (to Lainya)	100%
Uganda (to Kajo-Keji)	100%
Sudan (to Fashoda)	100%
Uganda (to Magwi)	100%

[6] 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.
[7] In addition, 43% reported improved security as a main pull factor in Morobo county
[8] In addition, 33% reported improved security as a main pull factor in Magwi county.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

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