

# Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

November 2016

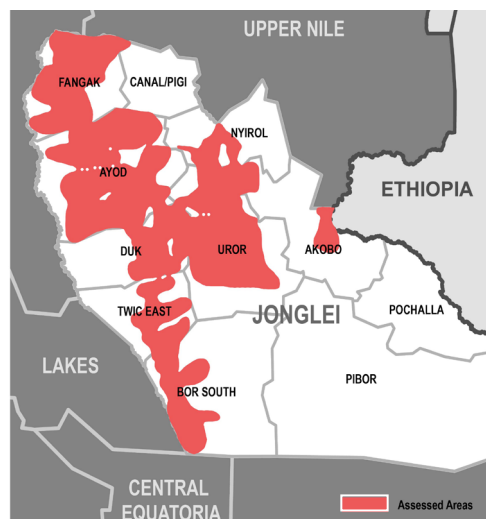
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## Introduction

Displacement trends, humanitarian access and population needs have all been negatively affected by an increase in violent incidents in the Western counties of Duk and Twic East in the month of November. At the same time, anticipated worsening security, along with a lack of food and education, has triggered outflows of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps in Ethiopia via Akobo Town. As a result of sporadic clashes between armed groups, as well as decades of conflict that have affected Jonglei, overall access to basic services, notably food, health and education, has remained low in November, with a notable deterioration in food security observed.

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 3 and 30 November, REACH interviewed 1,227 Key Informants (KIs) from 38 communities in 8 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State. 404 KIs were interviewed in Bor Town, 328 in Akobo Town, 307 in Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 175 in Juba PoC 1 and 3, and 13 in Bor PoC.

Findings have been triangulated using focus group discussions (FGDs), secondary data, and previous REACH assessments of hard-



**Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, November 2016**

to-reach areas of Jonglei State. New arrivals, representing 52% of KIs, were specifically targeted during the data collection phase to ensure a better understanding of current displacement dynamics and up-to-date information about the villages from which new arrivals had been displaced.

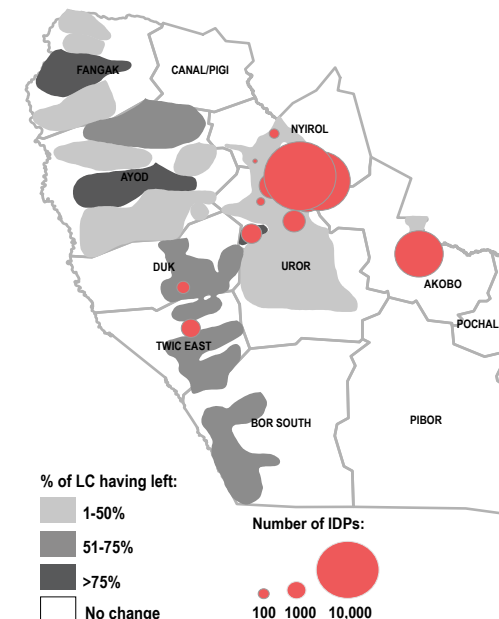
This Situation Overview provides key findings related to displacement trends and the humanitarian situation in assessed communities in Jonglei State. The first section analyses displacement in Jonglei State in November, with the second section evaluating access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

## Population Movement and Displacement

In November 2016, incidents of conflict became increasingly common along long-standing political faultlines. Political divisions 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 southeast have deteriorated and become more violent. The onset of the dry season has led to an increase in insecurity across the Western counties of Duk and Twic East, with reports of large scale cattle raids and deadly car ambushes affecting areas such as Gadiang as well as the Panyagor-Poktap and Bor-Juba roads.<sup>1</sup>

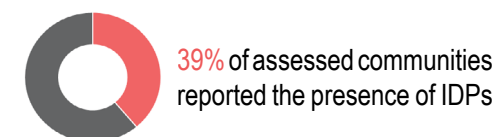
Reflective of the conflict patterns witnessed in November, the **Western areas of Jonglei reported the highest proportion of local communities who have fled their settlements**, as illustrated in Map 2. All communities assessed reported that at least some of their local community population had been displaced, with the same reported in October. **Eastern Jonglei, particularly Akobo Town and areas around Waat, Walgak and Lankien reportedly hosted the largest proportion of the displaced population in Jonglei**, which is indicative of the comparative stability of parts of Greater Akobo during the month of November.

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



Overall, 39% of all assessed communities reported that IDPs were present in their areas. Despite worsening security in Western Jonglei, this represents a decrease since October, where 22 out of 39 (56%) assessed communities reported to be hosting IDPs.

**Figure 1: Percentage of communities assessed hosting IDPs, November 2016**



<sup>1</sup> Radio Tamajuzj: Gunmen kill six people and raid cattle in Jonglei, 17th of November 2016; Ibid: 400 displaced families lack food after Gadiang attack, 6th of December 2016; Ibid: MP claims 25 killed, 17 wounded in Jonglei attacks this month, 25th of November 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, Bor PoC as well as in Juba PoC 1 and 3 throughout November 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.

## Push factors for leaving pre-crisis location

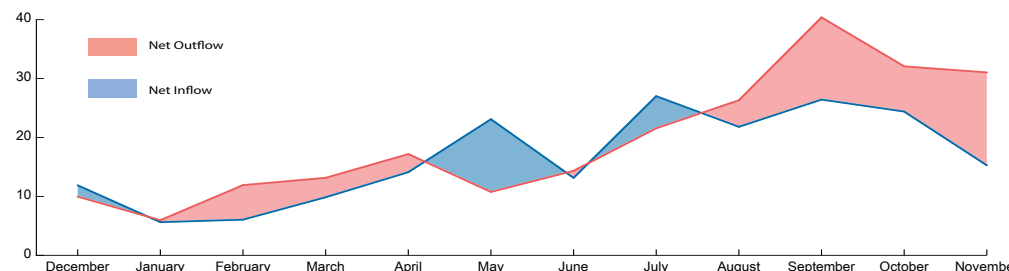
Indicative of the increased reports of insecurity in Jonglei, the **most frequently reported reason for newly arrived IDPs leaving their previous location was security (82%), followed by food (64%)**. This was not only cited by KIs originating from more conflict-affected Western Jonglei but also by KIs from the more stable Greater Akobo region. During FGDs REACH held in Akobo Town at the beginning of November, participants reported that they anticipated security to worsen during the dry season. Further, they explained how insecurity and access to food are interrelated; they had recently fled because they feared attacks by antagonistic communities, which had subsequently limited access to their food crops as communities were unable to cultivate and harvest due to security concerns.

**Figure 2: Top two reasons reported by new arrivals for leaving previous location, November 2016<sup>2</sup>**

- |                 |     |  |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| 1. Insecurity   | 82% |  |
| 2. Lack of food | 64% |  |

## Pull factors for choosing current location

Pull factors largely mirror the reported push factors: 72% of KIs who were new arrivals reported perceived security as the primary reason for moving to their current location, while **58% of KIs cited proximity to food distributions as the second most important reason**. This suggests that General Food Distributions (GFDs), present in all locations where KIs were interviewed, can act as a strong driver for population movement.



**Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving (red) and people permanently returning (blue), December 2015 to November 2016<sup>5</sup>**

## Displacement from the Equatorias to Bor Town and Mingkaman Informal Settlement

**Violent clashes in the Equatorias have continued to trigger IDP movement to Bor Town.** These displaced populations are originally from Jonglei, who until recently were residing in major towns in the Equatorias, such as Yei and Nimule. Although exact figures are not available, according to FGD participants, the estimated number of new arrivals is around one thousand. This inflow from the Equatorias started around September, with most travelling directly to and staying in Bor Town, while Mingkaman Informal Settlement has also seen a small number arriving in late October and the beginning of November.<sup>3</sup>

## Displacement to Ethiopia

**Displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia has continued in November.** REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo Town<sup>4</sup>, which tracks movement of South Sudanese heading to or returning from refugee camps, found that in November, the net outflow of people permanently leaving to Ethiopia was higher than the net inflow. This represents a continuation of an ongoing trend that has been observed since the July Crisis, when the net outflow started to

surpass net inflows. Overall, November saw fewer net inflows as compared to October, while net outflows remained constant at 30 individuals a day leaving South Sudan (down from 40 in September). This continuing outflow is a worrying trend and the number of departures to Ethiopia in November were still at a higher level than at any other point pre-July 2016, as illustrated in Graph 1.

The reasons for permanently leaving to Ethiopia appear to be mixed; between September to November 2016, 31% of respondents cited they left due to a lack of education access, while access to food has become an increasingly important reason to leave in this period, as indicated by 25% of respondents. The latter is likely related to communities having been unable to plant during the rainy season due to security concerns, preventing them from benefiting from the start of the harvest in October and November. Overall, the onset of the dry season signals a continuing worsening of both food access and security conditions, which makes it likely, as anticipated by FGD respondents, that **Akobo Town and camps in Gambella would see a further population influx, requiring an up-scaled humanitarian response.**

2 Respondents could choose more than one option.

3 See REACH Situation Overview: Jonglei State October 2016 for more details.

4 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, November 2016.

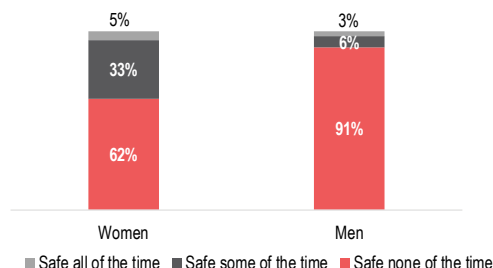
5 Ibid.

## Situation in Assessed Communities

### Protection

In November, indicative of deteriorating security, a higher proportion of settlements reported that men and women feel unsafe both during the day and the night; 62% of settlements reported women feel unsafe both in the day and the night and 91% of settlements reported the same for men, as illustrated in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Percentage of communities reporting feeling of safety by gender and period of the day, November 2016**



The reason such large proportions of the population felt unsafe during both day and night was reportedly because of fears they might be killed or injured by another community. This was the major protection concern for men for 74% of communities, and 54% of communities reported the same for women (see Figure 4). Since October, most likely as a result of increased inter-community violence, the number of communities in the Western Corridor of Jonglei, namely Duk and Twic East, reporting killing or injury from another community as the biggest protection concern has increased.

**Figure 4: Primary reported protection concerns for men and women, November 2016**

	Men	Women
Killing/injury by other tribe	74%	54%
Sexual Violence	0%	22%
Abduction	2%	8%
Early Marriage	0%	6%
Domestic Violence	0%	4%
Restricted freedom of movement	5%	3%
Family Separation	1%	2%
Killing/injury by same tribe	6%	1%
Cattle raid	7%	0%
Forced recruitment	3%	0%
Looting	2%	0%

### Shelter

As was the case in October, shelter conditions appear to have improved for local communities, with the tukul being reportedly the most common type of shelter in 95% of assessed communities in November. This positive trend may be attributable to better weather conditions with the dry season that could have enabled local communities to rebuild permanent shelters. For more information about shelter needs of local community members, please refer to the October Situation Overview.<sup>6</sup>

Despite 72% of IDP hosting communities reporting that IDPs primarily stayed in tukuls, IDPs shelter needs appear to be greater compared to local communities, as was also the case in October. In November, 13% of IDP hosting communities reported IDPs mainly lived in improvised shelters, compared to 23% in October. This may suggest a slight improvement in IDP shelter conditions. However, this improvement could be partly attributable to different communities having been assessed. Further, the vast majority of communities where

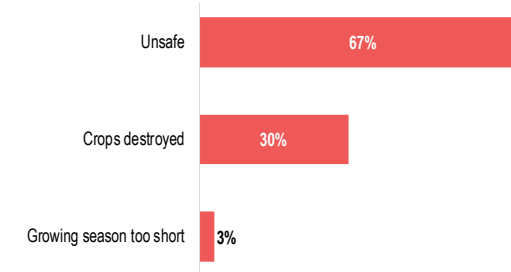
IDPs are present reported that at least some of the IDP population in the village lived outside, despite all of these communities indicating that IDPs and local community members reportedly shared shelters. These findings suggest that **IDP shelter needs outside of formal displacement sites remain high**, and that local communities are not always adequately equipped to absorb the shelter needs of displaced populations.

### Food Security and Livelihoods

**Access to food has deteriorated in November, with 62% of communities reporting no access to adequate amounts of food.** This reflects a worrying trend of declining food security since October where 52% of communities indicated no access to adequate amounts of food, compared to the June-September period when around 40% of communities assessed reported inadequate access to food. Declining levels of food access are likely to be a result of ongoing security issues. **Sixty-seven per cent of communities reporting no access to food cited that it was because it was “unsafe”,** and 30% reported it was because their crops had been destroyed, while 3% reported that the growing season had been too short.

As in previous months, Western Jonglei, including Twic East, Bor South and northern Ayod Counties, was most affected by food insecurity. The situation in Duk, however, has reportedly improved since October, with more communities reporting access to food in this county in November.

**Figure 5: Top reported reasons for a lack of access to food, November 2016**



With **only 13% of communities reporting cultivation as their main source of food** in November (34% in October), this demonstrates that the majority of communities assessed have not been able to benefit from the onset of the harvest in the previous month, which according to FEWS NET was projected to temporarily improve food security outcomes in Jonglei in the October 2016-January 2017 period.<sup>7</sup> Consequently, the majority of communities assessed reported relying on food distributions (65%) as their main source of food, followed by buying food from the market (13%).

Thirty-four per cent of communities reported that agricultural inputs were present. Of these, none was located in more conflict-affected Western Jonglei, reflecting that insecurity negatively affects longer-term livelihoods and food security. Further, 57% of assessed communities (53% in October) reported that most of the farming tools and assets in the community had been looted, hindering the continuation, or, in the case of those returning from displacement, resumption of livelihood activities.

<sup>6</sup> REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016.

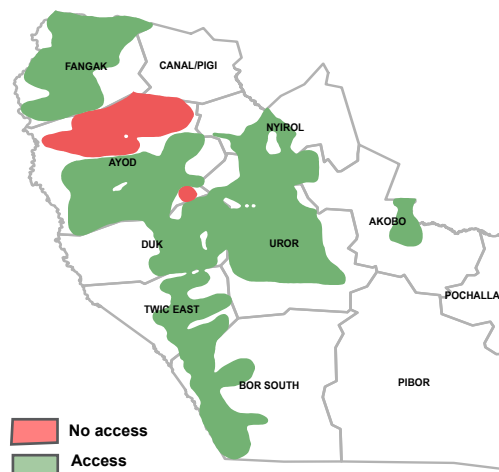
<sup>7</sup> FEWS NET, “Food Security Outlook: October 2016 to May 2017”.



## WASH and Health

**Cases of cholera continued to be reported on the Nile Islands**, with confirmed cases in Duk, Fangak and Canal and suspected cases in Ayod.<sup>8</sup> Incidents of cholera have been reported since June and July, however the remote locations of these islands have hindered an up-scale in interventions.

Open defecation, reported by 97% of communities in November, and poor hygiene/ lack of soap, coupled with no access to safe drinking water likely explain the reported cholera incidents. A large cross section of settlements south of Fangak and Canal and in the north of Ayod reported they had no access to safe drinking water. For more information about WASH and health conditions, please refer to the October Situation Overview.<sup>9</sup>



**Map 3: Communities reporting access to clean water, November 2016**

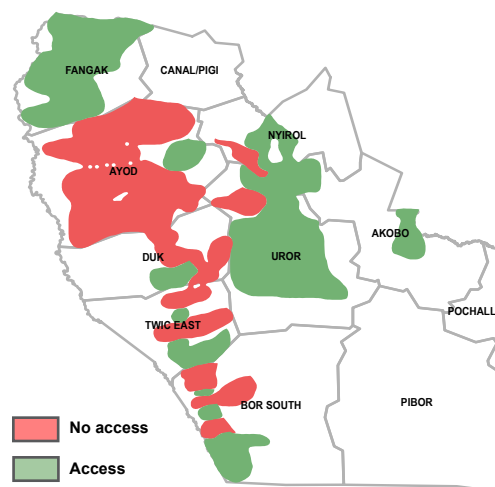
## Education

Despite teacher strikes over salaries reported across the state since October<sup>10</sup>, access to education has remained stable since the previous month, with around half of communities assessed reporting access to education (mainly pre-primary and primary services). Generally, **counties witnessing increased incidents of violence have had the lowest levels of education access**. Reflective of this, the vast majority of communities assessed in the Western corridor where ongoing conflict has been reported, indicated that they did not have access to education services. In contrast, communities in the Northern and Eastern areas, which have seen fewer violent incidents and where education-related NGO support appears to be more prevalent, reported that they have access to education, as illustrated in Map 4.

However, according to humanitarian actors on the ground in Bor, the **reported teacher strikes have had an overall negative impact on both government and humanitarian actors' ability to provide education services**. With teachers still on strike, and in some cases dismissed and detained as a result<sup>11</sup>, it is unlikely that access to education will improve in December.

## Conclusion

An increase in violent incidents reported in Western Jonglei negatively affected displacement trends and humanitarian needs in November. Despite relative stability in Greater Akobo, there was a persistent outflow of South Sudanese heading to refugee camps



**Map 4: Communities reporting access to education, November 2016**

in Ethiopia, with the number of people leaving remaining similar to October. This trend is likely to continue as security is anticipated to deteriorate during the dry season, and food has become a stronger push factor explaining this population movement. However, with populations on the move from the Equatorias to Bor Town, there are also indications that parts of Jonglei are currently perceived as relatively safe compared to other parts of South Sudan, which have been more affected by recent clashes.

Overall, humanitarian needs remained high in November as insecurity and the consequences of years of violence continued to negatively impact populations' access to basic services and ability to meet their basic needs. Most notably, food security, linked to an inability to cultivate due to insecurity, has further deteriorated in November, with almost two-

thirds of communities reporting no adequate food access despite the onset of the harvest. WASH, health, shelter, and education needs have largely remained similar to October, 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 dry season and consequent rehabilitation of roads, instability is also expected to increase as armed groups will be able to mobilise more easily. With 15 humanitarian access incidents reported in November (12 in October)<sup>12</sup>, it is therefore likely that the volatile security context will continue to negatively impact population needs and humanitarian access in 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](mailto:southsudan@reach-initiative.org) or to our global office: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).

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8 OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Bulletin 18, November 2016; USAID: South Sudan Crisis - Factsheet 2, December 2016.

9 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016.

10 Radio Tamajuz: Jonglei schools closed over failure to pay teachers, 23rd of November, 2016.

11 Sudan Tribune: 30 teachers arrested in Jonglei state over strike, 2nd of December 2016.

12 OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot, November 2016.