

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

May, 2023
South Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

- In 61% of assessed settlements, people reportedly did not have access to enough food in the month prior to data collection.
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to adequate food, 57% reported that hunger was "severe".
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to adequate food, 53% 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.

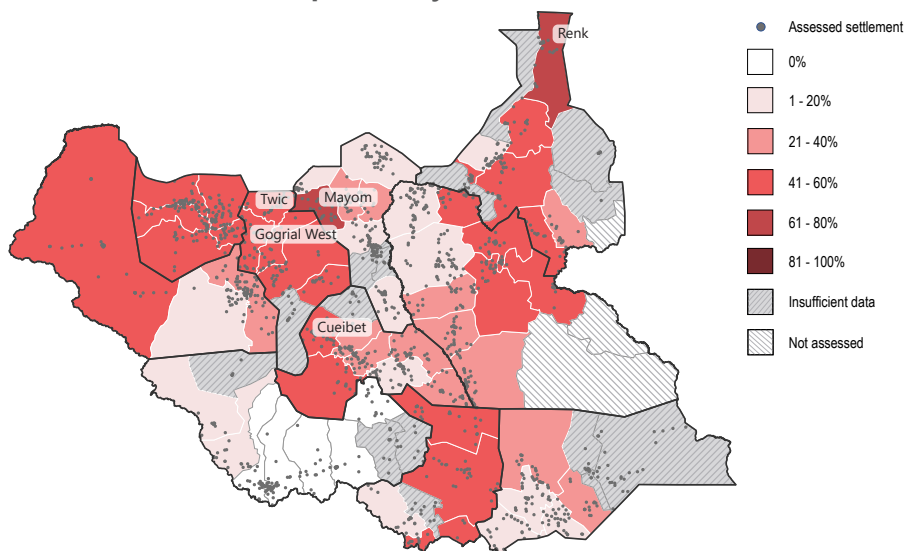
METHODOLOGY:

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 May 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 counties reporting the top 5 values of a certain indicator and/or all counties reporting 100% of 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).¹

Figure 2: Top 5 most reported reasons for inadequate access to food across South Sudan by proportion of (n=1019) assessed settlements where food access was reported to be inadequate

Not enough food in stock	29%
High prices	22%
Ceasing of food distribution	14%
Flooding/too much rain	7%
Not enough livestock	5%

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

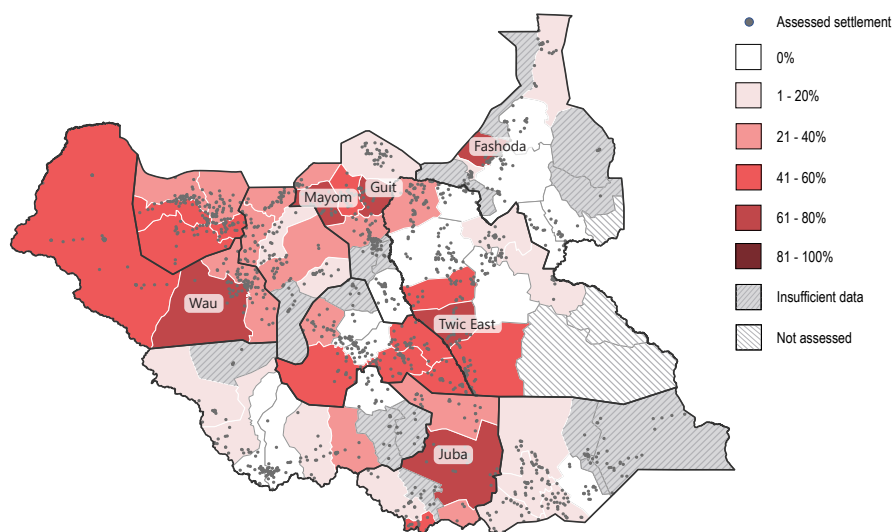


Table 1: In the last month, which shock event has impacted or led to loss of livelihoods in the settlement, by proportion of assessed settlements where a livelihood shock was reported*

County	Loss/ Decrease in aid	Conflict	Displacement	Flooding	Rising prices	Drought	Cattle disease outbreak	Pests	Assessed settlements where livelihoods shocks were reported (n)
Wau	16%	-	-	-	76%	4%	-	-	25
Fashoda	-	85%	-	10%	5%	-	-	-	20
Twic East	13%	-	7%	-	60%	-	-	-	15
Juba	-	27%	7%	-	33%	20%	-	13%	15
Mayom	-	-	-	86%	7%	-	7%	-	14
Guit	-	-	8%	92%	-	-	-	-	12

*Remaining values are attributed to "no consensus" or "don't know" responses

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

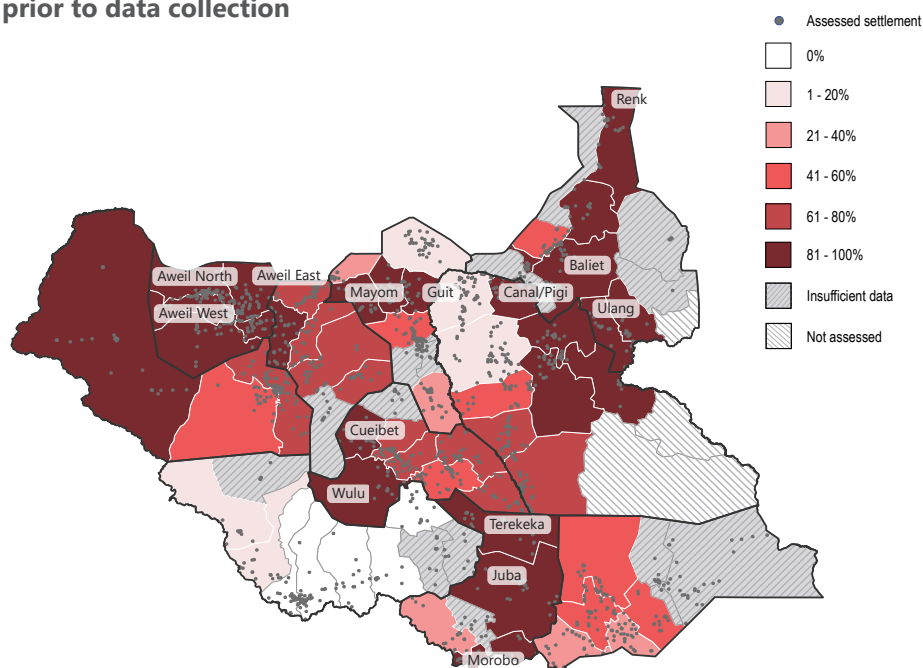
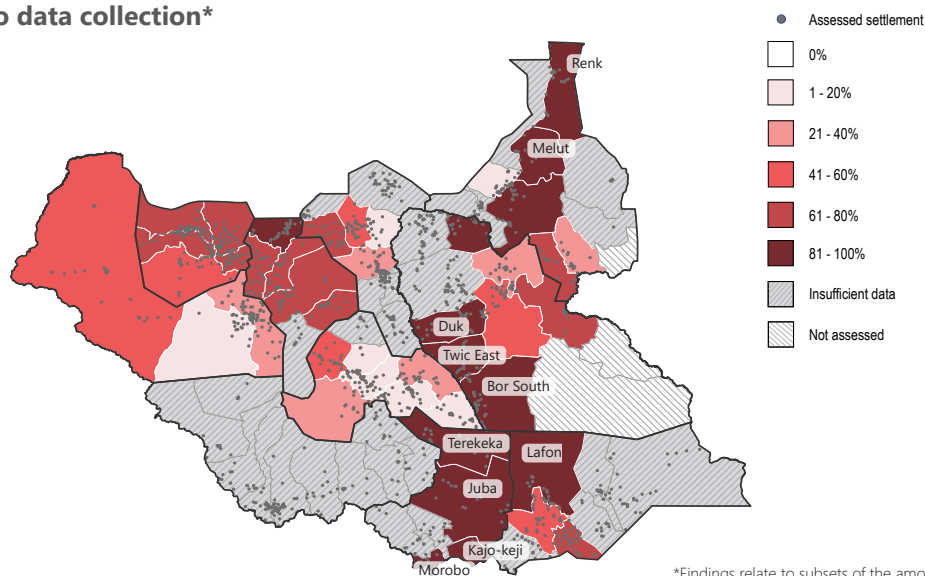


Table 2: Reported reasons for people not being able to access food in counties, by proportion of assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported*

County	Food distrib. stopped	High prices	Not enough land for cultivation	Not enough livestock	Not enough food in stock	Crops destroyed by pests	Flooding	Conflict	Not enough rain	No market	Not enough fishing nets	Assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported (n)
Mayom	20%	-	-	-	-	-	70%	-	-	-	-	20
Juba	4%	48%	-	-	16%	8%	-	12%	12%	-	-	25
Morobo	20%	-	-	-	10%	-	-	50%	10%	-	-	10
Wulu	-	-	-	-	8%	-	23%	-	62%	-	-	13
Aweil North	6%	29%	3%	9%	49%	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Terekeka	-	-	-	-	62%	-	5%	5%	24%	-	5%	21
Ulang	47%	13%	-	7%	-	-	-	-	-	7%	7%	15
Aweil West	-	45%	-	6%	45%	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Aweil South	-	43%	-	22%	30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Renk	4%	78%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	23
Cueibet	-	-	-	-	10%	-	20%	5%	65%	-	-	20
Canal/Pigi	55%	-	-	15%	-	5%	5%	5%	-	5%	-	20
Guit	7%	-	-	13%	20%	-	60%	-	-	-	-	15
Baliet	50%	13%	-	-	19%	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Aweil East	-	48%	-	7%	43%	-	-	-	-	-	-	44

*Remaining values are attributed to "no consensus" or "other" responses

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*

*Findings relate to subsets of the amount of settlements in each county where KIs reported most people were not able to access adequate food.

FOOD COPING

Table 3: Reported food coping consumption practices by proportion of assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported

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)
BorSouth	-	76%	32%	100%	84%	-	38
Duk	-	61%	67%	100%	67%	-	18
Juba	4%	16%	92%	96%	72%	16%	25
Kajo_keji	6%	19%	100%	88%	75%	6%	16
Lafon	21%	14%	50%	57%	50%	36%	14
Melut	13%	-	-	73%	93%	87%	15
Morobo	-	10%	100%	90%	50%	20%	10
Renk	78%	4%	13%	100%	-	39%	23
Terekeka	-	10%	90%	95%	48%	57%	21
TwicEast	-	88%	29%	100%	75%	4%	24

	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	13
2	Akobo	12
3	Aweil Centre	23
4	Aweil East	47
5	Aweil North	35
6	Aweil South	24
7	Aweil West	32
8	Awerial	23
9	Ayod	46
10	Baliet	17
11	Bor South	52
12	Budi	15
13	Canal/Pigi	21
14	Cueibet	21
15	Duk	31
16	Ezo	18
17	Fangak	50
18	Fashoda	27
19	Gogrial East	18
20	Gogrial West	28
21	Guit	16
22	Ibba	14
23	Ikotos	32
24	Juba	25

	County	No. of assessed settlements
25	Jur River	52
26	Kajo-keji	19
27	Kapoeta East	26
28	Kapoeta North	9
29	Kapoeta South	4
30	Koch	32
31	Lafon	26
32	Lainya	9
33	Leer	11
34	Longochuk	1
35	Luakpiny/Nasir	14
36	Maban	6
37	Magwi	24
38	Malakal	11
39	Manyo	2
40	Maridi	11
41	Mayendit	18
42	Mayom	20
43	Melut	18
44	Morobo	10
45	Mundri East	8
46	Mundri West	9
47	Mvolo	13
48	Nagero	5

	County	No. of assessed settlements
49	Nyirrol	24
50	Nzara	23
51	Panyijiar	29
52	Panyikang	9
53	Pariang	32
54	Raja	37
55	Renk	24
56	Rubkona	25
57	Rumbek Centre	25
58	Rumbek East	30
59	Rumbek North	8
60	Tambura	13
61	Terekeka	21
62	Tonj East	14
63	Tonj North	22
64	Tonj South	8
65	Torit	28
66	Twic	30
67	Twic East	32
68	Ulang	15
69	Uror	23
70	Wau	46
71	Wulu	13
72	Yambio	51
73	Yei	15
74	Yirol East	29
75	Yirol West	37

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,

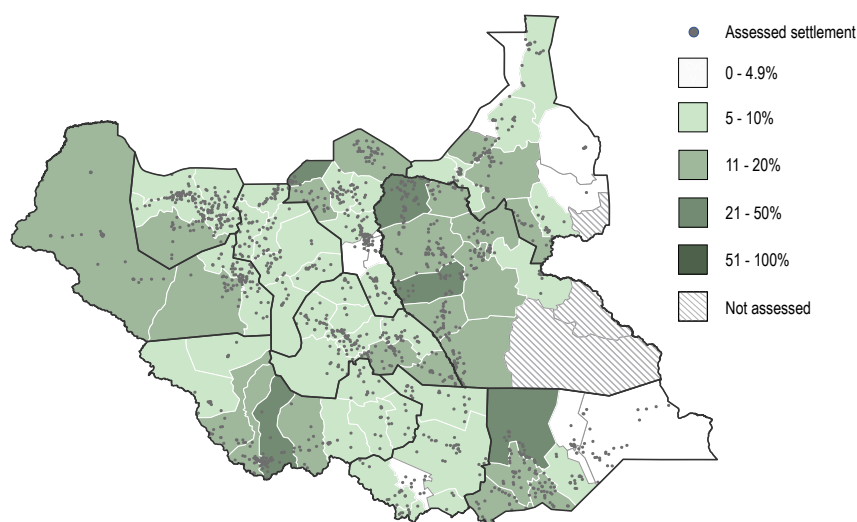
All three types of KIs can either be interviewed over the phone or in person. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed

have more than one KI reporting on the settlement. In these cases, data is aggregated¹ at the settlement level according to a weighting mechanism, which can be found in the [Terms of Reference \(ToRs\)](#).

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

1899 Key informants interviewed | **1661** Settlements assessed

75 Counties assessed | **67** Counties with 5% or more coverage²



ENDNOTES

PAGE 1

¹ 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).