

FACT SHEET 3: UPDATE ON DEMOGRAPHICS AND INTENTIONS OF MINGKAMAN IDPs

MINGKAMAN, AWERIAL COUNTY, SOUTH SUDAN - SEPTEMBER 2014

CONTEXT

This factsheet presents the findings of an assessment conducted in Mingkaman, Awerial County, South Sudan in September 2014. In response to a lack of information available to humanitarian actors about the needs and intentions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in this area, information was collected for the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster in South Sudan about the displacement patterns of IDPs, their interaction with the host community, and their intentions to return home.

In mid-December 2013, **IDPs began to cross the Nile River from Jonglei State to escape violence and a breakdown in security in Bor**. Over the next ten months, thousands of people continued to arrive, resulting in an estimated 85,000 IDPs¹ in Mingkaman by mid-March, an area which had suffered from widespread poverty and limited livelihood opportunities before the crisis.² In late February, there was a further increase in new arrivals related to fighting in Twic East County in Jonglei, but as of March 10, the number of people arriving daily has dropped significantly. Satellite imagery analysed by UNOSAT shows that as of 01 September 2014 there are approximately 16,364 shelters in Mingkaman³, home to an estimated population of 47,892.

This factsheet should be read alongside [Factsheet # 2: Displacement and Intentions, Mingkaman, Awerial County, South Sudan March 2014](#).

Map1: The location of Mingkaman in South Sudan



¹ IOM South Sudan Situation Report #17, 4 April 2014.

² This and all subsequent references to 'the crisis' refer to the events that lead to the displacement of people following fighting in and around Bor in December 2013.

³ UNOSAT, [Minkaman IDP site, Awerial County, Lakes State, South Sudan](#) (25 September 2014), (retrieved 02Oct2014).

METHODOLOGY

The REACH team assessed 495 households (3,500 individuals)⁴ over a five-day period in September 2014. REACH developed the assessment in partnership with the CCCM Cluster, NGOs and UN organisations working in South Sudan. Both the survey questions and anonymised results are available on request from REACH.

The data collected represent a randomly selected subset of Mingkaman households. Analysis of Worldview-2 satellite imagery identified 16,364 shelters in the selected area. Based on the assessment finding there are on average 2.05 shelters per household, there were an estimated 7,982 households ($16,364/2.05$) in the area. The assessment sample size of 495 households therefore results in a 95% confidence coefficient, with a 5% confidence interval.⁵

The assessment area was defined based on satellite imagery taken on July 3rd 2014, using the distribution of shelters to understand the extents of the town.⁶ In order to sample households across all parts of this large settlement, trained enumerators were each given a start point and instructed to move towards the densely populated centre of Mingkaman. The enumerators took five days to reach the centre of Mingkaman, interviewing every other household that crossed their pre-selected tracks. This report covers the IDP population of Mingkaman. All figures and graphs refer to IDPs and exclude the host community.

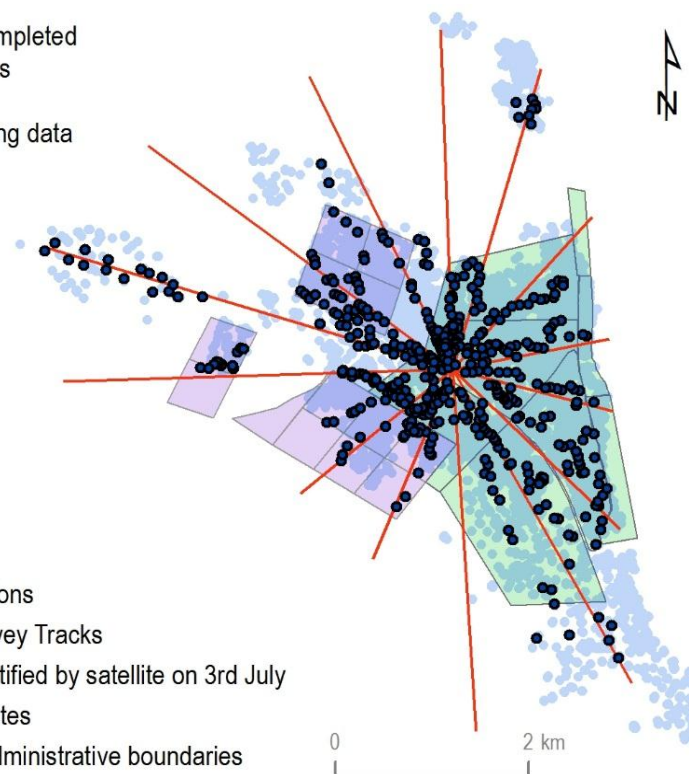
The survey tracks, represented in Map 2 by straight red lines, reduce survey bias in the selection of households to interview. This form of random sampling helps give an accurate picture when extrapolating the values to represent the Mingkaman population.

Based on 2.05 shelters per household and the number of shelters seen on the satellite images taken in July (13,492) and September (16,364), REACH has assessed between three and seven per cent of the Mingkaman households.

Map 2: The Mingkaman settlements, survey area and tracks:

- 495 Surveys completed
- 15 enumerators
- 1 training day
- 5 days collecting data

- Survey locations
- Planned Survey Tracks
- Shelters identified by satellite on 3rd July
- Relocation Sites
- Minkaman administrative boundaries



⁴ This assessment was conducted as a component of a larger displacement analysis of IDP populations in South Sudan to be published by REACH in early 2015.

⁵ There is one exception in the dataset and this is the "Amount of money paid by IDPs to reach Mingkaman". The range and distribution of values for this dataset result in a 50% confidence level.

⁶ This was the most up-to-date imagery available at the time of the assessment. Please see www.unitar.org/unosat for archived and current imagery.

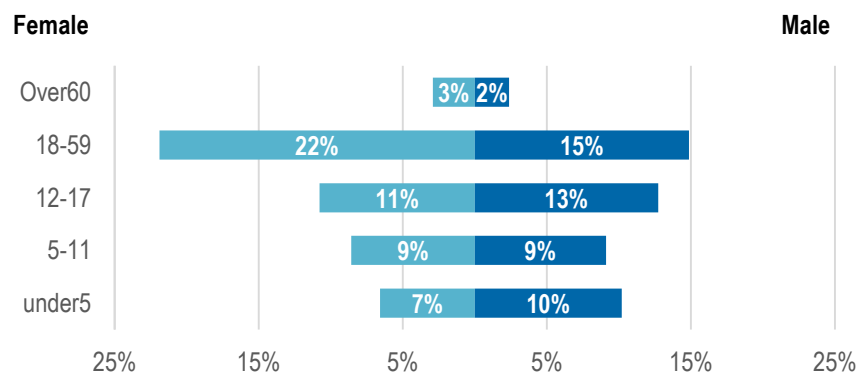
DEMOGRAPHICS

The average household size contained 6 individuals⁷, although some 15 per cent of households had 3 or fewer household members. The largest household interviewed for this assessment had 28 members. Over half (53%) of households had between 5 and 8 members.

The Mingkaman community is overwhelmingly made-up of IDP households, with 87% of those surveyed identifying themselves as not being part of the host community.

The following graph shows a breakdown of the sex and age of the IDP community.

Figure 1: Age and sex of displaced population in Mingkaman



The assessment found that women headed 86% of the IDP households in Mingkaman. This may be due to men remaining behind to watch over assets or the home, or because they are participating in the conflict or have been killed during fighting. Over half (52%) of the overall number of IDPs were female, with women between 18-59 years old representing the largest demographic bracket. According to respondents, over half (68%) of the IDP community is under 18 years of age. The average household has one child under five years old.

⁷ Six people per household is the mode (represented by 15 per cent of households). The arithmetic mean is 7.13. Several households having 28 or more households explain the difference. Seven people per household is found in 13 per cent of the IDP population.

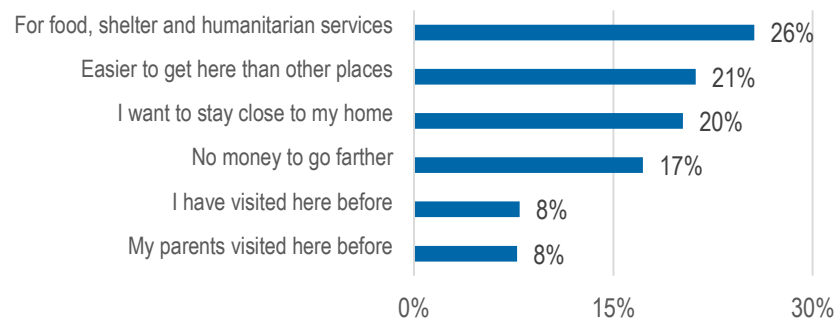
⁸ The government and local fishermen carried 10 per cent of the current IDP community across the Nile, for free, in the days immediately following the fighting on Bor in mid-December. The values for those that paid range from 50 to more than 8000 SSP. The median value is 200 and the mean value is 455.

HOME LOCATION

The majority of IDPs (78%) arrived in Mingkaman during the first few months following the outbreak of fighting in Bor in December 2013. Approximately half (54%) arrived in December or January, and a third (34%) arrived in February and March, having paid an average of 200 SSP⁸ to cross the Nile from Bor.

The most common reason for leaving was due to fear for their personal safety, reported by 36% of IDPs. The three most commonly reported reasons for choosing the Mingkaman IDP site were first to access food, shelter and humanitarian services (26% selected this answer); second because it was easier to get to Mingkaman than other sites (21%); and third because the respondents wanted to stay close to home (20%).

Figure 2: Reported reasons for fleeing to Mingkaman



The vast majority (86%) of displaced households in Mingkaman originate from Jonglei State, where the most frequently cited ancestral home was Bor South County.⁹ The remaining 14% of IDPs originate from elsewhere in Lakes State. Four fifths of IDPs reported that they have not visited their ancestral home since the start of the current crisis. Only 8% of respondents reported that they were living in a different location from their ancestral home when the crisis began, the majority

⁹ The enumerators asked IDPs for information about both their pre-displacement home, the place where they were residing when the crisis began, and their ancestral home, the area of origin or traditional location of their family or sub-clan.

(62%) of whom were also living in Bor South County.¹⁰ For a more detailed picture of pre-displacement and ancestral homes please refer to Factsheet 2.¹¹

Only 31% of IDPs reported that their home was safe before the start of the current crisis. The most frequently cited reason for a lack of safety was due to fighting and insecurity. Since the surge in violence that led to mass displacement in December and January 2013/14, there has been little change in the security situation in Jonglei State, with no reports of new fighting on the scale seen during the attack and recapture of Bor Town during this period. The majority of IDPs (84%) had never visited Mingkaman before the start of the current crisis.

Half of IDPs in Mingkaman (50%) reported that they had been separated from friends and family, although 95% reported that they knew their location. The majority (63%) are reported to remain in Bor South, Jonglei State, with 32% reported to have fled to Uganda.

INTENTIONS

To understand more about the future intentions of IDPs and the factors that would influence them, IDPs were asked about how they would respond to a number of possible scenarios.

The REACH team asked three questions which had the same possible answers relating to where people would go given three changes in circumstance. The three questions were:

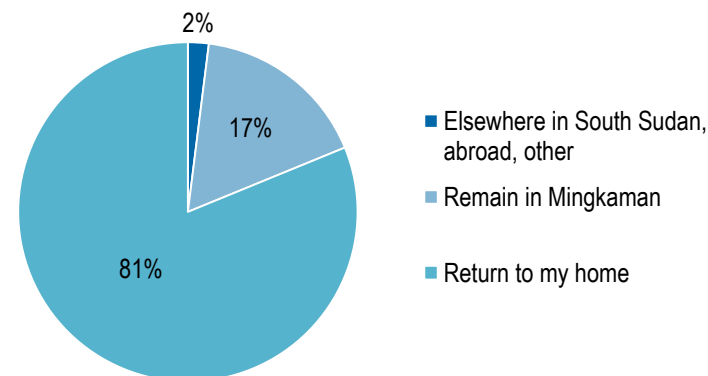
- What would you do if aid stops here?
- What would you do if it becomes insecure here in Mingkaman?
- What would you do if peace comes to South Sudan?

The majority of IDPs reported that they planned to return home for each of the possible the scenarios provided, these include aid stopping in Mingkaman (81%), a worsening security situation in Mingkaman (80%) or peace returning to South Sudan (96%).¹²

¹⁰ As the percentage of respondents who reported different locations for ancestral and pre-displacement homes is so small, when this report uses the term "home" it is referring to the ancestral home.

¹¹ [Factsheet # 2: Displacement and Intentions, Mingkaman, Aweril County, South Sudan March 2014](#), available on Reliefweb.

Figure 3: IDPs intentions if aid stops in Mingkaman



When asked what would be most needed when returning home,¹³ the largest percentage of respondents reported a house (34%) followed closely by agricultural tools and seeds (24%). Land and cattle were also reported in answer to this question (17% and 14% respectively).

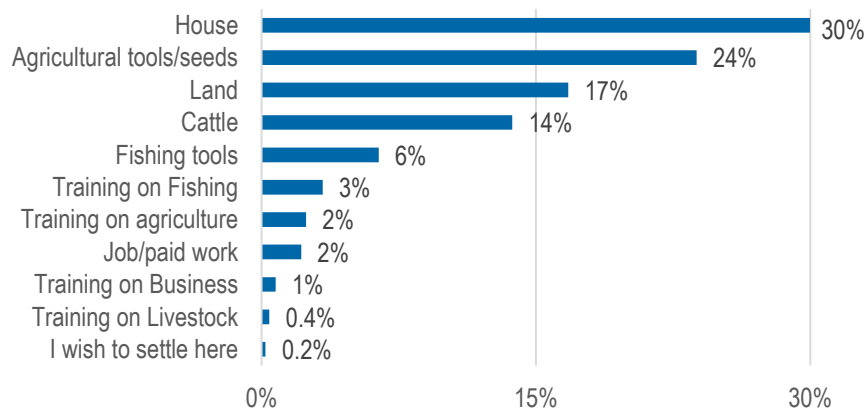
Twice the number of IDPs reported that they would stay if the area becomes insecure (8%) as those who plan to stay in Mingkaman if aid delivery discontinues at the site (17%). Only 11 IDPs reported that they would remain in Mingkaman if peace comes to South Sudan.

The intentions of the IDP community remain consistent with results collected earlier in 2014: both the REACH assessment in March and the displacement and intentions survey carried out by ACTED mid-August, corroborate that the vast majority of IDPs do not wish to stay in Mingkaman in the long term.

¹² For percentages see figure 3 in the INTENTIONS sections which breaks this down by pre-displacement and ancestral home. In the bulleted list IDPs PLAN TO GO HOME, on this page, these two are merged and presented simply as 'home'.

¹³ 'Home' in this instance refers to both ancestral and pre-displacement home locations. Subsequent references to home also do not distinguish between ancestral and pre-displacement locations.

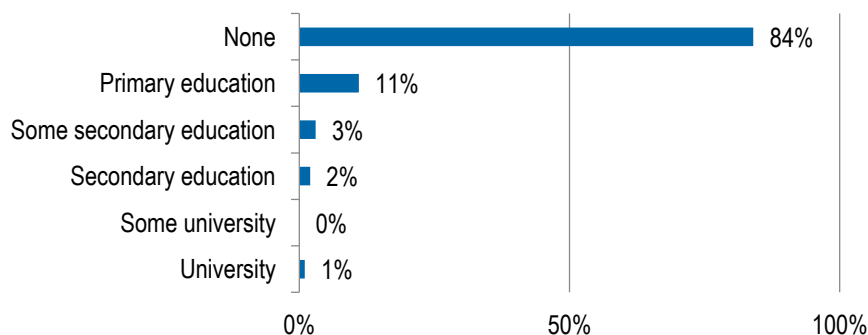
Figure 4: Assets reported by IDPs as most needed when returning home



LIVELIHOODS AND ASSETS

47% of IDPs reported that they had no source of income in Mingkaman. Before the crisis, the majority of households (72%) were dependent on crop cultivation and livestock production, and had little access to education. The vast majority of IDPs (84%) reported that nobody in their household had completed primary education. When asked about whether they could read and write, 90% of households reported that they were illiterate.

Figure 5: Level of education achieved by IDP households



¹⁴ A distinction has not been made here between agricultural production for income generation, as opposed to production for direct household consumption.

Since the outbreak of violence, 85% of IDPs reported that they do not have a regular source of income. Around three-fifths (60%) stated that they cannot use their skills for income generation at the Mingkaman IDP site. Most IDPs, regardless of their sex, said that it was difficult to access work at the site. Given a choice between 'easy', 'medium' and 'difficult', 85% of men and 89% of women chose 'difficult'. The most common reason given for this answer is that there are not enough jobs.

When asked about their livelihoods before the crisis, 42% of IDPs reported agriculture (42%) and 30% of IDPs reported tending livestock as their main source of income¹⁴ (30%). For the 53% of IDPs who reported having a livelihood at the Mingkaman site, agriculture was reported as the main source of income. The majority of IDPs (68%) reported that they had no access to agricultural land. Of those who could access land, the vast majority had planted crops. The top three tools used for this were a Moloda (similar to a hoe) (38%), a Panga (similar to a machete) (27%) and an axe (19%).

Of the 10% of IDPs who reported that they had access to fishery tools, 75% had access to hooks and nets, and half also had access to a boat.

When asked about the types of household assets IDPs owned before the crisis began, 25% reported owning goats and sheep, 23% cattle, 23% land for cultivation, and 23% shelters/compounds. Since arriving in Mingkaman, most IDPs reported having some knowledge about the condition of their assets at home. **86% of IDPs reported that their assets left behind had been destroyed.**

CONCLUSION

This report builds on two previous factsheets published in March and, to provide a more detailed understanding about the 7,982 households living in Mingkaman, the vast majority of whom have been internally displaced. The assessment examined the demographics and intentions of displaced households and identified three key trends.

First, **an increasing number of IDPs has returned to visit their pre-crisis home location to check on the status of their assets.** As a result, 99% of displaced households now know about the status of their assets, which for the vast majority have been destroyed.

Second, **the relationship between IDPs and the host community remains positive.** As reported in March, humanitarian assistance does not distinguish between IDP and host community households and all receive the same support irrespective of their residency status.

Third, **as in March, the majority of IDP households do not intend to stay in Mingkaman in the long term,** and would return home if it were safe to do so. While many IDPs reported that they would stay until the end of the rainy season, the population of Mingkaman is likely to change considerably if IDPs feel their pre-crisis locations are safe, or if humanitarian support is stopped or moved to Jonglei State¹⁵.

Despite reported intentions to leave Mingkaman, **the IDP community is divided in opinion as to whether their home location is safe.** 40% feel that their home is safe mainly because there is no fighting, while the rest do not feel safe because of continued fighting and insecurity. Although the last few months have not seen fighting in Bor South County, the town and surrounding area has witnessed violence and political tensions in the last two years and remains a strategic objective for both sides of the conflict, due to its central location in South Sudan, access to the river and major roads.

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate 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 in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

For more information visit: www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info

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¹⁵ The vast majority (95%) of displaced households in Mingkaman originate from Jonglei State.