

# Overview of Settlements in Central Equatoria State

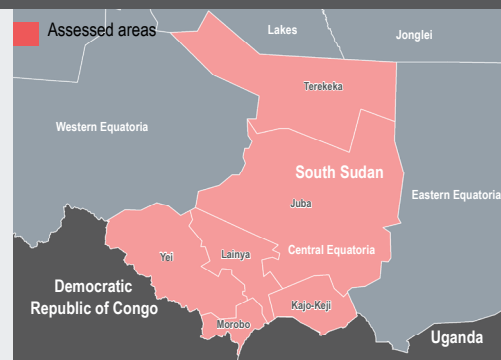
## Assessment of Hard to Reach Areas in Eastern Equatoria State

October 2016

### Introduction

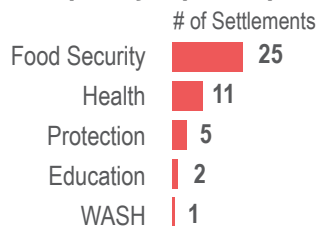
This factsheet presents preliminary findings about the humanitarian needs in the former Central Equatoria State. Between 10 - 13 October 2016, REACH interviewed 51 key informants (KIs) with recent knowledge from 50 settlements in this area. Due to the purposive sampling of KIs, who reported only on sectors which they were knowledgeable, findings are not statistically generalisable but remain indicative of the situation in assessed locations. Approximately 1.5 million people lived in the area before the crisis.<sup>1</sup>

The current situation throughout Central Equatoria remains highly fluid and therefore inaccessible to most humanitarians. Juba itself has experienced recent fighting, and access to areas outside of the capital is highly restricted. Should fighting in this area escalate, most would reportedly flee to Uganda or, if stable, Juba. The information presented in this factsheet seeks to inform humanitarian actors seeking to respond to humanitarian needs in the Greater Torit Area.



### Sector Overview

#### Most frequently reported priority needs:

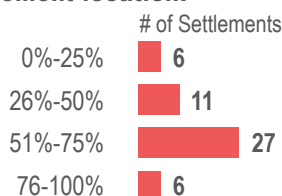


Despite a decrease in violence, the destruction of services in most towns and villages have left the population increasingly vulnerable.

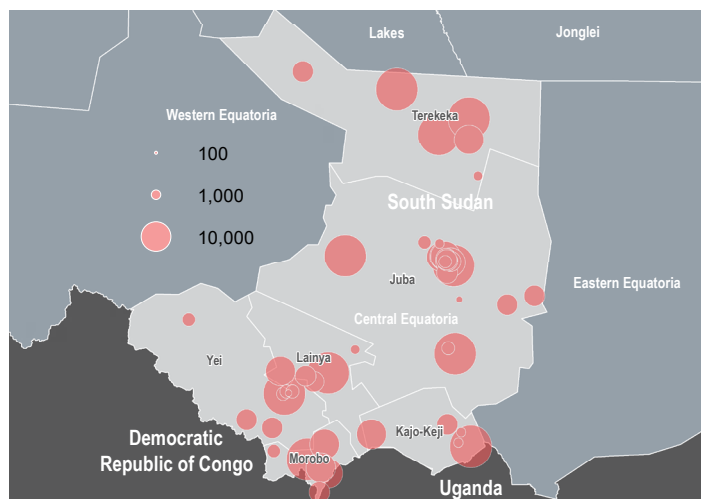
### Displacement

The escalation of conflict in July caused widespread displacement across the Greater Equatoria region. As of 14 November, an estimated 303,434 individuals have fled to Uganda, most of whom come from Central Equatoria.<sup>2</sup> However, the vast majority of IDPs are still hiding in the bush, living of dwindling food and minimal services. Although there has been a decline in violence, a lack of food and other services continue to drive displacement to Uganda.

#### Proportions of host community still living in pre-displacement location:<sup>3</sup>



#### Map of estimated remaining host community population of assessed settlements:



### Access to food

Most people were able to cultivate before the crisis, though drought in northern parts of the state stunted yields, and the subsequent conflict forced many to abandon their crops, which have reportedly been burned or stolen. Most reported eating one meal or less per day. Food distributions by humanitarians have been unable to access villages away from the main road due to security concerns.

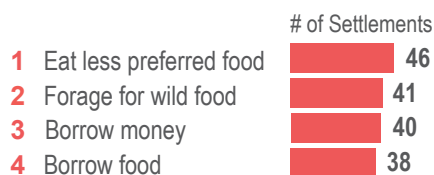
**4 weeks** Average number of weeks that IDPs reportedly have until food runs out.



74% of assessed settlements reported not having adequate access to food.

#### Top reported food coping strategies:

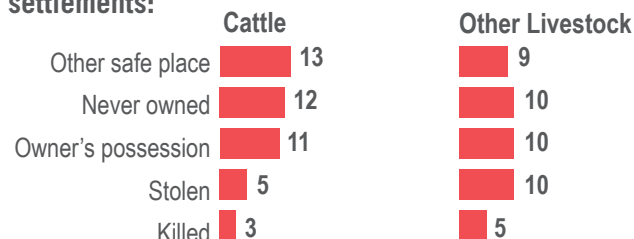
Participants could choose multiple responses



36% of assessed settlements reported having no access to a market. Those who did have market access reported unaffordable prices.

Most settlements reported that they still possess livestock, including goats and sheep. KIs reported that they have successfully hidden the majority of their livestock in the bush. Despite this, most reported that armed groups had stolen at least some of their livestock during their initial displacement.

#### Reported location of cattle and other livestock, by # settlements:



38% of assessed settlements cultivated before the conflict. However, a shortened rainy season shrank crop yields.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, South Sudan Population Estimates, 2014

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Uganda: South Sudan Refugee Situation (Info-graphic), 14 November 2016

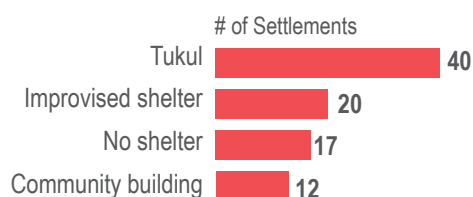
<sup>3</sup> Focus group discussions clarified that even though most settlements reported that people are there, nearly all are living on the outskirts of towns and villages deep in the bush hiding from armed groups.

### Shelter

In most towns and villages near major roads shelters have been burned or destroyed by armed groups. Those returning from hiding in the bush and without adequate shelter are sharing with the remaining host community. In a few towns, such as Yei, where shelters have been untouched, there has still been significant looting of possessions. There have been very few distributions of mosquito nets in Central Equatoria, and nearly all settlements reported that they had been stolen.

#### Most reported shelter types:

Participants could choose multiple responses



84% of assessed settlements reported that at least some shelters have been burned during the fighting.



88% of assessed settlements reported that less than half of people were sleeping under mosquito nets.

### Education

Most settlements reported that some schools are functioning again, although many remain closed. Due to looting of facilities and the widespread displacement of both teachers and students, schools that have re-opened have not been able to function as before because of teachers having fled and a lack of supplies.



12% of responding settlements reported that there is no access to education services.

### Water and Sanitation

Most towns reported access to clean water, however in some, such as Lainya, many of these sources have begun to break down. In villages, clean water is largely unavailable, and most people are getting their water from unprotected wells and open sources like rivers and streams. Sanitation practices in Central Equatoria are much better than in other parts of the country, and most towns and villages reported widespread latrine usage.<sup>4</sup>



78% of settlements reported that most people were using unprotected water sources.



22% of settlements reported that most people were defecating in the bush.

<sup>4</sup>South Sudan WASH Cluster, Humanitarian Response Plan, 2015

### Health

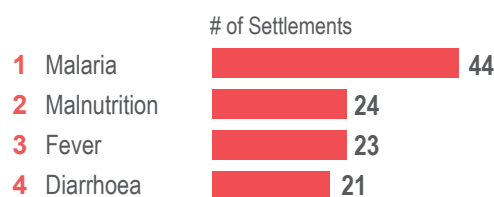
The large majority of assessed settlements reportedly lacked access to healthcare services. Nearly all trained medical staff have fled, and drug stocks have been looted. In northern counties, health centres are still open but drugs stocks have run low.



90% of assessed settlements are reportedly unable to access health services

#### Most commonly reported health problems in settlement:

Participants could choose multiple responses



52% of assessed settlements reported that there are no nutritional supplements available for children.

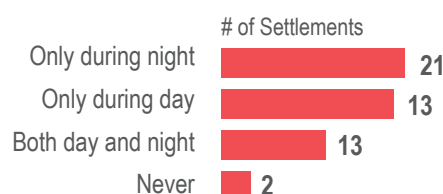


58% of assessed settlements reported that there are no supplements available for pregnant or lactating women.

### Protection

Instances of armed violence have reportedly fallen in recent weeks, however people still feel insecure because of the presence of armed groups. Roads are reportedly still closed and many people risk being attacked when travelling.

#### Time of day when people in settlement feel unsafe:



#### Top reported protection concerns in settlement:

Participants could choose multiple responses



#### Top reported protection concerns when travelling:

Participants could choose multiple responses

