

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

June, 2023
South Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

- In 64% 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 enough food, 56% reported that hunger was "severe".
- Of the settlements where people reportedly did not have access to enough food, 58% reported reducing meal frequency as one of the coping strategies used to mitigate a lack of enough 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.

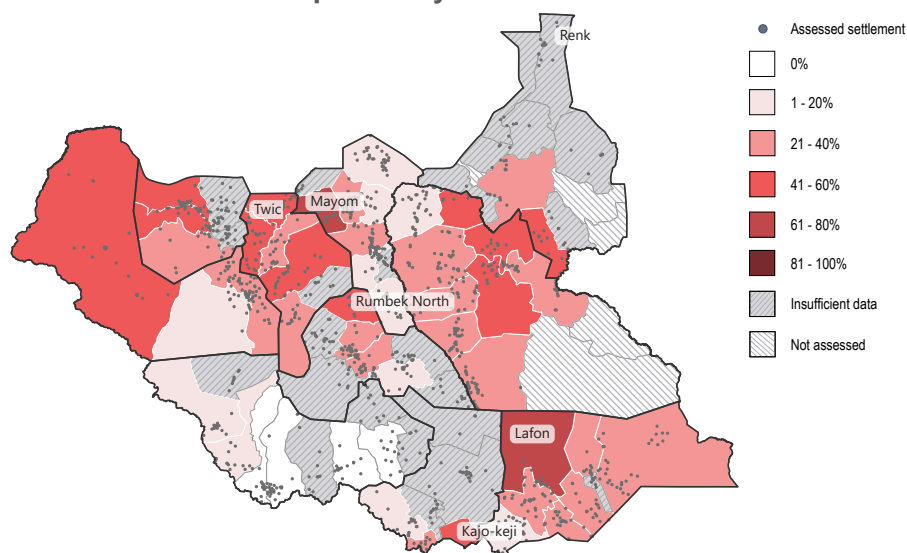
METHODOLOGY:

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 June 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=867) assessed settlements where food access was reported to be inadequate

Not enough food in stock	24%
High prices	22%
Ceasing of food distribution	14%
Not enough rain	13%
Flooding/Too much rain	6%

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

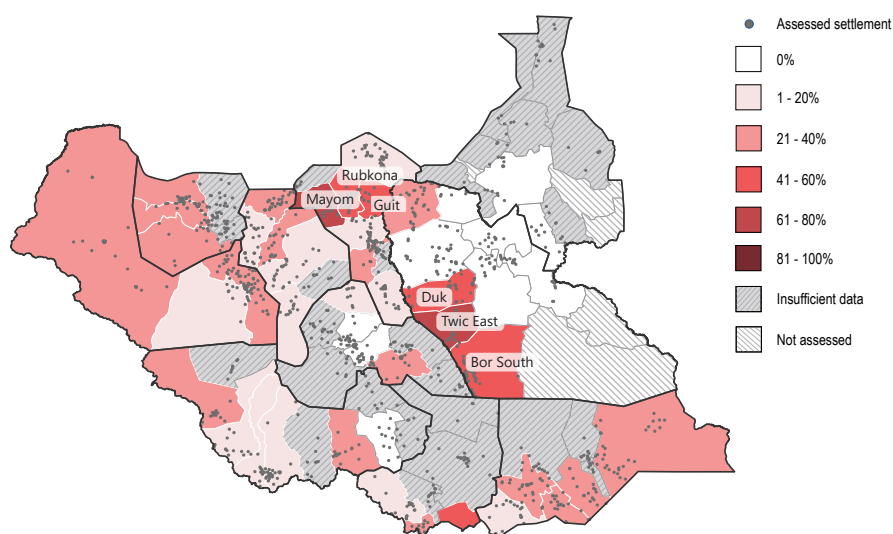


Table 1: Reported shock events which impacted or led to loss of livelihoods in the settlement in the last month, by number of assessed settlements where a livelihood shock was reported*

County	Loss/ Decrease in aid	Conflict	Displacement	Flooding	Rising prices	Drought	Cattle disease outbreak	Pests	Assessed settlements where livelihoods shocks were reported (n)
Bor South	1	-	5	-	12	-	1	-	20
Rubkona	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	15
Twic East	-	-	4	-	11	-	-	-	15
Duk	-	-	5	-	6	-	-	-	13
Mayom	2	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	12
Guit	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	5

*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

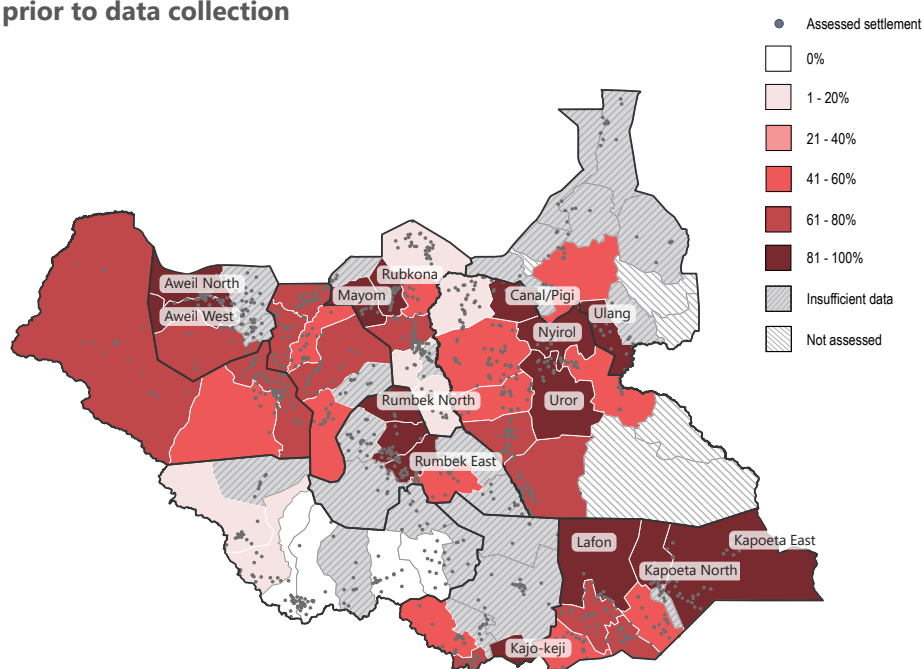
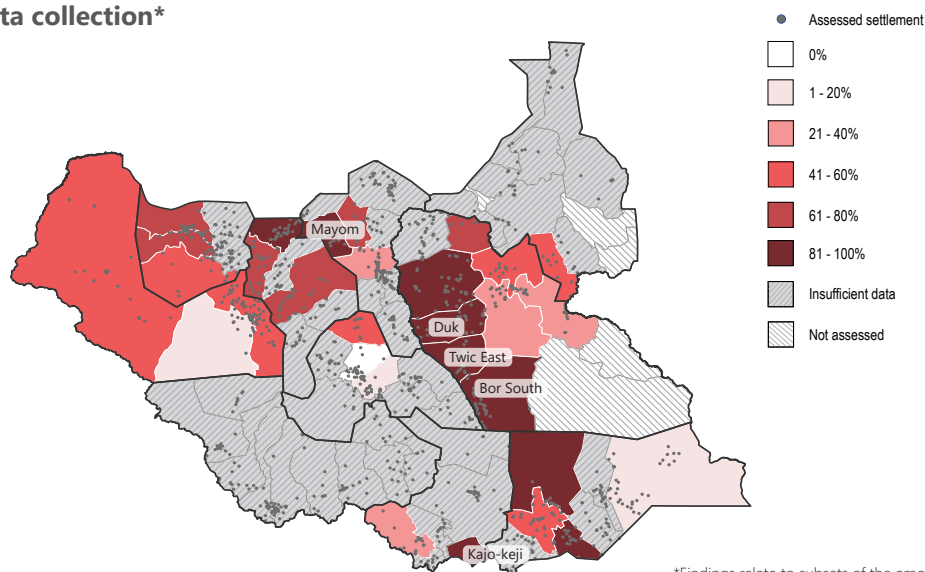


Table 2: Reported reasons for people not being able to access food in counties, by number of assessed settlements where inadequate food access was reported*

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	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	19
Aweil North	-	10	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Ulang	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	11
Aweil West	-	8	2	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Canal/Pigi	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Kajo-keji	-	3	-	-	6	3	-	3	1	-	-	16
Kapoeta East	-	9	-	1	2	-	-	-	17	-	-	29
Kapoeta North	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	9
Lafon	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	12
Nyirol	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Rubkona	10	-	1	1	4	-	11	-	-	1	1	32
Rumbek East	-	5	-	-	8	-	3	-	7	-	-	24
Rumbek North	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	-	5	-	-	10
Uror	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	16

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

Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported hunger was "severe" 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 number 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)
Bor South	1	28	16	40	34	-	41
Duk	-	10	5	12	9	-	12
Kajo-keji	1	1	14	14	9	9	16
Mayom	1	2	4	10	12	14	19
Twic East	-	20	8	23	17	1	23

NUMBER OF ASSESSED SETTLEMENTS PER COUNTY

	County	No. of assessed settlements
1	Abiemnhom	5
2	Akobo	29
3	Aweil Centre	14
4	Aweil East	31
5	Aweil North	25
6	Aweil South	15
7	Aweil West	24
8	Awerial	10
9	Ayod	46
10	Baliet	11
11	Bor South	53
12	Budi	18
13	Canal/Pigi	10
14	Cueibet	20
15	Duk	27
16	Ezo	18
17	Fangak	29
18	Fashoda	5
19	Gogrial East	20
20	Gogrial West	23
21	Guit	11
22	Ibba	9
23	Ikotos	26
24	Juba	21

	County	No. of assessed settlements
25	Jur River	50
26	Kajo-keji	16
27	Kapoeta East	31
28	Kapoeta North	10
29	Kapoeta South	8
30	Koch	30
31	Lafon	12
32	Lainya	11
33	Leer	16
34	Luakpiny/Nasir	8
35	Maban	6
36	Magwi	17
37	Manyo	7
38	Maridi	19
39	Mayendit	19
40	Mayom	19
41	Melut	4
42	Morobo	10
43	Mundri East	8
44	Mundri West	10
45	Mvolo	9
46	Nagero	7
47	Nyirrol	14
48	Nzara	16

	County	No. of assessed settlements
49	Panyijiar	25
50	Panyikang	1
51	Pariang	32
52	Raja	30
53	Renk	11
54	Rubkona	36
55	Rumbek Centre	25
56	Rumbek East	27
57	Rumbek North	10
58	Tambura	20
59	Terekeka	4
60	Tonj East	9
61	Tonj North	24
62	Tonj South	12
63	Torit	28
64	Twic	32
65	Twic East	31
66	Ulang	11
67	Uror	16
68	Wau	38
69	Wulu	8
70	Yambio	26
71	Yei	21
72	Yirol East	12
73	Yirol West	20

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,

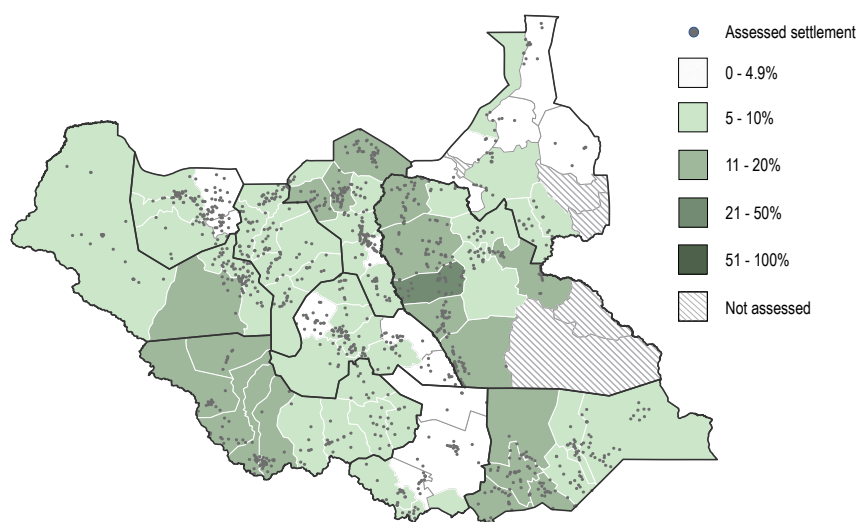
All three types of KIs can either be interviewed over the phone or in person. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement level. About half of settlements assessed

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

1517 Key informants interviewed | **1366** Settlements assessed²

73 Counties assessed | **59** Counties with 5% or more coverage



ENDNOTES

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¹The 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

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²Settlement (n) numbers represent the amount of data points which is used to calculate a particular indicator. This value may change due to data cleaning or skip logic in the survey.

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).