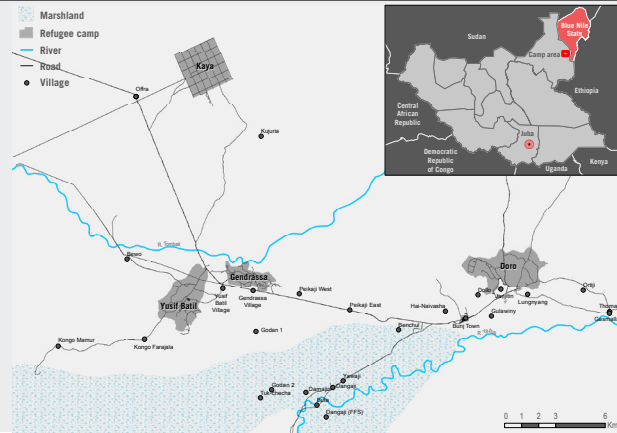


Conflict and Tensions Between Communities Around Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil Camps, Maban County, Draft

South Sudan Refugee Response, December 2016

Since 2011, refugees have been arriving in eastern Maban County, with over 136,462 currently staying in four camps spread across the county: Doro, Gendrassa, Kaya and Yusuf Batil. 36,000 host community members (HC) and 16,928 IDPs are also present in the area, and an inadequate initial response and protracted pressure on resources has led to brewing tensions between these communities. With only one conflict assessment conducted between 2011 and 2015, there was a large information and understanding gap on security and relations within Maban.

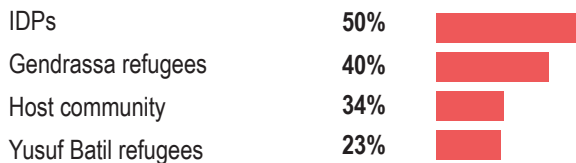
To fill this information gap, REACH, on behalf of UNHCR, conducted three assessments in and around the camps in Maban County. Following a wet season report published in 2015¹, this factsheet presents key new findings about the nature of conflict and tensions between HC, IDPs, and refugees within and surrounding Gendrassa and Yusuf Batil Camps during the 2016 dry season. Between June and September 2016, REACH conducted 18 focus group discussions (FGDs) and a quantitative assessment of 1,756 households within the communities, with eight key informant (KI) interviews of community leaders, NGO staff and government officials.



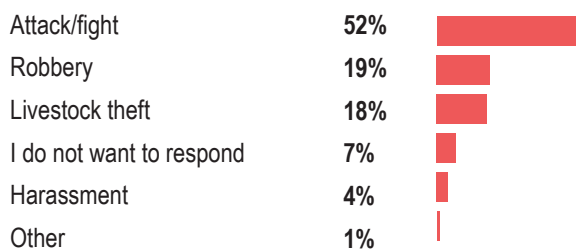
Incidents of conflict

IDPs, refugees and host community alike expressed their feeling that the security situation, starting in the past dry season, has significantly improved. Complaints concerning livestock and crop theft, verbal harassment, and general fear of violence were voiced, but there was no serious security incident (i.e. large scale fighting or killing) during this time frame around Gendrassa or Yusuf Batil mentioned in FGDs, KI interviews or household survey.

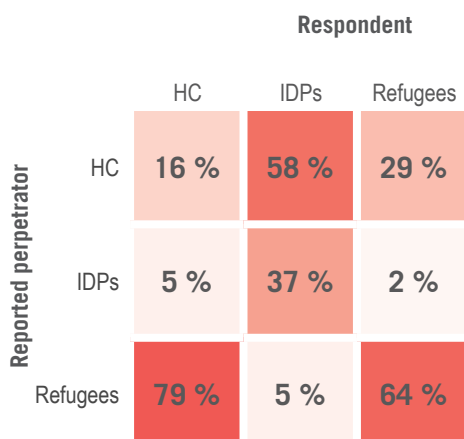
% of respondents reporting one or more security incidents:



Reported type of security incidents:



Reported perpetrators of security incidents:



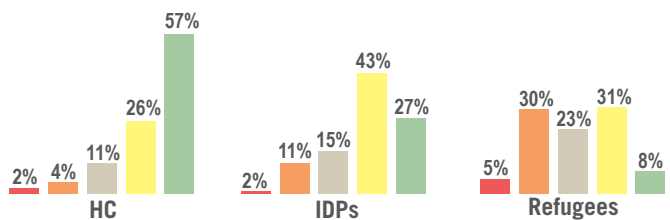
Community relations

Despite the relative frequency of security incidents communities did not report relations as overwhelmingly negative. Even between communities where tensions were reported, such as the relations between host community and refugees, 30% of surveyed host community members reported their relations with the refugees to be poor, but 31% consider them good. Below is a look at how respondents assessed their relations to other communities and other members of their own community.

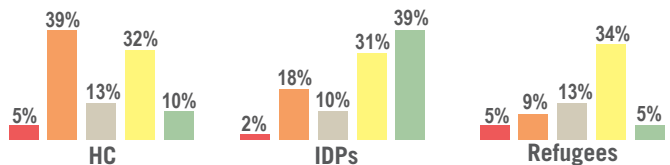
Respondents were asked to rank their relations with HC, IDPs and refugees from very poor to very good. Responses of "I don't know" or "I would prefer not to answer" were omitted from the charts below.



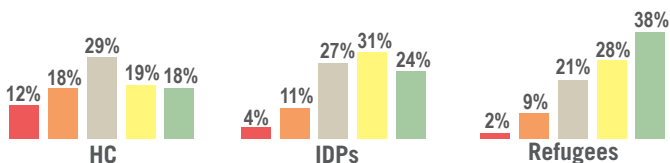
Host community relations with:



IDP relations with:



Refugee relations with:



1. Mapping of Tensions and Disputes Between Refugees and Host Community in Gendrassa, Maban County, January 2016. REACH

Conflict and Tensions Between Communities Around Gendrassa and Yusif Batil Camps, Maban County, Draft

South Sudan Refugee Response, December 2016

Access to resources

Tensions over resources are a key driver to the conflict. When looking at the reported causes of conflict, the impact competition over resources are having on the relationships between these different populations can be readily seen.

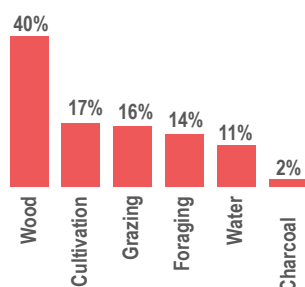
Reported causes of security incidents:

75% of reported instigations for security incidents were related to conflict over resources.

14% of reported instigations for security incidents were related to theft.

Breakdown of resource related conflicts:

Out of the 75% of conflicts related to resources, respondents reported that they were specifically related to:



While it may be tempting to see resources as the primary cause of conflict, resource-based conflicts are also a manifestation of deeper tensions amongst communities stemming from competition over livelihoods strategies.

Access to livelihoods

Perceived inequality in livelihoods is a growing source of tension within the Maban communities. While also discussed by IDPs and refugees, HC participants raised the issue of livelihoods in every FGD.

Primary livelihoods issues raised by host community:

- Lack of employment with NGOs
- Overemployment of refugees with NGOs
- Inequality of salary between HC and refugees due to HC being paid in SSP
- Only low level positions available to the host community with NGOs
- Lack of sufficient vocational training and education for HC
- Distributions not fairly allocated between IDPs, refugees and HC

Lack of rule of law and injustice

Poor law enforcement across Maban and an equally hampered justice system threaten to heighten tensions in the county.

- Lack of law enforcement capacity means the vast majority of crimes remain unsolved, which groups tend to blame on other groups
- The poor justice system and lack of a justice/courts system trusted by all communities in Maban leave little official mechanisms for justice available

IDPs

The two most recent conflict analyses in Maban² did not account for IDPs in their analysis of conflict within Maban county. The issues IDPs face are often separate from the HC/refugee narrative.

Boreholes and water access:

17% of security incidents reported by IDPs were related to conflict over water.

While HC and refugees generally have access to their own boreholes, IDPs are reliant upon the HC to allow access to boreholes. This has created conflict around the boreholes and forced some IDPs to drink from unclean water sources.

Peace committees:

IDPs reported during FGDs that they have never been involved in peace committee talks. As IDPs reportedly experience more security incidents than other groups in Maban, and have poor or little relations with HC and refugees respectively, they are vulnerable to increased conflict in the future.

21% of IDPs surveyed said they “do not know” what their relations are like with refugees.

Distributions and conflict:

IDPs noted that NGO distributions stir up tensions with the HC if the HC is not similarly receiving a distribution.

→ Successes and further actions

Despite the continued presence of conflict and tensions in the area, many improvements have been reported in the security situation.

100% of FGD participants and KIs reported a major improvement in the security situation compared to 2014-2015.

Different explanations for the improved security were reported by KIs and FGDs:

- Work of peace committees in bringing communities together and sensitizing communities to acceptable land usage
- Shifts in natural resource usage and reduction in land use overlaps
- Reduction in the presence of arms within refugee camps

Key points of action:

- Continue peace committee operations while including IDP communities
- Ensure distributions to IDPs take into account protection concerns
- Ensure vocational trainings are offered and well-known throughout Maban
- Sensitize the HC to NGO hiring practices and pathways to employment
- Develop unified HR policies for HC payment and hiring across the area
- Continue efforts to improve physical security through disarmament
- Improve law enforcement and justice within Maban County

2. Mapping of Tensions and Disputes Between Refugees and Host Community in Gendrassa, Maban County. January 2016. REACH; Conflict and Cohesion in Maban: Towards Positive Refugee/Host Community Relations. March 2016. DRC.

