

Situation Overview: Jonglei State, South Sudan

July - September 2018

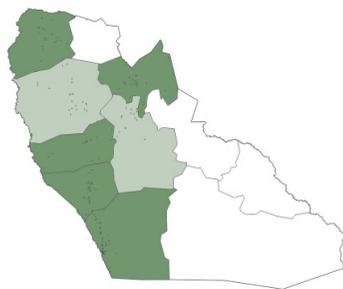
Introduction

Conflict and insecurity have continued to negatively impact several areas in Jonglei, limiting people's ability to cultivate and restricting humanitarian access. REACH has been assessing the situation in hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015, to inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites. This settlement data is collected across South Sudan on a monthly basis. Between 10 July and 28 September, REACH interviewed 881 Key Informants (KIs) with knowledge of humanitarian needs in 674 settlements in 8 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State.

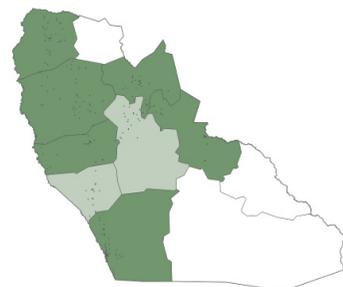
In order to ensure an understanding of current displacement trends and humanitarian conditions in settlements from which displacement took place, new arrivals in data collection sites, representing 8% of KI interviews, were specifically targeted when possible. The remainder of the KIs interviewed (92%) reported having been in the settlement or having had regular contact with someone from the settlement within the month prior to the assessment. Across the three months, 53% of Key Informants were women, ensuring a gender balance in the information gathered. For more information, please see the methodology section in this Situation Overview.

The findings from the KI interviews conducted were triangulated with Focus

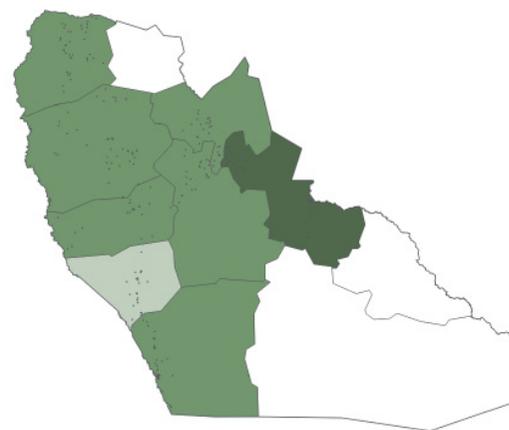
Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, July 2018



Map 2: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, August 2018

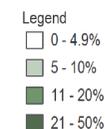


Map 3: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, September 2018



Assessed settlements

• Settlement
Cover percentage of assessed settlements relative to the OCHA (COD) total dataset:



Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in Bor and Akobo, focusing on food security and livelihoods and participative mapping of displacement routes. These included: a) one FGD with new arrivals from Akobo West (Luony settlement) into Akobo town and b) one participatory mapping exercise with IDPs from Fangak conducted in Bor Protection of Civilians (PoC) site. Seven FGDs with new arrivals or KI who had recent contact with people in relevant settlements were conducted to further assess the food security and livelihood (FSL)

situation in Uror, Nyirol, Ayod, and Twic East counties. The information gathered from FGDs is included in the data used for this Situation Overview.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the April - June 2018 Situation Overview¹. The first section analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei during the third quarter of 2018, and the second section evaluates access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-

displaced communities.

Population Movement and Displacement

Displacement in Jonglei increased across most counties assessed across the third quarter of the year as 50% of assessed settlements in September reported hosting IDPs, compared to 18% in June. The highest increase was observed in Fangak, where there was a sharp increase in assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs, from 8% in July to 95% in September. A quarter of settlements with IDPs in Fangak reported that the IDPs there had arrived in the three to six months prior to the assessment, whilst the rest reportedly arrived six months to a year before.

Displacement within Jonglei

Displacement within Akobo County

After several months of high levels of displacement within Akobo County, the level of displacement slightly decreased towards the end of the third quarter. This is observed through the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs, which decreased from 55% in August to 24% in September. This could be reflective of the improved security situation in Akobo towards the end of the third quarter, following hostilities

¹ REACH, Jonglei State Situation Overview, April - June 2018

METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Jonglei State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or received regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this factsheet was provided by key informants in the Bor PoC, Bor Town and Akobo Town throughout the third quarter of 2018.

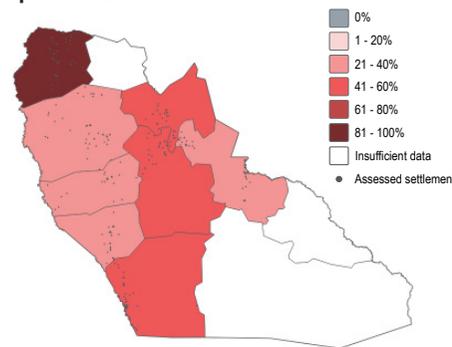
The first phase of the assessment methodology comprised a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant settlements in Jonglei State. In-depth interviews were then conducted with selected participants, using a standardised survey tool comprising questions on displacement trends, population needs and access to basic services.

After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data. Due to access/operational constraints which may impact on coverage in each month, some changes over time reported in the situation overview might be due to variations in coverage.

origin increased. In August, 40% of assessed settlements reported the presence of returnees compared to 46% in September. In Akobo county, where the security situation stabilised in August and September, IDPs were reported by KIs to have returned to Akobo Town in order to access basic services and assistance.

On the other hand, in some parts of Akobo County insecurity persisted leading to new displacement. IDPs arrived to Akobo town following insecurity and a lack of food in several regions of Akobo West. New arrivals interviewed from Luony, Akobo West, reported that about three quarters of the population of Luony fled insecurity towards Akobo East, Buong and Yedid settlements. The rest reportedly remained in Luony, relying on coping strategies to deal with the lack of food such as borrowing from relatives and friends and relying on wild foods. Many chose to displace to Akobo due to the presence of NGOs, relative security and food distributions. FGD participants reported that many of the IDPs recently displaced from Akobo West

Map 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in the settlement, September 2018:



in July in Akobo.

Following the rise of inter-communal violence in July in Akobo many households displaced within Greater Akobo or towards Ethiopia. With the decrease in hostilities, reporting suggested IDPs returning to their settlement of

intended to move towards Ethiopia to settle in refugee camps. However many reported being unable to do so due to a lack of financial means, and intended to remain in Akobo until they can afford the travel across the border.

Displacement from Greater Akobo to the Bor PoC site

No major displacement towards Bor PoC site was observed in recent months, indicating a continuous decrease in arrivals compared to the first months of the year. In July, 29 new arrivals were recorded, followed by 14 in August and 36 in September. Similar number of departures out of the PoC were recorded, with 25 individuals leaving the PoC in July, 14 in August and 22 in September.²

Displacement within the Bor - Duk Corridor

Whilst the number of IDP arrivals to Duk remained stable, arrivals to Bor South and Twic East increased during the third quarter of the year from 38 to 49% and 0 to 36% respectively. Notably approximately 3,600 people reportedly displaced to Leudiet village near Bor town, fleeing inter-communal violence in Thoony village in Baidit Payam.³ There was an increase on the number of assessed settlements reporting any returns to the region across the reporting period, increasing from 24% to 54% from July to September.

Cross-border displacement out of Jonglei

REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo⁴ tracks movement of South Sudanese traveling to and returning from Ethiopia, most often to the refugee camps in the Gambella region. The average number of daily crossings by boat to Ethiopia was 42 people per day in September

and 37 in August, a slight increase compared to previous months. The most commonly reported reasons for travelling to Ethiopia were access to education services, presence of food distributions and greater security.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Access to food increased in Jonglei over the third quarter, from 42% of assessed settlements reporting they had enough access to food in July, to 61% in September. These increases are likely due to the beginning of the maize and sorghum harvests over the assessment period towards the end of rainy season.

Insecurity continued to drive food insecurity across the reporting period. Insecurity was the most commonly reported reason why settlements could not access enough food (20% in September), most often due to the fear of attacks outside of settlements. This regularly left people unable to access land for cultivation, leading to persistent food needs across most areas assessed in Jonglei.

Greater Akobo

Within Greater Akobo, whilst adequate access to food varied between counties,

Figure 1: Most reported reasons for leaving Akobo for locations in Ethiopia in September 2018:

Lack of education services	19 %	■
Tensions with host community	17 %	■
Lack of access to market	15 %	■
Lack of job opportunities	13 %	■
Insecurity	13 %	■
Lack of health services	11 %	■

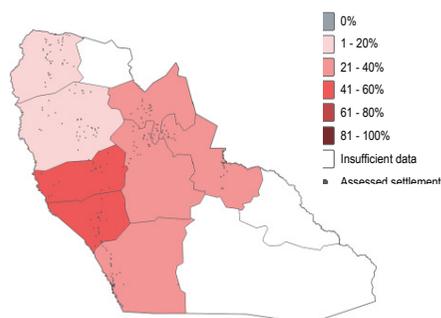
² ACTED, Bor PoC, Movement Trend Tracking (MTT), July, August, September 2018

³ OCHA South Sudan, Humanitarian Snapshot, August 2018

trends observed were similar across the counties assessed. The number of assessed settlements in Uror and Nyirol countries reporting inadequate access to food decreased from 80 to 28%, and 55 to 36% respectively from June to September. The reported increased proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food is likely due to the harvest season occurring in August and September.

Despite the overall increase in access to food, areas in Greater Akobo affected by insecurity were not always able to benefit from the harvest. FGD participants reported this was due to the insecurity in the region, largely relating to inter-communal violence, such as cattle raids. This led to a disruption in cultivating activities, which are reported as the main food source during stable periods, as people fear attacks when accessing lands outside of their settlements. The destruction of crops also negatively affected the harvest, and was reported as the main challenge to accessing food by a third of assessed

Map 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food in September 2018:



settlements with inadequate access to food in Nyirol in September. Due to the insecurity and limited access to food, many households reportedly displaced towards Akobo town or to camps in Ethiopia in search of access to food and safety, including the FGD participants themselves.

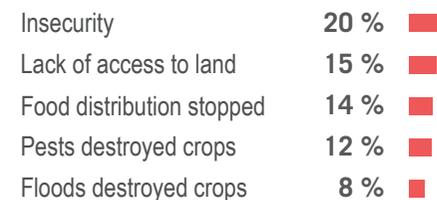
The arrival of IDPs from West Akobo towards Akobo town, could have led to an added pressure on already limited services and assistance. 32% of assessed settlements reported that they had insufficient access to food in Akobo. A commonly reported reason for inadequate access to food in Akobo was the lack of sufficient access to food distributions in the area, with 45% of assessed settlements reporting that food distributions had stopped. The second highest reported reason was insecurity (25%). This decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to food assistance, possibly due to food distribution cycles and population influxes changing, as well as ongoing violent incidents in the area, most often cattle raiding or revenge killings.

Bor South, Twic East and Duk

Access to food increased slightly in Bor South whilst a small decrease was observed in Duk and Twic East across the third quarter. Self-reported hunger remained high. Across all three counties, approximately 39% of assessed settlements reported inadequate access to food (35, 32 and 51% respectively). This has led many to rely on coping mechanisms or displace from these areas.

With the arrival of the harvest season, some

Figure 2: Most reported reasons for inadequate access to food in assessed settlements in September 2018:



regions observed an increase in settlements reporting to have adequate access to food. This was the case in Bor South, with 33% of assessed settlements reporting to have adequate access to food in July, 41% in August and 51% in September. An increase in assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main food source was also observed, reaching 40% of assessed settlements in September. Nevertheless, insecurity remained one of the most frequently reported challenges to accessing food in the third quarter, with 18% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food reporting the reason to be insecurity preventing them from accessing land for cultivation. This represents a slight decrease from June where a quarter of assessed settlements reported unsafe to cultivate as a primary challenge to accessing food.

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in Twic East and Duk decreased during the assessed period. Around a third of settlements assessed reported having adequate access to food in September (32% and 35%, respectively), a

decrease from 46 and 53% respectively in July.

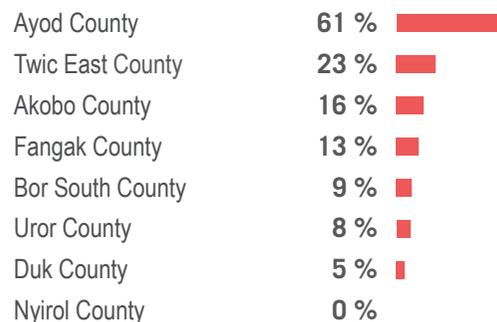
The main challenge reported to accessing food remained the lack of access to land for cultivation due to insecurity. 50% of assessed settlements with inadequate access to food in Twic East and 30% in Duk reported insecurity as a primary challenge in the third quarter, this remained unchanged from the second quarter (47% and 30% respectively in June). The inability to cultivate was also due to a lack of sufficient seeds and tools, as was reported during an FGD with participants from Wernyol and Dong in Twic East. Finally, during FGDs with IDPs from Wernyol and Dong settlements in Twic East, incidents of inter-communal violence were reported as the main security concerns in the area, particularly cattle raiding.

The presence of food distributions marginally dropped in Twic East, from 69 to 59% across the reporting period. However, a notable decrease was noted in Duk, from 60% of assessed settlements reporting food assistance in July, to 25% in September. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting reliance on food distributions as a main source of food remained relatively stable in both communities across the reporting period, despite fluctuating delivery from NGOs.

Ayod and Fangak

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate food access increased in both Ayod and Fangak counties over the months of the third quarter, reaching a peak in self-reported access to food in September. In Ayod, 90% of assessed settlements reported most people having adequate access to food in September, compared to 58% in

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting humanitarian assistance as main food source in September 2018:



However, in September with 73% of assessed settlements in Fangak reported cultivation as a primary food source, with only 13% reporting NGO assistance as their main source of food. This suggests an increase in produce from cultivation, likely linked to the harvest taking place during the assessed period. On the other hand, in Ayod the main source of food reported shifted from cultivation at the beginning of the third quarter (42% of assessed settlements) to relying on food assistance by the end of the third quarter (61% reporting it as a main source of food).

The amelioration in the food security situation in these counties is reflected in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting that two meals were eaten on average from 54% to 90% in Ayod and from 33% to 85% in Fangak from between July and September.

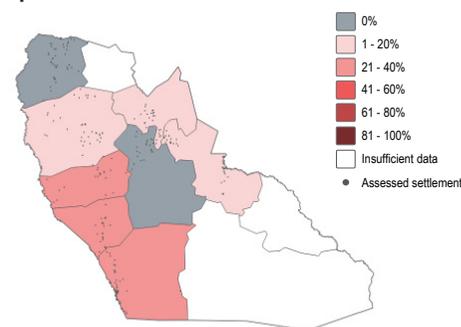
Livelihoods and cattle

Consistent with the rainy season, an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to cattle across Jonglei state rose from 58% in April to 82% in September. With the rains, water can be accessed closer to the settlements therefore permitting households to keep the cattle near or in the settlement. However, in Bor South a slight decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to cattle was noted from 75% in July to 63% in September, which was also the case in Duk (80% to 50%) and Twic East (81% to 59%). The reduced access to cattle coincides with higher concerns over cattle raiding in these counties. This was most evident in Duk where a quarter of assessed settlements reported cattle raiding

as a protection concern in September. This was also the case to a lesser extent in Twic East (14%) and Bor South (9%). Cattle raids have a direct impact on the household, due to the violence often experienced during such incidents and the decrease in households' ability to absorb future shocks due to the loss of a source of food, wealth and social capital. The second factor in the decrease of available livestock in these counties was the sale of cattle as a coping strategy when faced with a limited access to food. This more than doubled across Jonglei since the second quarter, as 19% of assessed settlements reported this as a coping strategy in June compared to 46% in September. The sale of livestock as a coping strategy was reportedly highest in Twic East (77%), with 74 and 71% of assessed settlements reporting the adoption of the same coping strategy in Bor South and Akobo respectively.

In September 33% of assessed settlements reported the outbreak of livestock diseases, with the highest proportion in Ayod (54%),

Map 7: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting no physical access to cattle in September 2018:



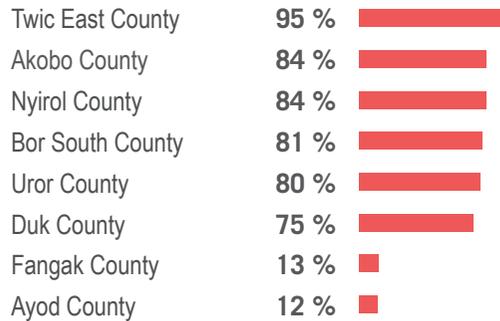
Bor South (51%), Twic East (45%) and Duk (40%). This reflects findings from FGDs where participants reported that livestock diseases had affected settlements in Uror and Nyirrol, such as Lankien, Wanglei, Lualajobkil and Baidit Mayen. The main cause of the disease outbreaks were the floods during the rainy season coupled with a reported lack of appropriate treatment for livestock.

Coping Strategies

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting using coping strategies to deal with a limited access to food rose in the third quarter compared to previous months. The use of social networks remained the highest reported coping strategy, with 56% of assessed settlements reporting borrowing food from friends and relatives in September. Coping strategies reflecting high levels of food insecurity in the settlement were more frequently reported in the third quarter. This reflects findings from FGDs where displacement was reported to be regularly used as a means to find food once other coping strategies such as selling assets and livestock had been exhausted. The high levels of displacement recorded reflect the lack of sufficient coping strategies within the settlements affected. Consuming seeds intended for the next season was also reported by FGD participants from the Greater Akobo region as a coping mechanism, raising concerns over possible food insecurity for the next seasons. Such coping strategies further affect households' ability to sustain future shocks as their assets and resources decrease.

The use of more extreme coping strategies

Figure 4: Proportion of assessed settlements in Jonglei reporting reducing meal sizes as a coping strategy in September 2018:



remained high over the third quarter; these include limiting meal sizes (61% of assessed settlements), reducing the number of meals consumed (36%) and prioritizing food for children (25%). Such coping strategies were more frequently reported in Twic East (95% reported limiting the size of meals), Akobo (84%), Nyirrol (84%) and Bor South (81%). The reducing of food intake was mentioned during several FGDs in different areas of Greater Akobo, reflecting a still critical food security situation in the region. As well as the high number assessed settlements in Akobo, reducing meals the number of meals (45%), 18% also reported prioritising food intake for children. This raises concerns over risks of malnutrition.

Protection

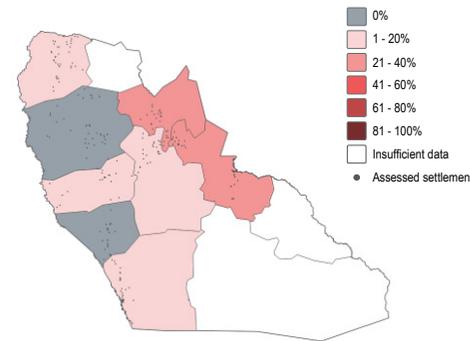
Insecurity persisted in Jonglei, with 37% of assessed settlements in September reporting that most people did not feel safe most of the time. The insecurity saw an increase from previous months; in July the proportion

of assessed settlements reporting incidents of lethal conflict reached 28%. This however decreased in September to 14%, mainly due to considerable decreases in Duk and Twic East. Overall, the highest proportions of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict in September were Nyirrol (44%) and Ayod (39%). Qualitative findings suggest that cattle raiding in Nyirrol has been increasing in recent months due to inter-communal violence. Nevertheless, violent incidents leading to a civilian death were reported across all assessed counties during the third quarter, reflective of a sustained occurrence of inter-communal clashes such as cattle raiding, which were frequently cited during FGDs.

A sustained increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting disputes over land was observed over the three months assessed in Nyirrol (none in July to 24% in September) and in Uror (none in July to 16% in September). The increase in land disputes raises concerns over potential inter-communal violence as well as people's ability to cultivate land. This could be linked to movements of populations and returns within the region.

Sexual and gender-based violence remained the most frequently reported main protection concern for women and girls across all counties assessed, similar to the second quarter. Over a quarter of assessed settlements reported domestic violence as the main protection concern for women over 18 years old in September (28%), showing a small increase from June where 15% reported the same. A high proportion of assessed

Map 8: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting land disputes in September 2018



settlements also reported sexual violence as the main protection concern, particularly in areas prone to conflict in recent months. 45% of settlements assessed in Duk reported this as the main protection concern for females in September.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Shelter conditions for IDPs improved in Jonglei in comparison with previous months, with 9% of assessed settlements in September with IDPs reporting that they lacked shelter. The proportion of assessed settlements with IDPs reporting IDPs lacking shelter was, however, still high in Ayod (38% in September), Uror (20%) and Nyirrol (15%), areas particularly affected by conflict and associated displacement.

Reports of shelters being damaged or destroyed due to conflict remained low during the third quarter of 2018, with only 3% of assessed settlements reporting so in August and 2% in September, similar to 8% in April 2018. Nyirrol county was the only one to report

higher levels of shelter damage, with 19% of assessed settlements reporting that some shelters were damaged in August, likely due to the presence of conflict in the area.

With the persistence of the rains during the assessed months, the need for mosquito nets continued to increase from the second quarter. A quarter of assessed settlements with IDPs reporting it as a priority NFI need for IDPs across the three months assessed. This raises health concerns over the potential rise of malaria cases. Furthermore, 26% of assessed settlements also reported that they were in need of plastic sheets.

Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health services remained similar over the third quarter of the year, with 78% of assessed settlements reporting access in September, compared to 71% in June. The lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to health services was in Nyirrol, with fewer than half of assessed settlements (40%) reporting access in September. Across Jonglei, in assessed settlements where no access to healthcare was reported, the main reason cited was that health services had never been available there (39%). The second most commonly reported challenge was the distance to healthcare services (37%); this increased rapidly over the assessed period, from 2% of assessed settlements in July.

Health issues remained similar to previous months. Malaria was the most critical health

problem, reported by 16% of assessed settlements in September. Reports of malaria as the main health problem were highest in Fangak, with 38% of assessed settlements reporting it in September. This may be linked to the high proportion of assessed settlements in Fangak reporting a lack of mosquito nets (46% in September).

The proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one functioning borehole remained stable, from 94% of assessed settlements in June compared to 95% in September. Access to preferred water sources was also limited by fears of attack when outside the settlement. This was primarily the case in Nyirol (68% in September), Uror (24%) and Akobo (13%).

The use of latrines remained limited during the third quarter, with 61% of assessed settlements in September across Jonglei reporting no-one using latrines. The main reported reason for this was the lack of existing latrines in the settlements (42% in September). This, coupled with the lack of adequate hand washing practice reported, raises health concerns. In September, 30% of settlements assessed reported that most people only used water when washing their hands, and less than one out of five reported using soap (17%). Using only water was particularly high in Uror (64%) and Nyirol counties (44%). This leaves many populations in Jonglei still vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

Education

Access to education services remained similar to the second quarter, 49% of assessed

settlements in June reported having access to education services, which was also the case for 57% of settlements assessed in September. The lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to education services was in Nyirol county (88% in September), followed by Uror (56%). Across all counties, the fact that education services were never available was the most frequently reported challenge to accessing education (36% in September), followed by the large distance to the closest functional facility (20%) and the lack of teaching staff (12%).

Similar to the second quarter, girls' attendance in school remained reportedly lower than that of boys. 35% of assessed settlements with access to education services reported that less than half of girls aged 6-17 years old attended school in September. The most commonly reported reason was that girls culturally are not supposed to attend school (16% in September), school fees (15%), the need for girls to work within the household (14%) and finally menstruation (10%).

On the other hand, 41% of assessed settlements with educational facilities reported that over half of all boys between 6 and 17 years old were enrolled in school in September. Of those settlements reporting that boys did not attend, the need for boys to work in agriculture was the most commonly reported reason (16%) followed by the fees associated with education (12%) and the lack of school supplies (8%).

Whilst food security and protection needs remained high across Jonglei, the lack of education services was frequently reported

as a reason for displacement. Findings from the Port Monitoring assessment conducted in Akobo found that education was one of the highest reported pull factor for displacement. Over a quarter of all movements assessed through Port and Road monitoring in Akobo in September reportedly targeted their destination based on the availability of education services.⁵ This was also reflected in FGD conducted in Uror and Akobo West.

Conclusion

Humanitarian needs remained high across Jonglei in the third quarter of the year. With the arrival of the harvest season, access to food increased across several counties in the state; Nyirol, Uror, Ayod, Fangak and Bor South. Despite this increase, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food remained relatively low during the assessed period. Food insecurity persisted across the state, particularly in communities affected by violence. Whilst there were few reports of large scale insecurity during the third quarter, localised conflict and fear of insecurity persisted. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting a lethal incident of conflict increased between the second and third quarter. Qualitative findings suggested that this is largely linked to inter-communal violence such as cattle raids.

This insecurity left many households unable to cultivate lands around their settlements fearing attacks, which in turn restricted cultivation and access to food. In particular, the persistence of insecurity in parts of Greater Akobo did not permit some populations to benefit from the harvest as they displaced elsewhere, within

Greater Akobo and sometimes on to Ethiopia. Insecurity also limited access to food in Duk and Twic East, where incidents of cattle raiding were reported, with households fearing to access cultivation land.

With the rainy season peaking in the third quarter, malaria remained the most commonly reported primary health problem across all assessed counties. The risk of malaria may have been exacerbated by the shortage of mosquito nets and poor shelter conditions for IDPs. This, in addition with increasingly low proportion of assessed settlements using adequate handwashing practices left many populations vulnerable to health concerns across Jonglei. Access to services such as healthcare and education remained low but stable. Assessed settlements in Nyirol County reported the lowest access to both health and education services. This may be due to a legacy of conflict in the area and the increases in cattle raiding reported by FGD participants.

About REACH Initiative

REACH 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. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

For more information, you can write to our in-country office: southsudan@reach-initiative.org or to our global office: geneva@reach-initiative.org.

Visit www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

5. Akobo Port Monitoring: Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan Displacement Crisis, November 2018