

## Introduction

Displacement trends, humanitarian access and population needs have been negatively affected by armed conflicts and inter-community violence during the month of March. Within Jonglei, displacement and humanitarian needs continued to rise, as tensions between armed groups as well as conflicts between communities, negatively impacted the populations' ability to meet their primary needs and access to basic services. Food security remained an area of concern, as access to food for IDPs and non-displaced populations remains at a critically low level and has further deteriorated since February.

To inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH has been conducting an assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since April 2016, for which data on settlements across the Greater Upper Nile region is collected on a monthly basis. REACH interviewed 1,164 Key Informants (KIs) displaced from 389 settlements in 10 of the 11 counties in Jonglei State, between 6 and 29 March. 346 KIs were interviewed in Minkaman Spontaneous Settlement, 339 in Akobo Town, 327 in Bor Town, 125 in Bor PoC, 21 in Pibor Town, five in Nyal and one in Bentiu PoC.

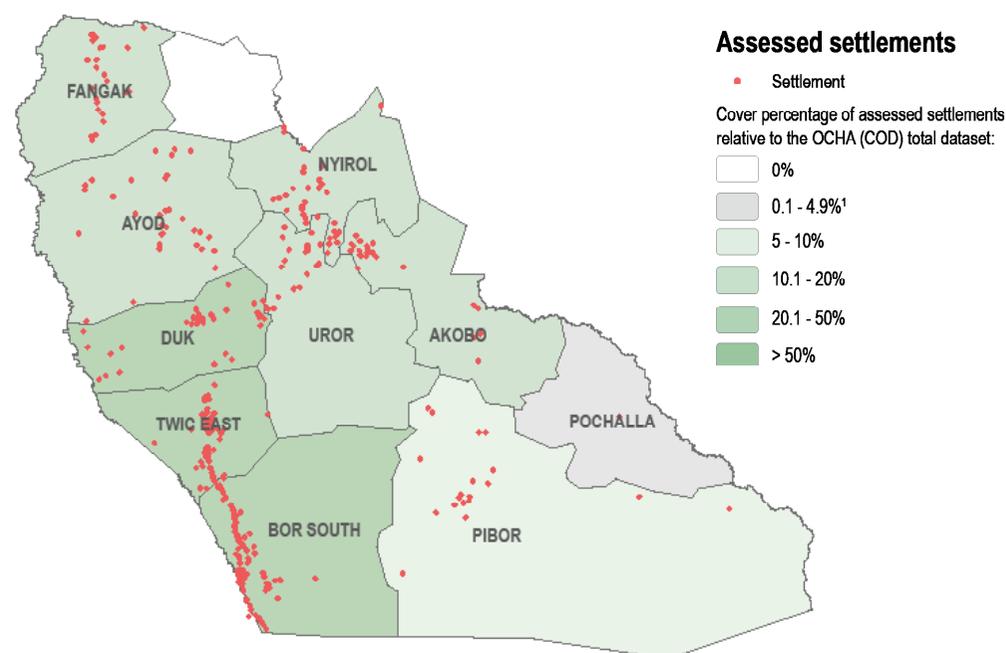
New arrivals represented 31% of KIs interviewed during data collection. New

arrivals are specifically targeted during the data collection phase to ensure a better understanding of current displacement dynamics, and to provide up-to-date information on current humanitarian conditions in the settlements from which they had been displaced. The remaining KIs (69%) reported to have been in regular contact with someone living in the settlement within the last month.

Interviews were triangulated with 15 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted during March. These included: a) four FGDs conducted with new arrivals displaced from Nyirol and Uror Counties in Akobo Town, and three with KIs who had been in contact with populations who recently fled from Uror and Nyirol Counties in Bor PoC, b) five FGDs with new arrivals from Yei in Bor Town and c) three FGDs with refugees returning from Uganda to Minkaman Informal Settlement. In addition to discussions about displacement dynamics, FGDs involved a participatory mapping exercise to understand the routes that new arrivals took in coming to their respective arrival destinations. Livelihoods (8) and coping strategy (6) FGDs were also conducted with KIs from Ayod, Duk and Twic East, in Bor Town, as well as with new arrivals from Uror in Akobo Town.

From 29 to 31 March, REACH also conducted an assessment in Pibor Town, involving: 1) four FGDs on displacement with returnees to

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Jonglei State, March 2017



Jonglei, 2) two FGDs on displacement within Jonglei and 3) two FGDs conducted with the local community on livelihood activities, which was also included in the triangulation of information.

This Situation Overview provides an update to key findings from the February Situation Overview for Jonglei State.<sup>1</sup> The first section of this overview analyses displacement and population movement in Jonglei State during

March, with the second section evaluating access to food and basic services for both IDPs and non-displaced communities.

## Population Movement and Displacement

In March 2017, political divisions between SPLA-controlled areas to the west in the surrounding areas of Bor, SPLA-IO-controlled

<sup>1</sup> Due to a change in methodology from community- to settlement-level analysis, the numbers in this report are not directly comparable with those of Situation Overviews from pre-December 2016. REACH used to aggregate and analyse data at the community, or sub-clan, level. As of December 2016, data is analysed at the settlement, or village, level.

## 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 receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”. Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Mingkaman Spontaneous Settlement, Bor and Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites, Bor Town, Akobo Town, Pibor Town, as well as in Nyal, throughout March 2017.

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.

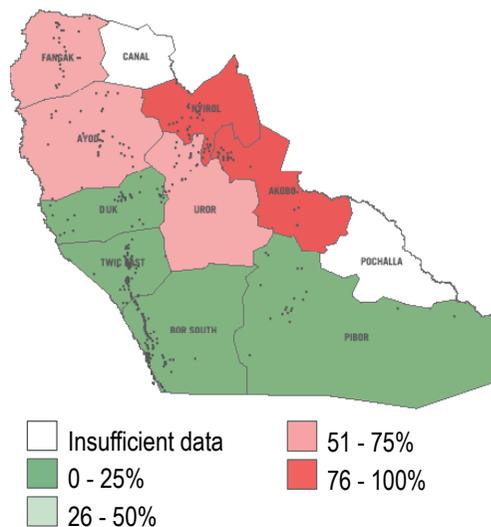
After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

It must be noted that this represents a **change in methodology as of December 2016**, as REACH previously analysed data at the community level. This means that **this report is not directly comparable with Situation Overviews from before December 2016**.

areas to the east, and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area in the Murle and Anuyak dominated southeast have become increasingly tense. Fightings reportedly broke out between armed actors a) in Pigil area in Ayod<sup>2</sup> and b) around Yuai in Uror, in early and mid-March respectively. Additionally, inter-communal fighting reported in mid-March in Kochar, Pibor, resulting in burnings of settlements, looting of livestock and child abductions, have raised tensions between communities.<sup>3</sup> Fears of inter-communal attacks, as well as by armed groups led to the fleeing of civilians in Twic East County to its centre (Panyagor Town), and population displacements from Ayod, Nyirol and Uror Counties within Ayod and Greater Akobo (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo). These armed clashes and tensions across the state resulted in a similar level of deterioration of security conditions in comparison to February.

As in previous months, continued displacement remained a key concern in March. Of the 99% of settlements assessed indicating that at least some of their local community population had been displaced, 61% reported a population decrease of 50% or more. This reflects a slight decrease in de-population across Western Jonglei (Bor South, Duk and Twic East) in comparison to February (70%), which, however, still reported the highest levels of de-population across the State. In Greater Akobo, two per cent of assessed settlements have reported that the local community decreased by 50% or more, similar to 3% of assessed settlements in February.

Consistent with the marginal decrease in

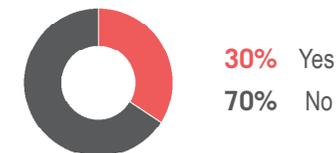


**Map 2: Percentage of settlements reporting presence of IDPs, March 2017**

displacement in parts of Jonglei, the overall number of settlements assessed reporting the presence of IDPs in their area has decreased from 34% in February to 30% in March, as illustrated in Figure 1. This may be attributable to a combination of fluctuations in the number of IDPs hosted in Northern Jonglei (Ayod and Fangak) settlements due to conflict, and fewer settlements in Western Jonglei indicating that they hosted IDPs, reported at 3% in March, compared to 5% in February.

**In counties affected by conflict or in proximity to clashes, the proportion of settlements assessed reportedly hosting IDPs has increased in March.** Parts of Greater Akobo (Nyirol and Akobo) continued to host the largest number of the displaced population in Jonglei, with 95% of settlements assessed there reporting the presence of IDPs

**Figure 1: Percentage of settlements assessed hosting IDPs, March 2017**



in March, compared to 78% in February. This increase could be linked to clashes and increased tensions in Uror, as the majority of the displaced reportedly fled to safer areas within Greater Akobo. As illustrated in Map 2, Ayod, Fangak and Uror still have a high presence of IDPs, as reported clashes within Ayod and Uror displaced some populations to neighbouring Fangak and Nyirol, whilst others went to safer parts of the county. IDPs from Uror also made their way to Duk, which hosted 24% of IDPs in March compared to 10% in February.

**Despite the ongoing tensions and conflict in Jonglei, settlements have reported returnees in March.** Twenty-three assessed settlements (13%) indicated that local community members have returned in February and March, similar to assessed 19 settlements (14%) reporting during January and February. Greater Akobo remained the main arrival destination for returnees during February and March, followed by Duk and Nyirol. Ayod and Fangak, have had no recorded returnees since December 2016.

Overall, these findings suggest that recent clashes in central and northern Jonglei may have led to increased displacement within Jonglei. Whilst depopulation remained high

<sup>2</sup> OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Bulletin 5, 28 March 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

in Western Jonglei, parts of Greater Akobo continued to serve as destination for IDPs displaced by recent fighting.

The following sections provide a more detailed overview of displacement to, within and from Jonglei. However, it is likely that recorded movement does not reflect the full extent of ongoing displacement in Jonglei in March.

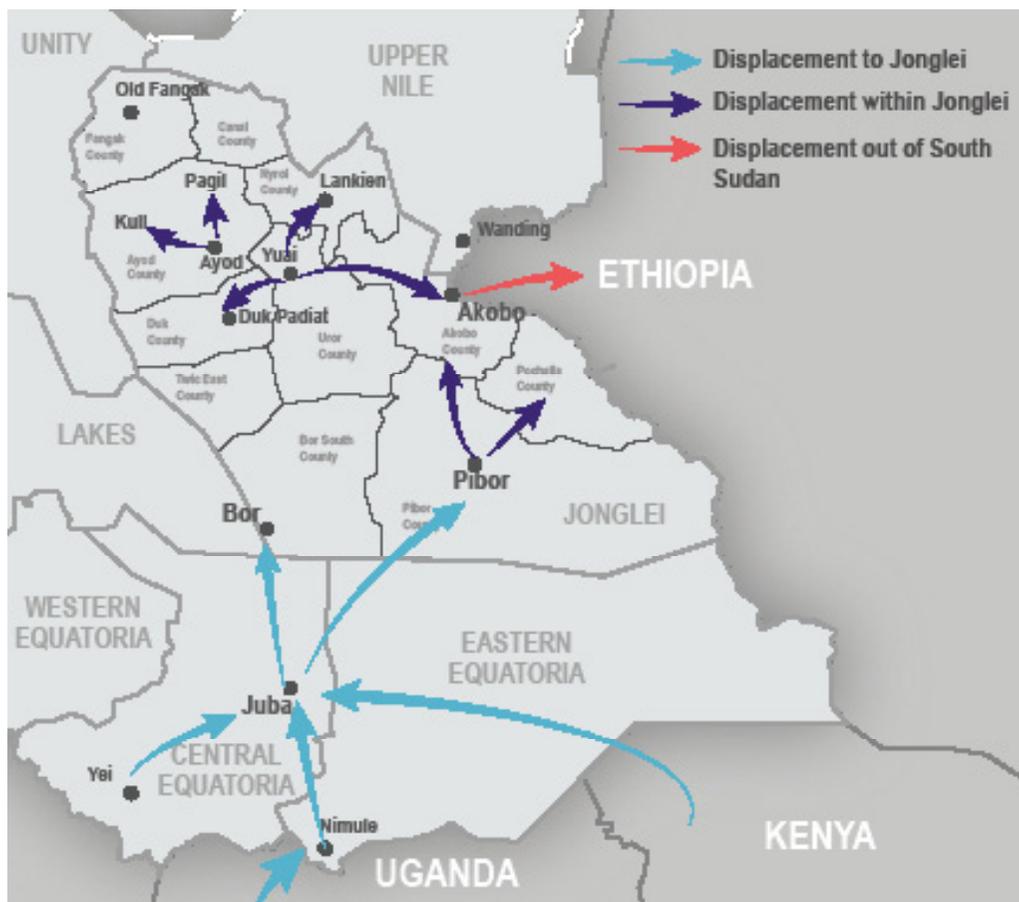
### Displacement to Jonglei

#### New arrivals from the Equatorias and returnees from Uganda to Bor

In March, Bor Town continued to receive IDPs displaced from the Equatorias, in particular Yei and populations returning from refugee settlements in Uganda.

Those returning from the Equatorias are originally from Jonglei, and were residing in key towns in the Equatorias since the crisis in 2013. These new arrivals had moved from Yei to Bor as a result of clashes that have affected Yei since July 2016. Most arrivals interviewed in March reported that they used commercial vehicles and received government-facilitated escort whilst moving from Yei to Juba. FGD respondents from Yei perceive that in Bor Town they will have better access to food, security and basic services. For more background information on displacement from Yei to Bor, please refer to the October and January Situation Overviews.<sup>5</sup>

Following the February trend, there were also reports of continued inflows of displaced populations from Juba and Nimule to Bor Town. However, REACH was not able to assess the movement in March through FGDs or



Map 3: Displacement Overview Jonglei State, March 2017

interviews.

Based on regular visits by REACH to sites in Bor Town where IDPs have settled, as well as the continuous inflow of new arrivals, a conservative estimate would suggest that the number of IDPs from the Equatorias in Bor Town is likely to have been around 12,000-15,000 individuals at the end of March.

REACH teams noted in March, and for the second month in a row, South Sudanese,

originally from Bor, returning from the Ayieli and Kiryandongo refugee settlements in Uganda. Returnees, cited a lack of food and education as primary reasons for leaving the refugee settlements. Interviewed KIs passed through Nimule and Juba before settling in Bor. Despite the provision of assistance by local communities, in terms of food and shelter, FGD respondents highlighted that further assistance is needed in terms of shelter material and medical supplies. **Overall, in addition to the**

already steady movement of populations from Yei to Bor, there seems to be an increasing trend of people returning from Ugandan refugee settlements in need of immediate assistance.

#### Movement from Kenyan and Ugandan refugee settlements to Pibor

A REACH assessment conducted in Pibor during March found that, according to local authorities, 7,160 individuals originally from Jonglei but living in refugee settlements in Uganda and refugee camps in Kenya, have returned to Pibor. These returns started in November 2016, with a large portion of returnees arriving from January onward; a slowing down trend was experienced in March due to insecurity on the Juba-Pibor road. Those from Uganda travelled from Bidibidi settlement passing through Nimule and then Juba to Pibor Town, whilst those from Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya travelled firstly to Torit in Eastern Equatoria State, and passed Juba on their way to Pibor.

Returnees have cited the signing of a local level peace agreement last January and the perceived safety of the region as one of the main reasons for moving back. The second reason provided was their inability to afford school fees in refugee settlements. Most FGD participants from Uganda reportedly intend to stay in Pibor as it is their ancestral home; alternatively, the ones from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya indicated planning to go back to Kenya whenever resources are available. With the anticipation of new arrivals, and given the food access constraints in the county, humanitarian actors in Pibor should

5 REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, October 2016 and January 2017.

6 OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2017.

plan assistance accordingly.

## Displacement within Jonglei

### Displacement from Urur, Nyirol and rural Akobo

As previously noted, clashes in Urur, Nyirol and Ayod displaced thousands of people who moved to Lankien, Akobo and Duk in March.<sup>6</sup> Following the Yuai fighting, REACH conducted FGDs with new arrivals in Akobo Town coming from Yuai and KIs in Bor PoC, who are in contact with people in Yuai. Most IDPs are arriving

#### Returned South Sudanese refugees in Mingkaman Informal Settlement

In March, REACH teams in Mingkaman Informal Settlement in Lakes State, continued to witness the arrival of South Sudanese refugees returning from refugee settlements in Uganda. The returning populations, who are originally from Jonglei, had left Ayilo, Nyamazi and Rhino settlement camps due to worsening settlement conditions, a lack of food, and crime related insecurities. FGD participants highlighted that they chose Mingkaman specifically for its perceived safety and humanitarian services, such as health, education and in particular the General Food Distribution (GFD). As returnees are mostly dependent on the other IDPs from Jonglei for food and shelter, FGD participants cited access to food, shelter and NFIs as most immediate needs.

in Akobo by foot, while a smaller number of them are using commercial vehicles. KIs and FGD participants reported that the route being used is the road from Yuai through Mwot Tot, Waat, Walgak, Kaikuiny, and then reaching Akobo East. The route described by FGD participants coming from Yuai can account for the influx of IDPs hosted particularly in Nyirol and Akobo, as mentioned earlier. New arrivals in Akobo explained that the cost of travelling by commercial vehicle is expensive for families and when walking, they face challenges such as a lack of water available between Kaikuiny and Akobo, as well as being at risk of intercommunal attacks. Despite these challenges, many IDPs from Waat and Walgak have cited anticipated attacks as a reason for leaving their homes.

**Along with those initially displaced from Yuai, the majority of these IDPs fled east towards Akobo Town, where reportedly between 10,000 and 30,000 IDPs arrived.**<sup>7</sup> Other IDPs, estimated to be around 5,000 individuals, fled west into government-controlled Duk county, whilst a third group, around 5,000 individuals, headed north to Lankien in Nyirol county.<sup>8</sup> FGD participants indicated that movement was necessary due to personal insecurity, food and water shortages, all factors that made Akobo a perceived secure destination for IDPs.

Due to the larger presence of humanitarian actors in Akobo as compared to Waat, Walgak and Kuikuiny during March, it was a favourable destination for IDPs seeking food security, as it has a functioning market as well as monthly

GFDs. Provision of healthcare, education for children as well as an exit port to Ethiopia were reasons provided by FGD participants for choosing to come to Akobo.

Overall, with this influx of IDPs in Akobo, additional pressure is put on resources such as food and healthcare. Humanitarian response should anticipate the greater need for food and NFI distributions.

### Displacement in Ayod

In March, due to ongoing clashes as well as food insecurity in Ayod, **large population movement was seen within Ayod toward the Jiech and Pagil Payams, whilst others sought to move closer to the swamps, particularly Nyod and Kull.** IDPs moving to the swamps did so to have greater access to water, fish as well as protection. Some communities west of Ayod, such as Wau, where reported clashes had occurred, are completely depopulated. IDPs are also reportedly moving to Greater Akobo, which they perceive to have better access to food and basic services.

The situation in terms of food and healthcare in Ayod according to FGD participants has deteriorated as people are being further displaced, and access to clean drinking water remained a key issue, with a two-day wait at boreholes. In addition, KIs have reported that wild fruits have become scarce and that fish is not in abundance.

Access to healthcare has decreased from 30% in February to 17% in March, with 60% of respondents citing malaria as the leading cause

for disease. FGD participants have indicated that, with the displacement toward the swamps, populations do not have preventive measures such as mosquito nets. In addition, there are no boreholes or health centres and defecation into water sources are prevalent in swamps, which may also increase the risk of contracting cholera. Being aware of these factors are important, as there is an ongoing cholera alert in Ayod.<sup>9</sup> Humanitarian actors are encouraged to focus attention on preventative health measures, sanitation as well as food assistance in Ayod.

### Displacement within Pibor and from Pibor to Pochalla

In March, REACH has found seasonal movements in Pibor county, as pastoral populations come from Labarab, Gumuruk and Liakuangole into Pibor Town, due to water shortages, as swamps and rivers have dried up during the dry season. Pastoral movements<sup>10</sup> were also seen toward Gwom Swamps and Obwodi Boma in Pochalla County, resulting in the displacement of Pibor local communities into Pochalla.

Food insecurity reportedly linked to drought has increased displacement, as only 6% of assessed settlements reportedly had access to food in Pibor County during March 2017. New arrivals from Pibor were interviewed in Akobo Town during March, which may indicate some movement further north to Akobo where assessed settlements have more access to food (71%). Alternatively, there is an increasing reliance on coping strategies such as eating wild animals for food in Pibor Town.

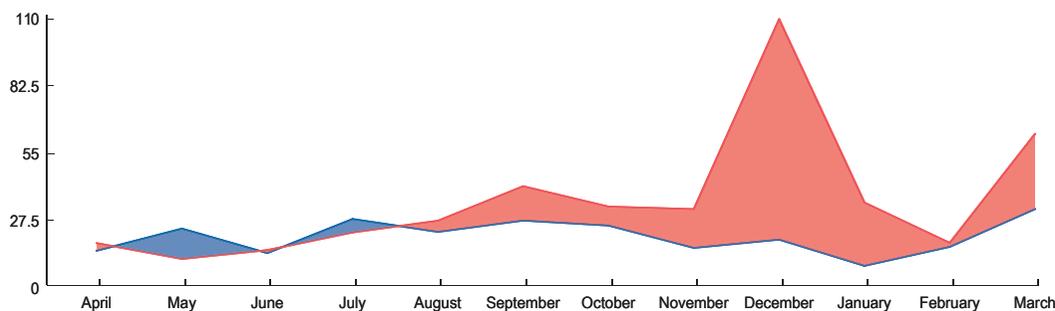
Reported cases of cattle raiding in Nanam,

7 OCHA South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2017.

8 Ibid.

9 Situation Report #111 on Cholera in South Sudan, 27 March 2017.

10 Pastoral movement refer to movement of cattle herders in order for cattle to graze.



**Graph 1: Average daily movement trends of people permanently leaving for Ethiopia (red) and people permanently returning (blue) via Akobo Town; April 2016 to March 2017.**<sup>13</sup>

Manyobal and Kochar have been sources of intercommunal conflict in March, further contributing to displacement from Pibor. **Due to both seasonal as well as conflict related displacement in Pibor, food provision in the county should be a priority focus for humanitarian actors.**

### Displacement out of South Sudan

REACH Port Monitoring in Akobo Town, which tracks movement of South Sudanese heading to and returning from Ethiopian refugee camps in Gambella, found that displacement from Jonglei to neighbouring Ethiopia has increased in March.<sup>11</sup> There was a large increase in the net outflows of South Sudanese permanently leaving the country to Ethiopia, rising from an average of 17 individuals per day in February to an average of 62 individuals per day in March, as illustrated in Graph 1.<sup>12</sup>

The rise in outflows to Ethiopia are attributed to the increased movement from within Jonglei (Greater Akobo) and Upper Nile to Akobo Town, placing strain on available services and resources for both the local community and

IDPs. During March, a lack of education services was the primary determinant cited for those individuals permanently leaving to Ethiopia.<sup>12</sup> The increase in departures can also likely be attributed to the UNHCR refugee registration that took place in March in Gambella, Ethiopia, which was not available in February.<sup>14</sup>

Net inflows from Ethiopia to Akobo Town increased from an average of 16 individuals per day to an average of 31 individuals per day during March.<sup>15</sup> Returnees' primary reasons for returning included the need for ration cards, access to jobs as well as personal security concerns linked to the distance between the border crossing and the refugee camps and registration ending by mid-March.

## Situation in Assessed Communities

### Food Security

#### Access to Food

**In March, access to food was the lowest recorded by REACH to date, as only 35%**

**of assessed settlements reported access to adequate amounts of food,** lower than the 39% access reported in February. Jonglei continues to witness a negative trend of declining food access since October 2016.

Food access remained particularly low along the Bor South-Fangak Corridor. In March, 10% of assessed settlements reported access to adequate food in Duk, as compared to 5% in February. Similarly, in Twic East 19% of assessed settlements reported no adequate access to food as compared to 17% in February. In Ayod and Fangak, there was also a negative trend in access to food, with 28% of assessed settlements in Ayod reporting access, a decrease from February (50%). In Fangak, access to food was reported by 25% of settlements as compared to 43% in February. An increase in access to adequate food can be seen in Bor South, reporting an increase from 22% in February to 42% in March.

In Eastern Jonglei, a trend of declining food security has been seen in March. The most significant decline was in Uror, as access to food decreased from 81% in February to 30% of assessed settlements in March, which may have been affected by clashes around Yuai

**Figure 2: Top three reported reasons for inadequate food access, March 2017**<sup>16</sup>

1	Unsafe to plant	69%	<div style="width: 69%;"></div>
2	Food distributions stopped	45%	<div style="width: 45%;"></div>
3	Animals looted	29%	<div style="width: 29%;"></div>

and a decrease in food provision by NGOs. Whereas, despite rising instability, Nyirol reported a consistent 78% over the past two months. In the same line, access to food by assessed settlements in Akobo remained high (71%), although it has decreased from February (83%). As people move from other parts of Greater Akobo to Akobo, it is important for food actors to anticipate the rise in food needs in destinations of departure but also of arrival.

Sixty-nine per cent of settlements without adequate access to food cited that it was primarily because it was unsafe to plant, which is likely reflective of the conflict level. Insecurity may also play a role in the halting of food distributions in 45% of assessed settlements, as beyond cultivation, the primary source of food in Jonglei is food distributions (29%).

Continued deterioration of access to food has resulted in communities reporting increasingly extreme coping strategies. In March, 39% of assessed settlements reported limiting meal sizes and 32% gathered wild foods as a means to cope with food shortages; this is consistent with coping mechanisms being reported by FGD participants. These findings suggest that resilience has been severely eroded, highlighting a need for a scale-up of emergency food assistance in locations with inadequate access to food.

Due to a multitude of factors including fighting in the region, destroyed crops as well as livestock looting, the state is currently experiencing a food crisis (IPC Phase 3) in all areas except Akobo and Bor South, which are

11 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, March 2017.

12 Ibid.

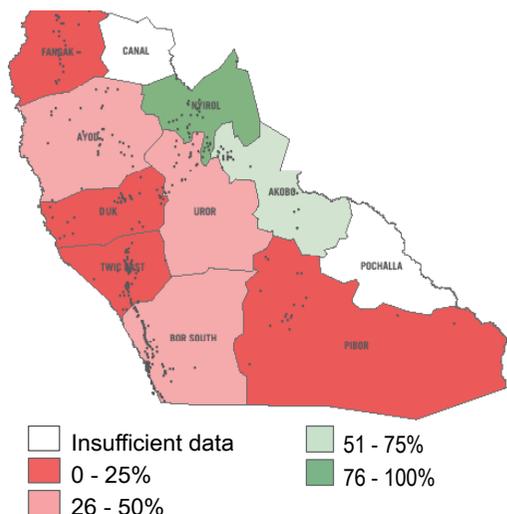
13 Ibid.

14 UNHCR South Sudan Situation: Ethiopia Update, March 2017.

15 REACH: South Sudan Displacement Crisis – Akobo Port Monitoring, March 2017.

16 Rank three reasons adequate food is not available.

17 FEWS NET: Food Security Outlook February to September 2017.



**Map 4: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting access to adequate amounts of food, March 2017**

at IPC Phase 2.<sup>17</sup> This condition is worsened by the insufficient availability of food in markets and low purchasing power of assessed communities.

### Livelihoods

In March, land was available in 90% of assessed settlements, a decreasing rate in comparison to February (98%), whilst the availability of agricultural means, such as tools and seeds available increased from 30% of assessed settlements in February to 41% in March. Cultivation and cattle rearing are the two main sources of livelihood activities in Jonglei. The displaced FGD participants and reports from 39% of settlements indicate that farming tools and assets in the community have been looted or abandoned, hindering their livelihood activities. Access to livestock was reported by

79% of assessed settlements, with ownership reported by 67% of settlements. Similarly to February, 15% of assessed settlements cited selling livestock, which negatively impacts access to livestock products, and could over time deplete populations' asset bases.

Income earning opportunities are further restricted by the low availability of casual jobs, as reported by 12% of assessed settlements. Whilst 60% of assessed settlements reported having access to a functioning market and another 76% living in a proximity of such a market (less than one-hour away), only 11% of settlements relied on markets as their primary food source. Given the low incomes as well as reportedly increased prices of common goods such as sorghum, oil and sugar in the majority of settlements in March, buying food from the market may not be sustainable due to the low purchasing power of individuals.

In response to these negative livelihood trends, numerous coping strategies aiming at improving resource capacity were reported by assessed settlements, such as buying less expensive food (35%) and borrowing money (33%), which has increased from 31% and 16% of assessed settlements respectively in March.

### Food Security Outlook

**Overall, food access and livelihood trends in March have continued to deteriorate, being the lowest recorded since REACH started comparable AoK data collection in September 2016.** According to FEWS NET, most counties assessed by REACH in Jonglei are currently classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3).<sup>18</sup>

However, as a result of anticipated increased displacement, ongoing localized insecurity as well as the progression of the lean season, **Duk, Ayod, Fangak and Pigi are projected to deteriorate to Emergency (Phase 4) between February and May.**<sup>19</sup> According to REACH data, the food security situations in Twic East and Uror also remained of concern, with 81% of settlements assessed in Twic East and 70% in Uror reporting no adequate access to food in March. Similar figures had been reported in Twic East in previous months.

**Overall, access to food remained consistently low across time in Duk and Twic East, whilst worsening in Ayod, Fangak and Uror, the latter of which is experiencing its worst food access levels in March. These findings suggest an urgent need for upscaling food distributions in Duk, Twic East, Ayod, Fangak and Uror.**

### WASH and Health

In March, 85% of assessed settlements reported access to safe drinking water, which has decreased from 94% in February. Access to boreholes was reported by 99% of assessed settlements, with most of them (93%) living under an hour away from water access points. The level of use of latrines remained the same

**Figure 3: Top three reported reasons for inadequate health access, March 2017**

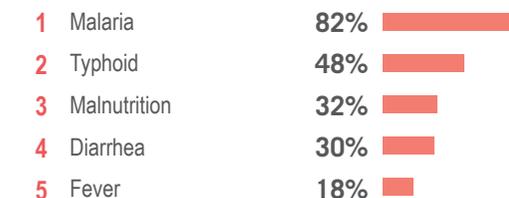


across February and March, with 73% of settlements reporting that none of the population in their village were using latrines, representing a negative trend in terms of sanitation since January (57%). Better sanitation conditions are essential to prevent contamination of food and water, which exacerbate the spread of diseases.

Access to healthcare facilities has been reported by 59% of settlements assessed during March, improving slightly from 57% in February. The reasons most reported for a lack of access to healthcare is that health facilities do not exist (71%), followed by a lack of staffing (32%) and lack of medicine (31%). Given the low access to health facilities in the Bor South-Fangak corridor, **health actors' interventions would need to prioritise Twic East, Duk and Ayod, as the assessed settlements there have reported that less than 25% of them have access to health facilities.**

Low healthcare access, coupled with poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, as well as a lack of access to safe water, have resulted in an ongoing cholera outbreak. Elsewhere in Jonglei, during the first week of March suspected cases of Cholera were reported

**Figure 4: Most commonly reported health concerns in assessed settlements, March 2017**



<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Republic of South Sudan - Ministry of Health: Situation Report #113 on Cholera in South Sudan, 24 March 2017.

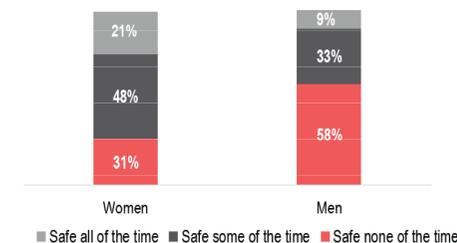
in Bor South.<sup>20</sup> Cumulatively, cases reported across Jonglei (Bor South, Duk, Fangak and Pigi), as of end of March, amounted to 638 cases.<sup>21</sup> An increase in population movements to islands in Ayod, Bor and Duk, coupled with an higher risks of flooding due to the upcoming rainy season, may lead to a rise of cholera cases due to further contamination of water sources and limitations to humanitarian access. Beyond providing access to clean water and sanitation facilities, continued **efforts in education on cholera prevention and identification of hotspots can enable a timely response by health and humanitarian actors.**

Furthermore, in March, malaria was the most commonly reported health problem by 82% of the assessed settlements, followed by typhoid (48%) and malnutrition (32%), as seen in Figure 4. Given that common diseases such as malaria and typhoid are anticipated to spread during the upcoming rainy season, health actors should focus on increasing healthcare service provision, including the delivery of drugs to prevent a further deterioration in health conditions. The need for drugs was reported by 93% of assessed settlements, followed by the need for malaria medication by 74%. Geographically, interventions should prioritize the Bor South-Fangak corridor where access levels were the lowest.

### Protection

As clashes continue and tensions are increasing in Jonglei, availability of physical protection reported by assessed settlements has decreased from 85% in February to 76% in March. Primarily, protection is provided by

**Figure 5: Percentage of settlements reporting feeling of safety by gender and period of day, March 2017**



the local communities as reported by 47% of the assessed settlements. In Bor South (76%) this could be due to inter-communal violence, and in Ayod (55%) and Urur (55%) because of increased conflict.

As had been the case in February, protection trends continue to deteriorate, with a majority of assessed settlements (58%) reporting that men feel unsafe both during the day and at night. For women, 31% of assessed settlements reported that women feel unsafe all the time as compared to 27% in February. The main protection concern for both men and women was a fear of being killed or injured by another community, as indicated by 78% for men and 61% for women in assessed settlements. The increase in women and men feeling unsafe is likely linked to clashes in Ayod and Urur, where the proportion of settlements reporting this concern in Ayod increased from 83% in February to 94% in March and in Urur from 56% to 100%.

For women, sexual violence was cited as the second most common protection issue, reported by 14% of assessed settlements in

March. Sexual violence reportedly decreased from 23% of assessed settlements in February, but remained equally high in counties such as Urur (85%) and Nyirol (33%), reflecting the vulnerabilities of those fleeing the fighting that took place in Greater Akobo.

Similar to February, child abductions continued to rise from 65% of assessed settlements to 67% and remained the main protection issue for children. In Nyirol, child abductions in March were reported at 41% of assessed settlements as compared to 28% in February, which can be attributed to increased intercommunal violence, and, according to FGD participants, insecurity on the route from Urur to Akobo. Indicative of the influence of increased clashes, five settlements reported that children were recruited by force in Ayod, as compared to two settlements in February.

**Overall, in March a combination of renewed conflict and the anticipation of further clashes has had a negative impact on protection concerns for men, women and children alike.**

### Shelter

**In March, findings indicate an overall improvement in IDP shelter conditions.** IDP hosting settlements reported that in their settlement, displaced populations lived mainly in rakooba (75%) and tukuls (53%), similarly to findings in February of 74% and 39% respectively. This increase, may be attributed to communities making improvements to permanent shelters before the rainy season begins in April/May.

Sixty-seven per cent of assessed settlements reported that IDPs were sharing shelters with the local community more than half of the time. An improvement in IDP living conditions within local communities can be seen as assessed settlements reported that improvised housing for IDPs is 25% in March, decreasing from 31% improvised shelter in February and 55% in January.<sup>22</sup>

For the local community the most frequently cited shelter type was the tukul (90%) and the rakooba (85%), similar to what was reported by assessed settlements in February. More information on shelter trends is available in the December 2016 Situation Overview.<sup>23</sup>

### Education

**In March, 52% of settlements assessed reported having access to educational services, indicating a slight decrease as compared to February (56%).** As shown in Map 5, counties in more conflict-affected Western (Ayod), Northern (Fangak) and South Eastern (Pibor) Jonglei reported the lowest access levels to education. In Ayod, access to education decreased from 36% to 9% in March; main reasons cited included a lack of facilities as well as teachers not working.

**Figure 6: Top two reported shelter types used by IDPs, March 2017<sup>24</sup>**



**Figure 7: Top two reported shelter types used by local community, March 2017**

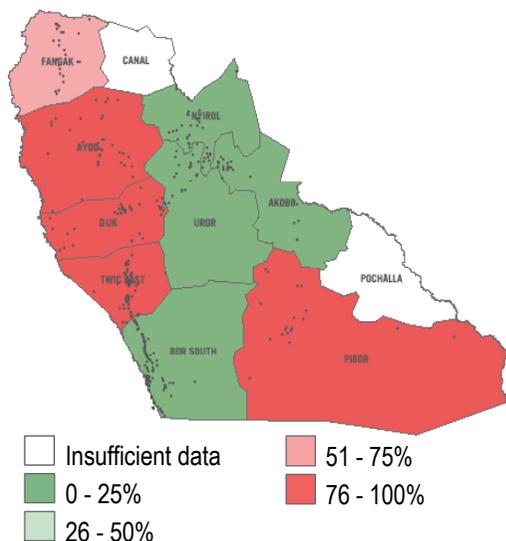


<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, February 2017.

<sup>23</sup> REACH: Situation Overview Jonglei State, December 2016.

<sup>24</sup> Key informants could choose more than one answer; responses refer to percentage of settlements having a reported shelter type, not the percentage of the population living in them.



**Map 5: Percentage of assessed settlements reporting lack of access to education, March** Greater Akobo (Uror, Nyirol and Akobo) continued to have the highest rates of access to education, which may be linked to the strong education-related NGO support received in the region. However, in March, 50% of assessed settlements reported that children were not accessing schools due to a lack of teachers (50%). A lack of access to education was also cited by 35% of those leaving Akobo for Ethiopia.<sup>2</sup> This declining trend in access is expected to continue in the coming months as education actors have stopped their support activities in Akobo during February. The absence of support activities may increase displacement to Ethiopia as primary schools in Akobo are no longer staffed.

Overall, in Jonglei, the lack of access to

education could be linked to 58% of assessed settlements reporting that facilities never existed. **Education actors should support the rehabilitation and construction of schools, particularly in Western Jonglei, whereas in Greater Akobo, actors should explore alternative ways to provide schooling support to local and IDP communities.**

## Conclusion

Armed clashes in Northern and Central Jonglei, as well as inter-community tensions in Southern Jonglei, negatively affected displacement trends and humanitarian needs in March.

### Displacement Overview

Continued displacement into Jonglei, in particular to Bor Town, as well as internal displacement within Jonglei, specifically in Greater Akobo, is placing additional pressure on resources in IDP receiving communities perceived as stable, such as Akobo, Duk and parts of Nyirol. With the rainy season approaching, **there is a need for increased assistance from humanitarian actors to help respond to the needs of displaced populations in IDP hosting towns** as well as communities in close proximity to fighting.

As a result of increased instability, **outflows of South Sudanese seeking safety and humanitarian assistance in refugee camps in Ethiopia have increased** considerably in March. In the coming weeks, further anticipated population inflows into Akobo Town could result in additional secondary displacement to Ethiopia, which would require an up-scaled

humanitarian response in camps in Gambella.

### Priority needs and geographic targeting of response

Food insecurity has remained at critically high levels in March, with 65% of settlements assessed reporting no adequate access to food, representing a continued deterioration since February. Efforts by humanitarian actors to **scale-up the scope of emergency food assistance need to be targeting the worst affected counties of Duk, Twic East, Pibor and Fangak** to prevent further declines in food access in the lean season. In light of rapidly deteriorating food access levels in Uror, which are likely a reflection of ongoing conflict in the county, humanitarian actors need to provide increased food assistance to displaced and local communities in this area.

With the next planting season approaching in April/May, there is also a need for provision of agricultural tools and seeds to support longer-term livelihood activities. However, given that many areas are considered unsafe for planting, such interventions will need to focus on the small pockets of safer areas where insecurity does not prevent cultivation.

In response to the **ongoing cholera outbreak, affecting populations in Jonglei**, WASH and Health sector actors should **prioritize improving access to latrines and clean water**, as ongoing transmission is likely to be related to contamination of drinking water sources.

Areas currently affected by conflict from which

many populations have fled, such as Ayod and Uror, saw a **deterioration in protection trends**. If clashes are to continue, occurrences of sexual violence in areas where clashes are taking place, including Uror and Nyirol, should be closely monitored by humanitarian actors.

As a result of high food insecurity levels, ongoing cholera as well as general low access to services, **overall humanitarian needs appeared to be most severe along the Bor South-Fangak corridor**. However, **in Greater Akobo, increased clashes and decreased humanitarian access also raise great concerns**, in particular in light of increased displacement. Ensuring access for humanitarian actors to assist conflict- and displacement affected populations, both in the immediate and in the long-term, will be critical in responding to population needs in Jonglei.

### 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](mailto:southsudan@reach-initiative.org) or to our global office: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).

Visit [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org) and follow us @REACH\_info.