

Situation Overview: Unity State, South Sudan

June 2017

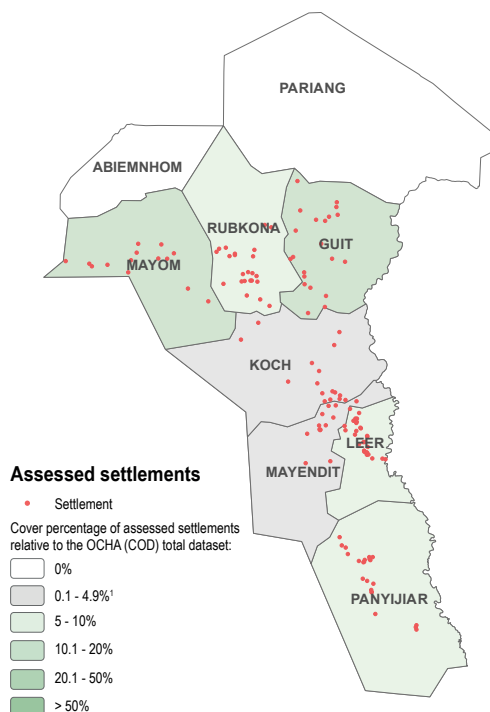
Introduction

Displacement trends, population needs and humanitarian access have all been negatively affected by the insecurity resulting from the ongoing conflict in Unity State, which began in July 2016.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH is conducting assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. The data is being collected through interviews on a monthly basis from communities across the Greater Upper Nile region, Greater Equatoria region and Western Bahr el Ghazal.

Between 9 and 27 June 2017, REACH interviewed a total of 214 Key Informants (KIs) in Bentiu PoC and Nyal. The KIs were from 139 settlements situated in 7 of the 9 counties in Unity State. The findings were triangulated through four focus group discussions (FGDs) conducted in Bentiu PoC and Nyal, secondary data and previous REACH assessments of hard-to-reach areas of Unity State.

Since 66% of the respondents interviewed had arrived at their formal displacement site within the last 30 days, they had up-to-date information about the village of former residence. This information, therefore, provides an accurate understanding of the current displacement and population dynamics. The



Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Unity State, June 2017

remaining 34% had recent information about certain villages through contact with someone (usually a relative) that is currently living there.

This Situation Overview focuses on changes in humanitarian needs observed since early 2017. The first section analyses displacement trends in June, and the second section evaluates the population dynamics in the assessed

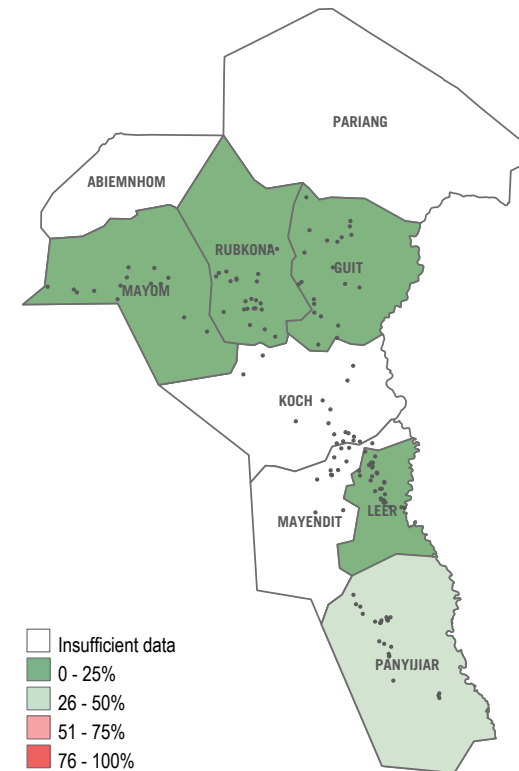
communities, as well as access to food and basic services for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and local communities.

It should be noted that not enough settlements in Mayendit and Koch were assessed in June to be able to report substantively on these counties. They have therefore been excluded from the maps but have been reported on in the descriptive analysis.

Population Movement and Displacement

Displacement within Unity State has overall decreased over the recent months. In June, 23% of assessed settlements reported presence of IDPs. This represented a decrease compared to May and April, when 39% and 33% of settlements assessed, respectively, indicated hosting IDPs. As shown by Map 2, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting IDP presence appears to be highest in southern Unity State. This is consistent with FGDs conducted in Nyal during which respondents described that armed attacks on settlements in Leer and Mayendit continued, forcing people to flee to the bush, to other settlements or to remote islands.

Further, movement to Bentiu PoC continued, at a similar pace to May. A total number of 816 entries to Bentiu PoC had been recorded by IOM movement trend tracking (comparable



Map 2: Proportion of settlements reporting an IDP presence, June 2017

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting IDP presence, June 2017



METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Unity 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” (AoK).

Information for this report was collected from key informants in the Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site and Nyal in Unity State throughout June 2017.

The first phase of the assessment methodology comprised a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant settlements in Unity 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**.

to 744 in May), which however represents a notable decrease since March when heavy fighting in Mayendit and Leer lead to renewed wave of displacement (2,180 new arrivals in March).¹ Similarly, movement to Nyal remained comparable to the preceding months; 792 new arrivals have been recorded in June, 972 in May and 761 in April. As has been described for trends in Bentiu PoC, this represents a marked decrease since March when 2,520 new arrivals had been recorded by REACH port monitoring.² New arrivals to Bentiu PoC and Nyal were mainly from central Unity State (Leer, Mayendit and Koch), reflective of persistent volatile security situation in these counties.

Overall, decrease in displacement is indicative of relative improvements in the security situation in parts of Unity State as well as improved access to food, which had continuously been cited as two main push and pull factors for displacement (see Figure 2).⁴

Figure 2: Top three reasons reported by new arrivals for leaving previous location, June 2017³

1. Insecurity	60%	
2. Lack of food	49%	→
3. Lack of health services	46%	

Figure 3: Top three reasons reported by new arrivals for coming to their current location, June 2017³

1. Security	64%	
2. Access to healthcare	52%	←
3. Access to food	48%	

Situation in Assessed Communities

Demographic profile

Remaining population in assessed villages

In line with displacement trends described above, depopulation of assessed settlements has decreased. In June, only 4% of assessed settlements reported that no member of the local community had remained in the settlement, compared to 9% in May and 13% in April. Yet, of the settlements assessed that reported at least some population remained in the village, two-third reported a population decrease of 50% or more, suggesting that overall depopulation remains pronounced in Unity State in June.

Indicative of improvements in security situation, less than 1% of assessed settlements reported that the majority of local community has been living in the bush in June, the lowest proportion recorded since AoK data collection began in December 2015. Furthermore, the majority (80%) of settlements with some population remaining reported that most of the local community continued to live in their normal residences, which is comparable to preceding months. Another 20% reported that most of the local community is currently living in another house within the same community.⁵

IDP population in assessed villages

Similar to preceding months, the gender distribution of IDPs remained unbalanced. Of

the 23% of assessed settlements reporting an IDP presence, 71% also reported that the majority or entirety of the IDP population is female. This uneven gender balance of IDP communities is a likely result of the conflict, as many boys and men have been forcefully recruited or killed by armed actors operating in Unity State. Women, children and elderly subsequently need to take over the livelihood tasks previously accomplished by men, such as for example fishing or cutting of trees.

Food security

In June, 58% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food which is comparable to the previous month (54%). This represents an overall improvement since February, when only 39% of assessed settlements reported being food secure. These improvements are likely attributable to the upscale in humanitarian assistance in parts of Unity State, in response to localized famine which had been declared in central Unity State in February.⁶ In its latest May update, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Technical Working group highlights that localized famine had been eradicated in central Unity State (Mayendit and Leer). However, an estimated 25,000 people were expected to be facing catastrophic conditions and extreme food gaps across Unity State at the time of writing this report.⁷

Food security developments in June suggest drastic regional shifts between north and south of Unity State, since February. Reported access to food notably increased in central

1 IOM, Bentiu PoC Site Profile, March 2017 to June 2017.

2 REACH, Nyal Port Monitoring, June 2017. These are indicative trends; REACH does not record all arrivals and departures.

3 Respondents could choose more than one option.

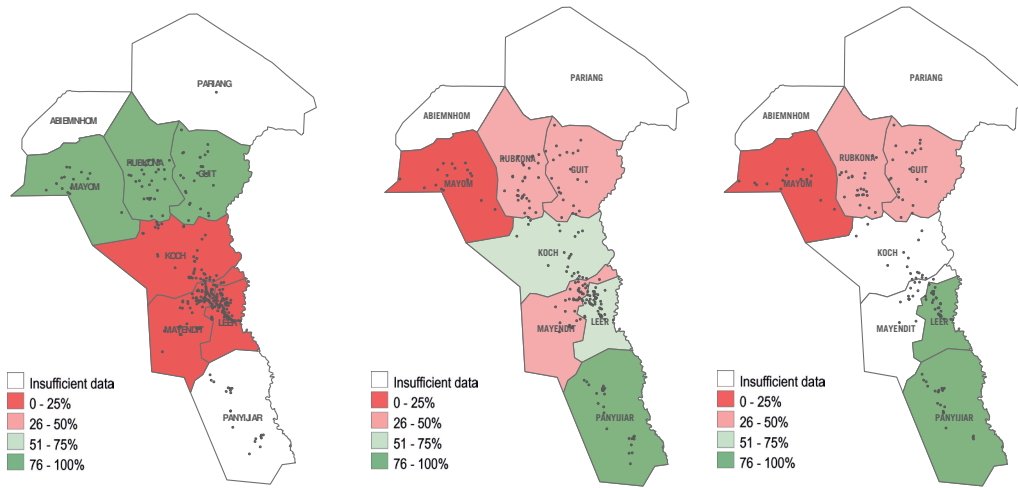
4 For more detailed information about movement and displacement, please refer to Situation Overview: Unity State, May 2017

5 Settlement aggregation has been applied to dataset starting from September data.

AoK data collected before September will therefore not be taken into consideration for comparative referencing.

6 IPC, Global Alert - South Sudan, February 2017.

7 IPC, Global Alert - South Sudan - June, 2017.



Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food, from left to right February, May and June 2017

and southern Unity State since February, as shown by comparative Map 3. In June, 80% of assessed settlements in Koch, Leer, Mayendit and Panyijar reported to have adequate access to food, which represents a sharp increase since February when only 25% reported the same. Improvements have been most notable in Leer where 97% of assessed settlement reported adequate access to food in June, compared to only 11% in February, while in Mayendit proportions increased from 25% in February up to 46% in June. These findings suggest that massive scale-up of food assistance has successfully lifted up food security levels in central Unity. However, these positive developments seem to be highly dependent on food assistance being maintained at the same levels, to prevent a relapse into previous conditions of extreme food insecurity. Regular food distributions and access to

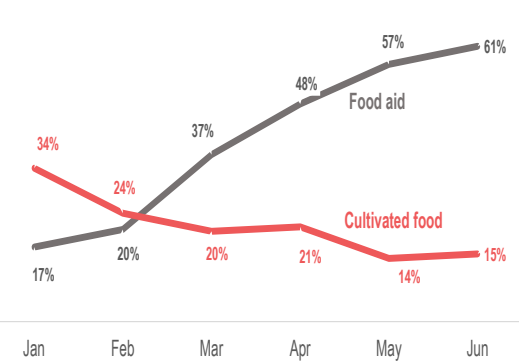
distributions by beneficiaries, however, heavily depend on security in the area which remains highly volatile and unpredictable. Deteriorating road conditions due to progression of the rainy season might further hamper regular distributions.

In contrast to developments in central and southern Unity, northern counties (Mayom, Guit and Rubkona) have seen a drastic deterioration of reported access to food since February. While 85% of assessed settlement reported adequate access to food in February only 29% reported the same in June. This is likely attributable to the progression of the lean season during which low food stocks have been rapidly exhausted, while at the same time food assistance had not been scaled up proportionally.

REACH data suggests that reliance on food aid across Unity State continued to increase. As shown by Figure 4, food aid has become primary food source in the large majority of the assessed settlements (61%), while cultivated food has decreased, due to exhaustion of food reserves from the last harvest. Likewise, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting foraged food as primary food source has decreased from 24% in March down to 11% in June. This is likely because water lily, which had been the most prevalent foraged food source during the preceding months, is now harder to find as water levels have risen with the onset of the rainy season. Reliance on food aid is thus likely to intensify with the progression of the lean season until this year's harvests, which are expected around October/November, will provide for new food stocks.

The IPC identified armed conflict, economic crisis, and below average harvests which have already been exhausted during this year's

Figure 4: Primary food source per proportion of assessed settlements, Jan-June 2017e, Jan-May



lean season to be the main reasons for severe food insecurity in 2017.⁸ This is consistent with AoK data in June (but reflects also information collected since AoK assessments began) which suggests that the outbreak of heavy fighting in July 2016 in most parts of Unity State, which lead to large-scale displacement and disruption of cultivation activities, has been the main reason for food insecurity, as cited by half of the assessed settlements. Second most commonly reported reason for low cultivation levels had been post-harvest losses caused by flooding, which was cited by 30% of assessed settlements, most of which were located in Mayom.

REACH further found that post-distribution losses continued to aggravate food insecurity, undermining humanitarian lifesaving assistance. Continuous reports of lootings on villages and along main travel routes from general food distributions to the villages remained pronounced during FGDs. Respondents explained that lootings on villages mostly happen directly after food or NFI distributions as criminal groups expect higher yields. To reduce losses during looting attacks, people reportedly resort to burying some of the distributed items or food rations in the ground, keeping only the short-term rations inside the shelter. Regular patrols along the main travel routes and inside the PoC during distribution periods could help mitigate the risk of looting attacks along the way.

As a result of severe food insecurity, all settlements reported that most people were

8 IPC, Global Alert - South Sudan - June, 2017.

using a number of concerning coping strategies to deal with the lack of food, including eating wild foods (23%), reducing the number of meals eaten in a day (64%) and skipping all meals in a day entirely (20%). All of those strategies are related to adapting food consumption as opposed to strategies related to increase of resource capacity. This indicates that other strategies to increase income capacity are completely depleted.

All of the above findings suggest that although access to food has improved in parts of Unity state, this development is largely a result of up-scale in humanitarian assistance, as capacities to produce food remain limited. To foster resilience, it would therefore be important, in parallel to food aid distributions, to support livelihood food-related activities and capacities.⁹

Livelihoods

As a likely reflection of economic crisis across Unity State, only 5% of assessed settlements reported community members to hold salaried positions, while 29% indicated that at least some members of community engage in casual labour work, as illustrated by Figure 5. Most cited livelihood activity conducted by parts of the community has been farming for sustenance, followed by livestock. Access to land and agricultural inputs are the therefore the two most essential elements to ensure local livelihoods.

Reported access to land for cultivation has

gradually improved over the last months from 61% of assessed settlements reporting access in December to 86% in June, likely due to improved security situation. Similarly, reported access to agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools, across Unity has increased over recent months; while in February only 38% of assessed settlements reported access to agricultural inputs, this proportion has increased to 70% of assessed settlements reporting the same in June. This improvement is likely attributable to the large up-scale in NFI and agricultural inputs distributions over the recent months.¹⁰ Despite these positive developments, 29% of assessed settlements still reported a lack of agricultural inputs like seeds and tools, while the rainy season - traditionally season for cultivation - started in May.

Last years' low cultivation levels caused by outbreak of conflict, as well as harvest losses due to flooding, have been a leading cause for severe food insecurity in 2017. To ensure higher

Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that at least some members of the community engage in livelihood activities, June 2017¹¹



Figure 6: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting lack of agricultural inputs, June 2017



production levels and to prevent repetition of severe food insecurity during next year's lean season, efforts to increase harvest levels through targeted distributions of agricultural inputs to stable high-land pockets as well as crop for work programmes could be supported. Until crops are ready for harvest, supplementary distribution of fishing kits in areas located close to the riverside or in the swamp could further immediately improve livelihoods.

Protection

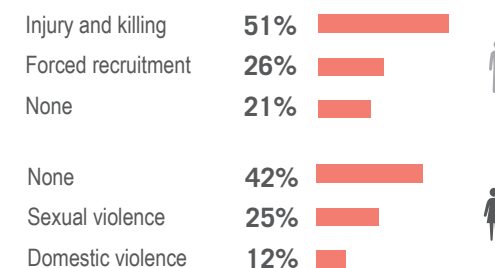
The security situation in Unity State remained volatile during the month of June, due to presence of armed actors - especially in central Unity State - and extensive forced recruitment in the northern counties of Unity. Despite improvements with regards to numbers of armed conflict-related clashes, only 31% of assessed settlements reported perceived physical protection to be available in June, which is comparable to May (39%). Such low proportions reporting perceived physical protection to be available seemed to indicate that high volatility makes resurgence of fighting unpredictable for most of the population. Furthermore, other major security threats such as looting attacks on settlements by armed

groups as well as cattle raiding continued to be reported as major security threats during FGDs.

In June, killing and injury had been most cited security concerns for men, as shown by Figure 7. Reflective of a volatile security situation in central Unity State, those concerns had been predominantly pronounced in Leer and Mayendit. Second most cited security concern for men had been forceful recruitment, especially in Rubkona and Guit. FGD participants explained that to avoid forced recruitment, men at age of recruitment resort to hiding in the bush during the daytime, when recruitment is most likely, and return to the villages to spend the night. It must further be noted, that extensive forced recruitment activities in northern Unity is increasingly affecting humanitarian operations; In June, several NGO staff members of different organisation had been forcefully recruited by armed actors which resulted in temporary disruption of activities.¹²

For women, the main security concern continued to be sexual violence, followed by domestic violence and looting. According to female FGD respondents, the risk of sexual

Figure 7: Most commonly cited protection concerns for men and women, June 2017



⁹ For more information on current food security trends, please refer to Situation Overview: Unity State, May and April 2017.

¹⁰ Logistics Cluster and WFP, Support to famine response, May, June 2017.

¹¹ Respondents could chose more than one answer.

¹² Bentiu ICWG meeting, June 2017.

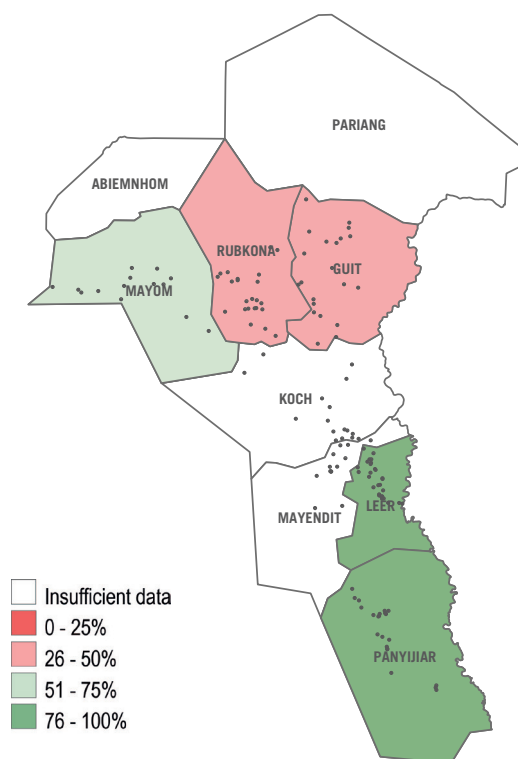
violence is highest during firewood collection, lootings on villages by armed actors, and during movement along displacement and food distributions routes. Medical and psychosocial support to treat and adequately support survivors of sexual and gender-based violence would be urgently needed.

Water and Sanitation

Access to safe drinking water remained low in June. Only 62% of assessed settlements reported access to clean water (usually a borehole), a proportion comparable to previous months (e.g. 57% in May). In the vast majority of these settlements (95%), the inhabitants were reportedly able to walk to the water source, fetch water and walk back in one hour or less.

Reasons for absence of safe drinking water sources varied. While some boreholes have stopped functioning over time, others reportedly got destroyed by armed actors to force people to move away from their settlements, as has been explained during FGDs. Those people without access to safe drinking water usually drink water directly from the river or - in places located distant from the riverside - from hand-dug wells.¹³ Such water sources, however, are often contaminated with parasites and bacteria, consumption of which can cause severe sickness and death. Construction and rehabilitation of boreholes is therefore urgently needed across Unity State, especially in Rubkona and Guit, where access to safe water had continuously been reported lowest.

For more information on WASH please refer to May Situation Overview.¹⁴



Map 4: Proportion of settlements reporting access to safe water, June 2017

Health

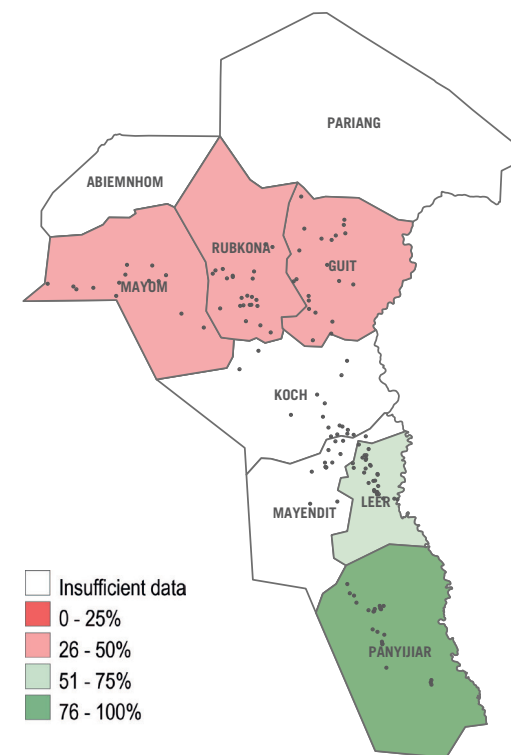
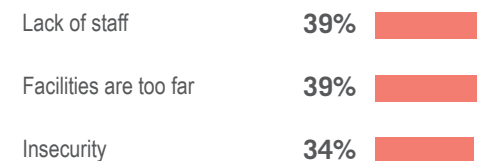
Access to health care services seems to have marginally increased since the beginning of the year, likely due to improvements in security situation in parts of Unity State, allowing for easier movement of patients and health care providers. In June, 54% of assessed settlements reported access to health care, which is comparable to the preceding month (58%) but represents a slight improvement since the beginning of the year (e.g. 43% in

January). Of the assessed settlements reporting access to health services, 65% reported that the service could be reached by walking in one hour or less. Reflective of poor or absent access, health care continued to be among the top three push factors for leaving the previous settlement (see displacement section).

As illustrated by Figure 8, the most commonly identified reasons for absence of health care services among assessed settlements that reported no access to health care services had been the lack of skilled medical staff and absence of facilities nearby the settlement, as cited by 39% of assessed settlements with no access for both reasons. Another reason for absence of health care services, as cited by 34% of assessed settlements with no access, had been general insecurity in the area which restricted movement. According to FGDs, those people without access to health care services either travel long distances for treatment, often carried on foot by family members, while others resort to traditional medicines such as leaves and roots to cure common diseases.

Similar to preceding months, most common health concern continued to be malaria, as indicated in 89% of the assessed settlements. Malaria had further been cited as most common

Figure 8: Three main reason that health is not accessible, June 2017¹⁵



Map 5: Proportion of settlements reporting access to health services, June 2017

cause of unnatural death in one-third of the assessed settlements (followed by conflict in 26% of assessed settlements), a proportion that has constantly increased since April. This increase is likely due to the onset of the rainy season, during which water-borne diseases are more likely to spread. Other commonly reported diseases include pneumonia, typhoid and diarrhoea. Such sicknesses and diseases are for the most part not deadly if treated on time.

13 Situation Overview: Unity State, May 2017.
 14 Situation Overview: Unity State, May 2017.
 15 Rank two most cited reasons normalized.

Figure 9: Most commonly reported health concerns in assessed settlements, June 2017¹⁶

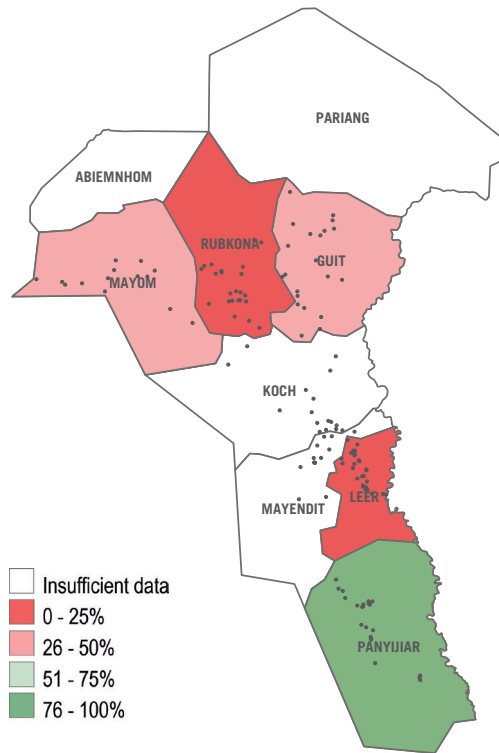
1	Malaria	89%
2	Peumonia	39%
3	Thyphoid	35%
4	Diarrhea	30%
5	Fever	21%

The scale-up of number of health centres and broader coverage through mobile clinics as well as drug supply (such as malaria medication and oral rehydration medication) is therefore essential to provide lifesaving and timely intervention. Distribution of mosquito nets could furthermore strengthen malaria prevention throughout the rainy season.

Education

Access to education in Unity State remained low in June, with 39% of assessed settlements reporting education services to be accessible from the settlement. This figure is comparable to the preceding month (40%), which in itself however represented an improvement compared to the months before (e.g. 24% in March), likely due to scale up of efforts of NGOs support to education institutions throughout Unity State.¹⁶

As shown by Map 6, education has been reported lowest in Mayendit, with only 7% of assessed settlements reporting access to education, followed by Rubkona at 9% of assessed settlements and Leer at 24%. It must be noted, however, that education services in Rubkona are likely underrepresented as



Map 6: Proportion of settlements reporting access to education services, June 2017

areas where education services are most extensive, such as Bentiu PoC or Bentiu town, are unlikely to be covered by AoK data. In Leer and Mayendit, low proportions reporting access to education is possibly attributable to the highly volatile security situation in the region. According to education partners operating in Unity State, there are currently no formal education providers in Leer and only few in Mayendit, as many of the schools in these two counties have been looted and closed down during the last months.

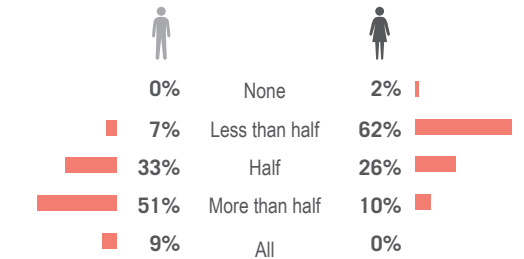
In absence of formal services, education is often provided by volunteer community members which teach the children with little to no school supplies, often in exchange for a small fee, as has been reported during FGDs. This is supported by a recent DRC rapid assessment to Bieh in Koch County which found that community volunteers there were teaching the children under a tree without curriculum and without education materials.¹⁷ Where suitable, provision of learning material to those improvised learning spaces could improve interim education provision until formal services are established. Further assessment would be needed to evaluate feasibility of such support.

Most cited reason for absence of formal and informal education services in 63% of assessed settlements have been conflict-related, such as insecurity, displacement of teachers and school buildings destroyed by fighting, as shown by Figure 10. Improvements in access to education are therefore highly dependent on the security context, and economic and structural condition of the country. As long as security hampers education efforts and economic instability

Figure 10: Four main reason that education is not accessible, June 2017



Figure 11: Reported proportion of 6-17 year old girls and 6-17 year old boys attending school in assessed settlements, June 2017



does not allow for adequate payment of public officials, it is unlikely that access to education will improve in Unity State in the near future.

Reported attendance rates suggest that far more boys attended school than girls, as illustrated by Figure 11. As had been described in May REACH Situation Overview, contributing factors to unbalanced gender ratio are the misbelief that school could have a bad influence on girls, as well as early marriage and early pregnancy.¹⁹ A recent International Rescue Committee assessment further found that lack of sanitary supplies for girls during menstruation period is a contributing factor to low attendance rates and high school drop-outs, as girls are not comfortable to participate in social life including class attendance during that time without appropriate supplies.²⁰ To target these challenges, efforts made to empower girls and women could be directed towards sensitization campaigns, incentives to parents and distribution of dignity kits.

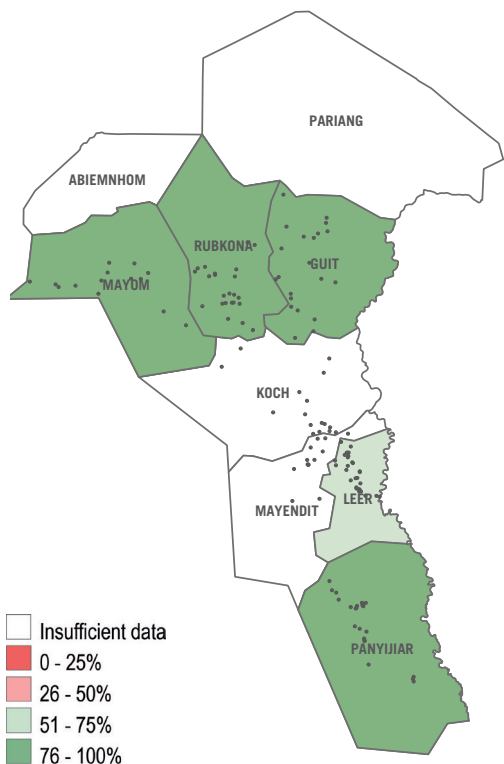
16 Rank three most common health concerns normalized.

17 UNICEF, South Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report #110, June.

18 DRC, Rapid protection assessment report for Bieh (Koch), May 2017.

19 Situation Overview: Unity State, May 2017.

20 IRC, GBV coordinated safety audit in Bentiu PoC, April 2017.



Map 7: Proportion of settlements reporting tukuls as the primary shelter type for the local community, June 2017

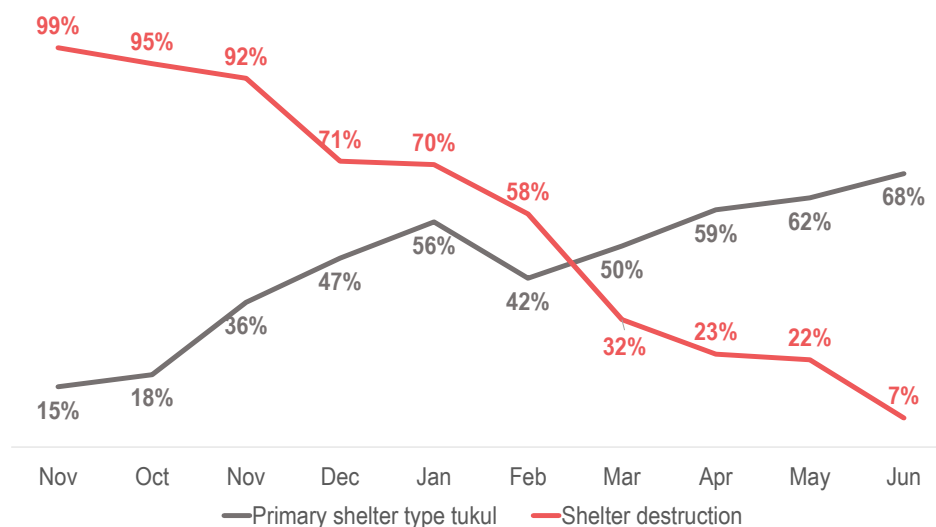
Shelter

Shelter conditions for local communities continued to improve across Unity State. In June, 68% of assessed settlements reported that the majority of local community is living in permanent tukuls, as opposed to less permanent rakoobas. This figure is slightly higher than the previous month (62%) and represents a steady increase since November 2016 (15%), as shown by Figure

12. As illustrated by Map 7, the best shelter conditions for local communities appear to be in comparatively more stable areas of Unity State, such as Mayom, Panyijar, Rubkona, Guit and parts of Koch.

Reflective of improvements in security, proportion of assessed settlements reporting shelter destruction has dropped sharply throughout the last 10 months. In September 2016, 99% of assessed settlements reported conflict-related shelter destruction, while only 7% indicated the same in June 2017, as shown by Figure 12. All of the assessed settlements that reported shelter destruction in June were in Leer and Mayendit. This is coherent with FGDs conducted with participants from these counties, which reported that villages got attacked and looted by armed groups during

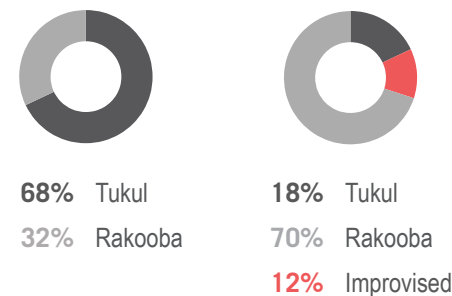
Figure 12: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting shelter destruction during last 30 days (red) and proportion reporting tukul as primary shelter type (grey), Sep 2016-Jun 2017



which shelters got burned down. In all other counties, relative improvements in security might, however, have encouraged local communities to reconstruct permanent tukuls.

Shelter conditions for IDPs have remained comparable throughout preceding months, with the majority of assessed settlements reporting rakooba to be the primary shelter type for IDP communities, followed by Tukul and improvised shelter (see Figure 13). In line with reported shelter destruction and comparatively worse shelter conditions in Leer and Mayendit, all improvised shelter had been reported in these two counties. Such high proportions of assessed settlements (40% in Leer and 29% in Mayendit) reporting improvised shelter as primary shelter type - often just a plastic sheet tied to a tree or to pieces of wood - suggest

Figure 13: Main shelter type local community (left) and IDP community (right), June 2017



that that local community's capacity to absorb IDP influx and adequately meet their shelter needs in is exhausted.

These findings indicate that shelter needs of local and IDP communities especially in Mayendit and Leer remain a priority concern.

Conclusion

Displacement trends, population needs and access to services in Unity State appeared to have improved over the past few months across all indicators. This was likely thanks to a relative improvement in the security situation in parts of the state after March, and an upscale in humanitarian assistance to locations outside formal displacement sites since then. Nevertheless, overall access to services in Unity State was still low.

Regional shifts in reported access to food have been observed since February, suggesting notable improvements in access to food in central Unity State, mainly in Leer where massive up-scale in food distributions has elevated proportions of assessed settlements

reporting adequate access to food from 11% in February to 97% in June. By contrast, REACH data suggests that the counties in northern part of Unity (Mayom, Rubkona and Guit) have experienced a rapid deterioration in access to food since February, likely due to depletion of food stocks during lean season, while humanitarian assistance has not been up-scaled proportionally. As food aid has become primary food source in the large majority of the assessed settlements, it would be important to maintain the distribution levels in Leer and Panyinjar. On the other hand, as proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food has been below 20% in Mayom and below 50% in Rubkona, Guit and Mayendit, the populations in these areas are in urgent need of food assistance.

Improved access to land for cultivation (likely due to better security) coupled with improved access to agricultural inputs (likely due to upscale in NFI distributions) mark promising developments for local livelihoods during this year's planting season. All efforts aimed at increasing cultivation levels, such as crops for work programmes or further distribution of agricultural inputs would be important to support higher outputs which will be the basis for food security during next year's lean season.

Further, access to safe drinking water and access to health care services remained a key concern in June. The rehabilitation and construction of safe water sources (boreholes) is therefore crucial to avoid spreading of

sickness and disease. Moreover, provision of health care services should be up scaled, as many settlements reportedly do not have access to such services.

Shelter conditions have notably improved over the recent months, likely due to improved security (reportedly less shelter destruction and more permanent shelter construction). However, especially in central Unity State, shelter needs continued to be pronounced. Poor shelter conditions have consistently been among the main push factors forcing people from Leer and Mayendit to leave their previous location, as recorded by REACH port monitoring in Nyal.²¹

Although it seems that the humanitarian context in parts of Unity State is slowly recovering, conflict-affected populations in the state remain among the most vulnerable and underserved. To reverse and stem negative impact on humanitarian situation caused by conflict and economic crisis over recent years, a sustained, large-scale humanitarian effort would be required to address their needs. However, this can only be possible if reliable, unrestricted access is assured to humanitarian actors in both the immediate and longer term.

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21 REACH, Nyal Port Monitoring, June 2017.