

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Upper Nile State

South Sudan April - July 2021

Introduction

Findings reported in this Situation Overview highlight humanitarian needs across Upper Nile State (UNS) over the reporting period April to July 2021. Most notably, reports of severe hunger reported in Melut¹ coincided with large-scale IDP returns from Melut to Baliet.² Reports of flood-driven population movement alongside limited access to clean drinking water, lack of functioning latrines and flood-related shelter damage suggest continued population displacement as well as WASH, education and shelter-related needs in flood-affected Panyikang.³ Key findings highlight protection concerns, insecurity-driven population movement and reliance on humanitarian food distributions amid reports of fighting between armed groups and revenge killings in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang.⁴

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlement sites, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected on a monthly basis through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This situation overview uses data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across UNS between April and July 2021.

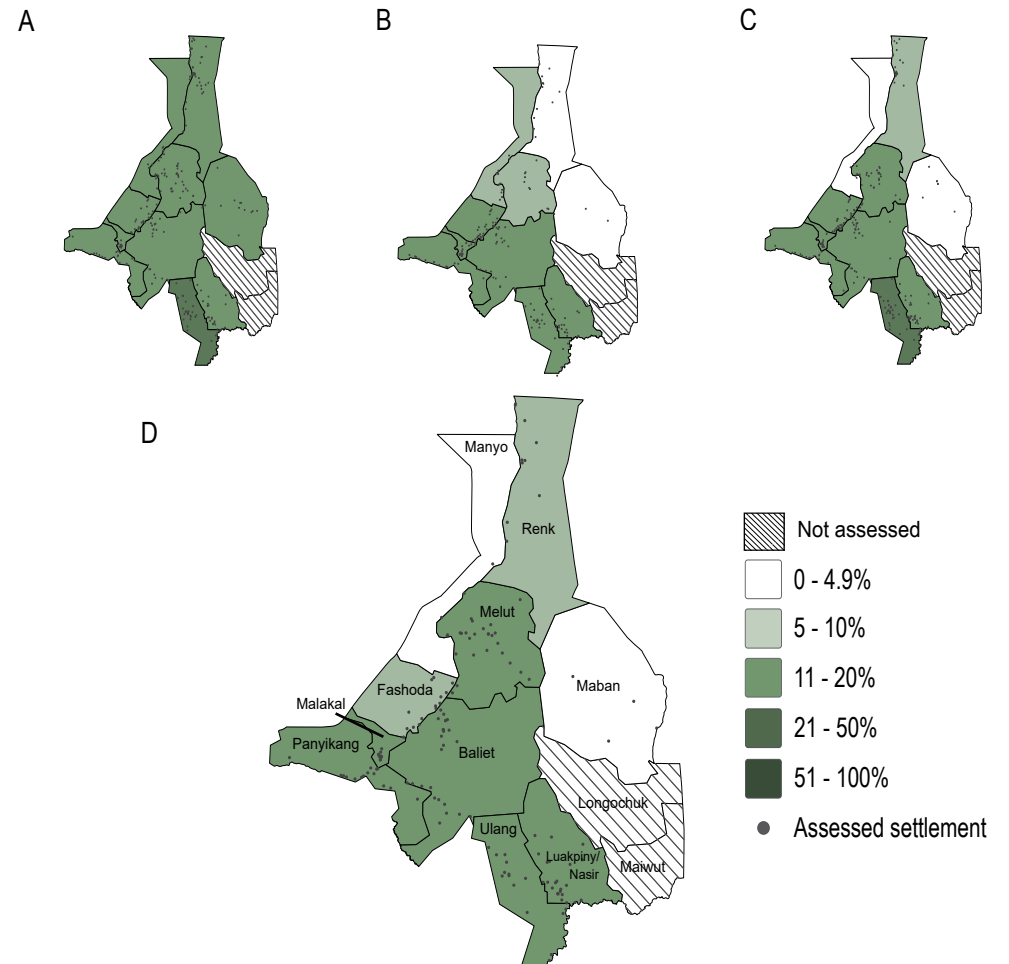
Methodology

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of UNS, REACH conducts interviews with KIs who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). Interviews were conducted in the Malakal town, and Protection of Civilian (PoC) site in UNS during the reporting period from April to July 2021. The suspension of humanitarian activities in Renk impeded our coverage of Renk, Manyo and Maban counties. Findings should be considered indicative only of the situation in assessed settlements.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted on a monthly basis using a structured survey tool. After data collection was completed, all data was aggregated at settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal or most credible response. When no consensus was found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting.

Only counties with interview coverage⁵ of at least 5% of all settlements in a given month were included in the analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month may vary. In order to reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses we only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam⁶ coverage over the period. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToR](#).

Figure 1: REACH Area of Knowledge (AoK) Settlement Coverage in April (A), May (B), June (C) & July (D)



of key informant interviews conducted: 803
of assessed settlements: 287
of counties covered: 8 (of 12)
of focus group discussions conducted: 8

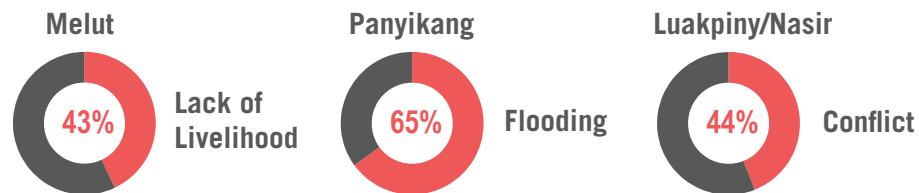
1. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021
 2. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021
 3. NAWG, Update on Fangak & Panyikang flood-affected people and conflict related displacement in central Upper Nile, February 2021
 4. ADRA, Nasir - Rapid Needs Assessment, May 2021.
 5. To calculate the percentage of AoK coverage, the total number of settlements per county is based on OCHA settlement lists in addition to new settlements mapped by KIs reached each month.
 6. Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

Key Findings



Population Movement and Displacement: Population movement and displacement findings during this reporting period highlight large-scale IDP returns from Melut to Baliet⁷ amid reports of severe hunger in Melut. Elsewhere, flooding reportedly continued to drive population movement in Panyikang.⁸ Reported fighting between armed groups and revenge killings also appear to have driven population movement within Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang.⁹

Figure 2: Main reasons KIs reported people left their settlements by county (July)



Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL): FSL findings from this reporting period highlight concerns of severe hunger in Melut and the impact of the large-scale IDP returns from Melut¹⁰ on food security in Baliet. Insecurity in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang¹¹ may have increased reliance on humanitarian food distributions. Moreover, the suspension of humanitarian activity in Renk¹² seemingly impeded access to food for communities relying on food distributions, particularly in the lean season.

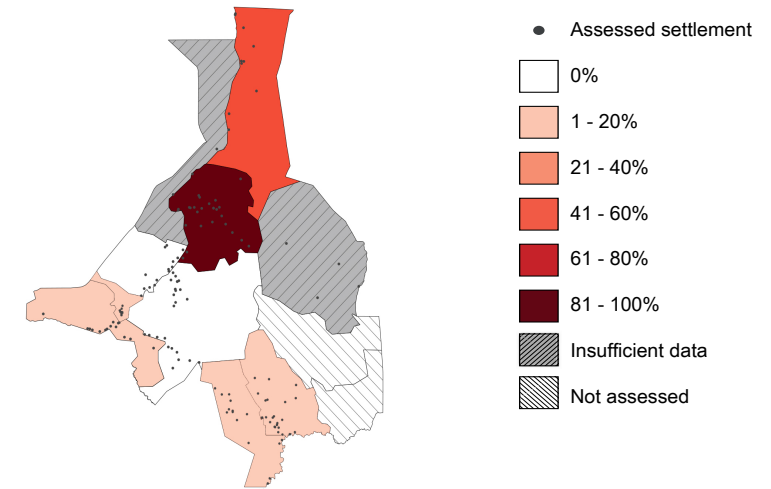


Protection: Protection findings indicate that incidences of violence between armed groups and revenge killings in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang persisted during this reporting period whilst the protection concerns across the rest of UNS remained low and stable. Threat of physical violence was the most common protection concern reported for men, whereas for women and children, the most commonly reported protection risks included risk of family separation and sexual or gender-based violence (GBV) for women and concerns of early marriage for children.¹³



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): The WASH severity classification (WSC) highlights critical (phase 4) WASH conditions across UNS.¹⁴ In particular, WASH findings highlight very limited access to clean drinking water in Malakal, Panyikang, Fashoda and Baliet, making people reliant on rivers, swamps or ponds as their main source of drinking water. Additionally, KIs from 93% of assessed settlements across UNS reported that half or fewer people in their community used latrines in July, and in 75% of settlements, KIs even reported that no latrines were available at all.

Figure 3: Proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported hunger was severe or worst it can be (July)



Health: Health findings suggest that, whilst people in most assessed settlements appear to have access to some type of functioning health facility within walking distance, critical levels of malnutrition persist throughout most of UNS. According to the IPC Acute Malnutrition Analysis from October 2020, most of UNS counties were projected to face critical (IPC Phase 4) levels of malnutrition between April and July 2021. The main contributory factors to acute malnutrition include high prevalence of diseases, poor quality and diversity of food and high levels of food insecurity.¹⁵



Education: Schools across South Sudan reopened in May 2021 after having been closed for 14-months due to COVID-19.¹⁶ Whilst education findings suggest that access to education services increased over the course of the reporting period, KIs from 63% of assessed settlements across UNS reported that half or fewer of the 6-17 year old girls in their settlement were attending school in the 3 months prior to data collection in June and KIs from 60% of assessed settlements reported the same for 6-17 year old boys. Access to education services remains low in Panyikang where KIs from 89% of assessed settlements reported not having access to education services, mostly due to flood damage.



Shelter: Shelter findings indicate that flooding continued to damage shelters in Panyikang during this reporting period. Additionally, KIs from 30% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 24% of those in Luakpiny/Nasir reported IDPs were living in non-permanent shelters

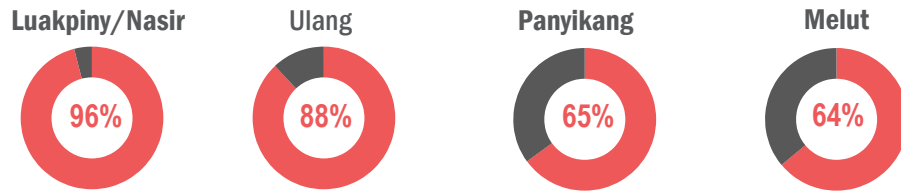
7. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021
 8. Radio Tamzuj, Floods Hit Panyikang, January 2021
 9. ADRA, Nasir - Rapid Needs Assessment, May 2021
 10. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021
 11. CSRF, Ulang county profile
 12. OCHA, South Sudan: 2021 Humanitarian Access Overview (January to December 2021)

13. Girls not Brides, Child Marriage in Humanitarian Contexts, August 2020
 14. WASH Severity Classification, May 2021
 15. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021
 16. United Nations, Joy in South Sudan as schools reopen after 14-month COVID-19 lockdown, May 2021
 17. Rakoobas are temporary shelters made from poles and plastic tarpaulin.
 18. Tukuls are a semi-permanent shelter constructed with mud bricks and a grass thatch roof.

Population Movement and Displacement

Population movement and displacement findings during this reporting period highlight insecurity-driven population movement within both Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang amid reports of fighting between armed groups;¹⁹ flood-driven population movement in Panyikang;²⁰ and FSL-driven IDP returns from Melut to Baliet.²¹

Figure 4: Counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements where KIs reported people had left the settlement in the month prior to data collection in July

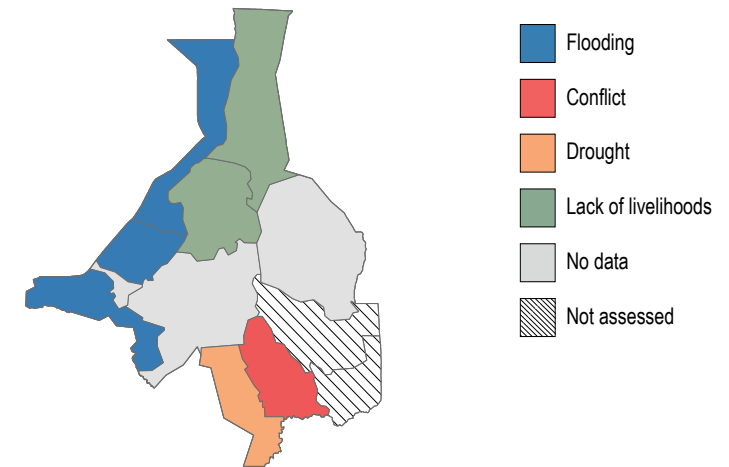


FSL-driven population movement

Lack of access to food and livelihoods appears to have driven IDPs living in Melut to return to their original homes in Baliet. Findings from the previous quarter (January-March) highlighted urgent humanitarian needs in Melut amid reports of hunger.²² In January, an Inter-Agency Rapid Needs Assessment (IRNA) reported similar concerns, particularly in IDP camps in Melut, mainly occupied by people previously displaced from their homes in Baliet.²³ By April, an estimated 5,600 people had voluntarily returned from IDP camps to Baliet,²⁴ despite reports of hunger at their destination in Baliet.²⁵ By June, this figure had reportedly increased to over 6,200 individuals.²⁶ This finding highlights difficult living conditions in both Melut and Baliet.

Population movement findings suggest that severe hunger continued to cause displacement in Melut during this reporting period. KIs from 83% of assessed settlements in Melut reported that people left their settlement within one month prior to data collection in April. In 32% of those settlements, KIs identified lack of livelihoods opportunities as the main cause of IDPs' departure, while other main reasons included lack of access to water (32%) and lack of access to food (15%). At the same time, food security findings highlight that KIs from 93% of assessed settlements in Melut reported that most people in their settlement did not have access to enough food and KIs from 83% of assessed settlements in Melut reported that most people in their settlement faced severe hunger. Whilst the proportion of assessed settlements where people had reportedly left the settlement in the month prior to data collection decreased from 83% in April to 60% in July, this decrease can likely be contributed to heavy rains in May resulting in movement barriers, rather than improved living conditions. Overall, findings from Melut suggest that urgent humanitarian needs have persisted in the county throughout 2021 and will have to be monitored closely through the upcoming rainy season (August - October).²⁷

Figure 5: Main reason KIs reported people left their settlements across UNS (July)



Insecurity-driven population movement

Amid reports of revenge killings, fighting between armed groups, and insecurity (see Protection section), population displacement appears to have remained high in Luakpiny/Nasir compared to the rest of UNS during the reporting period. In July, KIs from 96% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 88% of those in Ulang reported that people had left their settlement within one month prior to data collection, in comparison to KIs from 35% of assessed settlements across the rest of UNS. In 46% of those settlements, KIs reported that conflict was the main reason for displacement. Findings in the Shelter section of this situation overview highlight that IDPs in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang commonly lived in abandoned buildings or improvised shelters, suggesting urgent humanitarian needs.

Flood-driven population movement

Flooding reportedly continued to drive population displacement in Panyikang throughout this reporting period. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported that people left their settlement within one month prior to data collection increased from 24% in April to 65% in July. In all (100%) of these settlements, KIs reported flooding to be the main reason for people departing from the settlement. Reports of flood-driven displacement in Panyikang were further verified during an FGD conducted in Malakal in June with participants who recently left Panyikang; they reported that people living along the western-bank of the Nile river in Panyikang had left their homes in search of basic services, particularly access to food.²⁸ Moreover, findings in the WASH, Education and Shelter sections of this report highlight limited access to functioning latrines, clean drinking water, education services as well as flood-related shelter damage in Panyikang.

19. ADRA, Nasir - Rapid Needs Assessment, May 2021

20. NAWG, Update on Fangak & Panyikang flood-affected people and conflict related displacement in Upper Nile, Feb 2021

21. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021

22. REACH, Situation Overview: Upper Nile State, January to March 2021

23. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021

24. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021

25. World Vision, Despite hunger fears, over 6,000 South Sudanese IDPs head home, May 2021

26. IOM, CCCM Q2 Report, 2021

27. FEWS NET East Africa: South Sudan Seasonal Calendar

28. FGD with participants from Panyikang, conducted in Malakal in June 2021.



Food Security and Livelihoods

FSL findings highlight reports of severe hunger in Melut²⁹ and the impact of large-scale IDP returns from Melut on food security in Baliet. Insecurity in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang may have increased reliance on humanitarian food distributions. The suspension of humanitarian activity in Renk seemingly impacted food access and limited data coverage for neighbouring counties Manyo and Maban.

Severe hunger reported in Melut

Reported severe hunger remained comparatively much higher in Melut than the rest of UNS. In July, KIs from 96% of assessed settlements reported perceiving that most people were not able to access sufficient food, compared to 61% throughout UNS. In 93% of those settlements in Melut, KIs reported hunger was “severe” or “worst it can be”. Similar concerns over food security and living conditions more broadly in Melut were reported in an IRNA report³⁰ released in January and findings reported in the REACH January to March Situation Overview.³¹ In Melut, reported severe or extreme hunger might be related to flooding, pest-related crop destruction, and inability to access humanitarian aid, all of which was reported earlier in the 2021 quarter one situation overview. Melut was classified as facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity in October/November 2020 and was projected to deteriorate to emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity in April-July 2021.³² Concerns of severe hunger in Melut coincide with large-scale population movement reported in the Population Movement section of this report and suggest serious food security concerns.

Impact of IDP returns from Melut in Baliet on Food Security

FSL findings suggested high levels of severe or extreme hunger at the beginning of the reporting period, coinciding with the start of the large-scale IDP return movement from Melut to Baliet, which seemingly eased over the course of the reporting period. In April, KIs from all (100%) of assessed settlements reported most people in the settlement could not access sufficient amounts of food. KIs from 95% of assessed settlements in Baliet reported hunger to be “severe” or “worst it can be”. Moreover, FGD participants from Baliet interviewed in April reported severe hunger due to flooding, pest-related crop damage and lack of a functioning market within walking distance of their settlement.³³ Moreover, a May 2021 report from World Vision also raised concerns that returning IDPs may not have access to enough food.³⁴

Despite these early concerns, findings suggest that conditions improved over the course of the reporting period, coinciding with the humanitarian response supporting the IDP movement. The proportion of assessed settlements in Panyikang where KIs reported most people were able to access sufficient food increased from 59% in April to 71% in July. The scale-up of the humanitarian response supporting returning IDPs in May seems to have improved access to food among communities in the region.³⁵ In July, in 68% of assessed settlements where recent IDP arrivals had been reported (58%), KIs reported that the arrival of returning IDPs or refugees had a small positive impact on the ability of most people in their settlement to access

enough food. Nevertheless, food security in Baliet remains seemingly tenuous and reliant on humanitarian food assistance. These findings highlight the importance of sustaining the humanitarian response in Baliet and continuing to monitor the situation through the coming rainy season.

Reported reliance on humanitarian food distributions in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang

Whilst findings suggest hunger is relatively low in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang compared to the rest of UNS, findings suggest that insecurity (see Protection section) has impeded food access and increased reliance on humanitarian food distributions in these counties. KIs from 68% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 76% of those in Ulang reported that most people were able to access sufficient food in July. However, conflict or looting was reported to have had a small impact on ability to access food by KIs from 80% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 76% of those in Ulang overall.

Humanitarian food assistance was reported to be the main source of food for most people in their settlement by KIs from 68% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 76% of those in Ulang in comparison to only 14% across the rest of UNS. During an FGD involving people from Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang in June, participants reported that people with money were able to access food from boats travelling between Malakal and Ulang; however people without money were more reliant on humanitarian food assistance and reported being more likely to go hungry.³⁶

Suspended humanitarian activity in Renk

Reporting of inadequate access to food was also comparatively high in Renk during this reporting period, seemingly related to high prices and the protracted suspension of humanitarian activity.³⁷ In July, KIs from 56% of assessed settlements in Renk reported that most people in their settlement faced severe hunger in comparison to 22% across the rest of UNS (not including Renk). This follows reports in April, by KIs from 69% of assessed settlements, of people not assessing enough food. The most commonly reported reasons why people did not have enough food were high prices³⁸ (reported in April by KIs from 36% of assessed settlements), followed by inability to access humanitarian food distributions (reported by KIs from 21% of assessed settlements). Humanitarian activity in Renk has been suspended since April 2021 and remains suspended at the time of reporting.

Insufficient data coverage for Manyo and Maban

Whilst the suspension of humanitarian activity in Renk meant that REACH was unable access Manyo and Maban to achieve sufficient data coverage to report on (see Figure 1 & methodology) in this reporting period, it is important to highlight that earlier FSL findings presented in the Situation Overview covering January to March 2021 highlighted reports of extreme hunger in both Manyo and Maban. In March, KIs from all (100%) of assessed settlements in Maban and 80% in Manyo reported people do not have access to enough food. In 47% and 40% of those settlements in Maban and Manyo, respectively, KIs reported that hunger was “worst it could be”. Both Manyo and Maban were projected to deteriorate to emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute

29. UN OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, March 2021

30. IRNA Report: Melut IDP settlements, January 2021

31. REACH, Situation Overview: Upper Nile State, January to March 2021

32. IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

33. FGD with participants from Baliet, conducted in Malakal in April 2021

34. World Vision, Despite hunger fears, over 6,000 South Sudanese IDPs head home, May 2021

35. UN OCHA, South Sudan Quarterly Humanitarian Access Snapshot, July to September 2021.

36. FGD with participants from Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang, conducted in Akobo

37. ReliefWeb, Humanitarian Coordinator condemns attacks against humanitarian workers in Renk, May 2021

38. REACH, [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Dashboard](#)

39. IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

40. Rapid Food Security Assessment in Manyo, WFP, April 2021

Protection

Protection findings indicate that Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang continued to face protection concerns amid reports of revenge killings and fighting between armed groups.⁴¹ In July, KIs from 80% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir (78% in April) and 53% of those in Ulang (55% in April) reported that most people in their settlement felt unsafe most of the time in contrast to only 2% from settlements across the rest of UNS. Incidences of revenge killing were reported by KIs from 84% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 76% of those in Ulang in July. Meanwhile, incidences of fighting between armed groups were reported by KIs from 40% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 35% of those in Ulang. Reported protection concerns in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang are part of a long-term trend dating back well into 2020⁴² and reportedly contribute to displacement and increased reliance on humanitarian food distributions, highlighted in the Population Movement and FSL sections of this situation overview respectively.

Whilst reported protection concerns for men, women, and children were notably higher in both Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang than in the rest of UNS, they impacted each demographic differently. In July, violence between the same identity group was reported as the main safety concern for men by KIs from 80% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 53% in Ulang. At the same time, family separation (reported by KIs from 76% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 52% in Ulang) and sexual or gender based violence (12% in Luakpiny/Nasir and 29% in Ulang) were reported as the main security concern for women. Participants of an FGD who recently left Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang⁴³ also highlighted concerns that men may be targeted in revenge killings and women are unsafe walking alone due to the risk of rape or other forms of GBV. Moreover, early marriage was reported as the main security concern for girls younger than 18 years old by KIs from 72% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 35% in Ulang. Similarly, early marriage was also reported as the main security concern for boys under the age of 18 years old in 36% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir and 12% in Ulang. This finding highlights that the impact of armed violence on communities in these counties extends beyond the direct threat of physical violence to also increase risk of family separation, sexual or GBV, and early marriage.⁴⁴

Figure 6: Main safety concerns reported by KIs from assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir by population demographic (July)

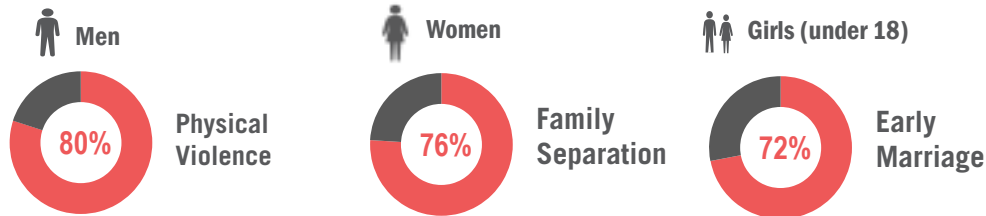
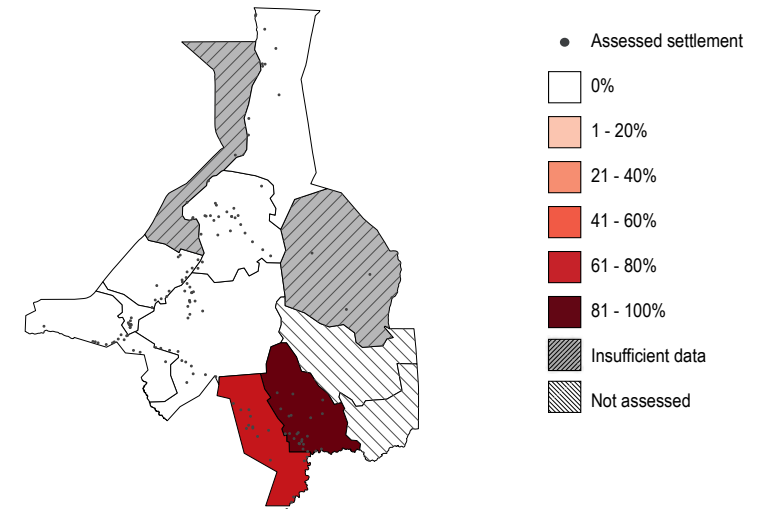


Figure 7: Proportion of assessed settlements across UNS where KIs reported incidences of revenge killing within one month prior to data collection in July



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The WASH severity classification (WSC) analysis projected critical (Phase 4) WASH conditions across most of UNS and catastrophic (Phase 5) conditions in Maiwut in May 2021.⁴⁵ In particular, WASH findings highlight either no or very limited access to clean drinking water in Malakal, Panyikang, Fashoda and Baliet, making people reliant on rivers, swamps or ponds as their main source of drinking water. In July, KIs in all (100%) assessed settlements in Malakal and Panyikang, 80% in Fashoda and 64% in Baliet reported that the main source of drinking water for people in their settlement was rivers, swamps or ponds as they did not have access to improved source of drinking water, such as a borehole. This finding highlights a need for clean sources of drinking water such as boreholes in Malakal, Panyikang, Fashoda, and Baliet.

Reporting of open defecation remained prevalent throughout UNS, likely related to common reporting of latrines being unavailable in the settlement. In July, KIs from 93% of assessed settlements across UNS reported that half or fewer of the people in their settlement used latrines. In particular, KIs from 94% of assessed settlements in Panyikang and 87% in Fashoda reported that nobody in their settlement used latrines, in comparison to 13% across the rest of UNS (not including Panyikang and Fashoda). Functioning latrines remain an urgent humanitarian need across UNS. Whilst access constraints prevent REACH from collecting data on Maiwut, it is important to highlight that the WSC reported likely catastrophic (Phase 5) WASH conditions in Maiwut, which were projected to deteriorate in the 6 months following data collection in May 2021.⁴⁶

41. INSO weekly incident list, 9-15th July 2021

42. CSRF South Sudan, Ulang county profile

43. FGD with participants from Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang, conducted in Akoka

44. Girls not Brides, Child Marriage in Humanitarian Contexts, August 2020.

45. WASH Severity Classification, May 2021

46. WASH Severity Classification, May 2021



Education

Schools across South Sudan reopened in May 2021 after having been closed for 14-months due to COVID-19.⁴⁷ Whilst education findings suggest that access to education services increased during the reporting period, reported attendance of both girls and boys remained low. Moreover, access to education services appeared to have remained particularly low in flood-affected Panyikang. The proportion of KIs from assessed settlements across UNS who reported access to functioning education services within walking distance of their settlement increased from 39% in April to 71% in June as schools reopened. However, KIs from 63% of assessed settlements across UNS reported that half or fewer of the 6-17 year old girls in their settlement were attending school within 3 months prior to data collection in June and KIs from 60% of assessed settlements across UNS reported the same for boys. Low attendance was mostly identified as caused by children needing to work, early marriage or families being unable to afford school fees. Meanwhile, KIs from 89% of assessed settlements in Panyikang still reported no access to education services within walking distance of their settlements. In 63% of these settlements, KIs reported schools had been destroyed during conflict or natural disaster such as flooding or fire. Education findings highlight the need to provide education services in flood-affected Panyikang and support overcoming barriers children face in accessing education such as needing to work, early marriage or being unable to afford fees.



Shelter

Whilst shelter findings suggest that access to adequate shelter remained stable across most of UNS during this reporting period, flood-related shelter damage persisted in Panyikang. In July, KIs from 59% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported flood-related shelter damage within their settlement. Moreover, KIs from 30% of assessed settlements in Panyikang reported that this flooding damaged up to half of the shelters in their settlement. Despite this damage, settlements appear to remain liveable as tukuls⁴⁸ were reported to be the main form of shelter by KIs from 82% of assessed settlements in Panyikang in July, followed by rakoobas⁴⁹. This finding highlights the importance of continuing to monitor the shelter situation in Panyikang, particularly as the rainy season may well cause further shelter damage.

Shelter findings also indicate that IDPs in Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir have limited access to permanent forms of shelter. Non-permanent shelters such as abandoned or community buildings were reported as the main shelter used by IDPs within their settlement by KIs from 30% of assessed settlements in Ulang in July, whilst community buildings or improvised shelters were reported by KIs from 24% of assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir. Moreover, KIs from 42% of assessed settlements in Ulang and 24% in Luakpiny/Nasir reported that up to half of the IDPs within their settlement lived in the open without shelter, making them vulnerable to illnesses like malaria. This finding suggests a need for shelter assistance among IDP communities in these locations.



Health

Health findings suggest that, whilst people in most assessed settlements appear to have access to some type of functioning health facility within walking distance, critical levels of malnutrition persist throughout most of UNS. In July, KIs from only 2% of assessed settlements across UNS reported not having access to any functional healthcare facility within walking distance of their settlement. Primary healthcare centres (PHCs) were reported to be the nearest functional healthcare facility within walking distance by KIs from 80% of assessed settlements across UNS. Despite having access to healthcare facilities, the nutritional status of people across UNS remained poor. The IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) projections (April-July) warn that most of UNS is likely to face critical (Phase 4) levels of acute malnutrition.⁵⁰ According to IPC analysis, main contributory factors to acute malnutrition include high prevalence of diseases, poor quality and diversity of food, and high levels of food insecurity.⁵¹ According to the IPC Acute Food Security projections, most of UNS is likely to face critical (Phase 3) or emergency (Phase 4) levels of food insecurity in April-July 2021⁵² which suggests that the risk factors for malnutrition are present across much of the state. FSL findings of this report highlight Melut, Baliet, Renk and possibly Manyo and Maban as areas of most concern.

Conclusion

Findings reported in this Situation Overview highlight humanitarian needs across UNS over the reporting period April to July 2021. Continued reports of severe hunger in Melut coincided with large-scale IDP returns from Melut to Baliet.⁵³ Further FSL findings also highlight a tenuous food security situation in Baliet, suggesting that both Melut and Baliet should be priorities for the humanitarian response. Flooding in Panyikang reportedly resulted in population displacement, limited access to clean drinking water, lack of functioning latrines, and flood-related shelter damage. Reported incidents of violence between armed groups and revenge killings seemingly caused protection concerns, insecurity-driven population movement, and reliance on humanitarian food distributions in Luakpiny/Nasir and Ulang.

About REACH Initiative

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

47. United Nations, Joy in South Sudan as schools reopen after 14-month COVID lockdown, May 2021

48. Rakoobas are temporary shelters made from poles and plastic tarpaulin.

49. Tukuls are a semi-permanent shelter constructed with mud bricks and a grass thatch roof.

50. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

51. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

52. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 to July 2021

53. OCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, April 2021