

# Humanitarian Situation Monitoring

## Warrap State - South Sudan April - September 2020

### Introduction

In Warrap State, intercommunal violence and flooding reportedly exacerbated the humanitarian situation in the second and third quarters (April – September) of 2020. The situation was further confounded by movement restrictions put in place in April to control the spread of COVID-19, which limited the ability of humanitarian actors to respond to the humanitarian needs in the state. As a result, information gaps on humanitarian needs and access to services remains across the state.

To inform humanitarian actors working outside formal settlements, REACH has conducted assessments of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since December 2015. Data is collected monthly through interviews with key informants (KIs) with knowledge of a settlement and triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs). This situation overview uses this data to analyse changes in observed humanitarian needs across Warrap State in first and second quarters of 2020.

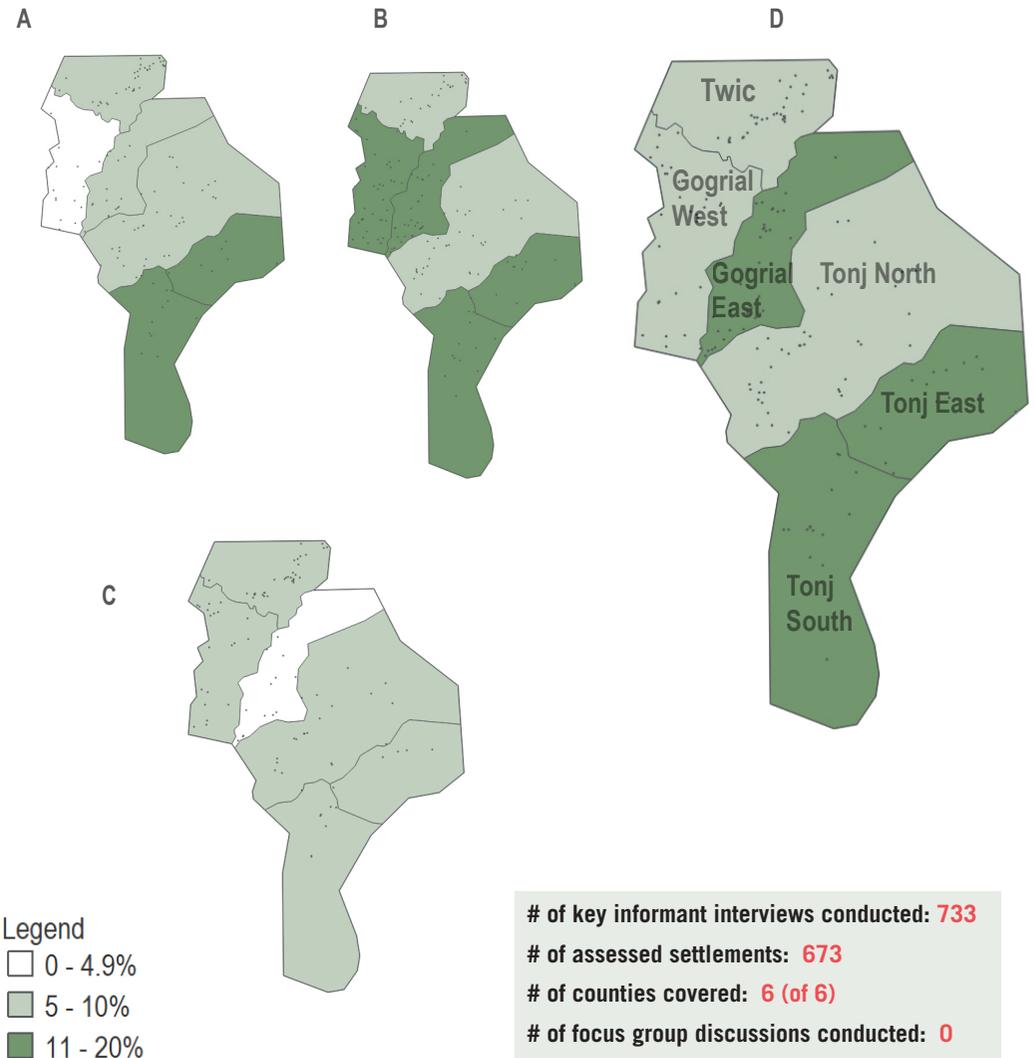
### Methodology

To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Warrap State, REACH uses primary data from key informants who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or “Area of Knowledge” (AoK). Information for this report was collected from the protection of civilians (PoC) site, collective centres, and through phone calling between April and September 2020.

In-depth interviews on humanitarian needs were conducted monthly 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 coverage<sup>1</sup> of at least 5% of all settlements in each month were included in analysis. Due to access and operational constraints, the specific settlements assessed within each county each month vary. To reduce the likelihood that variations in data are attributable to coverage differences, over time analyses were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam<sup>2</sup> coverage over the period. Quantitative findings were triangulated using secondary sources of information. More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToRs](#).

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage, Warrap State, April (A), June (B), July (C) and September (D) 2020.



1. 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.

2. Payam is the administrative unit below the county-level.

## Key Findings

**Displacement and population movement** was reportedly driven by insecurity and flooding across Warrap State. Although the proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) remained comparable between the second and third quarter of 2020 (42% in June versus 41% in September), sporadic outbreaks of intercommunal violence displaced populations in Tonj East, Twic and Gogrial East counties in the third quarter.

**Food Security and Livelihoods:** Adequate access to food appear to have declined in the third quarter of 2020 across Warrap State; only 22% of assessed settlements reported adequate access in September, a 19-percentage point reduction since April, likely due to fighting and flooding, which resulted in a poorer than usual harvest. In September, 0% of assessed settlements in both Tonj East and Gogrial East counties, 6% in Twic County reported adequate access to food. In September, 37% of assessed settlements reported that crops were destroyed by flooding across the state, especially in Gogrial East (84%) and Twic (47%) counties. Consequently, assessed settlements across the state reported widespread adoption of negative food consumption coping strategies such as skipping entire days without eating and having only children eat in order to manage the food access gaps.

**Protection:** While the majority (70%) of assessed settlements reported people feeling unsafe in April, this figure decreased to only half in June (53%) and September (52%). During the reporting period, looting of property, cattle raiding and being killed or injured were the most commonly reported protection concerns for both men and women. Findings suggest that protection risks were highest in Tonj East, Tonj South, Tonj North and Twic Counties, where assessed settlements reported that episodes of sub-national violence had taken place in the month prior to data collection. In addition to the risk of violence, assessed settlements reported that women and girls faced domestic violence and sexual violence, while girls faced an additional problem of early marriage as a major protection concern.

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH):** Sixty percent (60%) of assessed settlements reported accessing water from boreholes in September, comparable to June (68%). Gaps in access to boreholes seemingly contributed to reliance on unimproved water sources as 13% of assessed settlements reported people relying on unimproved water sources such as rivers, swamps and ponds as their main source of drinking water across the state in September. Basic hygiene practices like hand washing with soap or ash appear to not have been widely adopted; in Gogrial West County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting people washing hands with soap decreased from 70% in July to 10% in September,

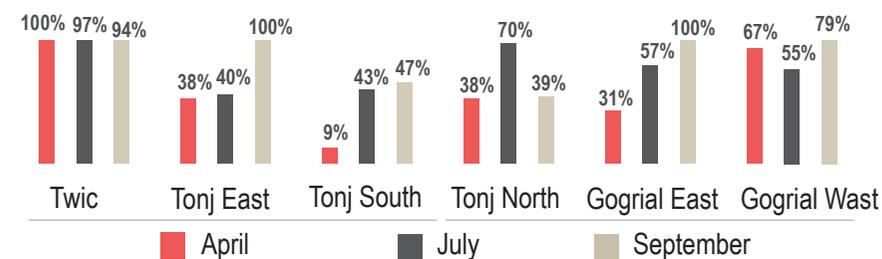
suggesting limited access to soap. The sanitation situation remained precarious across the state in September as most people reported not using latrines because of unavailability of latrines (47%), cultural practices (19%) and overcrowding (13%) in places with fewer latrines. Of immediate concern was Twic County where the majority (86%) of assessed settlements reported unavailability of latrines in September as the main reason people did not use latrines.

**Health** care services in assessed settlements were mainly accessed through primary health care centres (73%) and hospitals (10%) across the state in September. However, assessed settlements reported that dwindling medicine stocks or lack of medicine, especially in Twic (39%), Tonj East (29%), Tonj South (20%) and Gogrial East (32%) counties in September was a major barrier to health services. The most commonly reported health problems were malaria, respiratory infection and malnutrition across the state.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI):** Shelter types for both IDPs and host communities remained the same during the reporting period. Overall, assessed settlements consistently reported tukul<sup>5</sup> (98%) as the main shelter for host communities, and tukul (22%) and rakooba<sup>6</sup> (12%) as the main shelter types for returnees and IDPs respectively in September across the state. Since the second quarter, NFI needs remained consistent in assessed settlements with mosquito nets (10%), plastic sheets (11%) and blankets (7%) as the most commonly reported most needed NFIs in September across the state.

**Education** services were severely constrained by COVID-19 prevention measures, which led to the closing of schools in March.<sup>3</sup> Of the assessed settlements where KIIs reported no access to education services in September, COVID-19 was reported as the main reason why children, both girls (77%) and boys (75%), did not attend school. Although schools are expected to partially open in October, with candidate classes, Primary 8 and Senior 4, the majority of children are expected to remain at home until the 2021 school year.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 1: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting no adequate access to food.



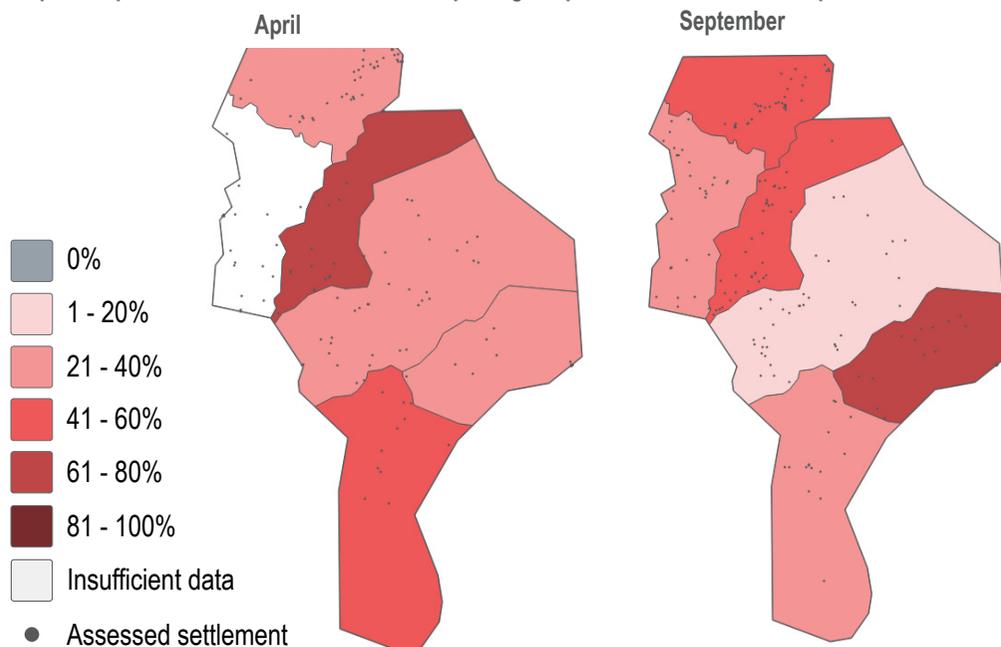
3. Radio Tamazuj, South Sudan closes schools, universities amid Coronavirus fears, March 2020.  
 4. UNICEF, UNICEF and UNESCO welcome the decision to reopen schools in South Sudan.  
 5. Tukul is a hut made of grass-thatched-roof and mud walls, which is very popular across South Sudan.  
 6. Rakooba is a temporary transitional shelter made of poles and iron sheet or plastic sheeting.

## Population Movement and Displacement

Across the state, continuing episodes of sub-national violence displaced populations in the third quarter of 2020. In September, 41% of assessed settlements reported IDP presence, unchanged since April. Overall, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting insecurity and conflict as the main reasons why people left their settlements increased from 14% in July to 26% in September across Warrap. This increase may be attributed to reported intercommunal conflict among communities in both Tonj South and Tonj East counties, which resulted in displacement in Manyagok, Wanhalel and Tonj Payams in Tonj South and Ananatak and Wunlit Payms in Tonj East County.<sup>7</sup> This finding was also supported by the proportion of assessed settlements reporting insecurity and killing in Twic (39%), Gogrial East (43%) and Tonj East (50%) counties in September as the main reason why people left their settlements.

Flooding reportedly displaced populations in Tonj East, Gogrial East and Gogrial West counties in the third quarter. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting flooding as the main cause of displacement increased minimally from 1% in July to 12% across Warrap State. Tonj East appears

**Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in Warrap State.**



to be the most affected in September, with 29% of assessed settlements reporting flooding as the main reason why people left their settlements. Indicative of this internal displacement, Tonj East had the highest proportion (79%) of assessed settlements reporting the presence of IDPs in September. Similarly, between July and September, there was an increase from 0% to 16% in Gogrial East County, and an increase from 5% to 24% in Gogrial West County in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting flooding as the main reason why people left their settlements. Flooding reportedly caused displacement in Tonj North County, where IOM reported 16,480 people to have been displaced from their villages into Rual-Bet, Pagol, Manalor, Athieng-Puol, Alik Centre, Krirk and Warrap Town in September.<sup>8</sup>

## Food Security and Livelihoods

Findings suggest that access to food was constrained by insecurity and flooding in some parts of Warrap State. In September, 22% assessed of settlements reported adequate access to food across the state, a 19-percentage point decrease since April. Access to food was particularly a concern in Gogrial East, Tonj East and Twic counties because of flooding and fighting which destroyed crops or disrupted farming activities. Overall, 37% of assessed settlements in September reported flooding as the main reason why people could not access enough food, a proportion that remained comparable throughout the third quarter. Market access constrains may have contributed to food access gaps, especially for the populations that relied on market purchase (22% of assessed settlements in September) for their food needs. While the main sources of food reported by assessed settlements were cultivation (32%), foraging (26%) and market purchase (22%) in September, the amount of food obtained through these sources may have been impacted by the aforementioned shocks.

### Tonj East County

Adequate access to food appears to have been severely constrained by flooding and conflict in Tonj East County during the last two quarters of 2020. By September, 0% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food, a considerable reduction from 60% in July and 63% in April. In September, assessed settlements reported fighting (36%) and flooding (21%) destroying crops as the main reasons why people could not access enough food. These shocks appear to have reduced crops yields, with the World Food Programme (WFP) reporting a deficit of 6,486 metric tons of cereals in Tonj East County.<sup>9</sup> With less food reserves available toward the lean season, the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) indicated that food security in Tonj East County may have deteriorated to IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in June due to a host of factors including population displacement and conflict, which limited access to land, rising food prices and loss of livelihood assets.<sup>10</sup>

Consequently, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as their main source of food decreased from 80% in July to 36% in September. Furthermore, 70% of assessed settlements reported foraging as the main source of food in September, likely due to lack of food during the lean season. With increased reliance on foraging amidst limited availability cultivated food, food access gaps will likely widen in the county toward the next lean season.

## Tonj South and North counties

An escalation of sub-national violence and internal displacement appears to have created food access gaps in Tonj South County. Despite the seasonal harvest, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food remained comparable in Tonj South during this period (57% in July versus 53% in September). This minimal improvement in access to food may be explained by conflict and displacement, which according to an inter-agency assessment, prevented 36% of the population in Manyang Ngok, Wanalel and Tonj payams of Tonj South County from engaging in cultivation in the last planting season.<sup>11</sup> With such a high proportion of population that did not cultivate, access to food will likely remain a concern in the county in the next lean season. Despite the effects of displacement and conflict shocks, WFP reported a surplus of cereals production of 8,654 metric tons.<sup>12</sup> This cereals surplus is likely a result of seasonal harvest in the more stable areas that engaged in cultivation, with 60% of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as their source of food in September. However, according FEWS NET, the situation has likely deteriorated in June and the population may be facing acute food insecurity (IPC phase 4) in Tonj South County.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, one-third (33%) of assessed settlements reported market purchase as one of the main food source in Tonj South in September, likely due to proximity of Tonj South to Wau Town (Western Bahr el Ghazal), which is the largest commercial hub in the region. However, poor market access due to distance in some parts of the county (except in Tonj and Thiet towns) and high food prices will likely limit market purchased food in the rest the county.

The proportion of assessed settlements in Tonj North County reporting adequate access to food increased from 30% in July to 61% in September, likely due to the seasonal harvest. Compared to the rest of counties, Tonj North County had the highest (75%) proportion of assessed settlement reporting cultivation as the main source of food in September, 36% increase from July. Despite this increase in cultivated food, the presence of IDPs (see population movement and displacement section), who are reportedly sharing food resources with the host communities, suggests that food resources will likely run out quickly.

## Twic County

In Twic County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food remained comparably low since April (0%) through July (3%) and September (6%). According to KIs in assessed settlements with inadequate access to food, flooding destroying crops (47%)

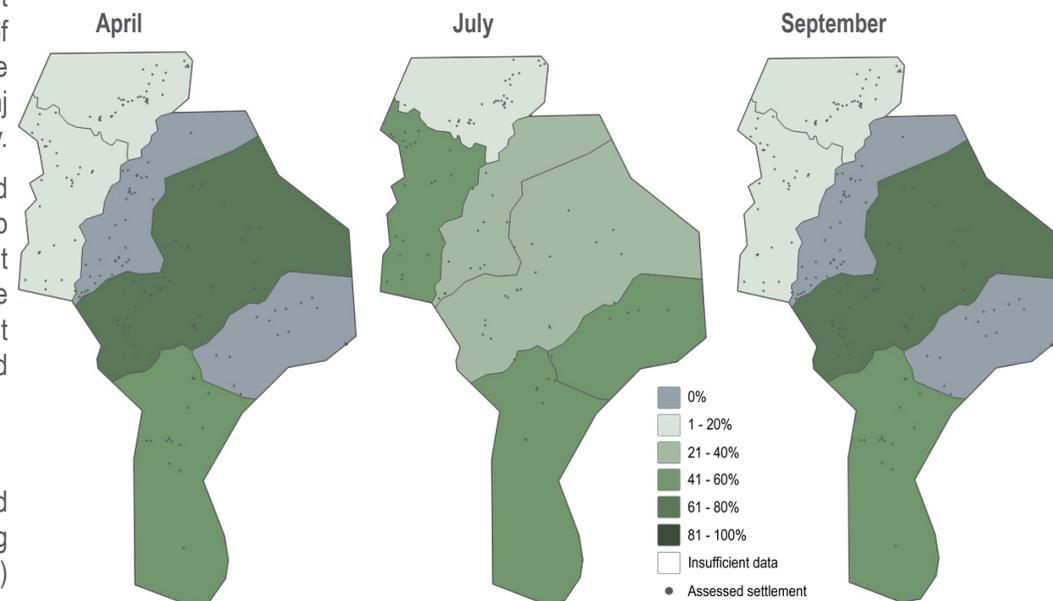
and safety concerns (19%) were the main reasons why people could not access enough food in September. These shocks appear to have impacted negatively cultivation, as indicated by the low proportion (31%) of assessed settlements reporting cultivation as the main source of food in September. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting market purchase as their main source of food decreased from 79% in July to 28% in September, likely due to poor road networks and high food prices.

## Gogrial East and West counties

Access to food seemed to be lowest in Gogrial East County, with 0% assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in September, a 36% reduction since July. The the main reason why people could not access enough food was flooding which destroyed crops, reported by 84% of assessed settlement in September, a 70% increase since July. Indicative of the severity of flooding, only 3% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as the main source of food, a 26% decrease from July.

In Gogrial West County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food was low at 17% in September, compared to 45% in July. This county had the lowest proportion of assessed settlements reporting cultivation (0%) as the main source of food September, a worrying

**Map 3: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in April, July and September.**



11. FEWS NET, South Sudan Food Security Outlook June 2020 to January 2021.  
 12. WFP, IDPs Assessment and Verification Mission Report, 17th - 24th June 2020.  
 13. IBID.

indicator that suggests that the population may be facing food insecurity at the time they should be relying on their own food produce.

## Coping Strategies

Several food consumption coping strategies were adopted in response to food access gaps across Warrap State. Across the state consumption of wild foods appear widespread, with 85% of assessed settlements reporting on this indicator in the third quarter of 2020. Consumption of wild foods was also widely reported by assessed settlements in Tonj East (100%), Gogrial West (100%) and Gogrial West (97%) counties in September. While it may be normal for some sections of the populations to rely on wild foods at this time of the year due to increased seasonal availability of these foods, widespread consumption may suggest a general lack of food.

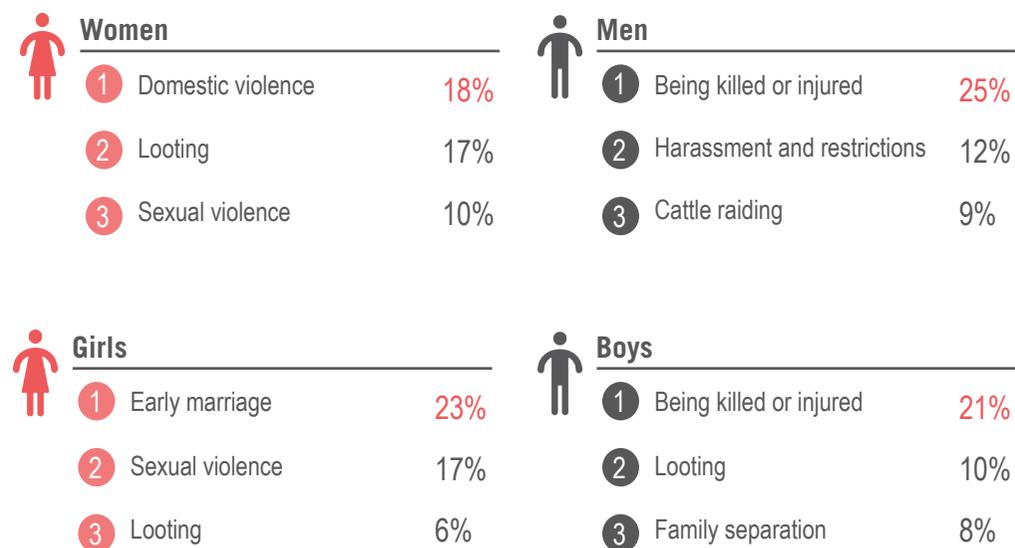
As the food gap appeared to widen, an increasing proportion of assessed settlements reported that people skipped days without food in Gogrial East (84%), Twic (31%) and Tonj East (64%) counties in September, an extreme food consumption strategy, which is generally only adopted to cope with severe food shortages. To prolong limited food reserves, populations reportedly reduced the number of meals being consumed in a day, and letting children eat first in some counties. Overall, 67% of assessed settlements across the state reported that people consumed only one meal a day in September, a 14-percentage point increase since June. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting people consuming only one meal a day in Gogrial West increased from 55% in July to 79% in September, with Gogrial East (59%), Tonj East (64%) and Twic (64%) continuing to report high proportions in September. Some of those meals may be inadequate, especially in Tonj East, where 97% of assessed settlements reported that meal sizes were reduced in September. As food reportedly became scarce, assessed settlements reported that adults prioritised letting children eat first in Tonj East (26%) and Twic (14%) counties in September.

## Protection

Since April, people's perception of safety appeared to have remained relatively unchanged, with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting feeling safe increasing minimally from 29% in April to 46% in June, comparable to July (42%), likely due to persistence on intercommunal conflict in some parts of the state.

Conflict presented a protection concern during the third quarter with reports of killings of civilians across the state. In Gogrial East County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting an incident of conflict that resulted in the killing of at least one civilian increased from 19% in April to 50% May. In Twic County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of conflict

**Figure 2: Top 3 most commonly reported protection concerns in assessed settlements in April 2020.**



that resulted in the killing of at least one civilian remained consistent between April (33%) and May (32%). This increase in assessed settlements reporting at least one fatal incident resulting from conflict may be due to attacks such as the incident reported in April in which seven people were reportedly killed in Twic County by unidentified gunmen.<sup>14</sup> AoK data indicates a continuation of such incidents in the third quarter, with 36% of assessed settlements reporting an incident of conflict, which resulted in the death of at least one civilian in September, comparable to 33% reported in July. In Twic County, a relatively high proportion of assessed settlements reported being killed or injured as the main protection concern for men (58%), boys (58%), women (44%) and girls (44%) in September. In Tonj South County, there was an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting at least one person being killed or injured as a protection concern for men between April (9%) and May (25%). These safety concerns may be attributed to reported renewed fighting over land and territorial disputes between communities of Tonj South and the neighbouring Jur River County of Western Bahr el Ghazal State between January and May.<sup>15</sup> The third quarter saw a further deterioration with an increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting land ownership disputes in Tonj South (43%) and Tonj North (35%) counties in July, likely due to intercommunal violence inflaming existing territorial disputes.

14. Garda, South Sudan: Armed attack kills seven in Twic county (Warrap state), 14 April 2020.

15. Tonj South and East Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 12-17 May 2020.

Persistent incidents of property looting were reported across the state, with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting looting of property remaining consistent between April and July (40%), decreasing by 11-percentage point in September (29%). Of concern was Tonj East County, with a high proportion of assessed settlements reporting incidents of property looting throughout the second quarter, between April (63%) and June (60%), with a considerable increase in July (80%), before reducing to 50% in September. This increase in looting may be connected to the reported looting in Romich Town, Tonj East County following armed confrontation in August between the military and armed civilians during a disarmament campaign in which an estimated 81 people were killed.<sup>16</sup>

## Protection challenges for women and girls

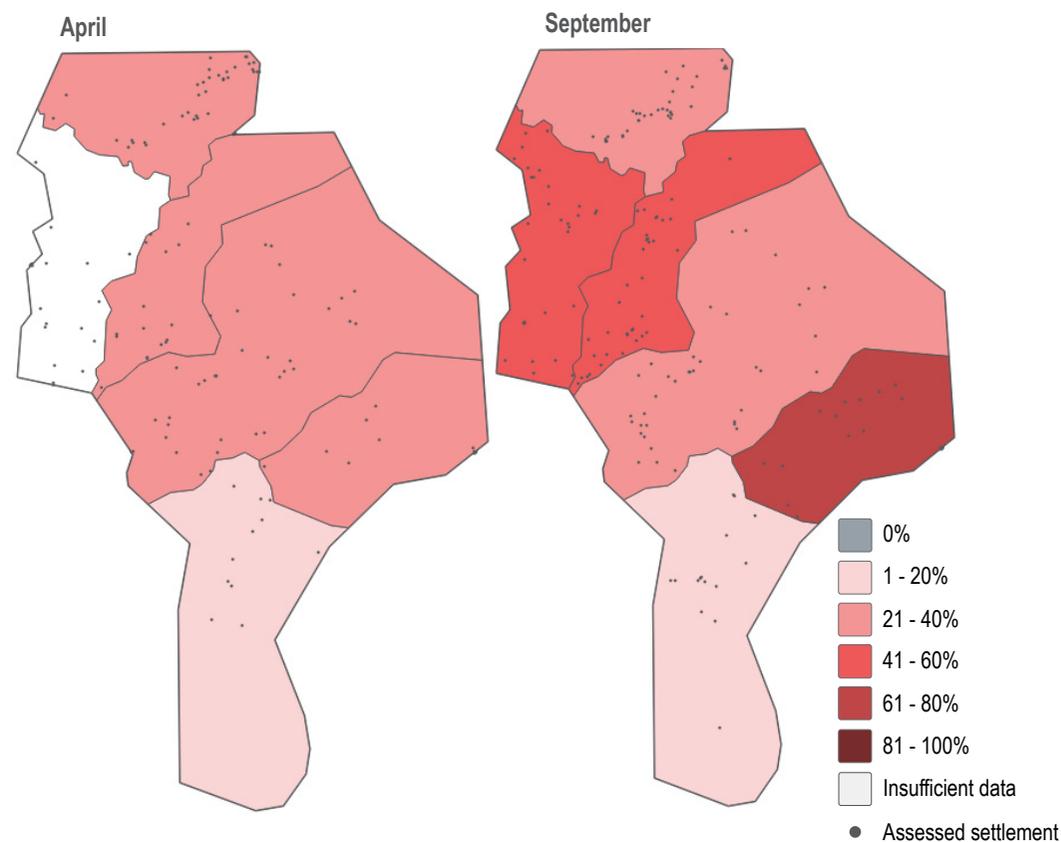
Domestic violence and early marriage were the most reported protection concerns for women and girls across the state. While the proportion of assessed settlements reporting domestic violence as a protection concern for women was comparable between April and June (18%) across the State, proportions decreased to 7% in July, and then remained consistently low through September. At the county level, domestic violence was widely reported by assessed settlements as a major concern for women in Tonj East (30%) Tonj North (35%) and Tonj South (29%) counties in June. Overall, early marriage was reported by 20% of assessed settlements as a major protection concern for girls across Warrap State in September, comparable to 23% in April. At the county level, assessed settlements reported early marriage was a protection concern for girls in Tonj North (32%), Tonj South (55%) and Tonj East (25%), Gogrial West (33%), and Gogrial East (31%) counties. While teenage marriages are common in the state, the COVID-19 pandemic may have created conditions for vulnerable families to marry off their daughters at early age in exchange for dowry to address their immediate basic needs.<sup>17</sup>

Sexual violence was commonly reported as a protection concern for girls at beginning of the second quarter, reported by 17% assessed settlements in April across Warrap state. At the county level, sexual violence was particularly a protection concern for girls in Twic (33%), Tonj South (18%) and Tonj North (15%) in April. As for women, sexual violence was reported by 24% of assessed settlements in April in Twic County, with proportions remaining comparable throughout the rest of the quarter. Similarly, in Tonj East, sexual violence was reported by 21% of assessed settlements as a protection concern for women in September. REACH data is also backed by recent assessments by humanitarian actors which indicated that women and girls had been raped during the outbreaks of intercommunal violence in the county between January and April.<sup>18</sup> The persistence of sexual violence across the state may be attributed to the reported episodes of violent conflict especially in the most affected counties.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In the third quarter of 2020, the main sources of drinking water reported by assessed settlements were boreholes (60%), wells (16%) and open sources (13%) including pond, river and swamp in September. The overall proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to boreholes have reduced slightly from 70% in June to 60% in September. In Tonj East County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to boreholes was considerably low at 14% in September, suggesting that populations may be drinking from open and unimproved water sources. Since access to boreholes was reasonably high in the second quarter, the reported reduction in September may be due to displacement following the upsurge of violence in the third quarter (see protection section).

**Map 4: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting drinking from unprotected source in April and September 2020.**



16. New York Times, Effort to Disarm Communities in South Sudan Fuels Deadly Clashes, August 2020.

17. OCHA, South Sudan 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan COVID-19 Addendum, June 2020.

18. Tonj South and East Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 12-17 May 2020.

Safety concerns and distance from water sources reportedly reduced access to preferred water sources in some parts of the state. Despite the minimal reduction in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to their preferred water source within 30-minutes walking distance between April (32%) and May (19%), this proportion returned to 32% in June. Since then, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to and from a preferred water source within 30-minutes remained consistently low between July (34%) and September (32%) across the State. Forty-four percent of assessed settlements reported that people walked for at least one hour to access their preferred water source in September, consistent with July proportion across the state. Water sources which are more than an hour walking distance from home may present protection concerns including sexual violence for women and girls who are more likely to fetch water for their families as part of their domestic chores (see protection section). Overall, assessed settlements reported that fears for safety (26%) was the main reason why people could not access their preferred water sources in September, with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting this as a major concern in Twic (47%) and Tonj East (43%) counties. These reports of safety concerns are reflected in recent episodes of inter-communal violence, which have resulted in killings and displacement of civilians during the reporting period. As a result of the general insecurity, populations in the affected counties may try to avoid collecting water from distant sources, in turn seeking less preferred water sources closer to the settlement.

Limited access to hygiene NFIs and poor hand washing practices appear to have contributed negatively to the overall hygiene situation in the state. Across the state, less than half of the assessed settlements reported that people washed their hands with soap (38%) and ash (33%) in September. Additionally, in September assessed settlements reported washing hands with only water (20%) across the state. The hygiene situation reportedly deteriorated in Gogrial West in the third quarter, with the proportion of assessed settlements reporting people washing their hands with soap decreasing from 70% in July to 10% in September. While the overall proportion of assessed settlements reporting use of soap was comparable between the two quarters, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting people washing hands with ash was highest between April (41%) and June (38%) across the state. The continuing limited use of soap for hand washing suggests limited access to soap in the county.

Feeding into poor hygiene practices was a reported lack of latrines and detrimental cultural practices in the state. Forty-three percent of assessed settlements reported at least half of the population had access to latrine in September, comparable to July. In September, the most commonly reported reasons why people did not use latrines in assessed settlements were unavailability of latrines (47%), cultural reasons (19%) and overcrowding (13%) across the state. Of concern was Twic County, where 86% of assessed settlements reported unavailability of latrines as the main

reason why people did not use latrines in September. Since a very small section of the population reported using latrines, majority of those without may be defecating in the open, increasing the risk of surface water contamination.

## Health

Across the state, access to health services was seemingly consistent throughout the second and third quarters of 2020, with assessed settlements reporting access to primary health care centre (73%) and hospital (10%) within walking distance in September. However, 13% of assessed settlements reported that no health facilities were available, especially in Gogrial East (44%) and Tonj East (14%) counties, likely due to conflict cutting off populations in remote areas. Despite the presence of health facilities across the state, distance also presented a barrier for populations in remote areas. Nearly half (48%) of assessed settlements reported that people walked for half-a-day to access health services in September. In rural areas, such a long distance may limit access to health care services to the critically ill patients who are unable to walk on their own.

Findings suggest that a reported lack of medicines in health facilities presented a major barrier to health care services in the state. In September, lack of medicine was reported by 25% of assessed settlements across the state as the main reason for lack of access to health services. While assessed settlements reported that health facilities were stocked with medicines between April (49%) and June (53%) across the state, there was a reduction in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting this in the third quarter. There was a decrease from 52% in July to 29% in September in proportion of assessed settlements reporting that facilities were stocked with medicines across the state. As a likely result of this, assessed settlements reported lack of medicines in facilities as the main barrier to health care services in Twic (39%), Tonj East (29%), Tonj South (20%) and Gogrial East (32%) counties in September. The reported seasonal lack of medicine in health facilities highlights the supply chains challenges related to the delivery of essential medicines across the state during the wet season when some earth roads became impassable due to flooding.

Across the state, malaria and respiratory infection were the most commonly reported health problems. The proportions of assessed settlements reporting malaria as the most common health

**Figure 3: The most commonly reported health problems by assessed settlements, September 2020.**



problem in Warrap increased from 38% in July to 67% assessed of settlements in September, likely because of stagnant or flood waters providing a conducive breeding ground for mosquitos during the rainy season. The second most commonly reported health problem was cough or respiratory infection (11%) across the state, with high reporting in Tonj South (33%), Tonj North (19%) and Gogrial West (14%) counties in September. In Tonj South County, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting respiratory infection (coughing) doubled between May (25%) and June (50%). In Tonj East County, (40%) of assessed settlements perceived malnutrition as a major health concern in July. The high reporting on malnutrition is consistent with the January IPC analysis, which projected that Tonj East County would face a serious Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM 10-14.9) during the lean season between May and August.<sup>19</sup>

Malaria was the most commonly perceived cause of death in September (reported by 43% of assessed settlements) across the state. At the county-level, a high proportion of assessed settlements (71%) reported malaria as the leading cause of death in Tonj East in September. This finding was supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) surveillance data which identified malaria as the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, with Tonj East being among the three counties in South Sudan with malaria trends which exceed alert-level threshold in September.<sup>20</sup>



## Shelter and Non-Food Items

Shelter conditions remained the same during the reporting period across the state. Overall, assessed settlements consistently reported tukul (98%) as the main shelter for host communities, and tukul (22%) and rakooba (12%) as the main shelter types for returnees and IDPs respectively in September across the State.

Intercommunal fighting and flooding reportedly destroyed shelters in parts of Warrap State in the third quarter. In September, assessed settlements reported that shelters had been destroyed during fighting in Tonj East (12%) and Twic (25%) counties. Meanwhile, flooding reportedly destroyed shelters in Gogrial East (51%) and Tonj East (54%) in September. Furthermore, assessed settlements reported that half of shelters were destroyed by flooding in Tonj East (14%) and Twic (13%) in September.

The most needed NFIs reported by assessed settlements were mosquito nets (10%), plastic sheets (11%) and blankets (7%) in September. Overall, the proportions of assessed settlements reporting a recent distribution of NFIs increased from 12% in July to 61% in September. In Tonj East, assessed settlements have consistently reported no distribution of NFIs over the last two quarters.

## Education

Access to education services was severely constrained by a countrywide lockdown and closure of schools, which started in late March.<sup>21</sup> In line with this, a high proportion of KIs in assessed settlements with no access to education services in September reported that girls (77%) and boys (75%) did not attend school because schools were closed due to COVID-19. Although schools were partially opened in September, starting with candidate classes, Primary 8 and Senior 4 due to the prevailing COVID-19 preventive measures, majority of children are expected to remain at home until the 2021 school year.<sup>22</sup>

## Conclusion

The interaction of conflict and flooding presented multiple humanitarian challenges for populations across the state. These two shocks disrupted cultivation, exacerbated food insecurity, while at the same time presenting protection concerns for various groups across the state. These shocks, in addition to existing gaps in access to health and WASH services, will likely continue to drive humanitarian needs across the state.

### 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).

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

19. IPC, IPC Acute Food Security and Malnutrition Analysis January – July 2020.

20. WHO, Integrated Disease surveillance and response (IDSR) Epidemiological Bulletin Week 36 of 2020 31 August -31 6 September, 2020.

21. Radio Tamazuj, South Sudan closes schools, universities amid Coronavirus fears, March 2020.

22. UNICEF, UNICEF and UNESCO welcome the decision to reopen schools in South Sudan.