

Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Warrap State

South Sudan January - March 2021

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Overview

In the first quarter of 2021, shocks related to conflict and insecurity have likely driven multi-sectoral needs across Warrap State. Findings indicate that the effects of these high levels of conflict have primarily been seen in Greater Tonj, seemingly leading to displacement on an intra- and inter-county level, and driving a deterioration of shelter conditions for already food insecure IDP populations. Moreover, there are indications of particularly severe levels of food insecurity and vulnerability to further shocks in Greater Tonj, primarily related to low levels of harvested food stocks, displacement and decreased livelihood access and diversity.

To inform humanitarian actors, 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 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 the first quarter (January - March) of 2021.

Methodology

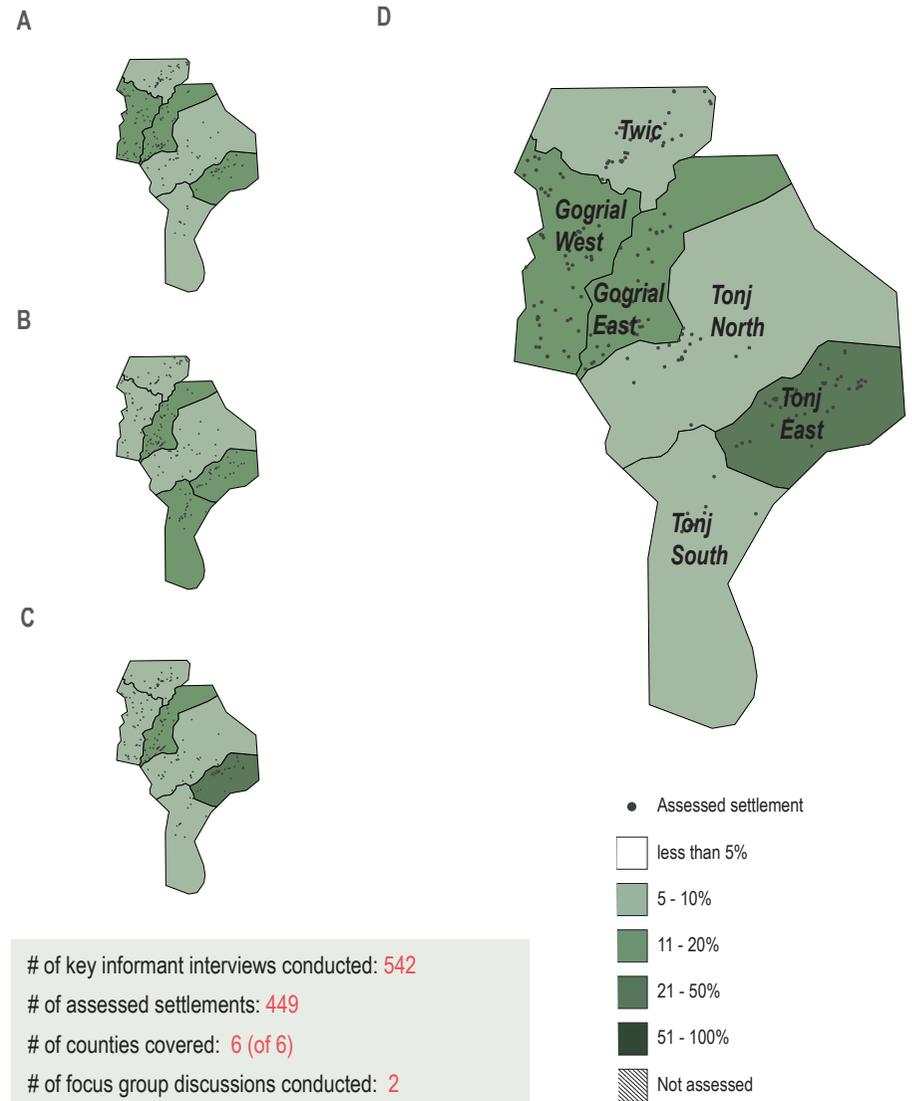
To provide an indicative overview of the situation in hard-to-reach areas of Lakes State, REACH conducts interviews with key informants (KIs) who have recently arrived from, recently visited, or receive regular information from a settlement or "Area of Knowledge" (AoK). These interviews were conducted in collective centres and through phone calling throughout the reporting period. 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 coverage 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 were only conducted for counties with at least 70% consistent payam** coverage over the period. Quantitative findings were triangulated with focus group discussions (FGDs) and secondary sources. FGDs with people displaced from hard-to-reach areas in Warrap State took place in March 2021.

More details of the methodology can be found in the [AoK ToRs](#).

Map 1: REACH assessment coverage* of Warrap State, December 2020 (A), January (B), February (C) and March (D) 2021.



* 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.

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

Key Findings



Displacement: Displacement in Warrap state was likely driven by sub-national and localised conflict, particularly from Greater Tonj* to Gogrial East, Tonj South and Tonj North in Warrap, and to Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal. Indeed, KIs in 43% of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present in Warrap (68%, unchanged) reported that the majority of IDPs had arrived from Tonj North, a 40 percentage point increase since December (see figure 1). Movement intentions of displaced populations will likely be determined by changes in conflict dynamics, with KIs in 91% of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present in Warrap, reporting that the main pull factor for recently arrived IDPs was security (53% in December).



Food Security and Livelihoods: Compound shocks and stressors related to high levels of flooding during the wet season in 2020, as well as localised and sub-national conflict in early 2021 have seemingly driven food insecurity across the state in the first quarter of 2021. Findings indicate that the food security situation in Greater Tonj is particularly severe; reported access to harvested food stocks is low, displacements have perhaps led to increased resource competition, and livelihood access and diversity seems to have seen a large decrease over the reporting period. Indeed, in March, KIs in 97% of assessed settlements in Greater Tonj reported that the ability for most people to engage in their main livelihood activities had reduced (56% in December). The reported reasons for this decreased ability to engage in livelihood activities were primarily related to conflict and insecurity.

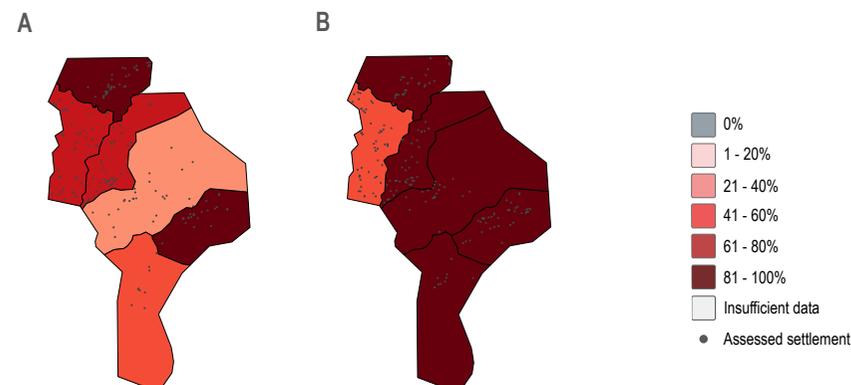


Protection: Heightened localised and sub-national conflict dynamics have likely driven protection needs in the first quarter of 2021. In Tonj East, KIs in 100% of assessed settlements in March reported that there had been at least one conflict incident in which a civilian had been killed in the month prior to data collection (83% in December). While there was a 52 and 44 percentage point increase in killing or injury by the same tribe as the primary reported protection concern for women in Tonj North and Tonj South respectively (52% and 44% in March).



Health and Nutrition: Findings indicate that the primary barriers to healthcare were likely related to distance and lack of medicines. Though KIs in over three quarters (77%) of assessed settlements across the state reported that most people had access by foot to a functional healthcare facility in March (unchanged); only 32% (unchanged) of these KIs also reported that it took less than one hour by foot to access these healthcare facilities.

Map 2: Proportion of assessed settlements in Warrap where KIs reported that most people did not have adequate access to food in December 2020 (A) and March 2021 (B).



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Findings suggest poor WASH conditions in the first quarter of 2021, particularly in Greater Tonj. KIs in 78% of assessed settlements in Tonj South and 33% in Tonj North reported an unimproved** water source as the main source of drinking water (33% and unchanged respectively since December). Across the state, KIs in less than half (46%) of assessed settlements reported the presence of any functional boreholes in March (56% in December). Moreover, distance likely acted a barrier to accessing water in March, with KIs in over half (51%) of assessed settlements reporting that it took over 1 hour to reach, access, and return from their preferred water source.



Shelter/ Non Food Items (NFI): Large differences in reported shelter conditions were seen between host communities, returnees, and IDPs in Warrap State, while shelter conditions appeared to be particularly poor for recently displaced IDPs. In Tonj South, KIs in 50% of assessed settlements where the presence of IDPs was reported, also reported that more than half of IDPs were living in the open without shelter (0% in December); while the same answer was reported in 45% of assessed settlements in Tonj North (0% in December) and 24% of assessed settlements in Gogrial East (unchanged).



Education: Findings indicate that access to education likely remained low in the first quarter of 2021, particularly in Tonj East. Likely related to school closures and long-term poor educational infrastructures, attendance rates appeared to be the lowest in Tonj East, where KIs in 80% (64% in December) and 73% (unchanged) of assessed settlements reported that no boys and girls had attended school in the month prior to data collection, respectively.

*Greater Tonj includes: Tonj North, Tonj East and Tonj South counties.

**unimproved referring to a "dug well, unprotected spring, cart with small tank/drum, tanker truck, and surface water (river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, irrigation channels), bottled water", WHO.

Population Movement and Displacement

In the first quarter of 2021, displacement in Warrap state was likely mostly driven by sub-national and localised conflict. In those assessed settlements where the presence of IDPs had been reported (68%, unchanged since December), KIs also reported insecurity* (96%) as the primary push factor driving internal displacement in the State (61% in December). This displacement driven by insecurity was predominantly seen in Greater Tonj, where, in March, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that an estimated 50,000 individuals were displaced from Greater Tonj to Gogrial East, Tonj South and Tonj North in Warrap, and to Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal, since January 2021 as a result of these high levels of conflict.¹ Indeed, the AoK data for March was perhaps indicative of this trend, as KIs in 43% of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present in Warrap (68%, unchanged) reported that the majority of IDPs had arrived from Tonj North, a 40 percentage point increase since December.

Displacement from Tonj North

Findings suggest that insecurity has driven displacement from Tonj North on both an intra- and inter-county level, mostly to Gogrial East. Indeed, KIs in 77% of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present in Gogrial East (83% in March, 65% in December), reported that

Figure 1: % of assessed settlements with IDP presence by reported country of origin of most recently arrived IDPs, March 2021.

	County of arrival						Total
	Gogrial East	Gogrial West	Tonj East	Tonj North	Tonj South	Twic	
County of origin							
Gogrial East	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	7%
Tonj North	77%	80%	3%	100%	0%	0%	43%
Gogrial West	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Tonj East	0%	0%	97%	0%	0%	0%	31%
Tonj South	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	4%
Twic	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	94%	13%

the majority of IDPs had arrived from Tonj North (18% in December), and 76% reported that more than half of the population in assessed settlements in Gogrial East consisted of IDPs in March (35% in December). Indeed, Tonj North in particular has recently been the site of displacements in late 2020 due to climatic shocks; with the International Organisation on Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reporting that over 16,000 individuals were displaced in September 2020 on an intra-county level within Tonj North due to flooding.² Moreover, the whole of Warrap State was already a major site of displacement prior to those shocks; according to IOM's round 9 baseline assessment, Warrap had the highest estimated total number of IDPs of any state in South Sudan, with over 104,000 IDP individuals recorded between January and September 2020, all of whom having been previously displaced in South Sudan.³

Compound shocks as drivers of displacement

The displacement dynamics seen in Tonj North are perhaps indicative of the severity of the conflict seen in Greater Tonj in early 2021, but also of how multiple shocks over the previous two quarters have likely had compounding effects on displacement. Indeed, these compounding shocks of flooding, followed by conflict, are particularly concerning considering the already high numbers of displaced individuals in the state. In addition, the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) projection for December 2020 to March 2021 indicates that populations in Greater Tonj were likely facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity, further increasing vulnerability of the local communities to shocks.⁴ All the while, the severity of conflict during this period prevented humanitarian access, with OCHA reporting that armed youth had been observed looting trucks in Tonj North, carrying over 42 metric tons of food supplies intended for highly food-insecure people.⁵

Movement intentions and the cultivation cycle

Considering the severity of conflict outlined above, the movement intentions of IDPs from Greater Tonj will likely be primarily determined by levels of (in)security in their areas of origin. KIs in 91% of assessed settlements where IDPs were reportedly present in Warrap, reported that the main pull factor for recently arrived IDPs was security (53% in December). Indeed, recently displaced FGD participants from Tonj North reported that they would not return to their areas of origin unless the levels of conflict decreased, FGD participants from Tonj North reported that, despite their displacement creating barriers to accessing primary livelihoods (crop cultivation) and secondary livelihoods (livestock keeping), they would not return to their areas of origin until the levels of conflict would decrease.⁶ This poor access to farmland used for crop cultivation is particularly of note considering the seasonal calendar for Tonj North; land clearing and preparation is normally conducted between March and April, while planting usually begins in May and finishes latest by July (dependent on rainfall patterns).⁷ This means that already food-insecure IDPs may not be able to return to their areas of origin in time to plant if the conditions for return (security) are not met, which would subsequently effect the availability of the next harvest and further increase their vulnerability.

*Insecurity here referring to killing, rape, fighting, and looting.

1. South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot. UNOCHA, March 2021.
 2. Tonj North County, Warrap State Event Tracking Report. IOM DTM, 9 November 2020.
 3. South Sudan - Baseline Assessment Round 9 - IDP and Returnee. IOM DTM, 31 January 2021.

4. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 - July 2021. IPC, 18 December 2020.
 5. South Sudan Quarterly Humanitarian Access Snapshot, January to March 2021. OCHA, 16 April 2021.
 6. FGD, Tonj North (mixed gender), Population Movement and FSL Shocks. March 2021
 7. Livelihoods Zone Map and Descriptions for the Republic of South Sudan (Updated). FEWS NET, August 2018.

Food Security and Livelihoods

Compound shocks related to high levels of flooding during the wet season in 2020, as well as localised and sub-national conflict in early 2021 have seemingly driven food insecurity across the state in the first quarter of 2021, particularly in Greater Tonj. The IPC has predicted that the food security situation in Warrap would likely slightly improve between December 2020 and March 2021, with Gogrial East, Gogrial West and Twic counties projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of acute food insecurity, whereas Tonj East, Tonj North and Tonj South counties were projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity between December 2020 and March 2021.⁸ The IPC has also predicted that the availability of harvests and other seasonal improvements would serve to augment food security, while the insecurity caused by intercommunal conflict often seen during the dry season would likely limit movement and decrease access to food sources and markets.⁹ While the AoK data reflects some of these predictions, findings indicate that food insecurity has remained high across the state, with KIs in 86% of assessed settlements reporting that most people did not have adequate access to food in March (72% in December, see Map 2). Moreover, there are perhaps indications of more severe levels of food insecurity and vulnerability to further shocks in Greater Tonj, related primarily to low levels of harvested food stocks, displacement, and decreased access to and diversity of livelihoods.

Access to Harvested Food Sources

Access to cultivated food sources varied across the state, with common reporting of inadequate access in Greater Tonj and Twic, likely driven by conflict dynamics during the reporting period and a poor harvest last year due to flooding. In a normal year, harvested foods in the northwestern flood plain (which incorporates most of Warrap) normally last approximately 6 months until March/April; however, in previous years, high levels of conflict have led to early harvest exhaustion as early as in December/January.¹⁰ Indeed, while the proportion of assessed settlements where access to cultivated food (own production) was reported as a primary food source increased in counties such as Gogrial West (from 32% in December to 66% in March), it decreased in Greater Tonj (from 47% to 7%) and Twic (from 30% to 6%) (see Figure 2). These low levels of access to harvested food stocks largely overlapped with reported hunger severity, with KIs in 81% of assessed settlements in Gogrial West reporting that most people's hunger was small and strategies were available to cope with the reduced access to food (0% in December). While for the rest of the state, KIs in 94% of assessed settlements reported that hunger was bad, with limited options to cope with the reduced access to food in March (unchanged). These continued high levels of reported hunger severity and low levels of access to harvested food stocks are likely linked to the effects of severe flooding last year destroying crops before they could be harvested and increased levels of conflict during the reporting period perhaps preventing access to farmlands, particularly in Greater Tonj.^{11 12}

Figure 2: % of assessed settlements where cultivated (own production) food was reported as a primary source of food in December 2020 and March 2021.



Of note, KIs in some assessed settlements in Tonj North (10%) and Tonj South (22%) reported that hunger was the worst it could be, all over the settlement (0% respectively in December). Particularly concerning considering likely preexisting vulnerabilities, where the IPC had predicted that approximately 13,000 were facing Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) levels of acute food insecurity in Tonj North County between October and November 2020.¹³ Moreover, it is likely that the displacement dynamics highlighted in the previous section have also perhaps had a negative effect on the food security situation in Tonj North and Tonj South. KIs in 48% of assessed settlements in Tonj North (23% in December) and 33% of assessed settlements in Tonj South (0% in December) reported that the effects of an increased population because of new arrivals was the main reason that some people could not access enough food in March. Additionally, KIs in 89% of assessed settlements in Greater Tonj reported that the arrival of IDPs or returnees had a large impact on the ability to access enough food for most people (39% in December). This reported decrease in access to harvested food stocks and increased competition for resources between host communities and IDPs, is a combination that could perhaps further increase the vulnerability of already food insecure populations in Greater Tonj.

Market Access and Livelihood Changes

When crop production is lower than expected, markets often serve as a key source of food. In March, KIs in 75% of assessed settlements reported access to any functional market (unchanged); however, physical and financial barriers likely remained. Indeed, in nearly three quarters (73%) of assessed settlements where market access had been reported (75%), it reportedly took more than 1 hour for most people to access their preferred marketplace, and in 83% of those settlements, items were reportedly too expensive, with most people being unable to afford them. These reported high prices are likely related to economic instability linked to the continued increase in the difference between the parallel market and central bank exchange rates of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) to the US Dollar (USD).¹⁴

8. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 - July 2021. IPC, 18 December 2020.

9. *Ibid.*

10. Livelihoods Zone Map and Descriptions For the Republic of South Sudan (Updated). FEWS NET, August 2018.

11. IRNA Report: Tonj South -Tonj Town - Alkalkau Boma, Thiet and Jak. 17-19 March 2021.

12. South Sudan - Tonj East County, Warrap State Flood Analysis (October 2020). IOM, 4 Dec 2020.

13. IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 - July 2021. IPC, 18 December 2020.

14. Sudan devalues currency in effort to access debt relief. Aljazeera, 21 February 2021.

*0% in both December and March

**0% in March

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The first quarter of 2021 also likely saw changes to traditional livelihoods in particular counties in Warrap (see figure 3 for a breakdown of primary reported livelihoods in assessed settlements). KIs in only 23% of assessed settlements in Greater Gogrial¹⁵ reported that the ability for most people to engage in their main livelihood activities had reduced in March (33% in December), comparatively, KIs in nearly all (97%) of assessed settlements in Greater Tonj and Twic reported the same respectively (56% in Greater Tonj in December, unchanged in Twic). In Greater Tonj, the reported reasons for this decreased ability to engage in livelihood activities appeared to be primarily related to conflict and insecurity (reported in 70% of assessed settlements with decreased ability in March), while, in Twic, they were primarily related to climatic factors (68%). Indeed, in March, FGD participants from both Tonj East and Tonj North reported that increased levels of conflict had acted as a major barrier to accessing traditional livelihoods that required movement outside of the settlement to more distant markets, farmlands or forests.¹⁵ Perhaps indicative of this poor reported access to traditional livelihoods, in those assessed settlements in Greater Tonj where typical livelihood migrations were reportedly changed or had stopped (95% in March), KIs also reported conflict and insecurity (99%) as the primary reason for this (66% in December).

There were perhaps also changes to other livelihoods related to pastoralism. Previous studies have shown that cattle in South Sudan have a broad range of benefits and uses as a way of paying dowries, as a source of food, a source of income, and as a symbol of status.¹⁶ Between December and March, the proportion of assessed settlements where cattle ownership was

reported decreased considerably, from 100% to 11% in Tonj South, and 100% to 10% in Tonj North. This decrease may have been related to cattle theft resulting from the insecurity linked to the conflict dynamics outlined earlier in this section. The impact of conflict on access to cattle is further reflected by FGD findings; FGD participants in Tonj North reported that some cattle camps had been moved as far as to Northern Bahr el Ghazal to avoid the conflict, meaning that they were inaccessible as a livelihood for many households; and that even when people had access to cattle, they feared selling them as they reportedly would become a target for thieves en route to cattle markets.¹⁷ This suggests that the effectiveness of accessing cattle as a coping mechanism, to sell for income or to use for livestock products, is perhaps reduced in Tonj North and South.

Overall, though the food security situation in Warrap state seems to have worsened over the previous quarter, the situation in Greater Tonj in particular raises concerns: the proportion of assessed settlements where access to harvested food stocks was reported is low, displacements have perhaps led to increased resource competition, and livelihood access and diversity seems to have decreased. The IPC has predicted that there will be a deterioration in acute food insecurity during the lean season across the state (particularly in Greater Tonj), and though there has been a response scale-up since late 2020, there are reported access constraints related to poor road conditions and insecurity caused by conflict.¹⁸ The effects of several compounding shocks over the last year might drive increasing food security needs and vulnerability to future shocks and compounding stressors among affected populations in Greater Tonj.

Figure 3: Top four most reported livelihood activities in assessed settlements in Warrap, March 2021.

	Gogrial East	Gogrial West	Tonj East	Tonj North	Tonj South	Twic
Charcoal making / collecting firewood	68%	76%	98%	33%	67%	97%
Market seller / shop keeper / trader	53%	56%	86%	0%	0%	38%
Livestock	70%	92%	2%	5%	0%	38%
Fishing	28%	14%	100%	0%	56%	31%

Health

Findings suggest that, across the state, primary barriers to healthcare were primarily related to distance to facilities and a lack of medicine, with malaria in particular driving health needs in the first quarter of 2021. Though KIs in over three quarters (77%) of assessed settlements across the state reported that most people had access by foot to a functional healthcare facility in March (unchanged); only 32% (unchanged) of these KIs also reported that it took less than one hour by foot to access these healthcare facilities, an indication that assessed settlements may fall below the recommended sphere standard.^{**} Moreover, according to KIs in over half (55%) of assessed settlements across the state, the main reported barrier to accessing healthcare at the nearest healthcare facility was that there were no medicines available (unchanged). This means that affected populations in assessed settlements in Warrap are likely walking for a long time to access healthcare, but when they arrive at their preferred health facility, many will perhaps not be able to access adequate medication to treat their ailments. This is particularly of concern considering the numerous incidences of conflict reported across the state (particularly in greater Tonj), whereby affected populations may be exposing themselves to protection concerns associated with traveling long distances along unsafe roads, and may even then not be able to access adequate healthcare.¹⁹

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^{*}Greater Gogrial includes: Gogrial East and Gogrial West.

^{15.} FGD, Tonj North (mixed gender), Population Movement and FSL Shocks. March 2021; FGD, Tonj East (Female), Population Movement and FSL Shocks. March 2021.

^{16.} [The Impact of Conflict on the Livestock Sector in South Sudan. FAO, 2016.](#)

^{17.} FGD, Tonj North (mixed gender), Population Movement and FSL Shocks.

^{18.} [South Sudan: Response scale up for highly food insecure areas. Situation Report No. 6. OCHA, 30 April 2021.](#)

^{**}>=80% of population that can access primary healthcare within one hour's walk from dwellings.

^{19.} [South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot. UNOCHA, February 2021.](#)

^{20.} [South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot. UNOCHA, March 2021.](#)

Perhaps indicative of more long-term infrastructural limitations in healthcare, KIs in 88% of assessed settlements in Tonj East reported that the main reason that healthcare was not available, was that there were never any health facilities nearby (21% in December). These likely infrastructural limitations of healthcare in Tonj East are particularly of concern considering that Tonj East (along with Tonj North and Tonj South), are classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity throughout the reporting period.²¹

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

High health-related needs in Greater Tonj were perhaps compounded by poor WASH conditions in the first quarter of 2021. Indeed, KIs in 78% of assessed settlements in Tonj South and 33% in Tonj North reporting an unimproved* water source as the main source of drinking water (33% and unchanged respectively since December). Indeed, this was corroborated by an FSL sub-cluster coordination mission in March, which identified access to clean drinking water as one of the major challenges in Tonj South, reporting a need to rehabilitate 42 boreholes across 5 payams.²² This poor access to boreholes was likely also an issue across the state, with KIs in less than half (46%) of assessed settlements reporting the presence of any functional boreholes in March (56% in December). Moreover, distance likely acted a barrier to accessing water in March, with KIs in over half (51%) of assessed settlements reporting that it took over 1 hour to reach, access, and return from their preferred water source.

Low latrine usage and ineffective handwashing practices likely led to poor sanitary conditions for many in assessed settlements in March. KIs in 72% of assessed settlements reported that no one had access to any latrines in March (unchanged since December), with KIs in 67% of assessed settlements with low or no access to latrines reporting that this was because there were none available (33% in December), perhaps indicative of long-term limited physical infrastructure.²³ Poor reported latrine access was perhaps compounded by ineffective handwashing practices, with KIs in only 18% of assessed settlements reporting that people wash their hands with both soap and water (unchanged since December). These poor sanitary conditions increase the risk of cholera and other diarrheal or vector-borne diseases for already vulnerable populations in Warrap.²⁴

Protection

Over the last few years, Warrap has experienced unprecedented grassroots, localised and sub-national violence, likely linked to cattle raiding driven by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as cycles of revenge killings.²⁵ Indeed, between January and December 2020, Warrap recorded the second highest number of victims of violence** of any state in South Sudan, while high levels of conflict were recorded in Greater Tonj in early 2021, perhaps driving displacement and acute food insecurity outlined in previous sections.^{26, 27} These conflict dynamics

have perhaps also contributed to an increase in protection concerns and needs across the state, with the proportion of assessed settlements in which KIs reported that most people did not feel safe most of the time increasing to 62% in March (46% in December).

Conflict dynamics appeared more pronounced in Greater Tonj than in the rest of the state in the first quarter of 2021. In Tonj East, KIs in 100% of assessed settlements in March reported that there had been at least one conflict incident in which a civilian had been killed in the month prior to data collection (83% in December); while KIs in 100% of assessed settlements reported at least one incident of property looting in the month prior to data collection (unchanged since December). In Tonj South and Tonj North, the proportion of assessed settlements where killing or injury by the same tribe reportedly was the main protection concern for women increased from 0% in December in both settlements to 52% and 44%, respectively, in March. Of note, protection concerns often have strongly gendered differences in South Sudan, however in March, men and women shared similar reported protection concerns in Tonj North and Tonj South, with killing or injury by the same tribe also as the primary reported protection concern for men in these counties (57% and 44% in March). This is perhaps indicative of the severity of conflict seen in Greater Tonj in the first quarter of 2021, whereby men are most commonly the main combatants and direct victims of violent conflict in South Sudan.²⁸

In 100% of assessed settlements in Tonj East, KIs reported that there had been at least one incident of property looting in the month prior to data collection in March 2021.

In 100% of assessed settlements in Tonj East, KIs reported that there had been at least one conflict incident in which a civilian had been killed in the month prior to data collection in March 2021.

Education

In Warrap, the proportion of assessed settlements with access to education remained low in the first quarter of 2021, perhaps related to school closures and long-term poor educational infrastructures. In March, KIs in less than half (47%) of assessed settlements in Warrap reported that there was at least one education service accessible by foot in the month prior to data collection (unchanged since December). Moreover, KIs in 64% of those assessed settlements where no access to education services was reported in March (53%, unchanged) reported that this was because there were never education facilities nearby or they were always too far to access (unchanged). This is perhaps indicative of the long-term effects of conflict outlined in the previous section, whereby elsewhere in South Sudan, conflict has had a negative impact on education, both in terms of the suffering

21. [IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 - July 2021, IPC, 18 December 2020.](#)

*unimproved referring to a "dug well, unprotected spring, cart with small tank/drum, tanker truck, and surface water (river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, irrigation channels), bottled water", WHO.

22. [Sub-Cluster Coordination Mission – Kuajok \(Warrap State\), FSL Cluster, 16th to 23rd March 2021.](#)

23. [Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2021.](#)

24. [Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2021.](#)

25. [Amplifying people's voices to contribute to peace and resilience in Warrap, South Sudan, Saferworld, March 2021.](#)

**Defined in this case by UNMISS as "victims (killed, injured, abducted, CRSV)"

26. [Annual Brief on Violence on Violence Affecting Civilians, January - December 2020, UNMISS, March 2021.](#)

27. [South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot, UNOCHA, March 2021.](#)

28. [Annual Brief on Violence on Violence Affecting Civilians, January - December 2020, UNMISS, March 2021.](#)

and psychological impact on pupils, teachers, and communities, and in the degradation of the education system and its infrastructure.²⁹

In March, reported attendance rates for boys and girls appeared to be similar, with KIs in 44% of assessed settlements where educational services were available reporting that any boys were attending school, while 47% reported the same for girls (86% and 86% respectively in December). Of note, likely related to recent high levels of conflict, reported attendance rates in Tonj East were the lowest in the state with 80% and 73% of assessed settlements where no boys and no girls, respectively, were reportedly attending school in the month prior to data collection (64% and unchanged respectively since December). However, across the state, these poor attendance rates were likely related to schools being closed across South Sudan since March 2020 because of COVID-19, with KIs in 83% of those assessed settlements where the majority of boys and girls were reportedly not attending school, reporting COVID-19 to be the primary reason for non-attendance.³⁰



Shelter & NFIs

Large differences in reported shelter conditions were seen between host communities, returnees, and IDPs in Warrap State in the first quarter of 2021. In March, KIs in almost all (98%) assessed settlements across the state reported that the main shelter type used by local communities continued to be tukuls* (unchanged since December). Comparatively, KIs in 71% of assessed settlements where presence of IDP returnees had been reported, also reported that returnees in these settlements used tukuls as their main shelter type (51% in December), while the use of rakoobas** was reported in 16% of assessed settlements (36% in December). Of note, reported shelter conditions for IDPs were perhaps particularly severe, with KIs in 39% of assessed settlements where presence of IDP returnees had been reported, also reporting that IDPs in these settlements used rakoobas** as their main shelter type (56% in December), while there reportedly was no shelter accessible for IDPs in 29% of these settlements (19% in December). Considering the patterns of displacement in Greater Tonj previously outlined in this report, poor shelter conditions could perhaps be exposing already food insecure IDP populations in these counties to further health-related concerns as they may have poorer cover from the elements and few areas to set up mosquito nets.³¹

Indeed, shelter conditions seem to have been comparatively worse for IDPs in Greater Tonj and Gogrial East (the likely main areas of arrival for recently displaced IDPs) than in the rest of the state. In Tonj South, KIs in 50% of assessed settlements that reported the presence of IDPs, also reported that more than half of IDPs were living in the open without shelter (0% in December); while the same answer was reported in of assessed settlements with IDP presence in Tonj North

(0% in December), and 24% in Gogrial East (unchanged). Perhaps indicative of the severity of the shelter needs of IDPs in these counties, in March, these three counties constituted the highest proportion of assessed settlements across South Sudan where half or more than half of the IDPs were reportedly living out in the open.³² Moreover, in Tonj North (50%) and in Tonj South (67%) the main reported NFI item needed by IDPs was plastic sheeting, commonly used in shelter construction (20% and 50% in December); though KIs in only 5% of assessed settlements in Tonj North and 0% in Tonj South reported any NFI distributions three months prior to data collection. This is perhaps related to the humanitarian access constraints across the region that were reported in this quarter.³³

Conclusion

High levels of displacement, decreased harvest access and livelihood diversity, along with a poor healthcare infrastructure and increased reported severity of malnutrition are perhaps indicative of high multi-sectoral needs across the state, Particular in Greater Tonj. Though there has been a strong response scale-up in the first quarter of 2021, findings suggest that gaps remain due to access constraints related to conflict, constraints which will likely remain high as the rains come over the subsequent months.³⁴ Compounding shocks over the last year have likely left many with high needs and vulnerable to further shocks and stressors as the lean season approaches in August, when the food security situation is expected to further deteriorate across the state.³⁵

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).

29. [Education Systems in Post-conflict contexts: Case Study of South Sudan, UNESCO.](#)

30. [SOUTH SUDAN Humanitarian Situation Report No. 153, UNICEF, January 2021.](#)

*Tukul refers to a cone-shaped mud hut with a thatched roof.

**Racooba here refers to a shelter built using plastic sheeting (as a roof) and either reeds or mud (as walls). It is commonly used as a temporary shelter in the event of displacement or partial settlement.

31. Ibid.

32. [South Sudan Displacement Crisis - Shelter and Non-Food Items \(NFIs\), Assessment of Hard-to-Reach Areas in South Sudan, March 2021, REACH.](#)

33. [South Sudan: Response scale up for highly food insecure areas, Situation Report No. 6, OCHA, 30 April 2021.](#)

34. Ibid.

35. [IPC Acute Food Insecurity & Acute Malnutrition Analysis, October 2020 - July 2021, IPC, 18 December 2020.](#)