

Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility: Context Update

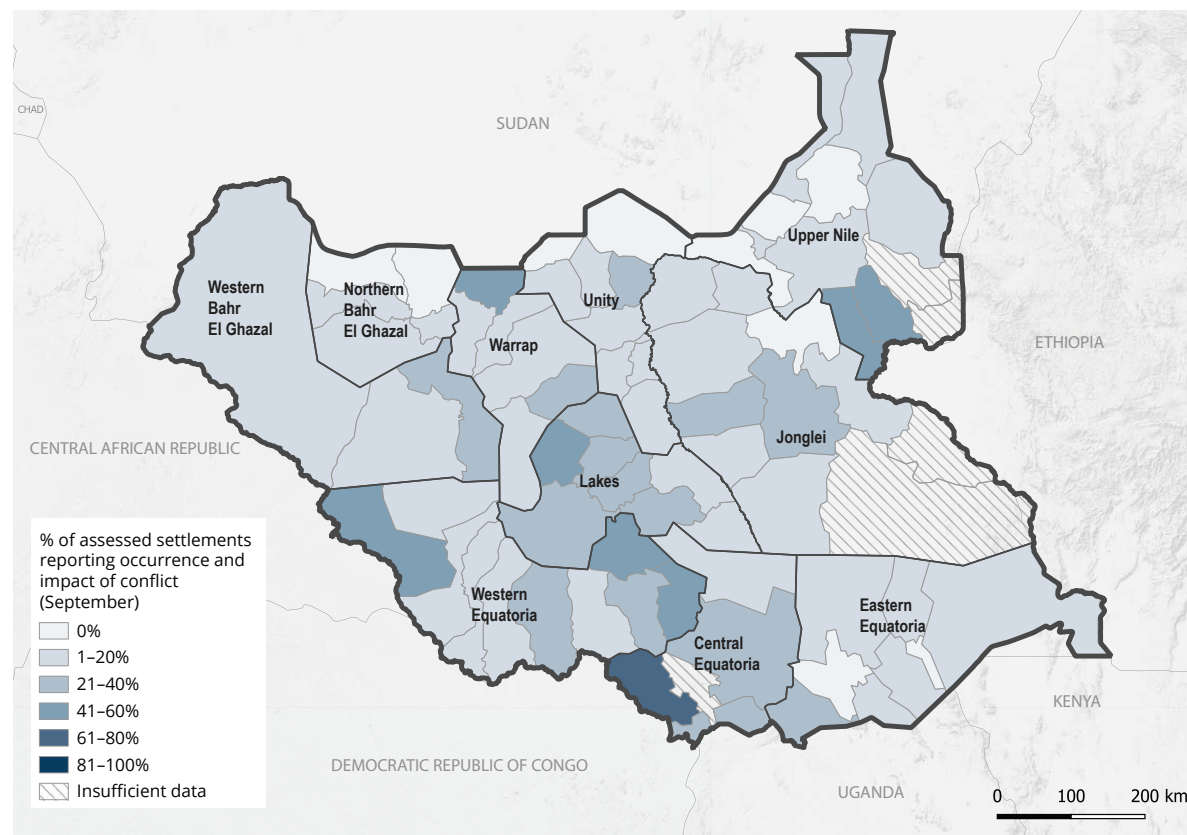
JULY–SEPTEMBER 2020

1. Context Update
2. Future Conflict
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Introduction

This factsheet aims to support a conflict-sensitive approach to decision-making by aid actors and policy makers in South Sudan through an improved understanding of South Sudan's context, conflict dynamics and how aid actors could interact with the context. It provides analysis by the **Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF)** based on quantitative data reported by key informants (KI) at the settlement-level collected by REACH and additional qualitative sources. All percentages presented in the factsheet, unless otherwise specified, represent the proportion of settlements assessed that gave a specific response to a question. Quantitative data is only provided for counties in which at least 5% of settlements have been assessed. All findings presented in this factsheet are **indicative**, rather than **representative**, of the situation in assessed South Sudanese settlements at the time of data collection (unless specified otherwise). For more information on the methodology and limitations, please refer to page 5.

Occurrence and impact of conflict: September 2020



For a more general contextual overview of all counties, please refer to the **County Profiles** on the CSRF website. The CSRF hosts an interactive map of South Sudan designed to help aid workers familiarise themselves with the context. This map includes an overlay of different administrative boundaries. This is set by default to show the 78 counties that make up South Sudan, but can also be changed to show various other configurations of state boundaries. Each county can be clicked to display further information on demographics, livelihoods, infrastructure, conflict dynamics and accessibility.





From July–September 2020, South Sudan has experienced **severe flooding with an estimated 350,000 people displaced**, further economic deterioration and a **high prevalence of violence country-wide**. Counties that scored high on the conflict composite indicator in both July and September were Luakpiny/Nasir, Ulang, Twic, Yei and several counties in Lakes state. In some cases – particularly Luakpiny/Nasir, Ulang and Yei – the high levels of conflict reported over this period is likely to reflect ongoing delays and contestation surrounding the peace process and formation of transitional government. In other cases – such as Twic and those in Lakes State – the high reported level of conflict is likely to reflect ongoing sub-national and localized forms of violence.

In Jonglei State the prevalence of conflict has reduced since July, which may reflect the limitations on movements brought on by the rainy season. In July, however, violence in Jonglei State led to the **displacement of 6,000 individuals** from the village of Likuangole, who sheltered at the United Nations base in Pibor. Data collection has not been possible in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area due to its inaccessibility, although it is known nonetheless to have **experienced serious clashes in July**.

In contrast, there has been a reported intensification of conflict along a corridor running from Mvolo County in the north-west to Juba, Kajo Keji and Magwi counties in the south-east, and Yei in the south-west. This may correspond with the movement of pastoralist groups fleeing violence and flooding in Lakes State into Wulu, Mvolo, Mundri East and Mundri West Counties and the increased incursions of armed groups from Central Equatoria into the Mundri area.¹ This is discussed more on page 3.

Lakes State has been significantly impacted by violent conflict for several months now (particularly in Cueibet and Rumbek Central), which has reportedly manifested in an intensified spate of revenge killings (Cueibet), and an increase in roadside ambushes in an effort to obtain resources (Rumbek Central). This has restricted movement between the two counties.

This **composite indicator** measures the occurrence and impact of reported conflict in assessed settlements. It represents the percentage of assessed settlements where KIs reported the occurrence and impact of conflict in response to the following indicators, with each indicator carrying the same weight:

-  Incidence of conflict resulting in civilian death
-  Incidence of shelter damage due to conflict
-  Conflict-related events cited as a main protection concern²
-  Conflict as a reason for large-scale displacement

¹ NAWG (2020) South Sudan Needs Analysis Working Group Workshop Report. 11 August 2020.

² Reported protection concerns that are considered to be conflict-related: killing/injury by same tribe, killing/injury by other tribe, abduction, forced recruitment, cattle raid, harassment to disclose information, violence between neighbours.

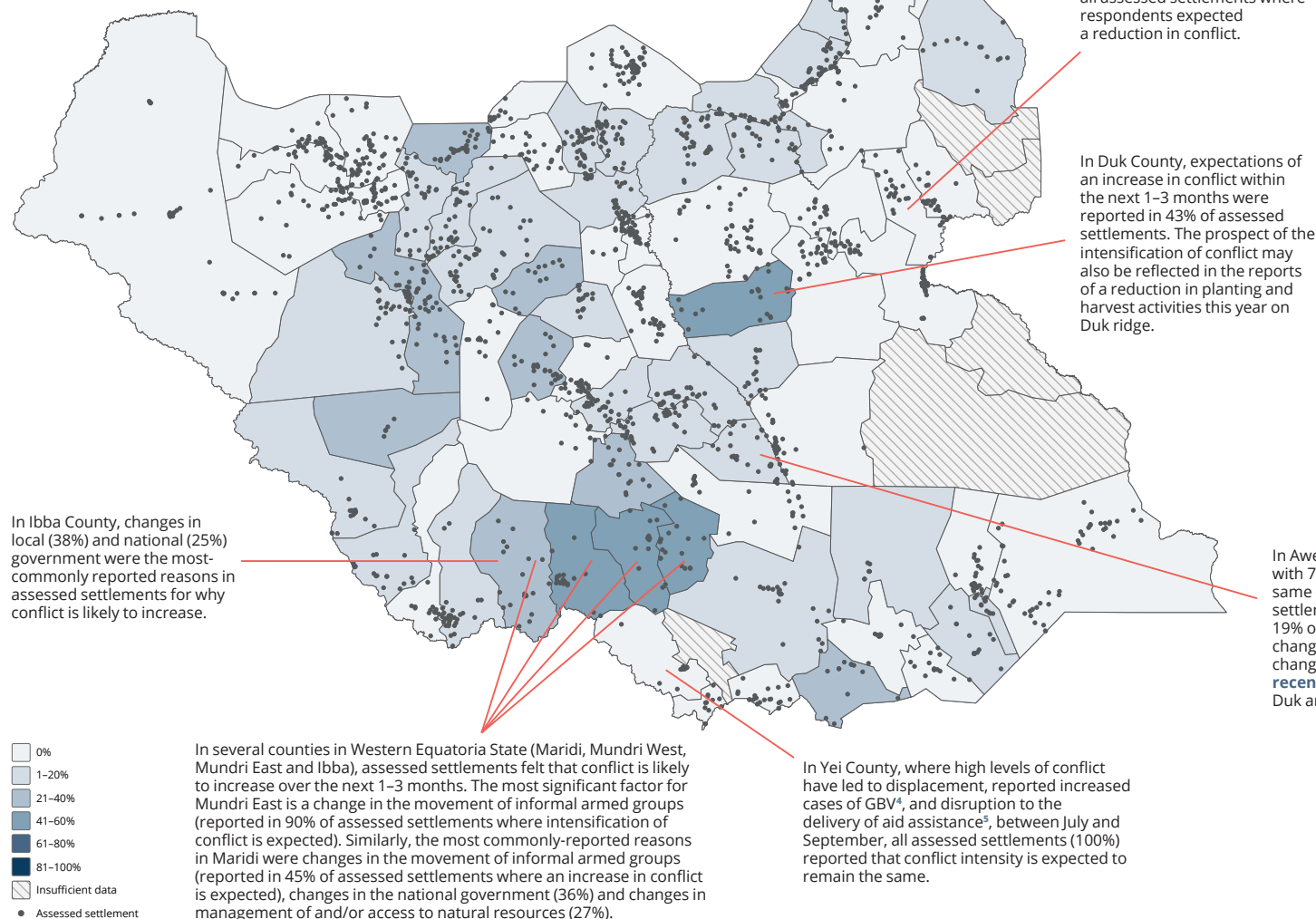
Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility: Future Conflict

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Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that conflict is perceived as very likely or somewhat likely to increase over the next 1–3 months³

This map represents only the perceptions of relative change in conflict events per county, and thus does not indicate the intensity of conflict events.



This page looks at perceptions of conflict trends between October to December as expressed by key informants in assessed settlements in September. The continued rainy season and forecasted flooding are likely to worsen displacement from low-lying areas along the Nile. The significant influx of IDPs from Jonglei to Lakes and Central Equatoria in September 2020 will place a strain on relations with host communities as demand for land and communal resources increases. The case of Mangalla is highlighted on page 5.

In other areas, relations between communities could be influenced by the level of competition and inclusion in formation of state and county governments. For example, whether or not agreement is reached on the appointment of a Governor for Upper Nile State will have a critical impact on relations between both armed groups and communities in that area. Similar questions on inclusion of groups who feel they have been marginalized in upcoming appointments elsewhere may also exacerbate tensions.

The end of the rainy season in November brings improved capacity to move, and the start of the movement of livestock to dry season grazing lands. This tends to be a flashpoint for disputes and heightened tensions in some areas – such as along the borders of Lakes, Unity, Warrap and Western Bahr el-Ghazal States – should be carefully monitored.

In Awerial County, similar to Ulang, there were differing perceptions, with 70% of assessed settlements feeling that conflict will stay the same over the October to December period. However, 11% of assessed settlements felt conflict would intensify during the same period, while 19% of settlements felt it would decrease. Reasons for these projected changes were similarly attributed to changes in the numbers of IDPs and changes in the delivery/design of aid. This may be accounted for by the **recent influx of IDPs into Mingkaman (Awerial County)** arriving from Duk and Twic East Counties due to flooding.⁶

³ Covering period October–December 2020.

⁴ NAWG (2020) South Sudan Needs Analysis Working Group Workshop Report. 11 August 2020.

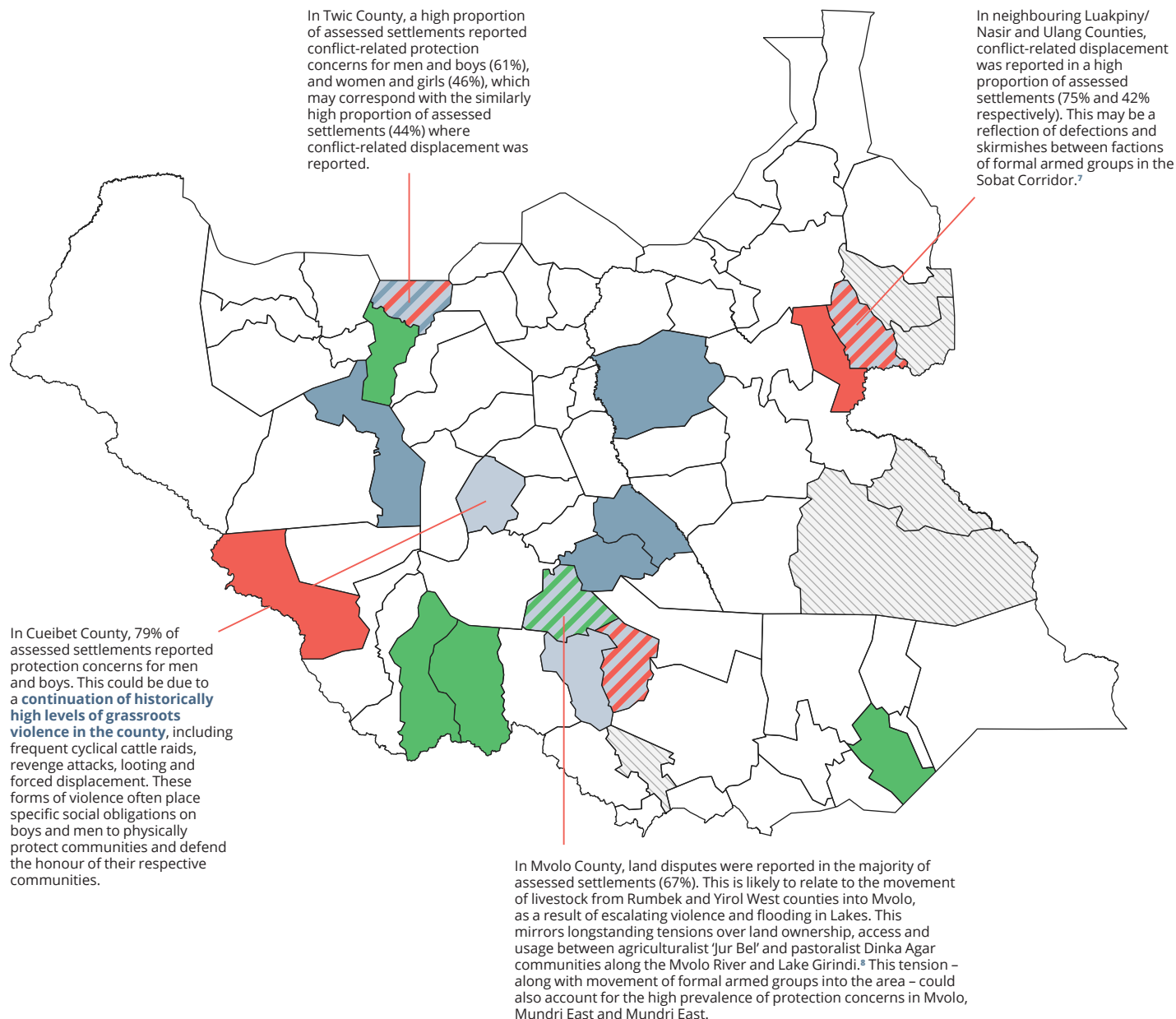
⁵ UNOCHA, South Sudan: Quarterly Humanitarian Access Snapshot (July to September 2020)

⁶ IOM (2020) **Event Tracking: Mingkaman – Awerial Flooding**. November 2020.

Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility: Specific types of Conflict

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Perceptions of safety

Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that most people in the community felt unsafe most of the time.

Hotspot counties, where assessed settlements reported that most people in their settlement feel unsafe most of the time, cover a broad geographical spread of the country, including in Lakes State (Cueibet, Rumbek Centre), Western Bahr El Ghazal (Jur River), Central Equatoria (Juba) and Upper Nile (Ulang). These feelings of a lack of safety could be in response to diverse forms of frequently-experienced violence – including retribution killings, the prevalence of weapons in Lakes State, violent crime in more urban areas or along transport corridors like Juba County, and clashes between livelihoods groups in Jur River County. As indicated on page 5, it has not been possible to collect data in all areas of the county, such as Greater Pibor Administrative Area and parts of Jonglei, meaning that the below list is indicative only of assessed settlements.

Cueibet	92%
Jur River	88%
Juba	87%
Rumbek Centre	85%
Ulang	85%

Top 5 counties

- Conflict-related displacement
- Disputes about land ownership
- Conflict-related protection concerns for women and girls
- Conflict-related protection concerns for men and boys
- Insufficient data
- Assessed counties not among the top 5 counties on the aforementioned indicators

⁷ NAWG (2020) South Sudan Needs Analysis Working Group Workshop Report. 11 August 2020.

⁸ USAID (2010) **Conflict Over Resources Among Rural Communities in Southern Sudan: A Case Study of Lake Girindi, Mvolo County, Western Equatoria State (WES)**, in 'Land Tenure Issues in Southern Sudan: Key Findings and Recommendations for Southern Sudan Land Policy'.

Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility: Sector-Specific Considerations

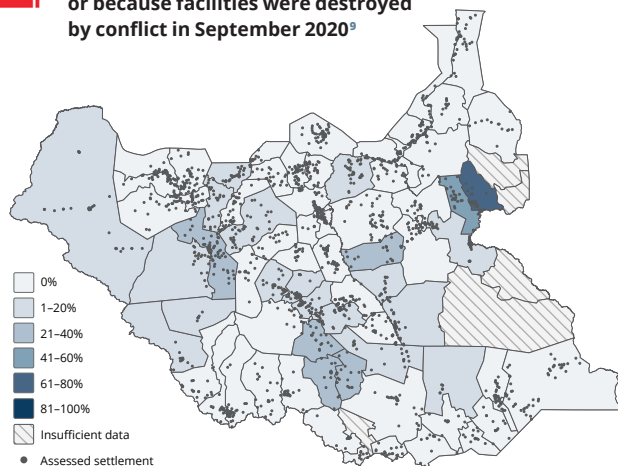
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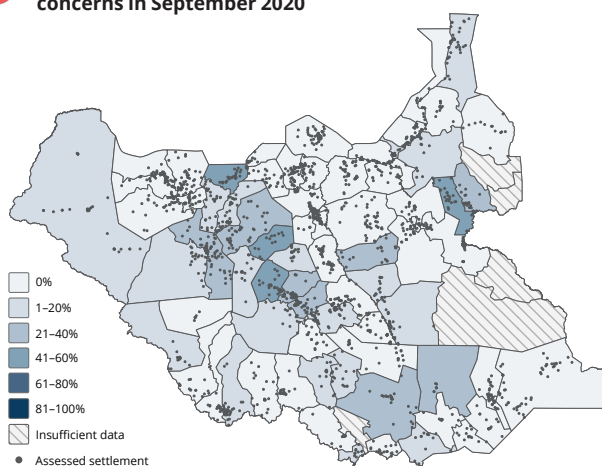
Impact on access to resources and services



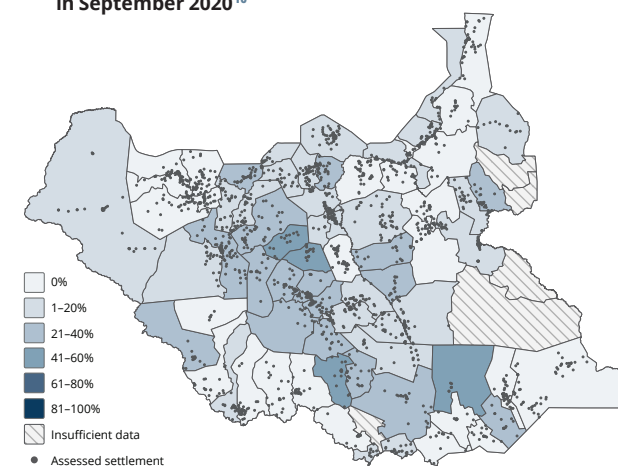
Proportion of assessed settlements reporting lack of access to health services due to security concerns or because facilities were destroyed by conflict in September 2020⁹



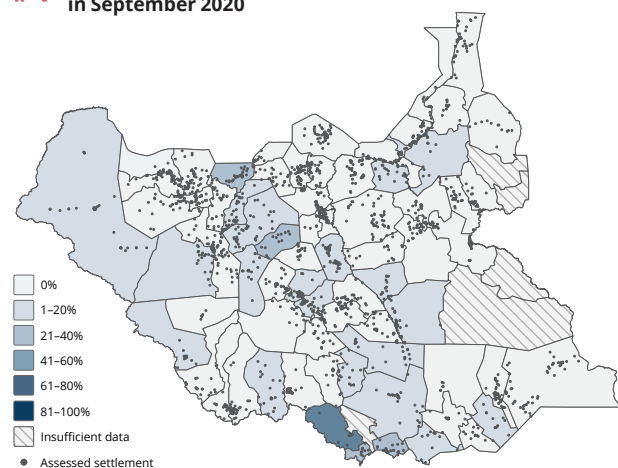
Proportion of assessed settlements reporting lack of access to a preferred waterpoint due to safety concerns in September 2020



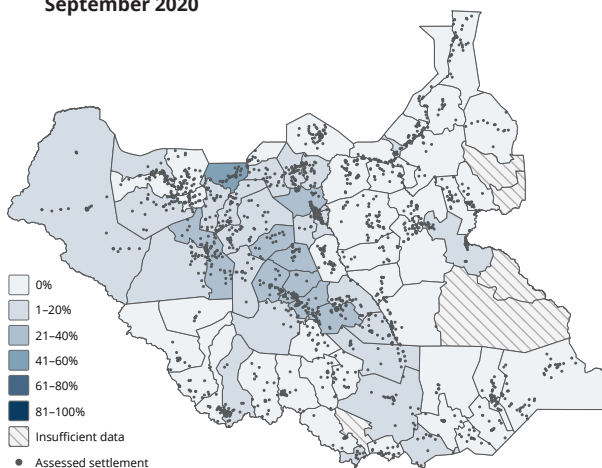
Proportion of assessed settlements reporting no access to markets due to safety concerns in September 2020¹⁰



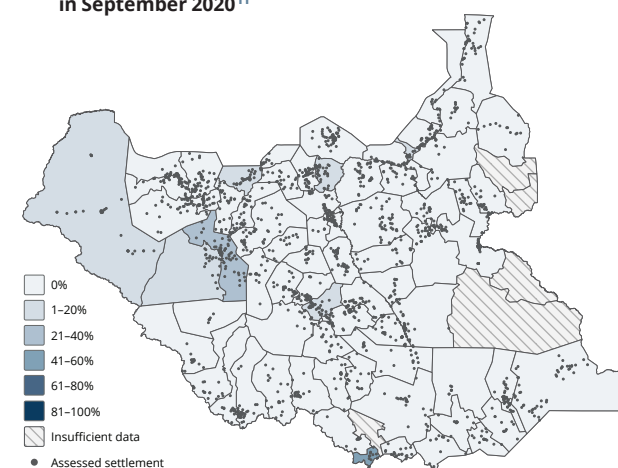
Proportion of assessed settlements reporting conflict had let to shelter damage or destruction in September 2020



Proportion of assessed settlements reporting conflict or looting have had a large impact on access to food in September 2020



Proportion of assessed settlements reporting no access to education due to security concerns in September 2020¹¹



⁹ Responses included to indicate conflict/security concerns as a barrier to accessing health services: area is too insecure to travel to the health facility, health facility itself is too insecure, and facilities were destroyed by fighting.

¹⁰ Responses included to indicate safety concerns as a barrier to marketplace access: conflict, sexual violence, robbery, road unsafe, and marketplace unsafe

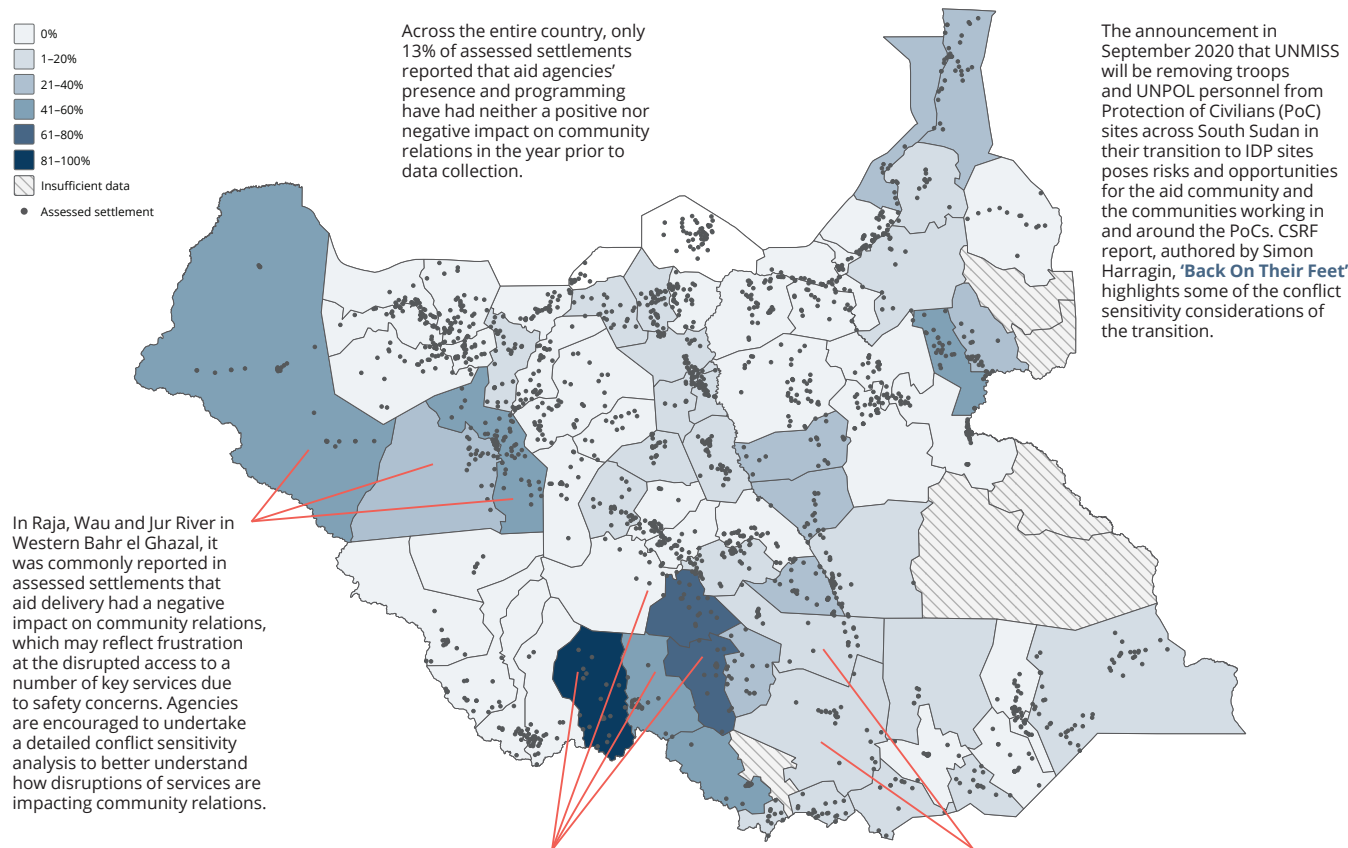
¹¹ Responses included to indicate safety concerns as a barrier to education access: insecurity, facility destruction due to conflict, and teachers fleeing due to conflict

Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility: Conflict Sensitivity Considerations

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Proportion of assessed settlements reporting that the presence and programming of humanitarian and development agencies have had a negative impact on relationships between communities over the last year prior to data collection¹²



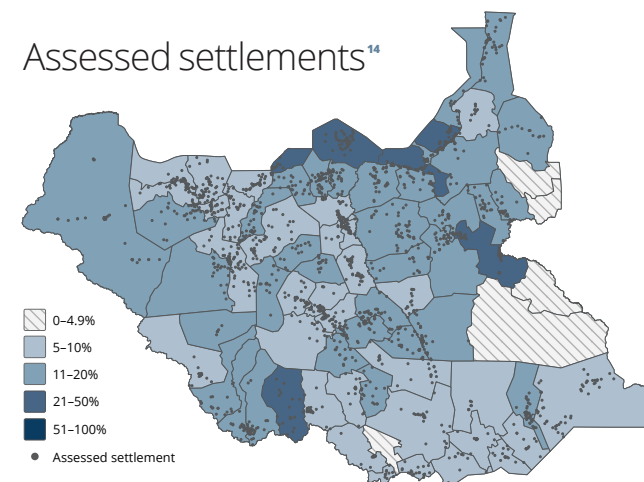
Top 10 counties with the highest proportion of assessed settlements reporting a negative impact:¹³

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ibba (89%) | 6. Jur River (47%) |
| 2. Mvolo (75%) | 7. Raja (44%) |
| 3. Mundri West (64%) | 8. Yei (43%) |
| 4. Ulang (57%) | 9. Wau (32%) |
| 5. Maridi (50%) | 10. Duk (31%) |

Methodology

Through the Area of Knowledge (AoK) methodology, REACH remotely monitors needs and access to services across South Sudan. AoK data is collected monthly and through multi-sector interviews with the following typology of Key Informants (KIs): People who recently arrived from hard-to-reach areas, or who have recently been in contact with someone in a hard-to-reach area, or who are located in a hard-to-reach area and were contacted by phone during data collection. Selected KIs are purposively sampled and have knowledge from within the last month about a specific settlement in South Sudan, with data collected at the settlement-level. All percentages presented in this factsheet, unless otherwise specified, therefore represent the proportion of settlements assessed with a given response to a question. Due to the KI methodology, it has not been possible to collect data in all areas of the country, and findings are indicative, not representative, of the situation in assessed settlements in South Sudan during the data collection period (July–September 2020). It has not been possible to collect data in all areas of the country, such as GPAA and parts of Jonglei. Supplementary qualitative information was sourced through secondary data, KIIs and FGDs conducted throughout September 2020. If data collection was not possible or was insufficient (illustrated by grey diagonal shading in maps) in counties, this does not imply that conflict events have not recently taken place or that there is no ongoing conflict. The low accessibility of KIs from these areas may sometimes be related to conflict, which can restrict movements of KIs to data collection points. AoK data was not collected by REACH in August 2020.

Assessed settlements¹⁴



¹² This data was collected in September 2020, but covers the last year prior to data collection. Please note that we are not assessing positive impact of agencies on peace here also, with is another key aspect of conflict sensitivity.

¹³ This is a composite of both reported "slightly negative" and "very negative" impact.

¹⁴ The most recent OCHA Common Operational Dataset (COD) released in March 2019 has been used as the reference for settlement names and locations. This coverage map is for September 2020.