

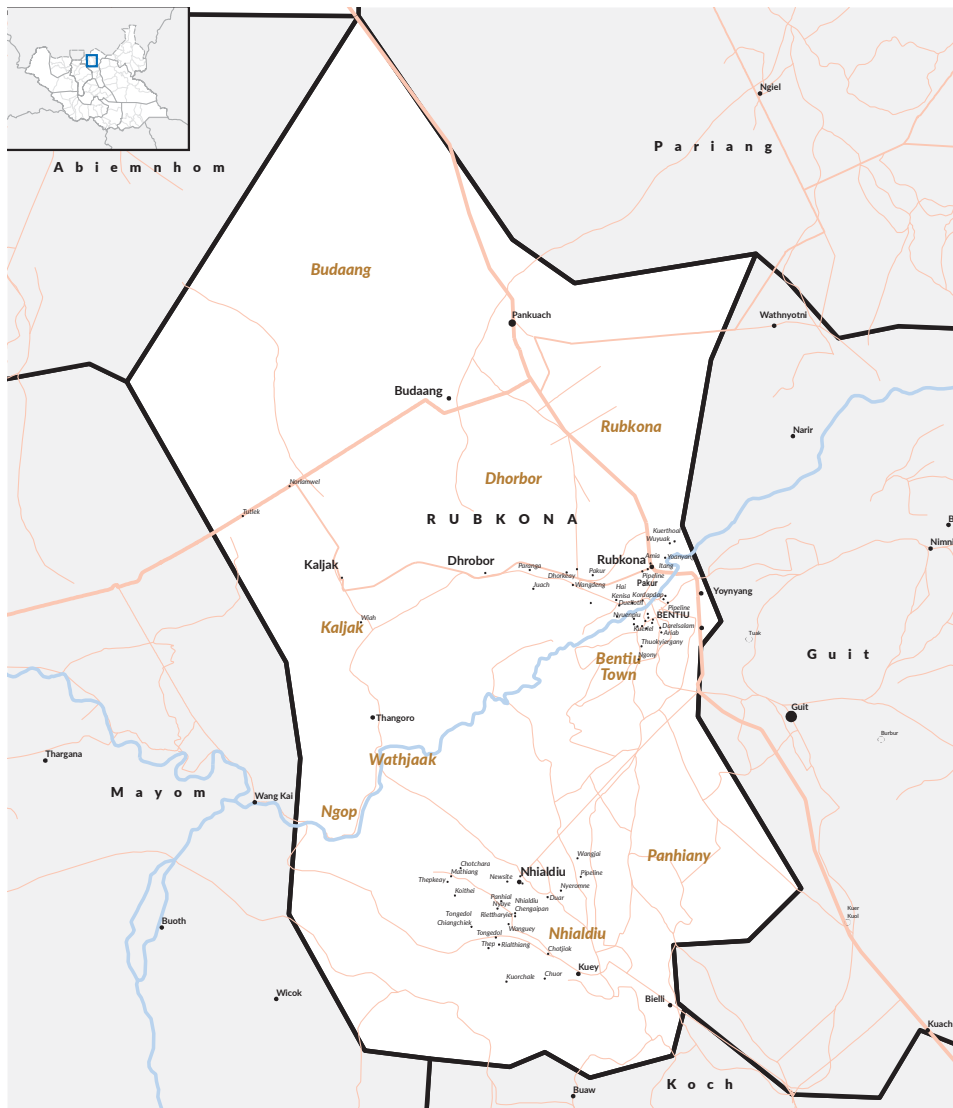


BENTIU RUBKONA NHIALDIU
Recording the majority of returnees

PANHIANY WHATJAAK NGOP
Hardly accessible Payams and nearly deserted

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase both humanitarian and early recovery activities outside the PoC
- Rehabilitate and operationalize key infrastructure to support reintegration of returnees
- Expand livelihood diversification activities for returnees and host communities



The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan or IOM. This map is for planning purposes only. IOM cannot guarantee this map is error free and therefore accepts no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from its use. Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of Abyei region is not yet determined.

¹ Due to inaccessibility of some areas, not all facilities in Rubkona County were assessed. As such, this figure represents the percentage of facilities found to be functional of those assessed during the Village Assessment Survey (VAS).

METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the Village Assessment Survey (VAS) are to provide baseline data for mapping the basic needs and critical gaps in areas of high return and to share the findings with government authorities and partners for better planning, coordination and targeting of transitional and recovery activities. The sources of data used in the VAS are derived from four complementary and integrated questionnaires: Boma Questionnaire, Payam Authorities Questionnaire, Health Technical Questionnaire and Education Technical Questionnaire. A mixed methods approach of key informant interviews, focus group discussions (FGD) and direct observation is utilized to collect and triangulate data throughout the data collection process. The data collection teams conduct assessments in the locations of interest by physically visiting each of the Bomas, villages and health and education facilities.

In efforts to build the capacity of national actors, IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with two national non-governmental organizations, Greater Upper Nile Organization (GUNO) and CLIP Poverty. IOM conducted a comprehensive 3-day training for data enumerators from GUNO and CLIP Poverty. The first two days focused on effective data collection techniques and methods, in-depth review of the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices. On the third day, data enumerators applied the theory and acquired skills in different group simulations and exercises. Following the successful completion of the training, three data collection teams comprised of 21 enumerators and seven Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC) representatives were deployed to cover seven Payams and 28 Bomas from 30 March to 13 April 2017. IOM worked closely with GUNO and CLIP Poverty using a mentorship approach throughout the data collection period.

IOM Boma Mapping Survey

Conducted in each Boma with the administrators and representatives at the Boma level and representatives of the returnee, women and youth groups.

Payam Authority Questionnaire

Conducted at each Payam with the senior Payam authority (i.e. Payam Administrator or Executive Director)

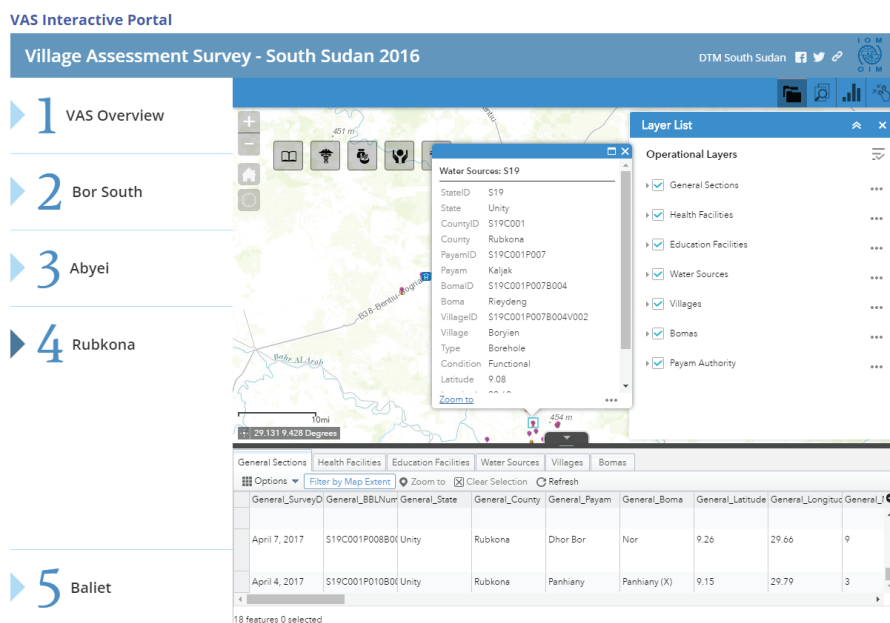
Education Technical Questionnaire

Conducted at each education facility with the facility staff (i.e. teachers or the headmaster)

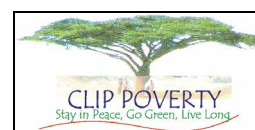
Health Technical Questionnaire

Conducted at each health facility with the facility staff (i.e. doctor or health officer)

The datasets, questionnaires and reports, including photographs of health facilities and education facilities, have been uploaded to the DTM interactive portal at <http://iomsouthsudan.org/tracking/vas>



The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) was conducted in partnership with GUNO and CLIP Poverty:



CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The IOM DTM team faced several challenges which may present some limitations to the data. Firstly and due to direct observation and reliable local authority information, it must be noted that some Bomas are currently deserted due to insecurity or other reasons of decreased population density such as seasonal migration. Secondly, due to a combination of lack of road infrastructure and densely vegetated swamps, the team was unable to collect data for all villages in the County. As such, the results are based on qualitative findings gathered from 23 focus group discussions, 22 key informant interviews and direct observation. In deserted Bomas and villages, qualitative data was not available. Therefore, quantitative data was collected through mapping of infrastructure. Thirdly, the original village or Boma names have been retained by local authorities and chiefs in some instances even after the introduction of the new 28-state system. Therefore, in some instances administrators had different names for the same village or Boma. Finally, the use of multiple geographical boundaries by local authorities and chiefs presented challenges in understanding the administrative location of certain villages and Bomas under the new 28-state system. As such, the team faced some difficulties in accurately capturing data disaggregated by Payam, Boma and village due to varying perspectives on geographical boundaries and Payam composition with respect to the new 28-state governance structure. For the same reason, the team faced challenges in collecting reliable population data within each Payam. However, the report presents a significant amount of data on the level of infrastructure and services available in the locations most populated and where internally displaced persons (IDPs) are more likely to return in the future.



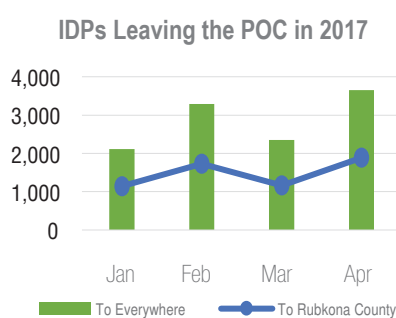
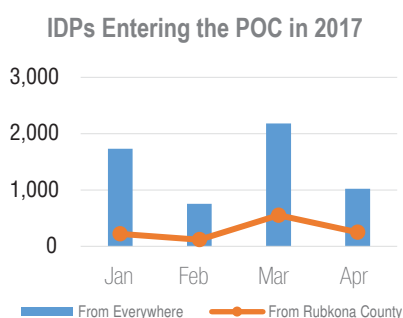
RUBKONA OVERVIEW AND DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

Rubkona County is an administrative division of Northern Liech State and formerly part of Unity State in South Sudan. It borders Guit County to the east, Southern Kordofan State (Sudan) to the north, Abiemnhom County to the northwest, Mayom County to the west and Koch County to the south.

Since the outbreak of violence between the Government and the opposition movement led by Riek Machar in December 2013, there has been a significant level of armed conflict in the area. In the first year of the conflict, the main town of Bentiu exchanged hands three times with both sides being accused of significant human rights abuses. This included a brutal attack on civilians in April 2014 in which as many as 200 people may have been killed. During those battles, foreign fighters from Sudanese militia groups, including the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army / North (SPLA/N), fought alongside Government forces and continue to maintain a presence in the region.

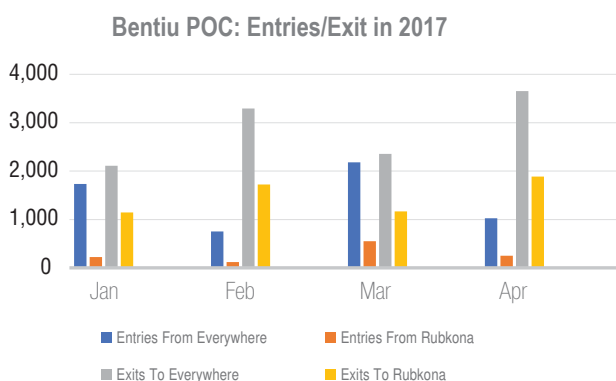
Other significant clashes took place during that period in Jazeera, Kaljak, Nhialdiu and Panacuac. Since Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) offensives in mid-2015 to regain control of the County, the area of Rubkona has been considerably calmer. However, there has been sustained Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA/iO) presence in small pockets of the county leading to further clashes between the two main warring parties in Jazeera, Nhialdiu and Buaw in late 2016.

The emergence of civil conflict in South Sudan led to massive internal and cross-border displacement of civilians, amidst extreme violence, harassment and the deliberate destruction of infrastructure such as marketplaces and boreholes. Basic community services were decimated in many areas, and the crisis contributed to food insecurity. Since the start of the conflict, Bentiu has become home to the largest Protection of Civilian (PoC) site in the country. While the initial influx to the UNMISS base in Bentiu was made up of people escaping violence in Bentiu town, it has come to house large numbers of civilians from the rest of Rubkona County as well as increasingly large numbers from areas further south. When the humanitarian community began expanding the PoC site in January 2015, the population was 43,718 IDPs. This figure increased to over 87,000 IDPs by July 2015. The PoC was able to eventually accommodate a population of over 149,000 IDPs by February 2016 and currently houses around 120,000 IDPs as per recent Population Head Counts.

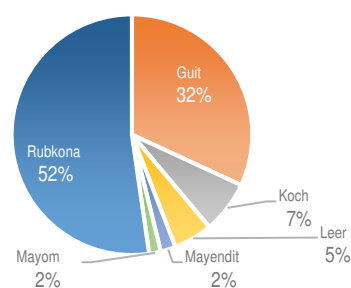


Movements in and out of the PoC are dynamic with recent trends indicating significantly more sizable exits than entries. According to IOM's Flow Monitoring analysis from January 2017 to April 2017, 5,700 new IDPs entered the PoC mainly for food (54%) and security (40%). Approximately 20% came from Rubkona County while the majority came from other counties within Unity State including Koch, Mayom, Leer and Mayendit.

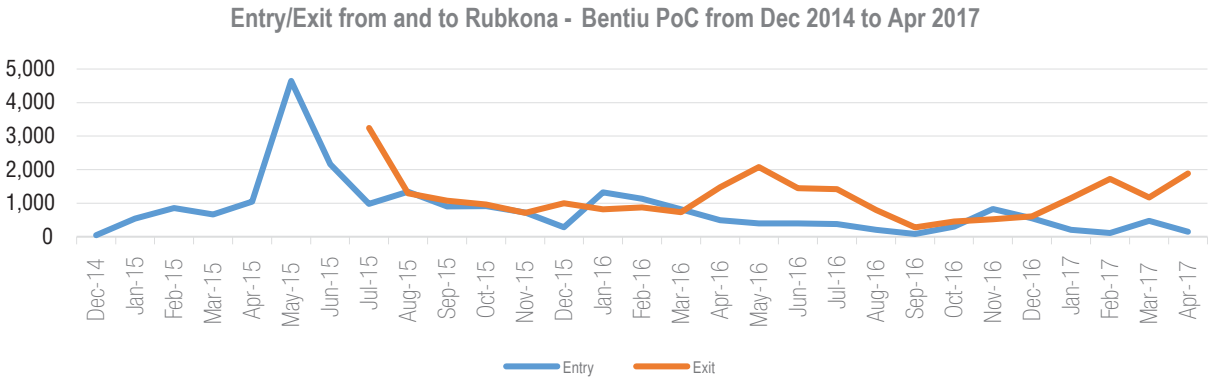
During the same period, around 11,400 people left the PoC to return to their Payams of origin. Of those that left, 52% moved back to Rubkona County with approximately 60% heading to Rubkona, Dhorbor and Nhialdiu Payams. Main reasons for leaving included Rejoining Family (68%); Food (19%); and Other (13%).



Destination of IDPs leaving Bentiu POC (from Jan to Apr 2017)



Since Flow Monitoring activities began in Bentiu PoC in December 2014, there has been an overall trend of increasing number of exits from the PoC due to a variety of factors including rejoining family and improved perception of security. There also has been exchange of biometric card to other locations in Rubkona County from Bentiu PoC. In total of 8,014 individuals changed their locations to Bentiu Town, Dingding and Nhialdiu from June 2016 to May 2017.



Individuals who have changed their biometric cards from Bentiu PoC to other locations in Rubkona - 2016 - 2017

	HH	Individuals			0-4 Yrs		5-17Yrs		18-59Yrs		Male60+Yrs	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Bentiu Town	1,184	4,019	1,663	2,356	540	573	768	795	321	933	34	55
Ding-Ding	911	3,706	1,556	2,150	421	392	863	880	233	804	39	74
Nhialdiu	126	289	143	146	19	32	65	54	56	54	3	6
	2,221	8,014	3,362	4,652	980	997	1,696	1,729	610	1,791	76	135

KEY FINDINGS





In March and April 2017 IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with GUNO and CLIP Poverty to evaluate the availability of basic services and infrastructure in Rubkona County and to provide key recommendations to facilitate transition and recovery programming. Key findings of the exercise include:

- UNMISS PoC site in Rubkona County is the largest PoC in South Sudan and currently hosts around 117,046 IDPs according to an IOM PoC Population Head Count held from 29-31 May 2017, from different counties mainly within Unity State.
- Although the general security situation in Rubkona is improving and humanitarian activities are resuming outside the POC, particularly in Rubkona Payam and Bentiu town, the perception of insecurity still remains a concern for return communities and IDPs in the PoC as per FGDs and interviews. Various services provided by the humanitarians in the PoC, mainly monthly general food distribution (GFD), WASH, Protection, Health, Education and others, is another factor for IDPs to remain in the PoC. In line with the Beyond Bentiu Strategy, humanitarians are providing services such as biometric registration (BMR) and food distribution to areas outside of the PoC, resulting in part to a total of 3,980 HH and 14,724 Individuals changing biometric cards to areas outside of the PoC (mainly Bentiu town, Ding Ding and Kuach), however, the unstable security situation contributes to IDPs preferring to stay or remain registered in Bentiu PoC to receive services.
- There are gradual return movements particularly towards the southeast of the County, mainly to Rubkona, Bentiu and Nhialdiu Payams. Local and affordable transport has resumed from Bentiu town to surroundings Counties, mainly Guit, Leer, Koch and Mayom.
- Bentiu and Rubkona towns remain the most populated areas in the County comprised predominantly of IDPs from other Payams and Counties. Markets are only functioning in only these two towns with the market in Rubkona being more active due to closer proximity to the PoC.
- According to local information sources, a large number of people previously living in Budang and Kaljak Payams have resettled in the surrounding areas of Nhialdiu town and Chotchara, Mathiang, Bielcher and Ryeideng Bomas. Those Bomas are now administratively considered part of the previous Payams (Budang and Kaljak), although far from the respective Boma Headquarters (HQs).

- Main roads to Budang, Dhorbor and Kaljak HQs are in good condition while the road to Nhialdiu requires repair. The main roads only lead to the HQs of the respective Payams and Bomas, while accessibility to the internal villages is very poor.
- The central part of the County is mainly swampland with several small villages accessible only by foot. Very few people are reported living in that area (mainly cattle keepers with their families).
- Panhiany Payam is hardly accessible and almost completely deserted.
- The only functional Secondary School in Rubkona County is inside the Bentiu PoC.
- The majority of County infrastructure has been destroyed, heavily damaged, or looted during the crisis of 2013-2014. Rehabilitation of key public infrastructure such as roads, health facilities, education facilities and water points will greatly benefit communities and encourage return movements.
- The mobile network is available only in Rubkona Payam and Bentiu town. Zain is the only provider currently in service in the area.

PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

Rubkona County is the HQ of the State Government and it consists of 9 Payams: Bentiu Town, Rubkona, Budang, Dhorbor, Kaljaak, Ngop, Wathjaak, Panhiany and Nhialdiu. Due to inaccessibility and very limited population density, VAS was not conducted in the Payams of Ngop and Wathjaak.

		Payams						
		Bentiu	Rubkona	Panhiany	Nhialdiu	Budang	Kaljak	Dhorbor
	% of villages assessed that are populated	83%	55%	0%	75%	67%	64%	25%
	# of assessed populated villages	19	12	0	21	4	9	3
	% of villages assessed that are deserted or inaccessible	17%	45%	100%	25%	33%	36%	75%
	# of deserted or inaccessible villages	4	10	6	7	2	5	9
	Functional Boreholes	17	6	1	13	6	5	2
	Non-functional boreholes	15	11	4	21	5	2	7
	Functional schools	6	4	0	2	0	0	0
	Non-functional schools	3	2	1	0	1	1	2
	Functional health facilities	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Non-functional health facilities	1	2	0	0	1	1	0

The above data are reported based on the GPS locations of the infrastructure and where they fall within geographic boundaries of the 10 states administrative division. The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan or IOM. This map is for planning purposes only. IOM cannot guarantee this map is error free and therefore accepts no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from its use. Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of Abyei region is not yet determined.

PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

Bentiu Town

- Bentiu town hosts the State HQ of the Northern Liech State instead of Unity State under which it was formerly registered.
- Bentiu town population is mainly comprised of IDPs from surrounding Counties (Leer, Koch, Mayom and Guit) and Payams within Rubkona County. The majority of the population resides in the main town as areas in the southern part are militarized.
- Some of the infrastructure looted and destroyed during the fighting from 2013-2014 has been rehabilitated and is currently functional. Six primary schools, one Primary Health Care Center (PHCC) run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and part of the main hospital are functional. Partial services in the hospital resumed operations at the end of 2016.
- Kalibalak market is one of the two markets functional in the whole County. The basic supplies come from Khartoum.
- 39,776 biometrically registered IDPs depend on humanitarian aid, especially GFD (WFP). As a source of livelihood, some families operate small household level farming and business activities in the market.
- UNICEF reportedly provides 500,000 liters of clean drinking water daily through a conventional treatment plant.

Rubkona

- Rubkona Payam is located north-west of Bentiu town. It is composed of 7 Bomas with the majority of the population concentrated in the Bomas of Chielak and Pakur. Other Bomas (Barmalual, Ngapley, and Nying) are difficult to access due to lack of road infrastructure and riverways.
- There is a rapid increase in the number of shelters observed in Rubkona, particularly in the Chielak area. This may be due to the proximity to Bentiu PoC which can easily be reached in the event of a deterioration in the security situation.
- Based on direct observation and focus group discussions, many people registered in the PoC are currently living in Chielak Boma, close to the PoC, in order to receive basic services (mainly GFD).
- Rubkona market is currently more active than Kalibalak market in Bentiu town due to close proximity to Bentiu PoC.
- The majority of the population depends on humanitarian aid, mainly GFD. Other livelihood activities in Rubkona include small businesses in the market.
- UNICEF reportedly provides 270,000 liters of clean drinking water through Surface Water Treatment (SWAT).
- Four primary schools and 1 PHCC are active in Rubkona Payam.

Panhiany

- Panhiany Payam is located in the southeastern part of Rubkona County.
- The majority of villages are mostly deserted, with only cattle keepers and their livestock observed to be living in these areas. Some of the cattle camps in the area are abandoned because of cattle raiding attacks.
- Villages in Panhiany Payam were completely destroyed during the 2013 conflict. No infrastructure is present and of the boreholes assessed, only one was functional.

Nhialdiu

- Nhialdiu is located in the southwestern part of Rubkona County and the third most populated Payam after Bentiu and Rubkona. The most populated Bomas are Nhialdiu town followed by Nyeromneand Chuor.
- Some of the surrounding Bomas of Nhialdiu town (Chotchara, Mathiang, Byelcheir, and Ryeideng) are administratively considered part of Kaljak and Budang Payams even though the HQs of these Payams is situated in the northern part of the County. At the same time, Normalwel Boma is considered part of Nhialdiu Payam even though it is situated in the northern part of the County in Budang area geographically.
- There is a gradual return of IDPs from the PoC and neighboring Payams, mainly Rubkona. Majority of IDPs were observed to be moving by foot towards Nhialdiu from the PoC.
- Accessibility to Nhialdiu during the rainy season is greatly hindered due to poor road conditions.
- The education and health facilities present in the area (2 primary schools and 1 PHCC) are not sufficient for the current population, especially considering the continued volume of returns. The majority of the boreholes are inoperational and require rehabilitation.
- The main livelihood activities practiced by the community are farming (maize, sorghum and vegetables), livestock keeping and selling of charcoal and poles to Rubkona and Bentiu town markets.

PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

Budang

- Budang HQ is situated in the northern part of the County. It is almost completely deserted due to insecurity, lack of food, water and basic services.
- The majority of people are living on two sides of the river in Normalwel (administratively considered as part of Nhialdiu Payam) and the southern part of the County in the surroundings of Nhialdiu town (Chotchara and Mathiang).
- The area is heavily militarized as it serves as the border between SPLA and SPLA/IO forces.

Kaljak

- Kaljak Payam is situated in the central west part of Rubkona County.
- Kaljak HQ is mainly composed of military barracks with the population being in the southern part of the Payam in small and scattered villages along the riverbank. The majority of the population has moved to the two Bomas of Bielcheir and Ryeideng located on the eastern side of Nhialdu town in the southern part of the County due to increased security as per FGDs.
- No functioning facilities are present in Kaljak, however, there is a mobile clinic run by CARE International in Diem Boma.

Dhorbor


- Dhorbor is located in the central part of Rubkona County and composed of two Bomas, Nor and Mathoyo. The majority of the villages are deserted and accessible only by foot.
- Nor, Ngangoang and Nyaleke are the only populated villages in the area. These three villages have received a large number of people coming from the PoC in the last months. Specific IOM DTM Flow Monitoring data from May 2017, indicated that over 1,000 individuals reported leaving the PoC to these areas.
- Considering the complete lack of education and health facilities in the area, the population accesses basic services nearby in Pakur Boma for access to basic services. In Nyaleke village, classes are conducted under a tree.
- Only two boreholes were operational in the area, located about 90 minutes by foot from the main population center, resulting in the majority of the population collecting water from the river.
- The main livelihood activities in the area include farming, fishing, livestock and selling of charcoal and livestock products in Rubkona market.



SECTORIAL FINDINGS

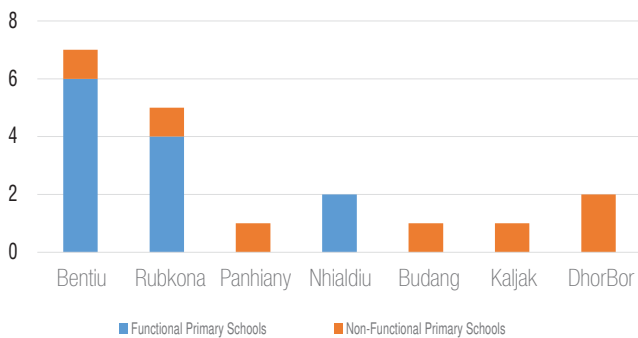
Education

Payams

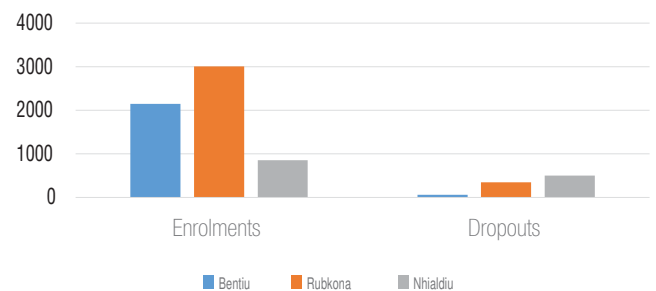
	Bentiu	Rubkona	Panhiany	Nhiadiu	Budang	Kaljak	Dhorbor
 Functional schools	6	4	0	2	0	0	0
Non-functional schools	1	1	1	0	1	1	2

- The current number of schools is not sufficient to accommodate all children in the area in addition to those arriving from the POC.
- 90% of functioning primary schools are lacking furniture and latrines.
- Apart from Rubkona, Bentiu town and Nhiadiu there are no other functioning primary schools in the County outside the PoC. The main reasons for education facilities remaining non-functional are due to damaged infrastructure, looting and lack of use due to insecurity.
- The only functioning secondary school in Rubkona County is inside Bentiu PoC.

Status of Primary Schools by Payams




Enrolments and dropouts in Rubkona Primary School



SECTORIAL FINDINGS

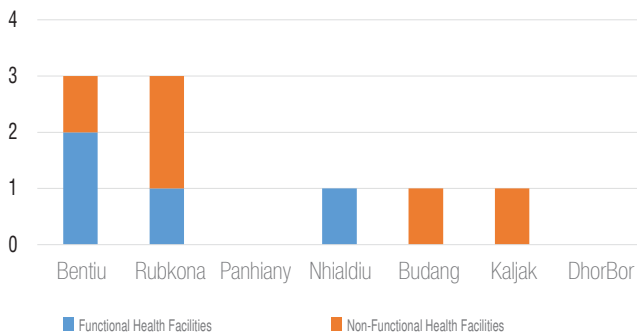
Health

Payams

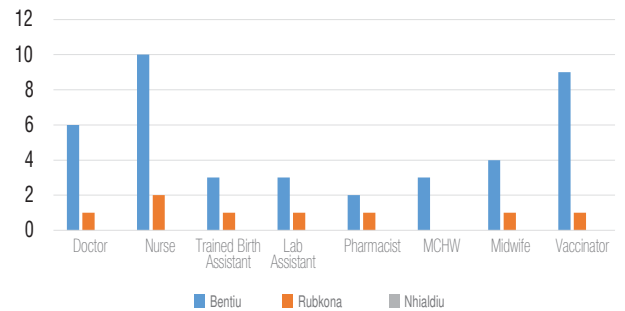
	Bentiu	Rubkona	Panhiany	Nhiadiu	Budang	Kaljak	Dhorbor
 Functional health facilities	6	4	0	2	0	0	0
Non-functional health facilities	1	1	1	0	1	1	2

- Outside the PoC, there are only four functioning health facilities and a mobile clinic run by CARE in Kaljak on weekly basis.
- The other five health facilities visited are not functioning due to damages to the infrastructure and looting during the crisis.
- Apart from Nhiadiu PHCC where the team is composed primarily by volunteers, there are 48 trained staff operating in the remaining three health facilities.
- Only two functioning health facilities have an incinerator to dispose of clinical waste. The other two facilities are burying clinical wastes in the ground or disposing them in the open garbage.

Status of Health Facilities by Payam



Trained staff in the County



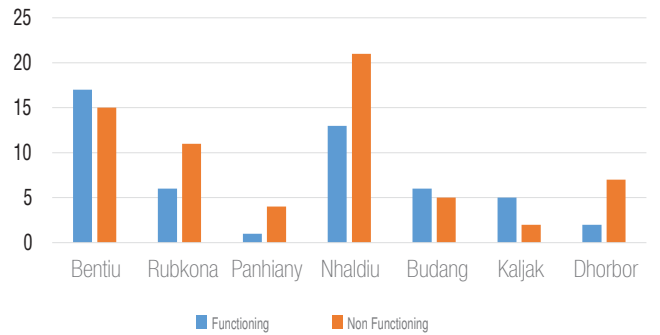
Nhiadiu PHCC

SECTORIAL FINDINGS

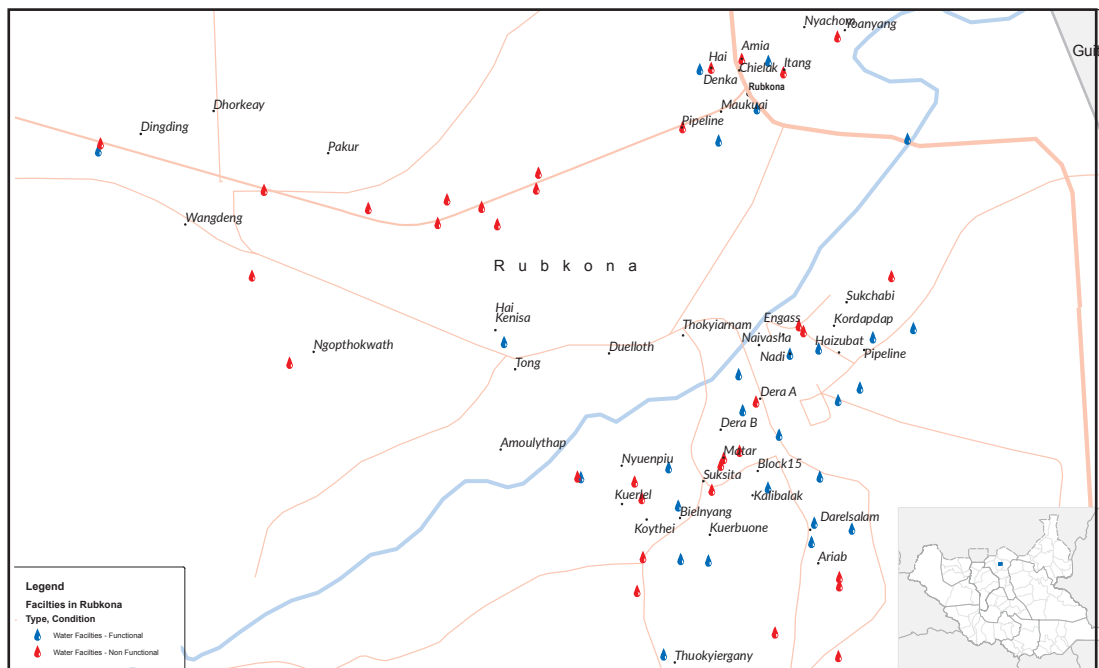
WASH

- Apart from Rubkona and Bentiu town where water is accessible throughout the whole year, access to water in all other Bomas of the County is not sufficient and mainly seasonal.
- 15 of the 22 populated Bomas assessed reported conflicts over water in the communities.
- 56% of the assessed boreholes are not functional.
- Hygiene and sanitation campaigns have been conducted only in Bentiu and Rubkona Town.

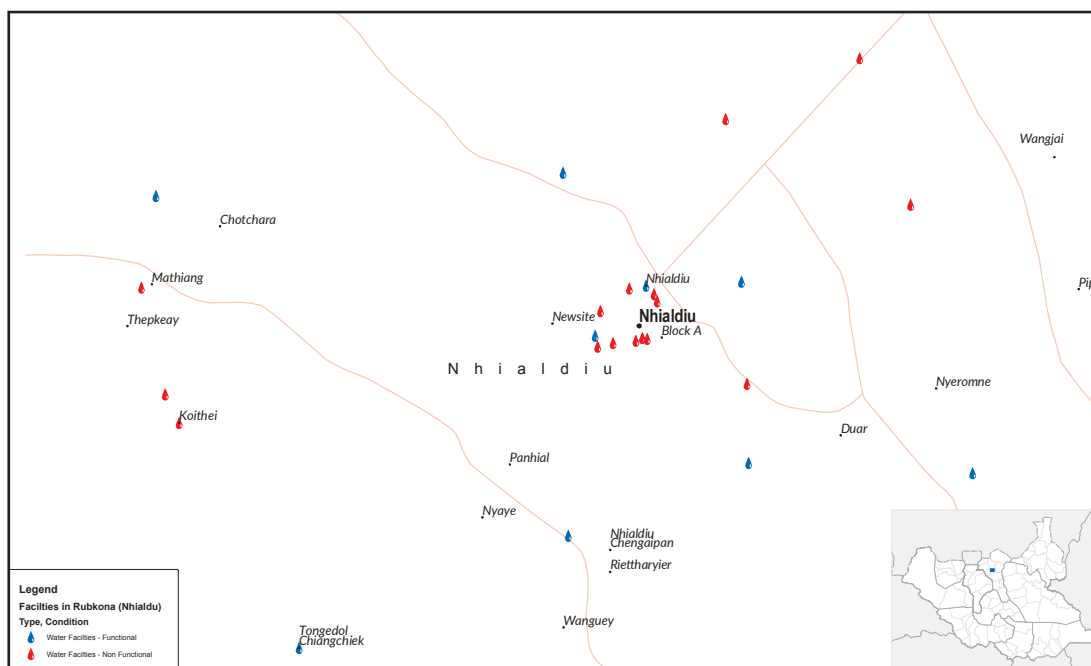
Boreholes In Rubkona County



Boreholes in Rubkona and Bentiu



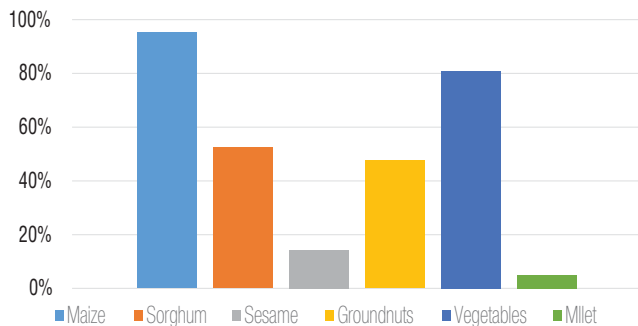
Boreholes in Nhaldiu



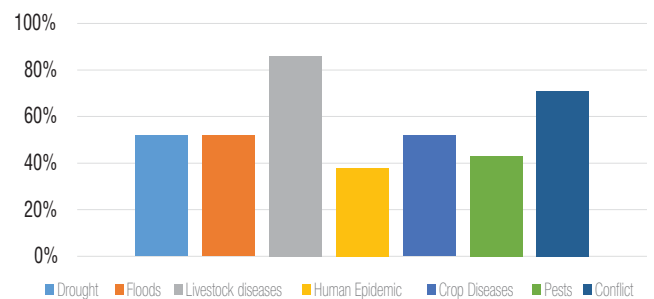
LIVELIHOOD

- All Bomas indicated that farming is practiced within the Boma with maize, sorghum and vegetables being the main crops cultivated.
- Seeds are mainly collected by the previous harvest or given by the NGOs.
- Farming is mainly conducted at household level. Only 20% of the Bomas indicated that farmers sell crops in the local market.
- Communal farming is practiced in 54% of the populated Bomas while extension services are available in 45% of the populated Bomas. No credit facilities or cooperatives are present but some organizations such as FAO and NGOs support farmers with extension services.
- Main needs for farmers are seeds (100%) and tools (81%). 50% of them indicated fertilizers and trainings are needed.
- 86% of the populated Bomas reported diseases being the major problem affecting the production of crops.
- 77% of the populated Bomas reported that people own livestock but only 32% of them are selling livestock or livestock products in the market.
- 77% of the populated Bomas reported livestock disease as the main problem affecting livestock herders.
- Fisheries is practiced in 82% of the populated Bomas with 54% of them reporting selling fish.
- 68% of the assessed Bomas report that food is scarce throughout the year. Bomas reported reducing the number of meals or collecting forest fruits and vegetables as their coping strategy. In Bentiu Town and Rubkona, where GFD is constantly provided, 100% of the Bomas indicated food aid as one of the coping strategies during food scarcity.
- 100% of the populated Bomas reported a major impact on their livelihood during the last two years mainly from livestock diseases (86%) and conflict (71%) followed by drought, floods and crop disease (52%).

Main Food Crops in the Bomas



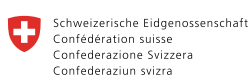
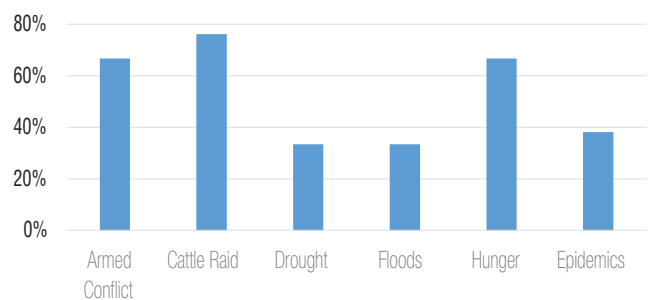
Populated Bomas Livelihood shocks in the last 2 years



PROTECTION

- The majority of Bomas reported cattle raiding as the most frequent threat (76%), followed by hunger and armed conflict (67%).
- 81% of women respondents in the County reported feeling insecure while out earning a living or working on the farm. Main fear is rape (67%) followed by violence and harassment (52%).

Percentage of Populated Bomas reporting threats in 2016



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