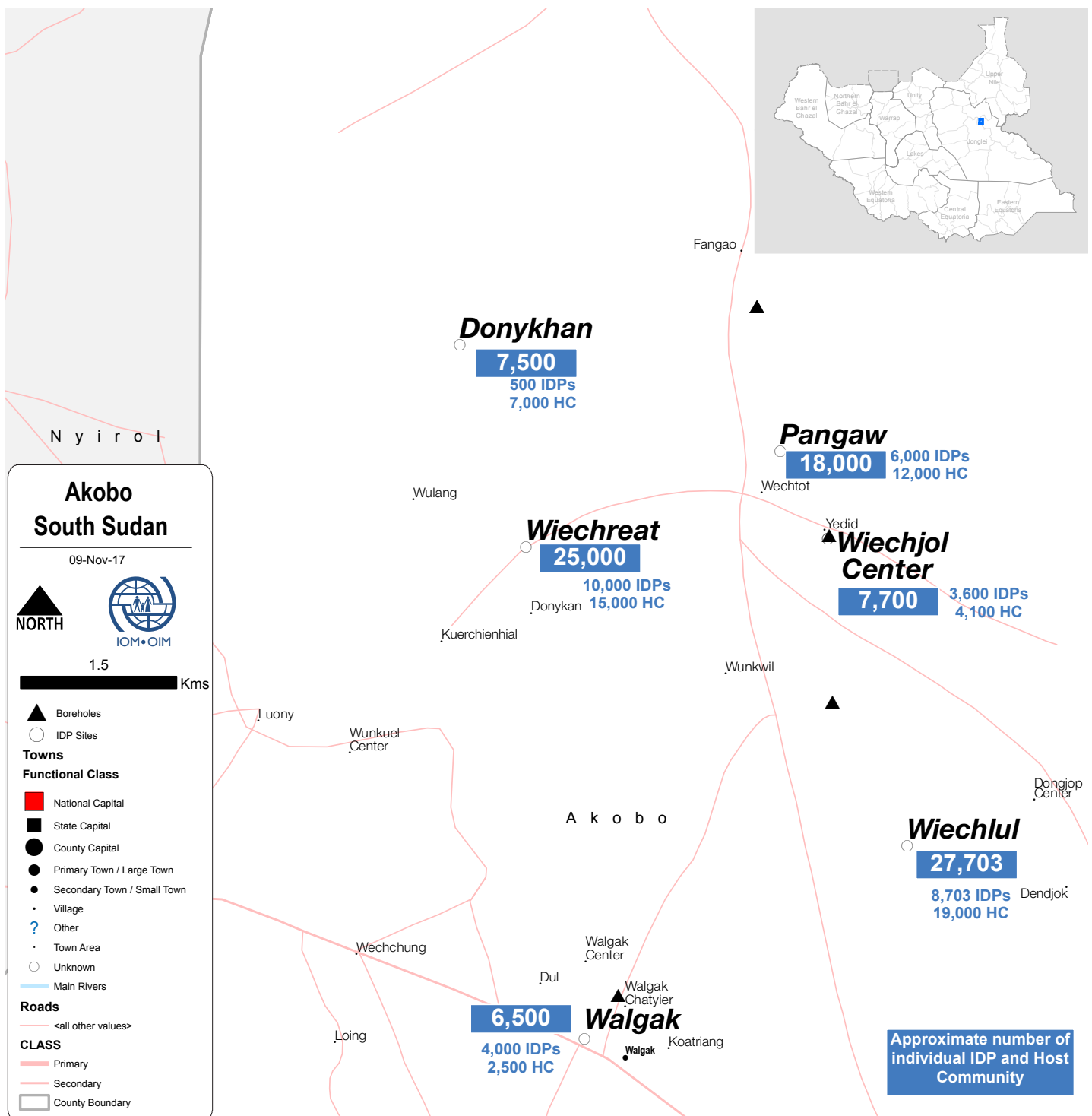


Key Findings

1. IDPs within the host community at locations up to four hours walk from the centre of Wiechjol.
2. There are no health facilities at all six IDPs sites. The closest functioning health facility is located 11 hours away on foot in Lankien.
3. There are boreholes at four out of six of the assessed IDPs sites (no boreholes in Donykhan and Pangaw).
4. Stagnant water is used for drinking, cooking and washing.
5. Wiechjol is the only village with a functioning school, which is up to four hours away from the other five locations.



BACKGROUND

The Inter Cluster Response Mission (ICRM) team arrived in Wiechjol / Akobo in western Jonglei on 2 September 2017 to assess the critical needs of 4,000 vulnerable households. This includes the distribution of non-food items (NFIs), the administration of a rapid multi-sectorial and intention survey and potential WASH activities. The Relief Rehabilitation Authority and the local administration welcomed the team, which was based at Oxfam's compound for twelve days.

Participating agencies within the ICRM included Oxfam, active in the WASH cluster, notably regarding the maintenance of boreholes. INTERSOS and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) assessed the area to address NFI needs. IOM conducted a rapid multi-sectorial assessment in Wiechjol in order to understand the needs and gaps of the internally displaced and host community populations. IOM further administered an intentions survey in order to inform IOM and its partners on further population movements.

Since the onset of the civil war in South Sudan in December 2013, Jonglei has been one of South Sudan's most conflict-affected states. Nearly four years of continual national-level war, combined with long term structural-level communal violence, has led to personal insecurity.

Compounding this situation, Jonglei also suffers from one of the highest levels of food insecurity in the country, with the majority of its geography located within high-risk livelihood zones. Stretching east of the Nile River and south of the Sobat River Corridor, Jonglei's vast plains are highly prone to flooding in the wet season, drought in the dry season, and year-round crop pest and livestock disease. As such, Jonglei maintains one of the highest proportions of population suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition in South Sudan, and presently nearing famine levels (IPC)¹.

Continual conflict and structural food insecurity create prerequisite conditions for widespread population displacement. At present, Jonglei hosts the second highest amount of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country, at an estimated 363,399 people (OCHA, September 2017)².

Wiechjol, in northwestern Akobo, was last impacted directly by displacement in April and May 2017 after a large scale offensive in neighboring Nyirol and Uror counties prompted population movements of civilians in the thousands as well as the evacuation of aid workers in the surrounding areas. Currently, one-third of the population in Wiechjol is displaced in as many as six different locations up to four hours walking distance from Wiechjol Center. Ongoing conflict in nearby Waat means that the displacement dynamics in and around Wiechjol will remain in flux in the near future, with a strong potential for secondary and tertiary population displacements.

METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted an intention and a multi-sectorial needs survey in Wiechjol (Jonglei State) to create a profile of the displaced population. Focus group discussions and individual surveys included the IDP community representatives, site management, local chiefs, women's groups, youth representatives and participating United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organization (NGO) agencies including Oxfam, INTERSOS, NRC and IOM. Direct observation by walking through the IDP settlement areas was also used to triangulate the findings gathered from the focus group discussions.

Intentions Survey Results

1. Population Profile

Out of 190 surveyed heads of households, 66 per cent were female and 34 per cent male. With an average household size of ten individuals households were larger than the national average by four persons. Forty-eight per cent of household members were male and 52 per cent were female.

Eighty-seven per cent of IDPs reported that part of the prior household was living outside their current settlement. These family members were mostly children (29% aged 1-4 and 34% aged 5-17), followed by adults between the age of 18-59 (28%).

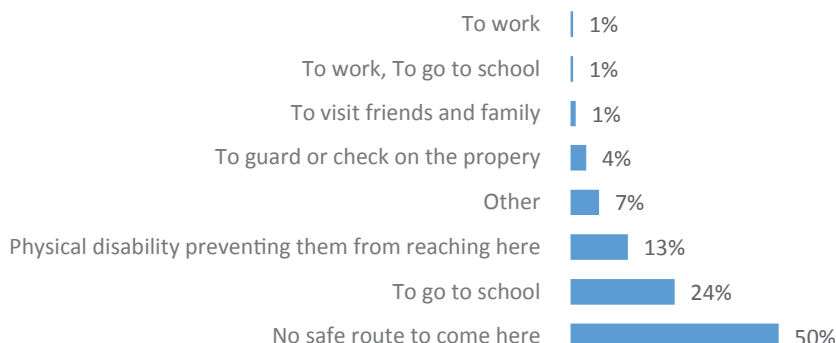
¹ Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC), Alert Issue June 2017, available at http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/573565_c9332b6d9d604f868c3ba6876fd4ebc0.pdf

² UNOCHA, Humanitarian Snapshot, September 2017, available at https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/dms/SS_20171011__Humanitarian_Snapshot_September.pdf

2. Location of family members

When asked why households were split, respondents cited lack of safe passage as primary reason (50%), followed by the intention not to interrupt household members' education (24%) and physical disabilities (13%).

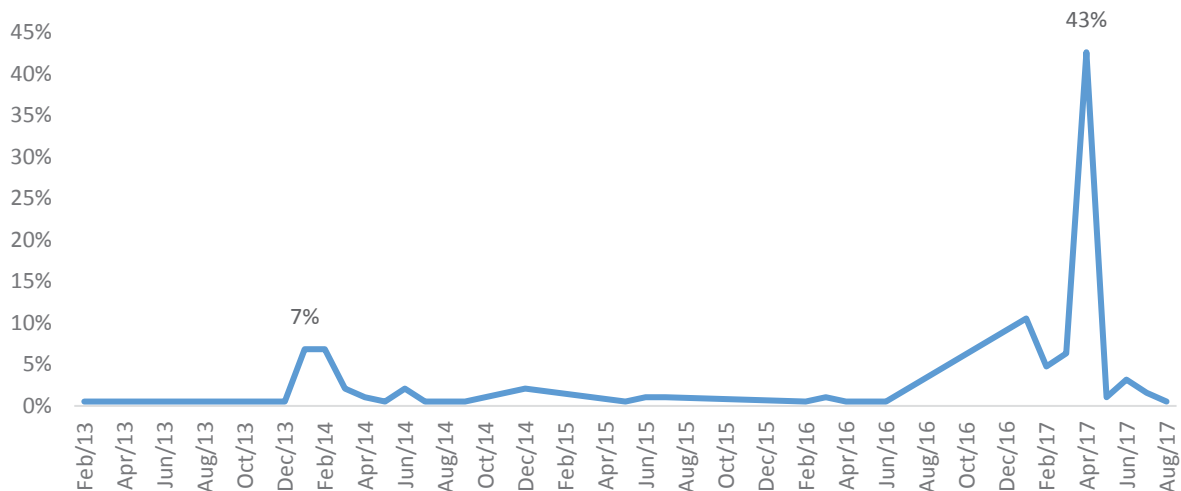
Reasons other family member aren't joining surveyed IDP households



3. Displacement Profile

The majority of IDPs reported to have arrived around April 2017 (43%) while a minority arrived after the breakout of the current conflict in December 2013. For two thirds (65%) of the surveyed household, it hadn't been the first instance of displacement, only a third (35%) responded it was the first time they had to flee their homes.

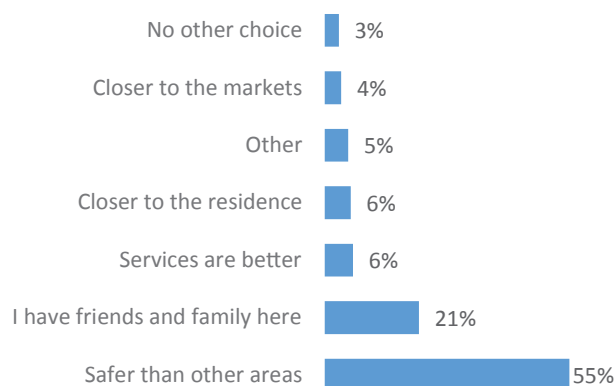
Arrival times of interviewed IDP households



3.1. Motivations to Move

The most commonly cited reason to flee to Wiechjoi was because it was deemed a safer place to live (55%), followed by the intention to join other family members or friends who were there (21%).

Reasons for displacement to Wiechjoi

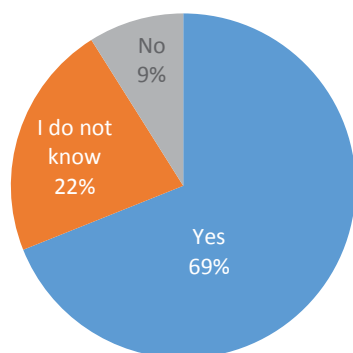


¹ UNOCHA, South Sudan Humanitarian and Development Statistics - 2014, available at https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/southsudan/south_sudan_media_briefing_pack/south%20sudan%20humanitarian%20and%20development%20statistics%20-%20december%202013.pdf

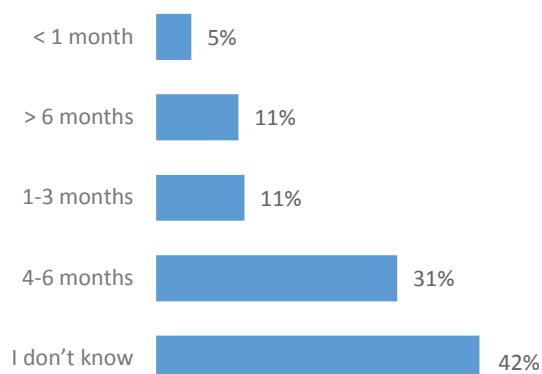
Most surveyed IDP households intended to stay in Wiechjol (69%), nine per cent intended to leave and 22 per cent indicated not yet knowing if they will leave or stay.

Of those intending to stay, 37 per cent chose to do so out of security reasons, 31 per cent to maintain access to food, 21 per cent were unable to go anywhere else and 11 per cent remained for access to general services. The majority did not know how long they would stay while 31 per cent estimated this time to be between four and six months (31%).

Do you intend to stay here?

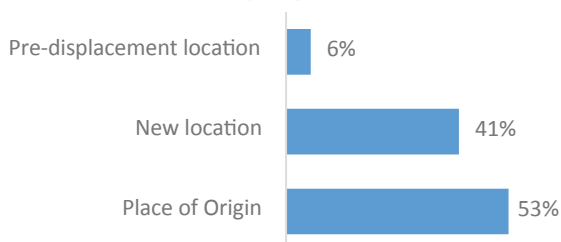


How long do you plan to stay here?

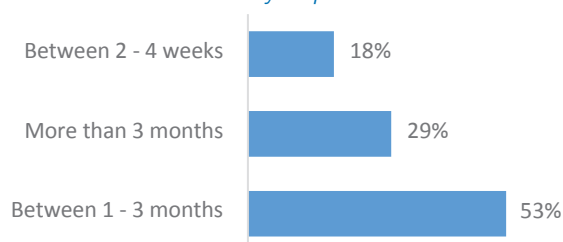


Of those intending to leave, 18 per cent intend to leave within the next 2-4 weeks, 53 per cent within the next 3 months and 29 per cent in more than three months. The majority stated they would eventually leave on foot (59%), 29 per cent by boat and 12 per cent on buses, lorries or tractors. Most respondents planning to move claimed they would move to their place of origin (53%), while 41 per cent intended to move to a new location and six per cent to their pre-displacement location of residence.

Where do you plan to move?



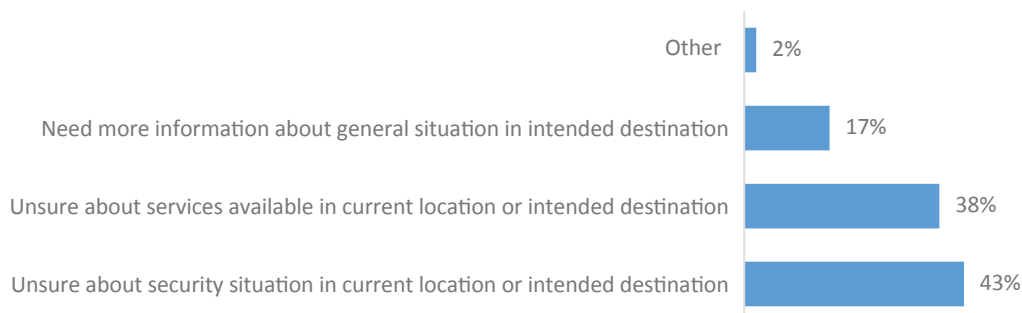
When do you plan to leave?



All of those responding they would want to move to a new location reported that this location would be Akobo, primarily in order to access service provisions (57%), for security reasons (29%), and to join family (14%).

Respondents anticipating to move informed DTM they would finance their trip by borrowing from family and friends (53%), through humanitarian support (35%) or through their own income (12%).

Why are you uncertain?



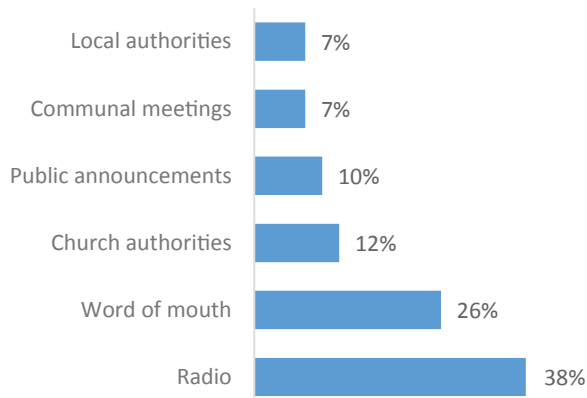
The main source of uncertainty about a potential departure concerned the security situation in Wiechjol or in the intended destination (38%) followed by an uncertainty about the services available at the place of departure and destination. Seventeen per cent of respondents also claimed they needed more information about the general situation at locations of destination.

IDPs who were unsure about leaving reported they would need more information about security (50%), service provision (26%), safe routes (21%) or other factors (2%) in their habitual place of residence.

4. Communication

For 38 per cent, the radio was the primary source of information, followed by word of mouth for 26 per cent of respondents and church authorities for 12 per cent.

What are your top two major sources of information?



MULTI-SECTORIAL SURVEY

According to DTM findings, the total population of Wiechjol Center is around 7,700 individuals which includes the host community and IDPs. According to DTM findings in the form of individual consultations with local chiefs the population is over 92,400 of which approximately one third (32,803) are IDPs.

Site	Host Population		IDP Population		Total	
	HHs	Ind	HHs	Ind	HHs	Ind
Donykhan	150	7,000	50	500	200	7,500
Pangaw	120	12,000	250	6,000	370	18,000
Walgak	450	2,500	200	4,000	650	6,500
Wiechjol Center	360	4,100	400	3,600	760	7,700
Wiechlul	750	19,000	300	8,703	1,050	27,703
Wiechreat	500	15,000	250	10,000	750	25,000
TOTAL	2,330	59,600	1,450	32,803	3,780	92,403

Table 1: Number of households and individuals reported by RRA/RoSS/Community Leaders

Around one third of the current total population of the assessed villages are IDPs (32,803 IDPs and 59,600 individuals of local host population). While the county headquarters, Walgak, used to represent the largest village in the area, its displaced has now outnumbered the host population, which has shrunk to become one of the smallest among assessed villages. Walgak's destruction has impacted the wider region as it used to represent an important hub containing health centres, schools, churches and other vital infrastructure, which are now inoperative.

WASH

- Locals (host and IDPs) were observed using stagnant water for washing, cooking and drinking, which had an unpleasant odor, taste and appearance.
- There were no public or private latrines. Host and IDP populations were openly defecating.
- No hygiene sensitization campaigns had reached the area.
- The main WASH non-NFI needs include soap, filter cloths and jerry canes.

Shelter NFI

- Local materials such as wood, grasses and ropes are available for the construction of tukuls in which on average seven people live.

Health

- Health concerns among the host community include Malaria, Diarrhea, acute respiratory infections and pregnancy related conditions.
- Villagers (including IDPs) have to walk long distances from Wiechjol (11 hours) to Lankein to reach health facilities run by MSF. The sick are often carried on improvised stretchers, which four people of similar height carry on their heads (one per corner). In Wiechjol there is one health facility run by Nile Hope with very limited capacity and a lack of medicine (figure 1).



Table 1: Hospital run by Nile Hope, 6 September 2017, (C) Salam Wadar, IOM

Food Security and Livelihoods

- Food distributions were the primary source of nutrition.
- Gathering and growing local crops constituted a secondary source of food.

Protection

- Women were collecting firewood



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