

**4/6** assessed schools are functional

**4/7** assessed health facilities are functional

**1/10** bomas reported presence of UXOs

**28/43** villages were deserted

**Adong and Nyogkuach** payams receiving the majority of returnees

## MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS



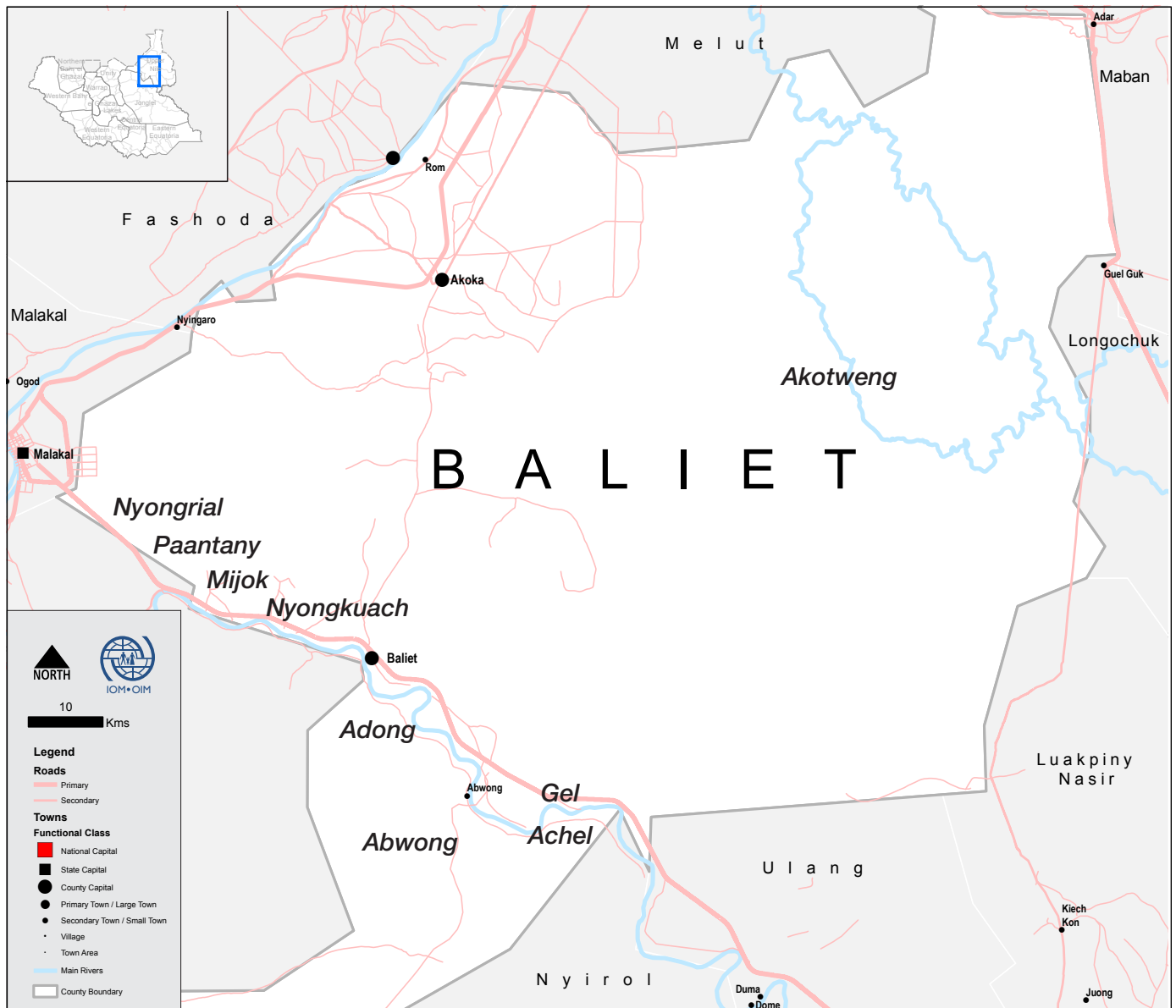
Rehabilitation of existing non-functional boreholes and hand pumps as households rely on the River Sobat as the only source for water.



Rehabilitation of severely damaged infrastructures, including schools and health facilities and the main road between Malakal and Baliet.



Provision of seeds, inputs and technologies to facilitate livelihoods and food production in Baliet county.



## METHODOLOGY

The objective of the Village Assessment Survey (VAS) is to provide baseline data to map the basic needs and critical gaps in areas of high return and to share the findings with government authorities and partners for better planning and targeting of transitional and recovery activities. Locations for conducting VAS assessments are prioritized based on areas of high return and upon the request of the Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG). Baliet County was prioritized by the ICWG in Malakal due to increasing number of returnees observed to be moving from the IDP settlements in Melut and Khor-Adar back to their home areas in Baliet County. Baliet County is one of the main counties of origin for the IDPs in staying around Melut and Khor-Adar.

A mixed methods approach of key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation was utilized to collect and triangulate data throughout the data collection process. The data collection teams conducted the 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 and locally based actors, IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with the national non-governmental organization, Rural Community Action for Peace and Development (RuCPD).

IOM conducted a comprehensive three-day training for data enumerators from RuCPD. The first two days focused on effective data collection techniques and methods, an in-depth review of the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices. On the third day, data enumerators applied the theory using the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices by simulating a field exercise.

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.

### 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)

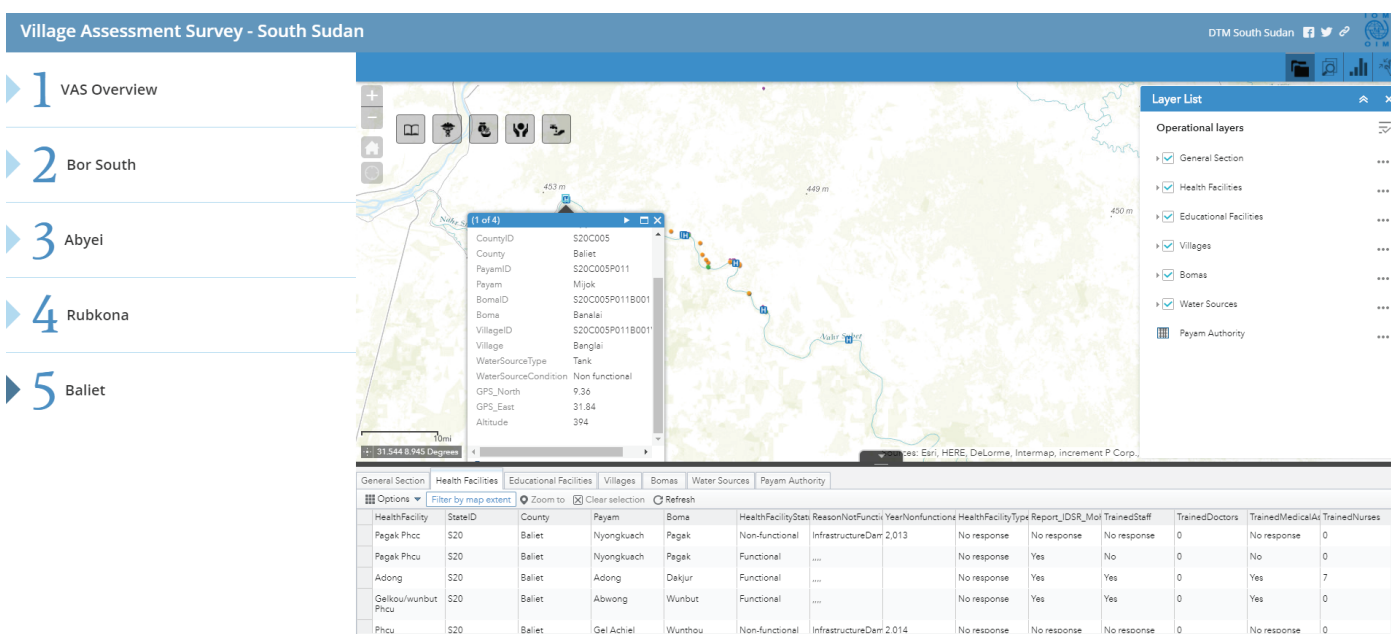
### Education Technical Questionnaire

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://arcg.is/1CffWX>



## CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

The IOM DTM team faced several challenges that may present some limitations to the data including accessibility to some areas due to rainy season and some areas being deserted due to insecurity or militarization. For example, Paantany Payam was deserted and as such, the Payam was not included in the assessment. Additionally, there was a lack of archived records at the health and education facilities visited, which made it difficult for verifying reported statistics such as on the number of school drop outs, attendance rates or number of visitations.

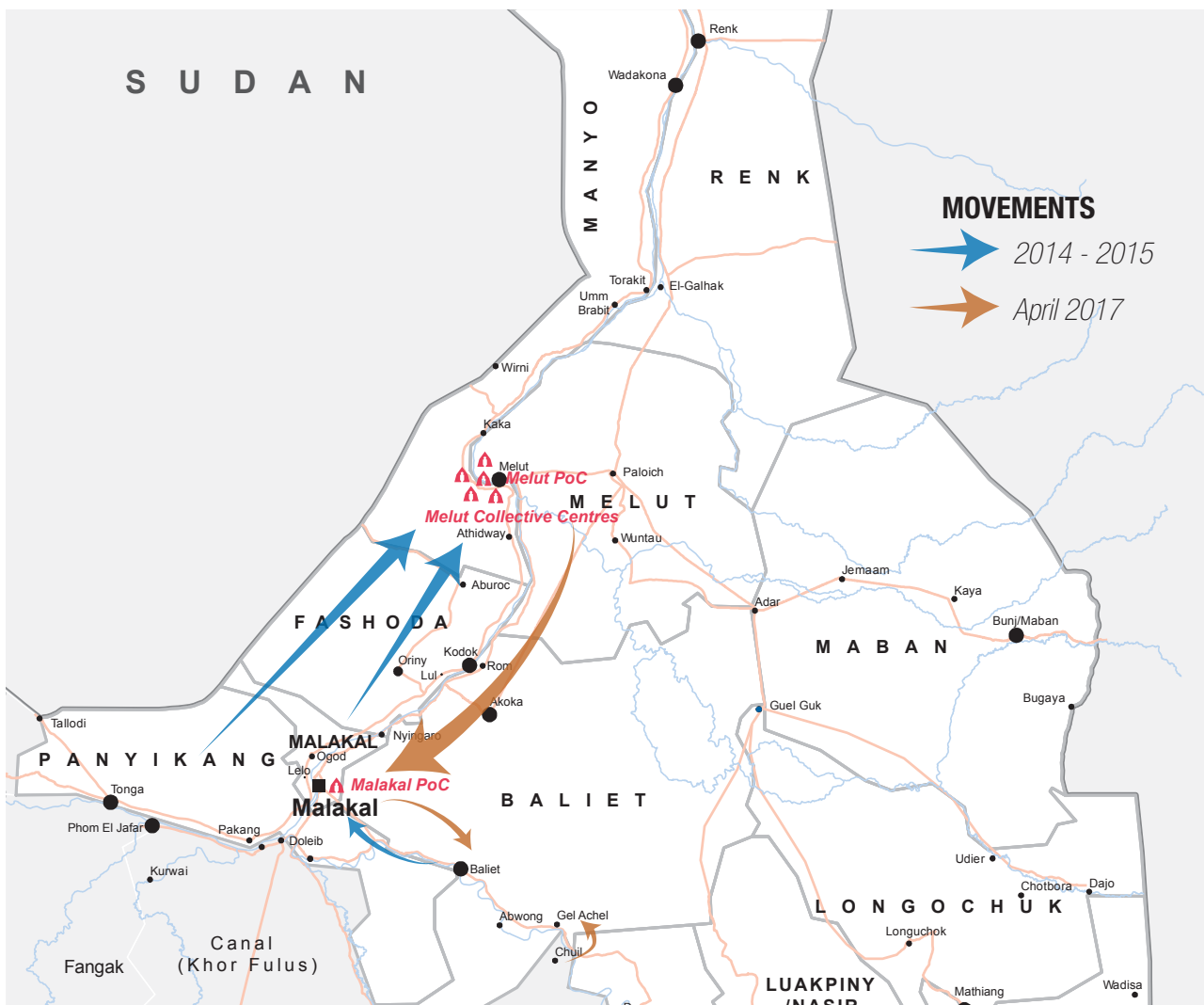
## BALLET OVERVIEW AND DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

Baliet is a county in Upper Nile State. Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, Baliet County was created in 2006. It is located 52 km north-east of Malakal town along Sobat River and consists of seven payams, namely Nyongkuach, Nyong Rial, Adong, Abwong, Mijok and Gel Achel. Baliet Town serves as county headquarters and is located in Nyongkuach Payam. The county is predominantly inhabited by the Ngok Lual Yak, a sub-tribe of South Sudan's largest ethnic group, the Dinka. It borders Ulang, Nasir and Nyirol where the country's second largest ethnic group, the Nuer are the primary residents.

Baliet County was heavily affected by offensives early in the conflict during throughout 2014 and 2015 forcing the majority of inhabitants to flee and settle in IDP settlements around Melut and Khor-Adar, while a smaller proportion fled across the border into Sudan. While the level of violence has been lower in Baliet relative to other counties of Upper Nile state, its position on the River Sobat is close to frontline positions to the south where the SPLA/iO maintain positions. Its proximity to the River Sobat has also made the area vulnerable to attack from raiding activities from Lou Nuer militias from Jonglei, which may be aligned to the SPLA/iO. Throughout the first half of 2017, military operations by both the SPLA and SPLA/iO have escalated in the Upper Nile and Jonglei areas.

In September 2016, a raid by Lou Nuer militia is reported to have prompted the SPLA to support the movement of a large number of civilians from the village to Malakal town. Following the same incident, the majority of the civilian population is believed to have left the Baliet area which is believed to have since become highly militarized.

In April 2017, the government organised returns for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in IDP settlements around Melut and Khor-Adar to Baliet. A few returnees have arrived and settled in the county's seven payams, mainly within the payam headquarters (Nyongkuach). Many other bomas and most villages remain deserted. Most returnees across these seven payams are male adults and elderly women. Young women, children, and the youth remain in the area of displacement around Melut and Khor-Adar or temporality settling in Malakal town where there is access to basic services. The male adults have returned to construct new shelters or to rehabilitate those that were damaged during the offensives in 2014 and 2015, to allow for the return of other household members.



## KEY FINDINGS

IOM conducted the Village Assessment Survey in Baliet County from 25 April to 2 May 2017 covering seven payams in close collaboration with RuCAPD, a national non-governmental organization based in Malakal Town.

The purpose of the assessment was to assess the availability and accessibility of basic services and infrastructures in Baliet County, targeting locations of high return.

### a. Population movements

The government organised returns from Melut and Khor-Adar to Baliet in early April 2017. However, due to a lack of infrastructure in the area of return, the youth, women and children remained in the areas of displacement around Melut and Khor-Adar or settled in Malakal Town temporarily where they could find access to basic services. Adult men returned to Baliet County to construct new shelters or rehabilitate the structures damaged during offensives in 2014 and 2015.

### b. Livelihoods

The government organised returns from Melut and Khor-Adar to Baliet in early April 2017. However, due to a lack of infrastructure in the area of return, the youth, women and children remained in the areas of displacement around Melut and Khor-Adar or settled in Malakal Town temporarily where they could find access to basic services. Adult men returned to Baliet County to construct new shelters or rehabilitate the structures damaged during offensives in 2014 and 2015.

### c. Infrastructure

Most infrastructure across the seven payams of Baliet County were damaged or destroyed during the 2014 and 2015 offensives. Most public services and facilities are not functioning due to the absence of inhabitants in Baliet from December 2013 to 2016. Non-functional as well as functional health and education facilities are widely damaged or destroyed. There is need for road rehabilitation between Malakal and Baliet as the county becomes inaccessible during the rainy season due to deteriorated road conditions.

### d. Access / Conflict

All bomas along the Sobat River are inaccessible due to insecurity except for Wunbut Boma (Abwong Payam).

The presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) was recorded in Wunthou Boma (Gel Achel Payam) which is near the frontline along the river.

### e. NFI needs





There is need to distribute seeds, farming tools and fishing supplied. The county is located along the Sobat River as such many returnees are engaged in farming and fishery as their primary means of livelihood.

### f. Public administration

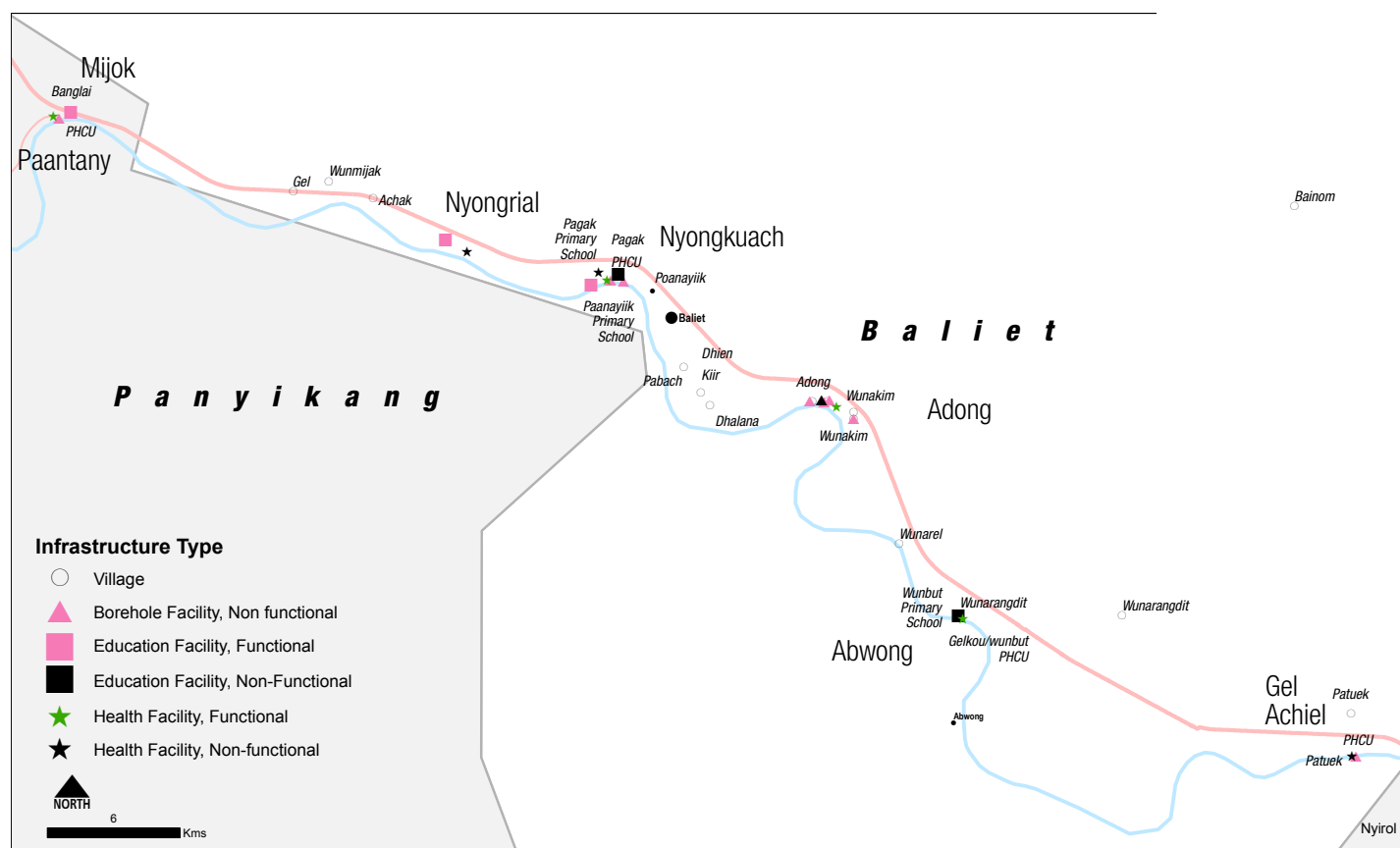
Currently all Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies which provide services in Baliet County operate out of Malakal with none based in Baliet. Similarly, Baliet Government Authorities also operate from Malakal. UN agencies and NGOs providing services in Baliet County are most active in immunisation campaigns, maintenance of water sources with a small amount of support provided to health or education facilities.

## PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

### Payams

	Abwong	Adong	Gel Achel	Mijok	Nyongkuach	Nyongrial	Paantany <sup>1</sup>	Total
 Population in need	1,016	6,425	1,000	582	780	1,370	NA	11,173
# Bomas	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	10
Populated Villages	1	8	1	1	1	3	0	15
Deserted Villages	0	0	6	3	12	2	5	28
 # Bomas with UXOs	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
 Functional schools	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
Non Functional Schools	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
 Functional Health Facilities	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
Non Functional Health Facilities	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3

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.



<sup>1</sup> Paantany Payam was not assessed as it is deserted due to insecurity. The majority of the population from Paantany are reported to be staying in Mijok Payam.

## PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

### Baliet Town / Nyongkuach

- Baliet Town is located 52 km north-east of Malakal Town, which is a 1.5 hour drive during dry season.
- Baliet Town is the administrative headquarters of Baliet County.
- A majority of the returnees are male adults. Most women and children are reported to have remained in the areas of displacement (Melut and Khor-Adar) or to have settled in Malakal Town where there is access to public services.
- The primary livelihood activity is fishing, due to location along the Sobat River.
- In Duot and Pagak payams conflict and natural disasters were cited as the main problems impacting agricultural production. Food was said to be “very scarce” during dry as well as wet season.
- There is a small market in the payam with basic commodities such as fish, salt, sugar and soap. Cereals, grains and vegetables were unavailable at the market.
- While most basic infrastructure in the payam is less damaged compared to other payams in the country, they remain non-functional due to lack of health personnel that fled during the conflict in 2014 and 2015.
- In Pagak boma there are two health facilities, one is non-functional due to lack of staff, looting and damaged infrastructure. The functional health facility is used by the bomas within Nyongkuach payam and some nearby bomas from Nyongrial payam.
- One of the two primary schools in Nyongkuach has not functioned since 2014 due to insecurity, damaged infrastructure and looting. The functional primary is in use by the bomas within Nyongkuach payam and some nearby bomas from Nyongrial payam.

### Riangnom / Nyongrial Payam

- Riagnom is an hour drive from Malakal Town and is the least populated payam in the county as most people from this payam have not returned yet and are remaining in the areas of Melut and Khor-Adar.
- There is no market in Riagnom payam and as such people commonly travel to Malakal town using public transportation to buy basic goods.
- Almost all shelters in Riagnom are either new or under construction. Ninety per cent of the population in this payam are returnees.
- Sobat River is the only source of water because the boreholes are non-functional.
- The primary livelihood activity is fishing.
- There is one functional primary school that received NGO support but lacks a permanent building and school materials.
- The only health facility in Riagnom is non-functional due to destruction of the infrastructure and lack of health personnel.

### Mijok Payam

- Mijok Payam which is a 45 minute drive from Malakal Town is the closest payam to Malakal.
- Residents of Mijok Payam are mostly host community or people who spontaneously returned during 2016. Returnees were observed to be in the process of constructing their new tukuls.
- Most facilities such as schools, primary health care units (PHCU) and churches are functional and in good condition.
- Farming is the primary livelihood activity, with corn, sorghum and vegetables are the primary crops produced.
- One small market is accessible by the residents within Mikok payam.
- Banalai Boma has access to one NGO-supported health facility and one functional primary school.

### Adong Payam

- Adong is the most populated payam in the county with approximately 6,425 individuals including returnees.
- The population of Gel Achel payam have settled in Adong since the Gel Achel is heavily militarized.
- Adong is the only payam with a functional Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) administrative office.
- Fishing is the main livelihood activity.
- There is one functional health facility and primary school accessible by the population in Adong.



## PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

### Abwong Payam

- Abwong was deserted due to the insecurity that has been prevailing there since the offensives in 2014 and 2015. Currently, Wunbut Boma is the only boma in the payam which is accessible and safe for people to stay. The remaining two bomas were not assessable as these were located on the other side of the river where access is constrained by insecurity.
- Abwong Payam has a mixture of host communities and returnees. Since April 2017, returnees have begun to settle in Wunbut Boma, which is now hosting approximately 600 returnees.
- Fishing and farming are the most common livelihood activities in Abwong. The primary where farmers sell watermelon and sorghum at a local market.

### Gel Achel Payam

- Gel Achel which is approximately a two hour drive from Malakal and is the most remote of the payams in Baliet County. The payam borders Ulang and Nyirol in Jonglei State.
- There is a small market reported to be accessible.
- The payam headquarters are currently being occupied by the military with no reported presence of civilian settlements. However, the payam has been observed to be hosting around 400 IDPs from villages in Nyirol county of Jonglei state bordering Baliet County.
- Facilities such as schools and PHCU buildings were completely destroyed damaged during the 2014 and 2015 offensives.
- Gel Achel is the only payam in Baliet County with latrines.
- There are no health or education facilities payam-wide.

### Paantany Payam<sup>2</sup>

- Paatany payam is deserted due to insecurity. The majority of the population from Paantany is staying in Mijok Payam.




Focus group discussion, Baliet. IOM/April 2017

<sup>2</sup> Paantany Payam was not assessed by IOM DTM as it is deserted due to insecurity.

## SECTORIAL FINDINGS

### Education

#### Payams

	Abwong	Adong	Gel Achel	Mijok	Nyongkuach	Nyongrial	Paantany <sup>1</sup>	Total
 <b>Functional schools</b>	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
<b>Non Functional Schools</b>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3

- There are four functional and three non-functional primary schools. As such, there are four functional primary schools within Baliet County serving an estimated population of 12,158 individuals. Only two schools in Mijok and Nyongkuach meet satisfactory standard according to the population in terms of having sufficient school materials and teachers. Schools are non-functional due to damaged infrastructure, lack of trained teachers and school materials.
- In two bomas (Dakjur Boma in Adong Payam and Pagak Boma in Nyongkuach Payam), 75 per cent of children attend school; there were no responses for the other bomas. The main reasons cited for school drop outs include migration, family decisions and conflict due to lack of services, food insecurity and fear of conflict in the area.
- There are no secondary schools active in Baliet County.
- Most institutions – even functional schools – still lack learning materials and trained teachers. Furthermore, school buildings are in need of repairs.
- Most students are from host- or returnee communities who have returned to Baliet in early 2016. 85 per cent of the students are male.
- Where students attend schools it is reported that 75 per cent of students do not continue their education after primary school due to lack of secondary schools as well as cultural reasons such as early marriage and work (e.g., fishing, tending to cows, etc.).
- All schools use the new South Sudanese curriculum except for Wunbut Boma in Abwong Payam where a Kenyan curriculum is taught.




Mijok Primary School, Functional. IOM/April 2017



## SECTORIAL FINDINGS

### Health

#### Payams

	Abwong	Adong	Gel Achel	Mijok	Nyongkuach	Nyongrial	Paantany <sup>1</sup>	Total
 <b>Functional Health Facilities</b>	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
<b>Non Functional Health Facilities</b>	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3

- Out of the seven assessed Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) and Primary Health Care Units (PHCUs) in Baliet, four are functional and three are non-functional. Of the four functional facilities are operated by untrained volunteers and three cite a lack of medicine causing one not to receive patients.
- While 60 per cent of the bomas have health facilities that are accessible, only the health facility in one boma (Dakjur in Adong Payam) is satisfactory in terms of infrastructure, availability of medicines and trained health staff. Damaged infrastructure, looted equipment during the conflict and a lack of medicine or trained personnel are the main reasons why facilities are non-functional.
- Health facilities in Nyongkuach and Mijok are functioning however they do not have appropriate, safe and secure buildings.
- In-patient services are only offered at one health facility (Adong payam).

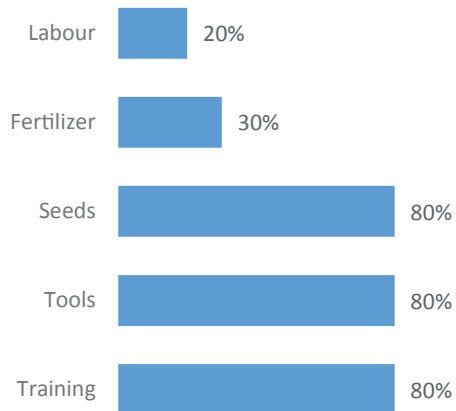
### WASH

- While all bomas report access to water throughout the year, only 3 out of 15 populated villages have their own water point, none of which are functional.
- All bomas access water from the Sobat River, however, the water is reported and observed to be dirty.
- Only one in ten bomas has latrines (Wunthou) which are reportedly in use.
- Gar Village (Banghai Boma) in Paantany Payam is the only boma in which inhabitants have received sanitation and hygiene education.

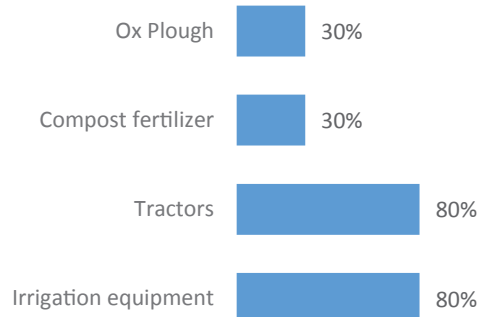
### Livelihood

- There is no major market in Baliet County, the closest major market is in Malakal town. There are small markets that sell a few items such as sugar, fish and salt within the Payam Headquarters of Adong, Nyongkuach and Mijok, however, most residents across the seven payams need to travel to Akoka or Malakal to buy basic commodities.
- The proximity to Sobat River has made fishing the principal livelihood activity in Baliet County. Inhabitants of all bomas are farming and 40 per cent sell their crops at markets while 80 per cent cite fishery as another means of livelihood.
- Sixty per cent of bomas have experienced major livelihood shocks in the last two years, which were principally due to conflict (60% of bomas), drought (10%) and crop disease (10%).
- No cattle grazing was observed due to fears of cattle raiding. Most bomas reported that the livestock was looted during 2014 and 2015 offensives.
- Key informants report that 80 per cent of bomas experience periods of food scarcity which in 50 per cent of cases covers both the rainy and dry season. The population of the bomas cope with the scarcity with reduced meal rations (60% of bomas) and temporary migration (40%).
- Eighty per cent of bomas indicate the need for inputs and for technologies to support the production of food crops within their bomas.

Inputs Needed by percentage of Bomas



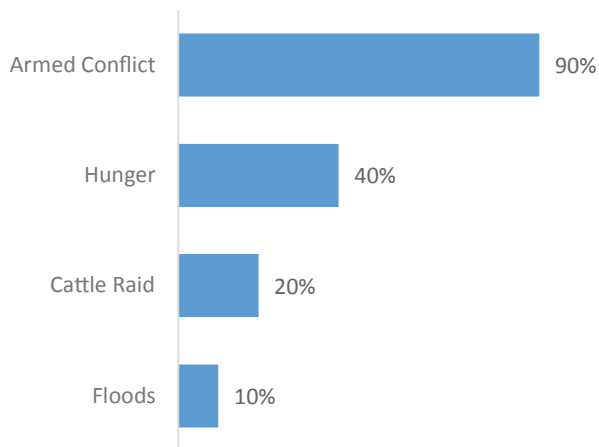
Technology Needed by percentage of Bomas



## Protection

- 90% bomas assessed reported armed conflict as the main external threat faced by the majority of the population followed by hunger (40%).

External threats faced by majority



All our products are available on <http://www.iomsouthsudan.org/tracking>  
For more information, please contact [southsudanDTM@iom.int](mailto:southsudanDTM@iom.int).



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