



A group of girls fetching water from an unprotected well in Tonj South County ©

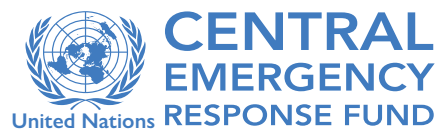
VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY (VAS) TONJ SOUTH COUNTY

Data collected from 4 April to 17 May 2022

DISCLAIMER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms.....	2
Background and Aims.....	3
Methodology.....	3
Context of Tonj South County.....	4
Displacement Dynamics.....	4
Survey Findings from the Thematics Areas.....	5
<i>Sheter/ Non-Food Items</i>	5
<i>Food Security and Livelihood</i>	6
<i>Health</i>	6
<i>Protection</i>	7
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Housing, Land and Property</i>	8
<i>WASH</i>	9

ACRONYMS

FAO:	Food and Agricultural Organization
GPS:	Global Positioning System
IDP:	Internally Displaced Person
IOM:	International Organization for Migration
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organizations
UN:	United Nations
PHCU:	Primary Health Care Units
R-ARCSS:	Revitalized Peace Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan
RRC:	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission
SSP:	South Sudanese Pounds
UXOs:	Unexploded Ordinances
VAS:	Village Assessment Survey
WHO:	World Health Organization
WASH:	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

BACKGROUND AND AIMS

Almost 12 years after independence and 5 years after the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the ceasefire holds in most parts of the country. Overall progress on the implementation of the R-ARCSS has been modest. The deadline for the parties to the agreement to form a transitional government of national unity has been extended twice, most recently until early 2020, following regional mediation efforts aimed at preventing the country from slipping back into conflict.

Continued conflict and instability in the country combined with flooding have resulted in large-scale internal and cross-border displacement. At the same time, limited improvements in some areas have prompted some people to spontaneously return. In addition, the government with the support of some humanitarian agencies - has facilitated returns to certain areas. Due to compounding shocks, both in areas of displacement and return, populations have been forced to keep displacing time and again. At least 90,000 returnees from abroad remained displaced within the country, unable to reach their homes. In 2022, there were 2,257,672 IDPs in the country (7 per cent of whom were previously displaced from abroad), as compared to 2,229,657 IDPs in 2021. An additional 2.3 million South Sudanese remain refugees hosted in neighbouring countries.

To support the formulation of evidence-based transition and recovery programming, IOM's DTM unit has carried out the Village Assessment Surveys (VAS). The survey aims to assess infrastructure and multi-sector service delivery at community level. More specifically it focuses on:

- a) Mapping availability of basic needs, services, infrastructure to identify priority areas for intervention within Aweil South county
- b) Identifying gaps in capacities of local services to accommodate demand including status of infrastructure and availability of trained personnel.
- c) Establishing an understanding of key service providers such as local government, NGO/UN and communities themselves
- d) Provide the wider humanitarian community with a concise overview of the current situation in Aweil South county.

METHODOLOGY

The Village Assessment Survey methodology comprises four complementary and integrated questionnaires: the Boma Questionnaire, the Health Technical Questionnaire, the Education Technical Questionnaire and the Facility Infrastructure and Service Mapping tool. A mixed methods approach of boma representatives interviews combined with focus group discussions and direct observations was utilized to collect and triangulate data throughout the data collection process.

The Boma/ Area Mapping Survey Questionnaire: is completed through focus group discussion with the boma chief/administrators, representatives at the boma level and representatives of returnees and youth groups. The questionnaire contains a general section, which covers village demographics and infrastructure in the boma, livelihood strategies, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, basic education and protection issues.

The Education Technical Questionnaire: is applied at each education facility with the facility personnel (e.g. a teacher or the head teacher). The school authority responds to more technical questions such as on enrollment and school dropout figures by gender and numbers of trained and untrained teachers and conditions of school infrastructure.

The Health Technical Questionnaire: is filled at health facilities with the key personnel such as doctors or nurses. The information collected includes statistics of trained medical personnel, patient's attendance by gender and age group per year, health services provided, geographical coverage, and data on previous epidemics.

The Facility Infrastructure and Service Mapping tool: builds upon DTM's previously established VAS methodology. This tool has been developed to map settlements, livelihood areas and facilities. Satellite imagery in combination with paper maps and map tiles on smartphone are used to map points and polygons of key services such as education facilities, health facilities, water points, religious buildings, transport facilities, administrative facilities and markets.

In efforts to build the capacity of national and locally based actors, IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with the RRC. IOM conducted a thorough four-day training for enumerators recruited by IOM. The first three days focused on effective data collection techniques and methods, an in-depth review of the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices. On the fourth day, enumerators applied the theory learnt using the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices by simulating a field exercise.

Following the successful completion of the training, the data collection teams were deployed with two RRC focal points to assist in mobilisation and coordination with Boma and Payam leaders throughout the area to be assessed. Data collection started on the April and ended on 17 May 2022.

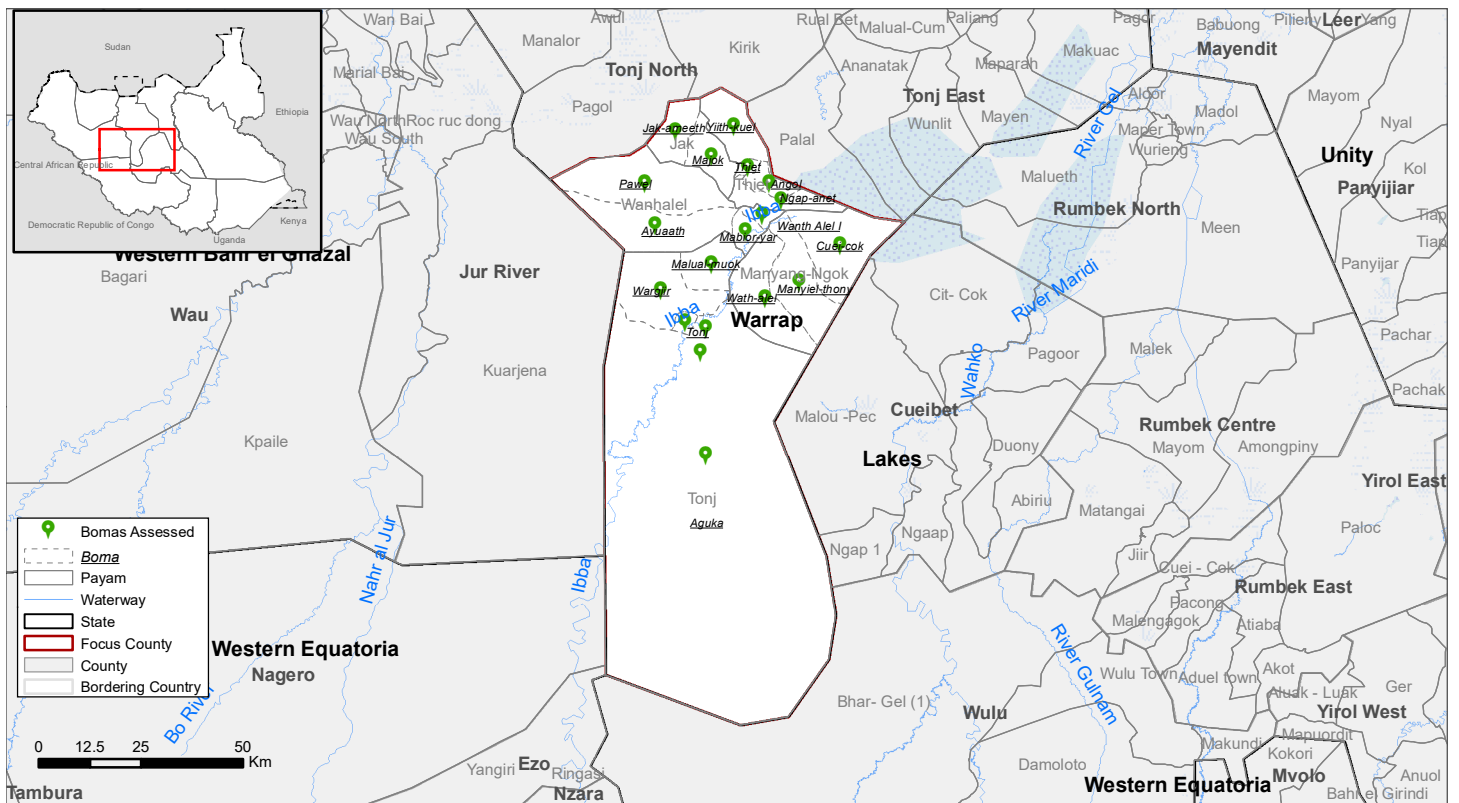
A total of 13 enumerators were deployed for data collection activities in Tonj South county. The results are based on findings from focus group discussions in 19 bomas, and key informant interviews and direct observation from 161 educational facilities and 52 health facilities. For mapping purposes, the team visited 39 educational facilities (32 primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 2 vocational institutions, and 2 nursery schools) that were non-functional at the time of assessment.

TONJ SOUTH COUNTY CONTEXT

Tonj South County is one of the six counties in Warrap State, and is located at the southern part of the state. Its estimated population is 89,766 as per population census conducted in 2008. The distance from Wau to Tonj South is approximately 105 kilometres and takes up to 2 hours drive by light vehicles on the marram road which is accessible through out the year. The county is bordering 3 states and 2 counties namely, Western Bahr El Ghazal State to the west, Western Equatoria to the south, and Lakes state to the south-east. In addition, Tonj South County borders Tonj East County to the north-east and Tonj North County to the north. Tonj town is currently the headquarters of Tonj South County and is located in Tonj boma, along the Rumbek - Juba highway. The county consists of 5 payams (Tonj, Manyang Ngok, Jak, Thiet and Wanh alel) and 19 bomas.

Tonj South County is home to three main ethnic groups, the majority of which are the Dinka tribe mainly found in Tonj, Malual Muok, Wargiir, Kuanyja, and Cuei-ajai bomas of Tonj payam. The second ethnic group is the Bongo tribe who are found in Aguka, and Kuanyja bomas of Tonj payam and they speak Bongo and Arabic, and the last ethnic group is Jur-chol / Luo tribe who are the main inhabitants of Tonj boma. During the village assesment survey, three main languages (English, Dinka and Arabic) were used for coordination and data collection (in conducting focus group discussions).

Map 1: Tonj South County Reference Map



Disclaimer: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

Tonj South is a county located in Warrap State of South Sudan, a country that has experienced significant conflict and displacement since gaining independence in 2011. The ongoing violence and insecurity have led to the displacement of millions of people, with many seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

In Tonj South, there have been reports of inter-communal violence between different ethnic groups, which has led to the displacement of thousands of people. Displacement can have significant impacts on the health, education, and livelihoods of those affected, and can also contribute to further instability and conflict.

In recent years, the displacement of people in South Sudan has been fueled by inter-communal violence, which has resulted in widespread displacement of communities. Additionally, there are ongoing conflicts between government forces and opposition groups, as well as localized violence related to cattle raiding, which has led to further displacement. It is important to note that the situation in Tonj South and South Sudan as a whole is complex and multi-faceted, and any analysis should consider the historical, political, and social factors that have contributed to the current context. It is important to note that displacement dynamics can change rapidly in response to conflict, natural disasters, and other factors. Therefore, it is crucial to stay up to date with current events and the latest information from trusted sources to understand the current situation in Tonj South and South Sudan as a whole.

The United Nation's IOM DTM Mobility Tracking Round 12 estimates that as of 2021, there were over two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan, with an additional 315,000 refugees seeking safety in neighbouring countries. Tonj South County is one of the areas that has seen significant internal displacement.

SURVEY FINDINGS FROM THE THEMATIC AREAS

SHELTER / NON-FOOD ITEMS

All of the boma representatives (19 bomas) stated that the most common shelter type is tukul (mud walls with grass thatched roofing), with majority of the bomas reporting that most houses have minor damages which can be inhabited (16 bomas), and in two bomas, most people are living in makeshift shelters because their former houses were completely destroyed and one boma reported that most houses are severely damaged (no roof / walls missing). Other shelter types in Tonj South County include emergency / improvised shelters or tents (8 bomas), brick walls with grass thatched roofs, and mud walls with iron sheets roof (2 bomas). A vast majority of the boma representatives (18 out of 19 bomas) reported that shelter materials are accessed from the boma markets.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

In all assessed bomas (19 bomas), food scarcity is prevalent. There is a fairly even distribution of the season that food security is prevalent, with 10 bomas reporting it is prevalent all year round and 9 bomas reporting it remains an issue during the rainy season. The main coping mechanism employed in the area is having to reduce meals (19 bomas), closely followed by relying on forest fruits and vegetables (8 bomas), loans and selling or slaughtering cattle (1 boma each). The most common livelihood is farming (18 out of 19 bomas) with sorghum, maize, and beans being the main crops cultivated and the second most common livelihood is cattle keeping (12 bomas), trade (3 bomas), carpentry (2 bomas), and fishing (1 boma). Of the 19 bomas assessed, 9 bomas practicing farming reported that they are unable to sell some of their crops at the market. The remaining 10 bomas are able to do so sometimes (9 bomas), or always (1 boma). In all bomas, farmers rely on rainwater for cultivation and get their seeds for planting from previous harvests. Crops also suffer most commonly from natural disasters (12 out of 19 bomas), and crop diseases (7 out of 19 bomas). In Majok and Manyiel-thony bomas, representatives stated that there is no support available for the farmers. The UN/ FAO/ NGOs were said to provide farmers with support in Tonj, Wanth Alel, and Yiith-kuel bomas.

Chart 1: Showing number of bomas reporting the most needed farm inputs for the production of food crops



Chart 2: Showing number of bomas reporting the most needed technology for the production of food crops



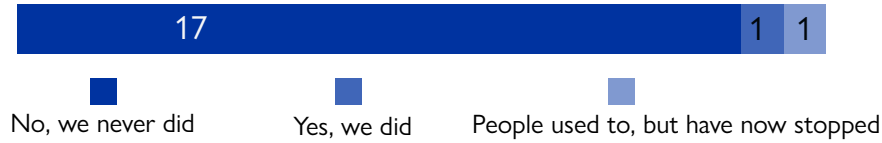
Chart 3: Showing main income generating activities in the bomas



The assessed bomas (19) reported having livestock. Majority of these bomas (14 out of 19 bomas) don't have livestock markets. In most cases, 16 out of 19 livestock owners are able to sell their products and livestock herders sales are made sometimes (15 out of 19 bomas). Livestock herders are most frequently affected by livestock diseases, water and grazing land. Veterinary services are available in over half of the bomas with livestock (12 out of 19 bomas). Other services include cooperatives, slaughterhouses, credit facilities, and export markets. None of the bomas have whole sale traders or daily processing facilities. UN/ NGOs and private businesses are the most common sources of livestock support while none of the bomas are supported by the Ministry of Agruculture or diaspora. Of the 19 bomas assessed, 16 engaged in fishing activities. A high proportion of these bomas (10 out of 16), fishermen sell their catch but in most cases are only able to sell their produce at a profit sometimes. Conflict, lack of equipment, inadequate market facilities, and lack of storage facilities are some of the challenges affecting fishermen.

All four bomas where markets are present within the same boma, it is reported that it takes less than an hour to access, while in 13 bomas, 3 have no major markets. Of the two bomas without markets within the same boma, they require considerable travel time to be able to access major markets in other bomas, with all boma representatives reporting it takes between two and three hours. In all of the bomas (19) reported that they have experienced major livelihood shocks in the past two years, mainly due to conflict (9 bomas), while floods interrupted the livelihood of six bomas, and drought in four bomas. Since conflict is a key factor behind livelihood related shocks, in most cases people rely on selling of their livestock, taking of loans, humanitarian assistance, and migrating cattle to other areas to cope with these shocks.

Chart 4: Number of bomas that engage in seasonal migration



HEALTH

Health care facilities are present in 12 out of 19 bomas. In the 12 bomas with health facilities, 8 of them reported that it takes less than an hour to access the health facility and 12 bomas assessed reported it takes up to 30 minutes, while in Mayiel-thony, and Yiith-kuel bomas, health facilities are accessed within 2 to 3 hours by foot. However, all of the bomas with health facilities are unsatisfied with the services provided mostly due to lack of drugs / medicine. Using the health technical questionnaire, 17 out of the 52 health facilities were found to be non-operational, with 27 of the operational facilities in a permanent building. Of the assessed health facilities, 13 are supported by the government, 8 are supported by NGOs, 3 are supported by the private sector, and religious establishments mainly supports 1 of the health facilities. Majority of the boma representatives (8 out of 21 bomas) reported that majority of the people in the boma visit the health facility when they are sick. Among the 35 operational facilities that were further assessed with the health technical questionnaire, 15 indicated that the most helpful way the facility indicated they can be assisted to cope better would be public awareness, while 11 facilities indicated training. Other ways the facilities indicated they can be assisted to cope better includes referrals (5 bomas), transport (2 bomas) and other reasons (2 bomas). Further recommendations included communication (4 facilities), and fridges for storing vaccines (1 facility).

Immunizations are carried out in about three out of four facilities (26 out of 35 facilities). Immunization campaigns have been conducted in their respective bomas where only three out of four bomas indicated this happened in the last six months. Clinical wastes are usually burnt in an incinerator / designated area (23 facilities), burnt in an open area (9 facilities), or in an open garbage (3 facilities). Majority of health facilities visited provide out-patient services and health education is offered in about half of the facilities (17 out of 35 facilities). In addition, in-patient services, psycho-social support centers, feeding centers, and laboratories are also offered in the facilities. Presence of maternity wards are reported in only 12 out of the 35 facilities. About three in five health facilities staff were said to be untrained (31 out of 52 facilities).

Chart 5: Showing number of health facilities reporting their main supporter

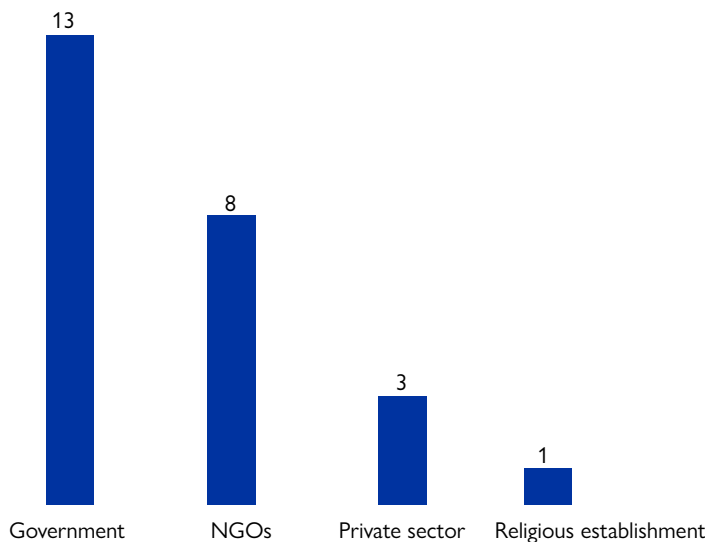
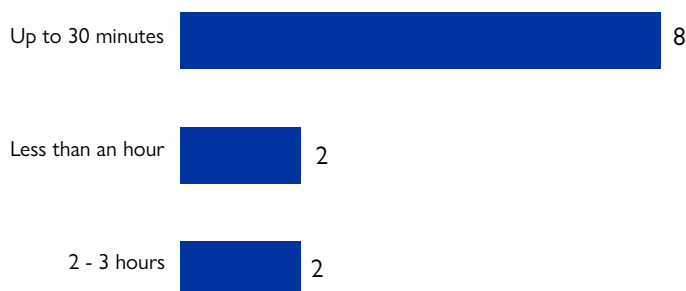


Table 1: Showing type and status of health facilities in the bomas

Type of health facilities	Status of health facilities	Total
Hospital	Operational	4
	Non-operational	-
Primary Health Care Centre	Operational	10
	Non-operational	3
Primary Health Care Unit	Operational	21
	Non-operational	14
Grand total		52

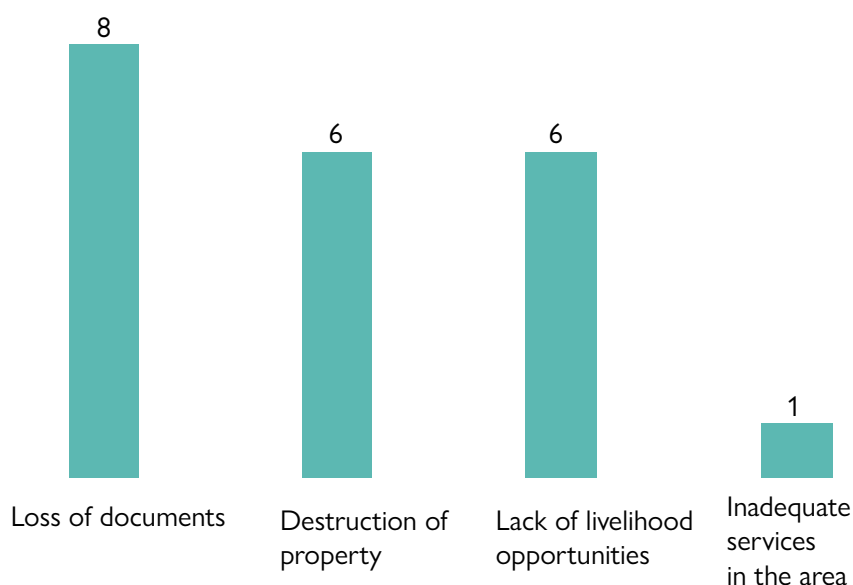
Chart 6: Showing distance to the nearest health facilities from the bomas



PROTECTION

Of all the bomas assessed in Tonj South County, two boma representatives reported violence from or between armed groups in the past year. In the past two years, majority of the bomas (17 out of 19 bomas) have experienced both armed and localized conflicts. Domestic violence was cited in two bomas, while violence against women was reported in one out of 19 bomas with survivors usually having to report to the traditional court (1 boma). Women reported feeling insecure when they are in the farm or out to earn a living in three bomas, and the main reasons for feeling insecure are risks of rape, abduction, harassments and wild animals. This indicated challenges that are faced by women in those communities. Operational courts were reported to be present in all bomas and nine bomas where land dispute was experienced, it was used to resolve the dispute, whereas, judicial courts are present in just two out of 19 bomas. In 13 out of the 19 bomas, there are police stations and in most bomas, cases are referred to neighbouring police stations (17 out of 19 bomas). Cases of cattle theft, theft of movable property, sexual violence, assault, murder, and local conflict constitute the largest proportion of complaints brought to the police stations. All members of the bomas voiced their opinions or provide feedback about boma decisions through boma meetings. Lack of services was reported as the main barrier faced when accessing protection services in the bomas. Representatives from all bomas reported being very concerned about daily crimes, whereas more than half of boma representatives mentioned being “very concerned” about other protection or security related issues such as community tensions (17 bomas), conflict between cattle keepers, or farmers (16 bomas), and cattle raiding (15 bomas). Unaccompanied children lived most commonly with relatives and community support than on their own.

Chart 7: Showing the number of bomas reporting problems residents face when returning peacefully



EDUCATION

Educational facilities were reported to be present in all bomas by the boma representatives. Using the education technical questionnaire, 36 out of the 161 education facilities are non-functional (about 19% of the education facilities), mainly due to insecurity (15 facilities), infrastructure is damaged or destroyed (12 facilities), and no staff (12 facilities). Owing to untrained teachers, distance and language barriers, majority of bomas expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of education provided (18 out of 19 bomas).

Schools where the technical questionnaire was administered indicated that the main reasons why children dropped out of school are high school fees (31 facilities), lack of school meals (18 facilities), early marriage (15 facilities), conflict (10 facilities) and distance (10 facilities), whereas the average school fees in schools where high school fees was stated as the reason for dropout is 10,600 South Sudanese Pounds (ssp). Boma representatives also reported that the main barriers faced to accessing education services in the bomas are distance (9 bomas), lack of resources / school fees (8 bomas), and lack of services (2 bomas).

Chart 8: Showing number of bomas that reported barriers affecting boys from attending school

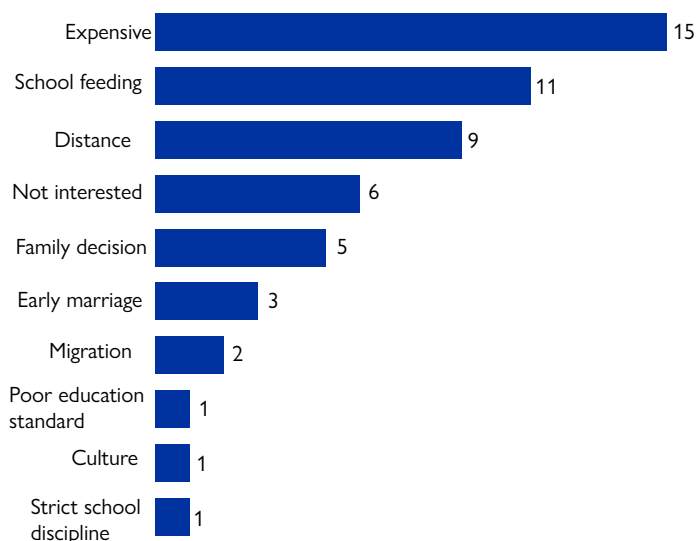


Chart 9: Showing number of bomas that reported barriers affecting girls from attending school

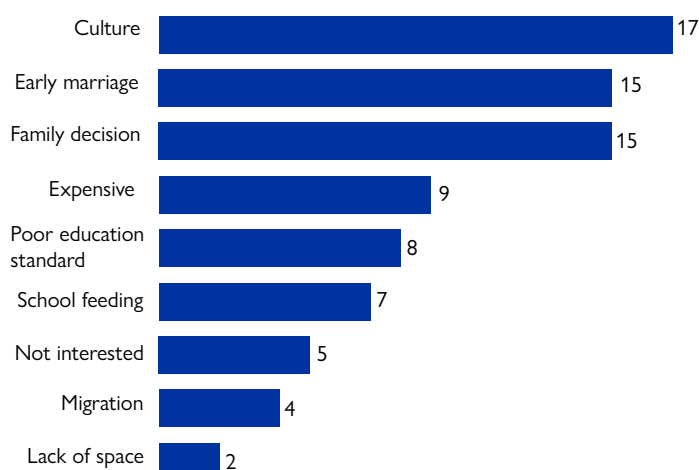


Table 2: Showing type and status of education facilities in the bomas

Type of education facilities	Status of education facilities	Total
Nursery (ECD)	Operational	9
	Non-operational	2
Primary schools	Operational	97
	Non-operational	32
Secondary schools	Operational	16
	Non-operational	3
Universities	Operational	-
	Non-operational	2
Grand total		54

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

The most common form of land ownership in Tonj South County was found to be “community-granted tenure or ownership” in 10 bomas, ancestral land in 6 bomas and individual ownership / privately purchased land and property in 3 bomas. A vast majority of the assessed bomas (18 out of 19 bomas) indicated that they are not aware of any land allocation that has taken place in the area. The bomas that said they were aware of land allocation reported they feel the allocation was conducted fairly, openly and quitably. Amongst the interviewed boma representatives, one reported that there are people occupying houses without paying rent and that the current occupant will leave peacefully and find another place to live in.

All of the assessed bomas with housing, land and property issues (9 bomas) reported that the issues are usually settled by the community chiefs or traditional leadership. When asked about access to civil registration / valid identity documents, 17 out of the 19 bomas reported having access with the majority of the identification documents being voter’s cards, birth certificates, and national identity cards issued by the government.

Chart 10: Showing number of bomas that had housing, land and property issues

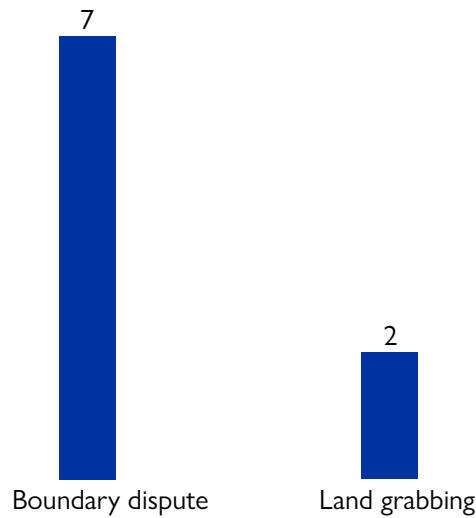


Chart 11: Showing number of bomas that have unexploded ordinances

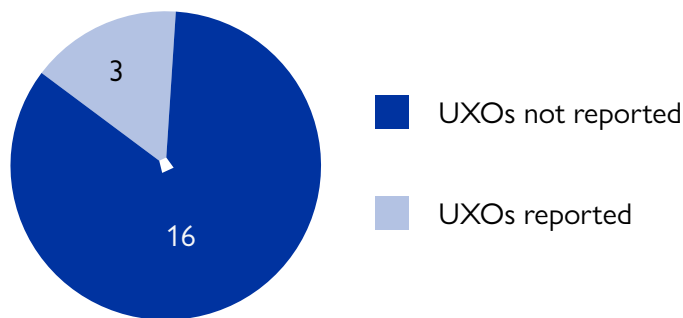
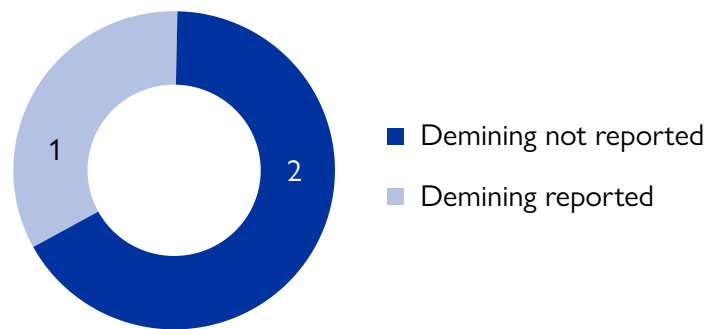


Chart 10: Showing number of bomas currently demining unexploded ordinances



WASH

Among the surveyed water points, 50 out of 428 were found to be non-functional. The highest proportion of non-functional water points (10 facilities) were found to be in Wath-alel, Yiith-kuel, and Tonj South bomas had six and five non-functional water facilities respectively. The main water sources are wells (14 bomas), boreholes (4 bomas), and river (1 boma), 15 bomas highlighted that their water access was insufficient and all 19 bomas reported that not all households had access to these water sources. In just three of the bomas, residents have to pay a fee to access water sources while in a significant number of bomas (15 out of 19 bomas), there are reports of conflicts over water sources between communities or groups. Of the 19 bomas assessed, 17 reported water user committees have been established, while in 18 out of 19 bomas, water sources such as boreholes, taps, and wells are maintained by the communities, the water source in Ayuaath boma is managed by the UN / NGOs. A vast majority of the bomas practice open defecation (17 out of 19 bomas), while only two bomas reported using public latrines, with human feces openly visible in public places and living spaces in 17 bomas. Amongst these, hygiene sessions have been carried out in 17 bomas.

Chart 12: Barriers to accessing water in the bomas

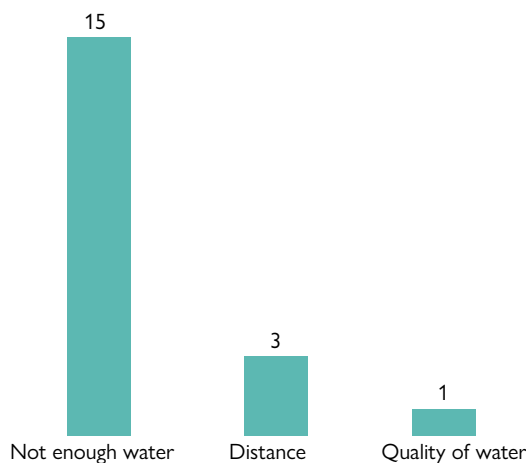


Table 3: Assessed bomas and facilities in Aweil South County

Facility name	Jak	Manyang-Ngok	Thiet	Tonj	Wanhalel	Grand total
Administrative buildings	3	6	3	21	3	36
Operational	3	5	3	20	3	34
Non-operational	-	1	-	1	-	2
Market facilities	4	6	3	12	5	30
Operational	4	6	3	12	5	30
Non-operational	-	-	-	-	-	-
Religious buildings	7	5	4	19	4	39
Operational	7	4	4	16	4	35
Non-operational	-	1	3	-	-	4
Water points / facilities	64	95	97	97	75	428
Operational	60	82	84	82	70	378
Non-operational	4	13	13	15	5	50
Grand Total	78	112	107	149	87	533



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Displacement Tracking Matrix
Juba, South Sudan



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