



DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX
SOUTH SUDAN



ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

VAS

Village Assessment Survey
(Service Mapping)

Abyei Town, Alal, Ameth-Aguok,
Mijak, Rumameer.

28th February to 27th March
2023.

2023





MAIN SURVEY RECOMENDATIONS

- Encourage livelihood diversification activities through small business start-ups and providing vegetable seeds, tools and training for the returning communities South of River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab specifically in the area of Agok/Anet.
- Rehabilitate and operationalize key public infrastructure including roads, health and education facilities and water points south of the River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab especially in Mabok
- Engage in sustained community-level dialogue involving key members of all communities to minimize future relapse of tribal clashes, including community leaders, elders, and representatives of youth and women associations, trade unions, farmers, and pastoralists.



KEY FINDINGS

Education

14 OUT OF 21 PRIMARY EDUCATION FACILITIES ARE NON- OPERATIONAL ALL THE 8 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ARE NON-OPERATIONAL.

.....

Health

3 OUT OF THE 24 HEALTH FACILITIES PROVIDE INPATIENT SERVICES, AND TWO OF THEM HAVE EMERGENCY REFERRAL VEHICLES

.....

Livelihood

90% OF THE ASSESSED BOMAS REPORTED FACING FOOD SCARCITY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING BOTH THE DRY AND RAINY SEASONS

.....

Protection

90% OF THE ASSESSED BOMAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT DAILY CRIME, CATTLE RAIDING, REVENGE ATTACKS, AND INTER-COMMUNITY CONFLICTS

.....

Unexploded ordinances

52% OF THE SURVEYED BOMAS REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF UXOS, WITH A SIGNIFICANT CONCENTRATION IN ALAL AND ABYEI TOWN

.....

WASH

THE MAJORITY OF BOMAS ARE OVER-RELIANT ON BOREHOLES FOR DRINKING WATER, WITH A CONCERNING 35% OF THESE BOREHOLES BEING DYSFUNCTIONAL

.....

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABYEI AA: Abyei Administrative Area

DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix

FIS: Facilities Infrastructure and Services

HLP: Housing, Land, and Property

IDP: Internally Displaced Person”

MT R14: Mobility Tracking Round 14

NFI: Shelter and Non-Food Items

NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations

PHCC: Primary Health Care Centers

PHCU: Primary Health Care Units

RRC: Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

UXOS: Unexploded Ordnances

VAS: Village Assessment Survey

WASH: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

DISCLAIMER:

***Payam and Bomas are used
as reference for
data systems.
IOM on its
own does not officialize
any of payam and boma
boundaries.***

DTM IS SUPPORTED BY:



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



UKaid
from the British people

- Roads
- River
- IDP location

Mobility Tracking Round 14



- IDPs
- Returnees

35,984

ABYEI AA

MAP

15,143

IDPS

RETURNEES

Ameth-aguok
IDPs: 7,347
Ret: 4,398



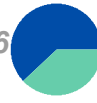
Abyei Town
IDPs: 6,012
Ret: 300



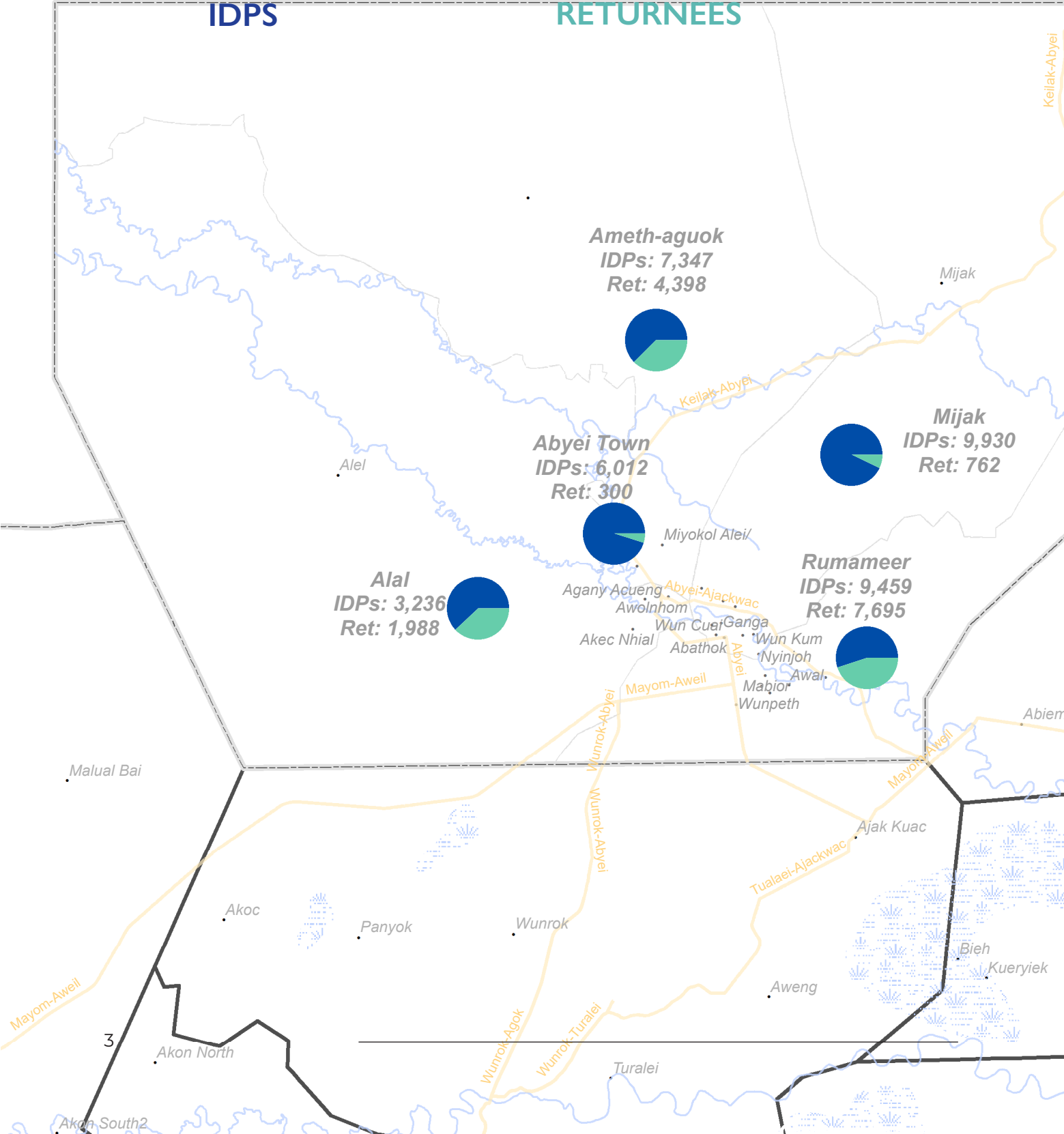
Mijak
IDPs: 9,930
Ret: 762



Alal
IDPs: 3,236
Ret: 1,988



Rumameer
IDPs: 9,459
Ret: 7,695



DISPLACEMENT IN ABYEI AA HAS BEEN A RESULT OF ARMED CONFLICTS BETWEEN SUDANESE AND SOUTH SUDANESE FORCES, AS WELL AS INTER-COMMUNAL VIOLENCE AND COMPETITION OVER RESOURCES.

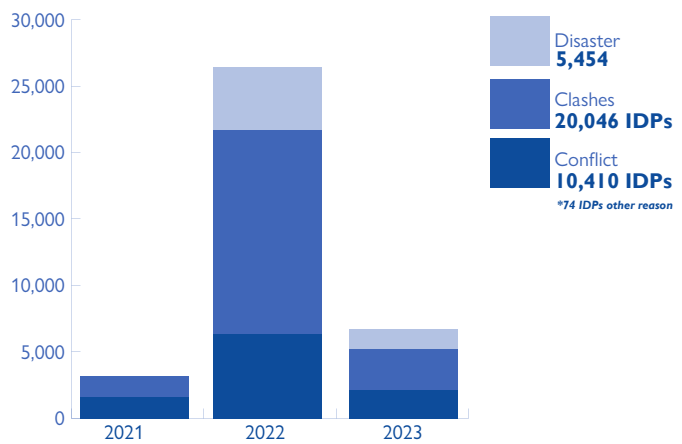
Abyei Administrative Area (AA) has experienced significant displacement due to various conflicts and tensions in the region. The displacement has affected both ethnic groups residing in the area, particularly the Ngok Dinka and the Misseriya.

As part of the Mobility Tracking Round 14 (MT R14), the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team conducted assessments in 41 locations spread across Abyei Town, Alal, Ameth-aguok, Mijak, and Rumameer. During these assessments, it was estimated that there are 35,984 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 15,143 returnees in the region.

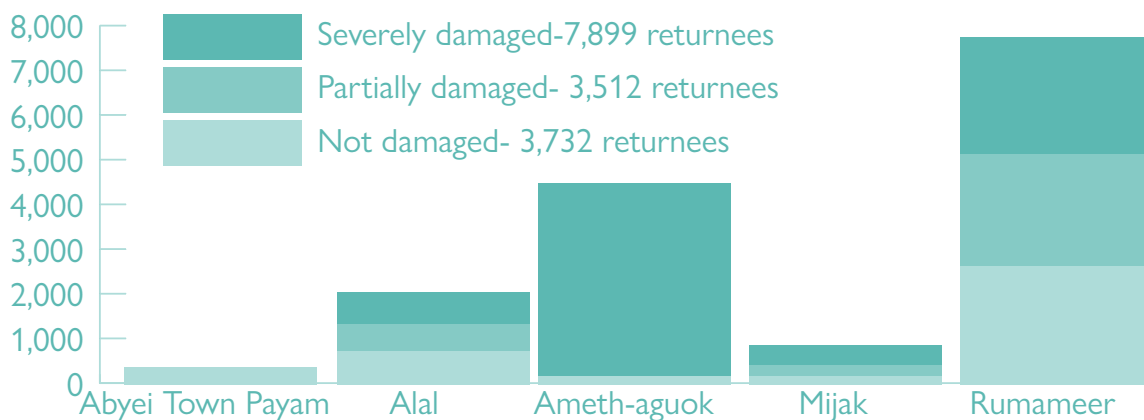
Displacement in Abyei AA has been recurrent and dynamic, with civilians fleeing during times of armed conflict or violence. Many people have sought refuge in makeshift camps, settlements, or with host communities in safer areas. The displacement has led to severe humanitarian challenges, including lack of access to basic services, food insecurity, and inadequate healthcare.

However, it's important to note that the situation in Abyei is complex and dynamic. Humanitarian organizations and agencies have been working to provide assistance to those displaced, and efforts have been made to facilitate the return of displaced populations when the security and conditions permit.

Reason and year of displacement



Number of returnees by house status



While some displaced persons choose to return to Abyei AA when the security situation improves, others may be reluctant to do so due to concerns over safety or the lack of essential services. Land ownership and usage rights have been significant issues in Abyei AA, particularly for returnees trying to reclaim their property and land after displacement. Returnees may face protection concerns, including the risk of landmines, unexploded ordnance, and potential clashes between armed groups.

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

2005

Abyei AA Boundaries Commission

The Abyei AA Boundaries Commission was formed to define the borders of the Abyei region, but its work faced challenges and disputes from both the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A

2007

Failure to settle the status of the Abyei AA region

Failure to settle Abyei's AA status led to fighting from 2007 to 2008, resulting in the displacement of up to 25,000 people.

2011

Status of Abyei AA remained unresolved

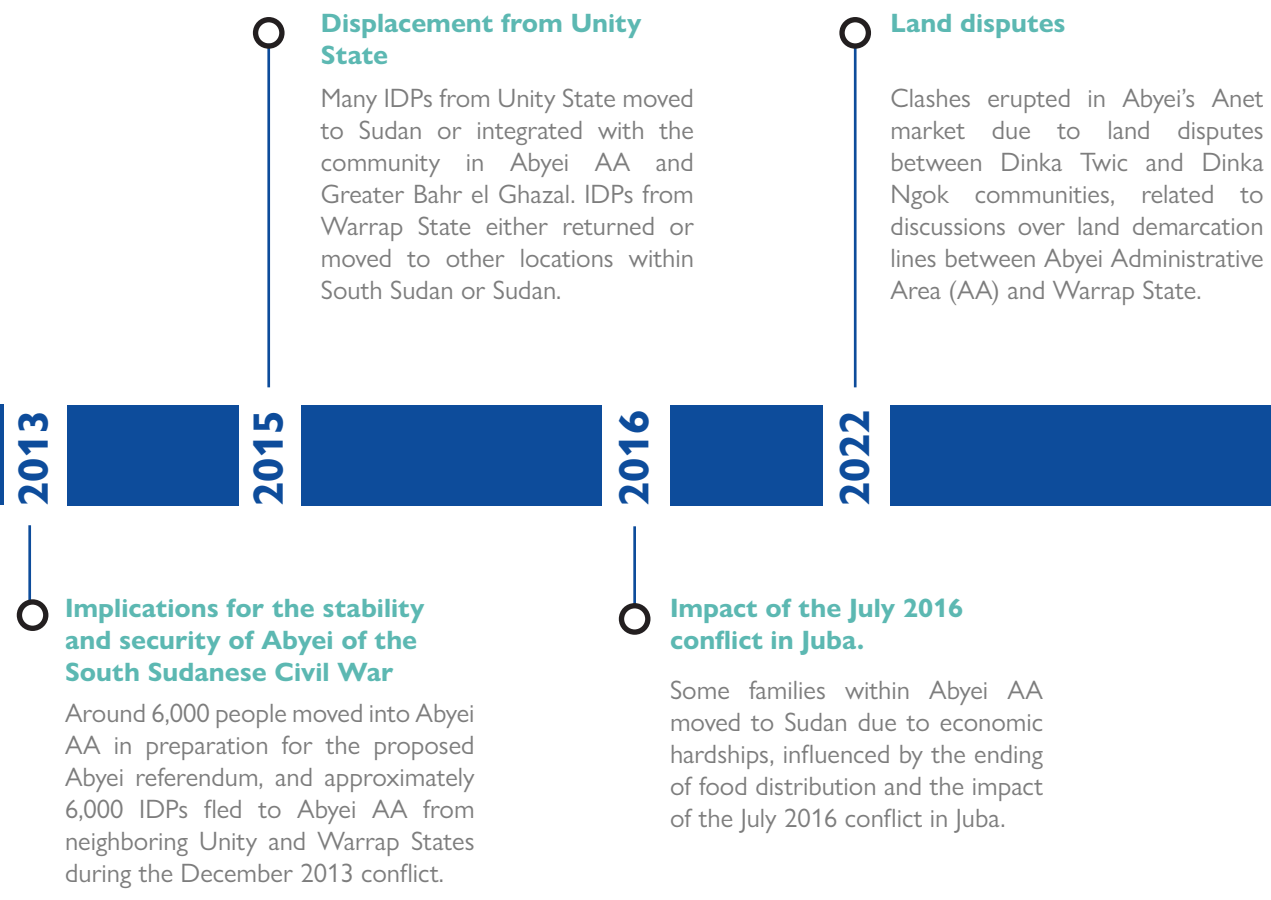
Sudanese military and Khartoum-supported militia groups moved into Abyei AA, displacing around 110,000 Dinka-Ngok people. They fled to various states within South Sudan due to fears of renewed violence.

2012

Temporary Administrative Arrangements

Following Sudan Armed Forces' withdrawal from the Abyei Permanent Court of Arbitration Box, some displaced households started returning to Abyei AA, settling in areas around Agok and later moving further into Abyei town and surrounding villages.

Abyei Administrative Area is a region on the border between Sudan and South Sudan, and it has been a contested area for many years. The timeline below focuses on significant events related to conflict and displacement



VILLAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEYS

METHODOLOGY

In support to formulation of evidence-based transition and recovery programming, IOM's DTM unit has scaled up the implementation of Village Assessment Surveys. Focuses on:

- a) Determining levels of access to basic services, considering different potential barriers to access such as distance to inhabited areas and security
- 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.

A mixed methods approach of key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation were 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.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND A MAPPING TOOL.

- Boma/Area Mapping Survey Questionnaire: Conducted through focus group discussions
- Education Technical Questionnaire: Applied at each education facility with facility personnel
- Health Technical Questionnaire: Filled at health facilities with key personnel, such as doctors/nurses.
- Facility Infrastructure and Service Mapping Tool: utilizes satellite imagery and smartphone map.

**THE SURVEY
AIMS TO ASSESS
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND MULTI-SECTOR
SERVICE DELIVERY AT
COMMUNITY LEVEL
TO PROVIDE BASELINE
DATA FOR MAPPING
THE BASIC NEEDS AND
CRITICAL GAPS**

IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC)

IOM conducted a comprehensive 4-day training for data enumerators locally recruited. The first three days provided focused on effective data collection techniques and methods, an in-depth review of the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices and mapping facilities. On the fourth day, data enumerators applied the theory and skills in a field simulation.

Following the successful completion of the training, two data collection teams were deployed to cover Abyei Town, Alal, Ameth-Aguok, Mijak, Rumameer and 8 bomas in Abyei Administrative Area. The assessment was conducted from 28th February to 27th March 2023.

Due to security concerns, the assessment could not be conducted in two bomas in Alal Payam (Noong and Noong II bomas) and one boma in Ameth-aguok Payam (Todac II boma).

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

LOCATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Abyei Administrative Area lies between Sudan and South Sudan, bordered by Southern Kordofan State in the north, Unity state to the southeast, Warrap State to the south, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state to the southwest, and Southern Darfur state to the west. Originally part of South Sudan, Abyei AA was transferred to Southern Kordofan by the British in 1905, leading to its contested status.

We have one commercial airstrip in Agok (Rumamer payam) allowing direct flights from Juba, and it can also be accessed by land through Greater Bahr el Ghazal state. However, the region has faced security challenges and instability, which has impacted the assessment of some areas and the overall development and well-being of the population.

POPULATION AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The population of Abyei AA is predominantly Ngok Dinka, with some Nuer as a minority in three bomas. A few Fur people from Darfur also reside there. The main languages spoken are Dinka (Jieng), Arabic, and English.

Human activities in Abyei AA include farming, livestock herding, and fishing, which serve as the primary livelihoods for the inhabitants.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The area experiences a tropical savannah climate, with rainfall occurring from March to November. The wettest month is August, while January, February, and December are the driest months. The average annual precipitation is about 534 mm. The temperatures in Abyei AA can be quite high with ranges from 31°C in August to 40.2°C in March. The vegetation mainly consists of deciduous trees, particularly acacia species.

TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

Abyei's topography is characterized by flat clay soil, and the major river is the Bahr el Arab (also known as River Kiir in South Sudan), originating in the northwest of the county. Other significant rivers and tributaries include Ragaba ez Zarga (Ngol River), Ragaba Umm Biero, and Ragaba el Shaib, along with small seasonal streams.

The area's unique geographical and social characteristics, including contested status and ethnic diversity, impact the residents' livelihoods and access to resources and services.



**ACROSS THE 8
BOMAS ASSESSED,
393 FACILITIES, 95
SETTLEMENTS, AND
31 LIVELIHOOD
AREAS ARE MAPPED**

MAPPING

Of the 88 accessed permanent villages, 22 were found deserted while 66 remained populated.

The survey meticulously mapped 393 facilities, 95 settlements, and 31 livelihood areas across the surveyed regions. Among these, 95 settlement areas were identified, including 6 neighborhoods, 88 permanent villages, 1 IDP site, and 31 livelihood areas categorized into cattle grazing grounds, farming/agriculture areas, and fisheries.

VILLAGE CONDITIONS:

Of the 88 accessed permanent villages, 22 were found deserted while 66 remained populated. Out of 10 neighborhoods, 1 was deserted and 5 were populated.

PERIOD

The data collection took place from February 28, 2023, to March 27, 2023, covering a period of twenty-eight days.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), conducted a one-month Village Assessment Survey (VAS) in Abyei Administrative Areas to assess transition and recovery needs

The survey focused on eight bomas in five Payams of Abyei AA: Abyei Town, Alal, Mijak, Rumameer, and Ameth-aguok. The assessed bomas included Dungop, Akec-nhial, Tajalei, Leu, Mabok, Todac, Maker, and Marial. Two bomas in Alal Payam (Noong and Noong II) and one in Ameth-aguok Payam (Todac II) were not assessed due to insecurity.

The study revealed that 20 villages were intact and populated, 16 villages were destroyed and deserted, and 36 permanent villages were partially destroyed.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES:

The survey team mapped 393 facilities, encompassing 19 administrative buildings, 9 markets, 28 religious structures, 3 bus stations, and 264 water points. Notably, educational and healthcare facilities were identified as well, with 49 education facilities and 24 health facilities marked.

PAYAM MAP

01 ABYEI TOWN (MAKER BOMA)

- Gradual returns, UNISFA presence boosting confidence.
- Farming, trading, and livestock keeping.
- 11 facilities mapped.

02 ALAL (AKEC-NHIAL BOMA)

- Common market moved from Noong.
- Seasonal sorghum farming predominant.
- 55 facilities mapped.

03 AMETH AGUOK (DUNGOP AND TODAC BOMA)

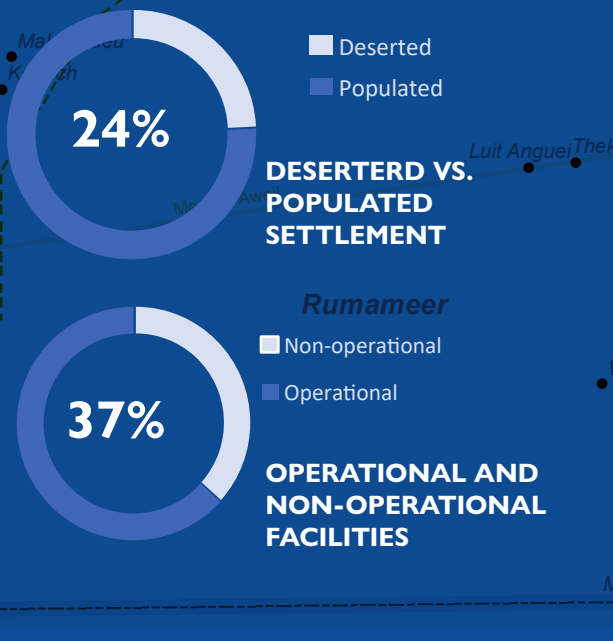
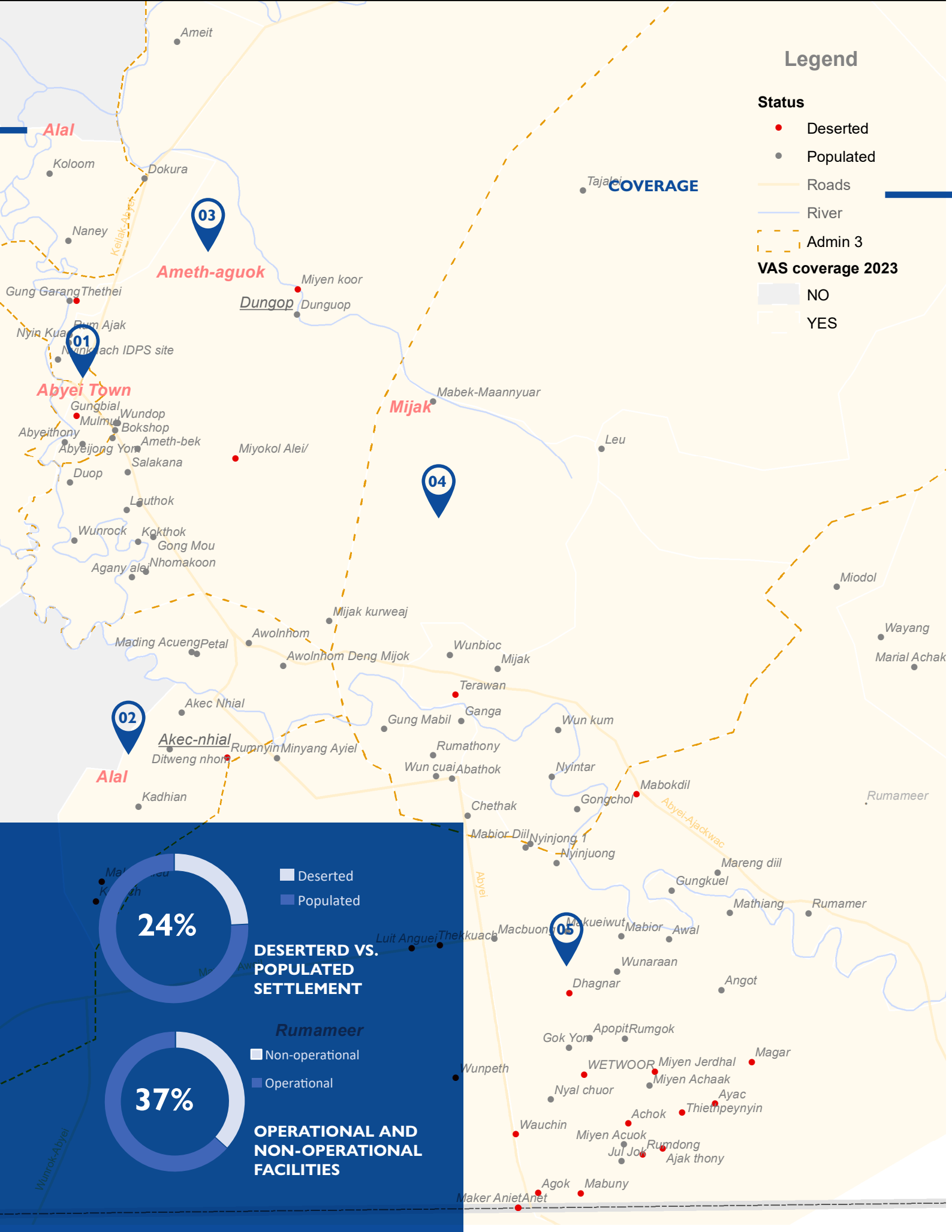
- Deserted conditions due to rainy season
- Unique Amiech Common Market
- 152 facilities mapped

04 MAJAK OR MIJAK (LEU AND TAJALEI BOMAS)

- Sorghum farming dominant, some vegetable cultivation and livestock keeping
- 96 facilities mapped

05 RUMAMEER (MABOK AND MARIAL BOMAS)

- Sorghum farming, humanitarian presence
- 198 facilities mapped



ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

HLP, NFI AND MORE...

Housing, Land, and Property (HLP):

- Ancestral land was the predominant form of land ownership in the assessed bomas, followed by community granted tenure/ownership.
- Some residents reported recent land allocations, raising concerns about the fairness and transparency of the process in one boma.
- HLP disputes were reported in Todac and Mabok bomas, with boundary issues and land grabbing being the main concerns, emphasizing the importance of effective and accessible dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Dispute resolution methods included community chief/traditional leadership and formal courts.

Ensuring equitable land allocation processes and addressing HLP disputes are essential for promoting community cohesion and stability.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI):

- Tukul (mud walls with thatched roofing) was the most common shelter type across all assessed bomas.
- Mud walls with iron roofing and emergency/improvised shelters/tents were also present in multiple bomas.
- Most houses were found to have minor damages but were still habitable.
- The majority of residents collected shelter-related building materials from surrounding areas free of charge, while one boma reported purchasing them from the nearest town market.

Housing repairs and maintenance support may be necessary to improve living conditions and facilitate peaceful return.

Challenges for Peaceful Return:

Dungop faces challenges stemming from inadequate essential services, such as schools, water points, and clinics, which impacts the overall quality of life. In Todac, the primary concern is the destruction of property, attributed to either the high cost or the difficulty of repair. In Leu, the focus is on the loss or destruction of personal property documentation, contributing to

difficulties in proving ownership. In Maker and Akec-nhial, Tajalei, Mabok, and Marial share the common worry of insecurity and the associated apprehension of future displacement.

Sustainable peace-building efforts, community empowerment, and provision of essential services are vital for successful return and reintegration.

Presence of UXOs:

Maker, Todac, Mabok, Marial reported the presence of mines or unexploded ordnance (UXOs).

Demining activities were ongoing in three bomas, highlighting the importance of continued efforts to ensure community safety.

Infrastructure and Access to Information:

- Functional roads were reported in five bomas, but only during the dry season, while two bomas had year-round functional roads, and Akec-nhial had no roads at all.
- Lack of public transport access was a common issue faced by all assessed bomas.
- Only four bomas had access to mobile networks, and electricity was unavailable in all bomas.

Improved infrastructure and access to information and services are essential for community development and empowerment.

Information Sources:

- Radio, community leaders/elders, and friends/relatives were the most commonly used sources of information.
- Community leaders/elders were the most preferred source of information, followed by friends/relatives.

Enhancing access to reliable and up-to-date information can foster informed decision-making and community participation.

Civil Society Groups:

Various civil society groups were actively operating in the bomas, such as Boma Development Committee, Water Management Committee, Parent Teachers Association, Youth Association, Farmers Association, Herders Association, Women Association, Religious Association, Community Protection Group, Council of Elders, and Traditional Court, providing platforms for community engagement and cooperation.

Collaborating with these groups can play a significant role in addressing the identified needs and promoting community development.

LAND OWNERSHIP

ANCESTRAL LAND COMMON, RECENT ALLOCATIONS RAISED FAIRNESS CONCERNS IN ONE BOMA

HLP DISPUTES

DISPUTES IN TWO BOMAS, MAINLY BOUNDARY ISSUES AND LAND GRABBING, NEED RESOLUTION

SHELTER CONDITIONS

TUKUL HOUSING PREVALENT, DAMAGES REQUIRE REPAIRS FOR HABITABILITY.

CHALLENGES FOR RETURN

INSECURITY, PROPERTY LOSS, INADEQUATE SERVICES HINDER RETURN IN FIVE BOMAS

PRESENCE OF UXO

MAKER TODAC, MABOK, MARIAL REPORTED UXOS, ONGOING DEMINING CRUCIAL

INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS

SEASONAL ROADS, NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT, LIMITED NETWORKS, NO ELECTRICITY IN BOMAS

INFORMATION SOURCES

RADIO, LEADERS, FRIENDS/ RELATIVES CRUCIAL FOR INFORMATION

Implementing targeted interventions, including equitable land allocation, housing repairs, infrastructure improvements, and access to essential services, can contribute to sustainable development and facilitate the peaceful return and reintegration of the displaced population

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

LIVELIHOOD

Abyei AA is predominantly reliant on farming, herding, and fishing activities. Among the eight bomas in the region, farming is the most common form of livelihood, practiced in all of them. Herding and fishing are the second most common livelihood, reported in four bomas.

LIVELIHOOD PATTERNS

The foundation of Abyei's economy rests on farming, practiced in all eight bomas. It is closely followed by herding in four bomas and fishing in another four.

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES

Access to water, seeds, technology, market facilities, and support services are identified as crucial areas requiring attention

Rain-fed farming is the norm across all eight bomas, with two bomas practicing single-season farming and six bomas adopting two cropping seasons. Crops such as sorghum, maize, cassava, sesame, wheat, groundnuts, beans, cowpeas, and pulses form the agricultural backbone of the region. While communal farming, credit facilities, and cooperatives offer some support to farmers, challenges like crop diseases, conflict, and natural disasters hamper food production. Some bomas reported selling part of their harvest, particularly sorghum, maize, sesame, wheat, groundnuts, and beans, for profit.

Support systems for farmers in the boma include communal farming, credit facilities, extension services/inputs, cooperatives, and wholesale trade, with support providers being the community and UN/FAO/NGOs.

ACCESS TO SEEDS: Seven bomas rely on previous harvests or market purchases for seeds provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, borrowed, or distributed by UN/FAO/NGOs in varying proportions across the bomas. Initiatives to ensure timely access to quality seeds, such as seed banks and government support, would improve crop yields and food availability.

IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE: all eight bomas practice rain-fed farming, with two bomas having one season of crop planting and six bomas having two seasons for farming. The main sources of farming water are rainfed (in all eight bomas), irrigated (in two bomas), and river water (in two bomas). There is a need to invest in irrigation infrastructure to reduce the reliance on rainfed agriculture and mitigate the risks of crop failure during dry spells.

LIVELIHOOD

LIVESTOCK REARING

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS AND COPING MECHANISM: Six bomas experienced major shocks in the last two years, due to conflict, droughts, floods, and livestock diseases. Crop diseases significantly affect food production in five bomas. Coping mechanisms include waiting for assistance (four bomas), migration (five bomas), loans (one boma), selling livestock (five bomas), and family support. Strengthening agricultural extension services to provide disease control strategies and disease-resistant crop varieties would mitigate losses.

MARKET ACCESS: The lack of access to markets for some bomas hampers income generation and food availability. While five bomas lack market facilities, three have them. Markets are primarily accessible on foot, with distances ranging from 30 minutes to 6 hours. However, many lack necessary facilities, posing challenges to trade. Safety measures at storage facilities are reported variably. Developing market infrastructure and improving transportation networks could promote trade and livelihoods.

Regarding available food types in the bomas, vegetables, livestock meat, and livestock milk are common in all eight bomas, while other food types such as beans, fruits, fish, game/wild meat, chicken/fowl, and fish are available in varying numbers of bomas.

ALL EIGHT BOMAS FACE ANNUAL FOOD SCARCITY, WITH SIX EXPERIENCING IT DURING BOTH RAINY AND DRY SEASONS. COPING STRATEGIES INCLUDE LOANS (THREE BOMAS), TEMPORARY MIGRATION (TWO BOMAS), FOOD AID (ONE BOMA), FOREST FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (FOUR BOMAS), REDUCED MEALS (TWO BOMAS), CASH BENEFITS, AND EXTENDED FAMILY SUPPORT ALSO PLAY VITAL ROLES IN MANAGING FOOD SHORTAGES.

All bomas engage in livestock rearing, with communal grazing land being a shared resource. Half of the bomas have individual grazing lands, and two bomas lease such land. Adequate pasture availability year-round is reported in five bomas, while three face shortages of water, particularly during the dry season. Conflict, livestock diseases, grazing land scarcity, and cattle raiding are among the challenges affecting livestock herders.

Support for livestock owners includes slaughterhouses, veterinary services, cooperatives, credit facilities, export markets, cross-breeding, wholesale traders, and dairy processing facilities. Support providers include UN/NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture, private businesses, and the community.

FISHING AND ITS PREDICAMENTS:

All eight bomas practice fishing, contributing to the local economy. However, lack of equipment, conflicts, storage and market facility issues, and environmental factors like drought and floods impact the fishing sector's productivity.

NEEDS AND CHALLENGES:

ENHANCED FARMING: improve farming efficiency, particularly by encouraging two-season farming.

CROP CHALLENGES: crop diseases, conflicts, and natural disasters, along with damage from insects and wildlife.

TECH FOR FARMING: tractors, tools, and compost fertilizers, with potential for irrigation and ox ploughs.

LIVESTOCK ISSUES: conflict, diseases, raiding, grazing land scarcity, market access, and droughts.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: sustainable solutions like financial literacy, income diversification, and social safety nets are crucial.

RESILIENCE BUILDING: through education and safety nets is vital for long-term stability.

LIVESTOCK MITIGATION: Improved water management and pasture preservation strategies can mitigate livestock-related challenges.

FISHING SECTOR BOOST: Investment in fishing equipment, storage, and market facilities will strengthen the fishing sector.

MARKET ACCESS: Strengthening market facilities and trade routes will improve access to markets, fostering economic growth.

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

TRANSHUMANCE ROUTES

In the region of Abyei AA, nomadic herding communities, prominently represented by the Misseriya tribe, heavily rely on a network of transhumance routes. These routes form essential passageways guiding their seasonal livestock migrations, which are crucial for accessing vital resources. These routes play a dual role, serving both migration and return journeys, and are consistently used for these purposes.

An integral aspect of these routes is their division into three distinct corridors: the Central, Eastern, and Western corridors. These corridors serve as guides, leading herders through diverse sections of Abyei AA and its surroundings. Each corridor offers specific locations for grazing and water access, pivotal for maintaining the livestock's well-being.

The importance of these transhumance routes to the livelihoods of these communities is profound. They ensure uninterrupted access to critical resources throughout the year, ensuring the sustainability of herding activities. Furthermore, these routes actively contribute to preserving the health and productivity of the livestock, which directly impacts the welfare of the herding populations.

However, these routes intersect with settled farming communities, potentially leading to conflicts over resource usage and land allocation. Effectively managing these interactions becomes crucial, requiring a balanced approach that addresses the needs of both herders and farmers. Establishing mechanisms for cooperation and conflict resolution is paramount in achieving this harmony.

The transhumance routes support livelihoods by ensuring continuous access to crucial resources and livestock well-being. However, effectively managing interactions with settled farming communities is essential for fostering cooperation and preventing conflicts over resources.

IN THE WESTERN MIGRATION CORRIDOR, dominant nomadic communities like the Misseriya and Twic from Warrap State undertake seasonal migrations in Abyei's western regions. Misseriyas embark on a southward migration from November/December through areas like Alal, Maker, Nong, and Kolom, blessed with abundant pasture and water sources. Another route, popular among the Twic nomads, involves a northward migration along the River Kiir from Athony road to Aganytok, Kol Makuei, Agany Achueng, and Mading Achueng.

However, deteriorating dialogue between local Ngok communities and these nomads ensued due to escalating conflict, which began after an incident involving armed youth from Twic County attacking Abyei AA government officials. This discord led to displacement and insecurity in areas like Agok and Anet.

IN THE CENTRAL MIGRATION CORRIDOR, Misseriya nomads migrated to locations like Tajalei, Dungop, Mijak, and Leu in November 2021, returning in April 2022. Unfortunately, insecurity stemming from conflicts, particularly in Agok and its surrounding Ngok-inhabited areas, halted nomadic migration through this corridor in November/December 2022.




Water yards are integral for nomadic and local communities in Tajalei, Dungop, and Leu. Notably, Leu also has access to the River Leu. Yet, the ongoing cultivation and functionality of boreholes vary across these locations.

THE EASTERN MIGRATION CORRIDOR previously hosted nomadic movements mainly from Unity State's Nuer and Ruweng communities. This unique period of migration occurred in June 2022, with return journeys in December 2022. However, conflict between the Twic community and the Ngok community halted Twic nomads' migration through this corridor.





In summary, Abyei's transhumance routes are pivotal for nomadic herding communities, particularly the Misseriya, in facilitating their seasonal migrations.







Legend



-  Central Corridor
-  Eastern Corridor
-  Western Corridor

Status

-  Deserted
-  Populated
-  Migration Route
-  Return Route

-  Roads
-  River
-  Grazing Area
-  Admin 3

VAS coverage 2023

-  NO
-  YES
- Mijak**

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

WASH

VAS assessment underscores the urgent need for interventions in water accessibility, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education

Drinking Water Sources

Boreholes serve as the primary drinking water source in 6 bomas. 1 boma relies on a tap and another on a river for drinking water. For non-drinking purposes, the water is mostly sourced from rivers (6 bomas), with a boma each using a pond/lake and a tank.

The area with the highest number of non-functional facilities is Mabok, which needs attention for 41 facilities. Marial is the only region where all facilities are functional and does not currently need any repairs or replacements. However, it only has a total of 4 operational water points, making it one of the bomas with fewer facilities. Meanwhile, Maker has the distinction of having the smallest number of functional facilities, with just 3 in operation.

Boreholes are predominant, but 35% of them are dysfunctional. Other facilities like Hafir, springs, and wells mostly remain functional.

Water Accessibility

Primary Water Sources: Majority (6 bomas) rely on boreholes for drinking water, highlighting potential over-reliance on a singular water source.

Year-Round Accessibility: Water is not consistently available for all throughout the year, with one boma having seasonal access and another experiencing insufficient accessibility.

Access Challenges: Three bomas cite issues in full accessibility to water. This is primarily attributed to:

- Insecurity
- Insufficient water supply
- Long distances to the water source
- Malfunctioning infrastructure



Water Management and Conflicts

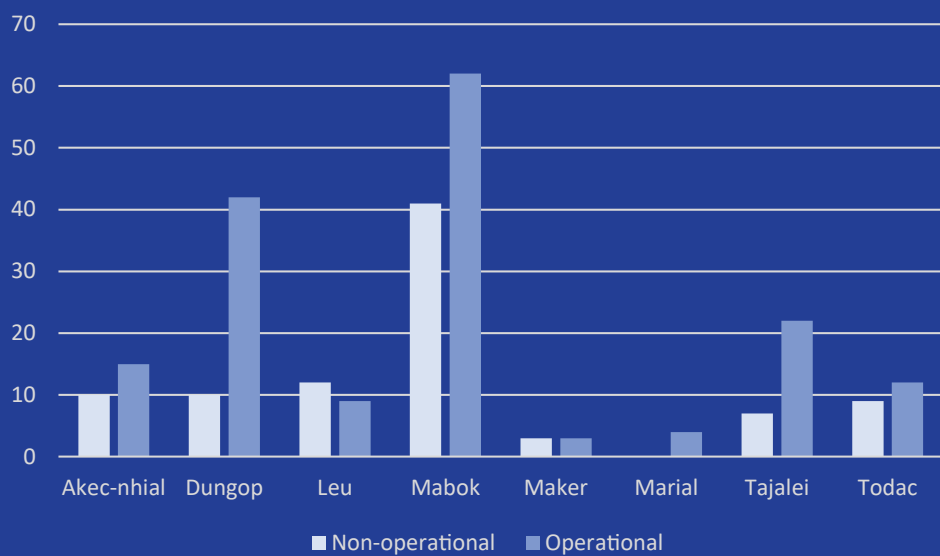
Water Fees: A distinction exists in water access fees, with water being free in 3 bomas but accessed at a fee in 3 other bomas.

Water management: Water User Committees are present across all bomas. However, the emphasis is on enhancing their effectiveness and coordination. In terms of maintenance, the UN or NGOs undertake borehole repairs in 4 bomas, while the community shoulders this responsibility in 3 bomas. In another boma, it's the private sector that steps in for repairs. Community or self-organized groups oversee most of the operational facilities, managing 87 out of the 169. Meanwhile, governmental entities are at the helm for 27 functional facilities. Religious organizations manage 4, and a noteworthy 51 functional facilities are under the care of the United Nations or Non-Governmental Organizations.

Water Conflict: The presence of conflict over water in one boma suggests potential stressors that might expand to other bomas if not addressed.



WATER POINT FACILITY



Ensuring functionality and efficiency across all these water points is essential to guarantee continuous water supply to all the bomas

Sanitation, Hygiene Education

Defecation Practices and Visibility of Human Waste: The widespread practice of open-air/bush defecation in 7 bomas is alarming and signifies a crucial need for adequate sanitation facilities. Only 1 boma reported having household latrines.

Every assessed boma has visible human feces in public areas, indicating a lack of proper sanitation facilities and a severe public health concern.

Limited Reach: Only half of the bomas received sanitation and hygiene training, signaling the need for broader education initiatives.

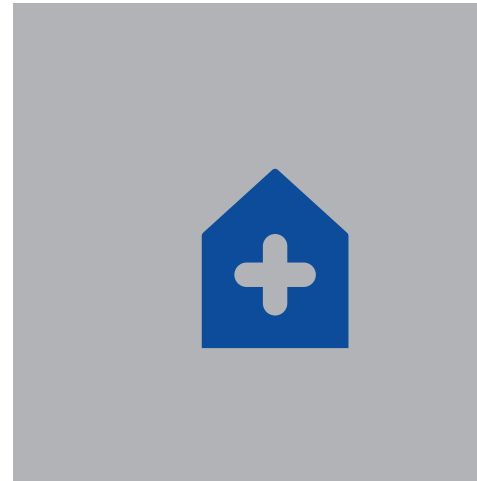
Training Focus: The primary training themes revolve around handwashing, clean drinking water, general hygiene, and garbage disposal.

Training Providers: Reliance on UN/NGOs for hygiene training indicates potential gaps in local capacity or resources for such initiatives.

Critical need for:

- Enhancing the security and insufficient water sources, and non-functional infrastructure. Given that 92 out of 261 water facilities are non-functional, prioritized efforts are required to renovate these, especially in Mabok where the non-functional count is the highest.
- Addressing the challenges of open defecation by introducing and promoting the use of household latrines, emphasizing the pressing need for improved sanitation facilities.
- Expanding hygiene education and training to more bomas, especially focusing on sanitation practices to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Collaboration between local communities, the UN/NGOs, and the private sector is essential to address the identified gaps and ensure safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices in Abyei AA. As many facilities are managed by community/self-organized groups, there's potential for community-driven maintenance and monitoring solutions.

ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA HEALTH



The VAS assessment of health facilities in Abyei Administrative Area has revealed several critical gaps that need urgent attention to improve healthcare services for the population.

Out of the 11 surveyed bomas, 9 reported the presence of health facilities, with distances ranging from a 30-minute walk to a 2–3-hour journey. A total of 24 healthcare facilities were identified, encompassing 1 operational hospital, 9 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), and 14 Primary Health Care Units (PHCUs). Notably, 9 PHCUs and 7 PHCCs were operational, while 5 PHCUs and 2 PHCCs were non-operational due to a variety of reasons including insecurity, structural damage, and staffing shortages.

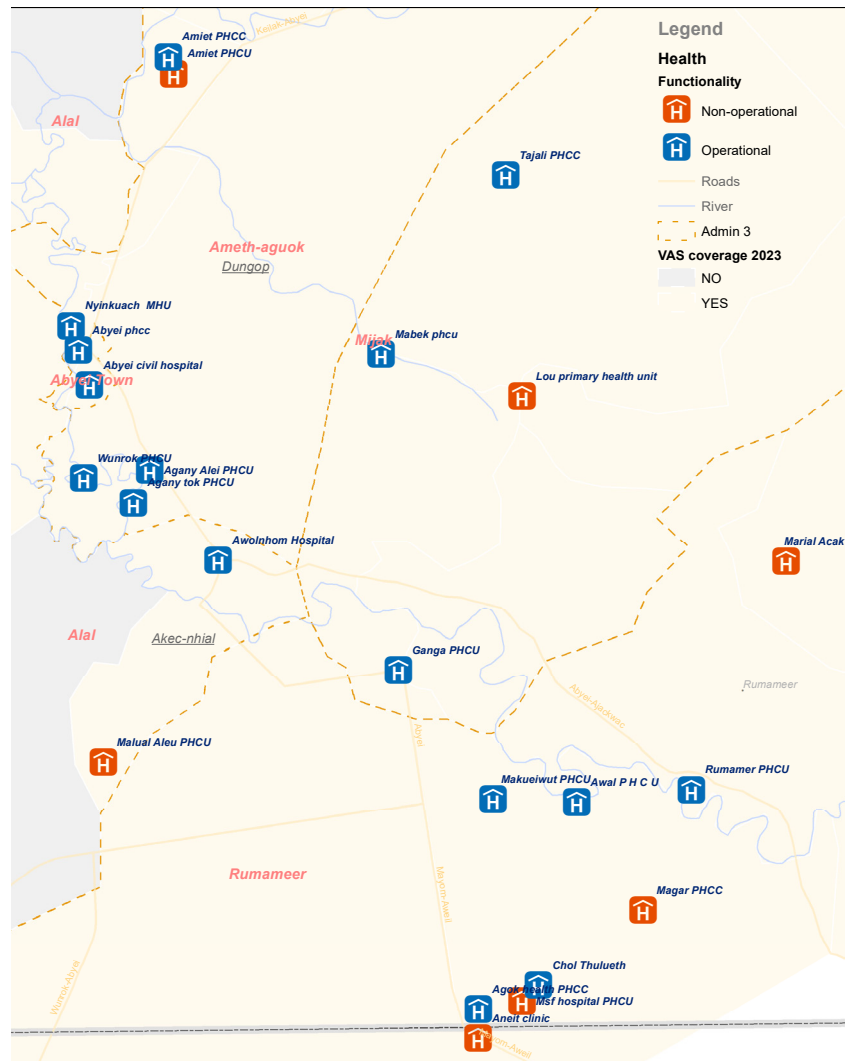
The government and NGOs emerged as the main supporters of health facilities, with 6 receiving backing from the government and 12 from NGOs. Moreover, facility management was predominantly overseen by the government (11) and UN/NGOs (7). Data reporting to essential health authorities showcased a promising trend, with 17 facilities regularly reporting data to Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR), Ministry of Health, or Health Management Information System (HMIS). However, there remain notable gaps in infrastructure, as 8 facilities reported inadequacies in their buildings' safety and appropriateness. The provision of mental health services by 10 facilities highlights a growing recognition of the importance of addressing holistic health needs.

DIVERSE STAFF COMPOSITION

While 16 health facilities reported having trained staff, 2 facilities lacked trained personnel. The medical staff at these facilities consisted of 27 doctors, 24 medical assistants, 38 nurses, 21 traditional birth assistants, 15 lab assistants, 18 pharmacists, 18 Maternal Child Health Workers (MCHWs), 21 midwives, 52 vaccinators, and 35 community health workers. However, there were 91 untrained staff members, emphasizing the need for training and capacity-building programs.

FACILITY DISTRIBUTION AND ATTENDANCE:

Hospitals have a substantial number of patients attending, with an average of 1,750 patients per facility. Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) receive an average of around 4,139 patients per facility, while Primary Health Care Units (PHCUs) have a lower average of approximately 1,232 patients per facility. The utilization of healthcare services is higher in PHCCs compared to PHCUs.



INADEQUATE ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION:

Despite the presence of some health facilities, there are areas where access to healthcare is severely limited. Villages lacking facilities and long distances to existing ones create barriers to timely and effective medical care.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES: A notable number of health facilities, particularly Primary Health Care Units (PHCUs) and Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs), are non-operational. Reasons such as structural damage, insecurity, and staff shortages contribute to the lack of functioning facilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENCY: Many health facilities suffer from inadequate and unsafe infrastructure. This compromises patient safety and the quality of care provided. Facilities operating in temporary or semi-permanent structures are particularly vulnerable.

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED STAFF: Some facilities are grappling with a shortage of trained medical personnel. The low representation of qualified medical professionals like doctors, nurses, and medical assistants hinders the delivery of comprehensive healthcare services.

LIMITED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: While 10 facilities provide mental health services, the coverage is limited. Given the growing importance of addressing mental health concerns, the availability of specialized services remains insufficient.

INADEQUATE DATA REPORTING: Despite efforts by some facilities, there are gaps in consistent and accurate data reporting to health authorities and information systems. This hampers effective disease surveillance and resource allocation.

INADEQUATE RESOURCES: Insufficient resources, including medical supplies and equipment, hinder the facilities' ability to provide quality care. The lack of resources also contributes to the inability to provide a full schedule of immunizations for children.

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION: Several facilities lack access to transportation means for referrals and emergencies.

This could lead to delays in critical cases and compromises the effectiveness of healthcare services.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

While some health education sessions have been conducted, there is a need for more comprehensive health education and awareness campaigns to promote preventive measures and enhance community understanding of health issues.

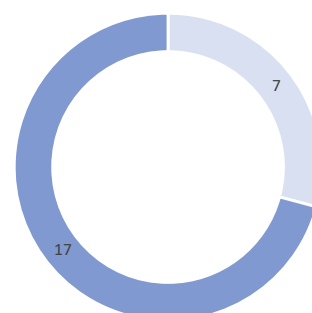
PATIENT DISSATISFACTION: The dissatisfaction expressed by some bomas regarding health services reflects issues such as unavailability of drugs, lack of qualified personnel, and irregular opening hours. Addressing these concerns is crucial for building trust in the healthcare system.

VULNERABLE TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS:

Disease outbreaks, particularly measles and meningitis, pose significant challenges to health facilities. Coping strategies, while implemented, need to be reinforced to effectively manage and prevent such outbreaks.

FACILITIES, DOCTORS AND ATTENDANCE SINCE 2022				
Boma	# of facilities	Doctors	Total male attendance	Total female attendance
Akec-nhial	2	1	780	805
Dungop	3	5	2,527	1,760
Mabok	4	2	13,155	15,382
Maker	3	3	6,396	13,734
Outside Boma	1	4	973	843
Tajalei	3	2	212	169
Todac	1	1	7	20
Grand Total	17	18	24,050	32,713

■ Non-operational ■ Operational



ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

EDUCATION

There are 49 educational facilities across 7 Bomas in Abyei AA, Marial boma doesn't report education facility. However, operational challenges such as a lack of staff, insecurity, and infrastructure damage affect many of these facilities.

The Abyei Administrative Area has 49 educational facilities distributed across 7 bomas, consisting of 35 primary schools, 8 nursery schools, 4 secondary schools, and 2 vocational centers. A significant portion of these schools are non-operational due to various reasons, including security concerns, inadequate staff, and damaged infrastructure. The analysis of the data collected from these educational institutions highlights significant disparities across the Bomas in terms of student enrollment, student-teacher ratios, student dropouts, and identified needs.

Around half of the facilities are not operational due to various reasons like lack of staff, insecurity, and infrastructure damage. Reactivation of non-functional schools would require support in various areas, such as teacher training, infrastructure maintenance or reconstruction, additional classrooms, school materials, and school feeding programs.

The language of instruction in 53 per cent of schools is English, following the New Sudan curriculum. However, 31 per cent of the schools reported space constraints, and 47 per cent of the schools have students from other bomas.

The ownership of the schools is predominantly government-based (28 facilities), with some community-based (10 facilities), private (7 facilities), and faith-based organization ownership (4 facilities).

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Across all bomas, approximately 42% of the teachers are untrained. This is particularly concerning for Tajalei, where 85% of teachers are untrained. Teachers across these schools have varying levels of education - higher education (university) (32 teachers), secondary (257 teachers), primary eight (8 teachers), and others (specialists and qualified in vocational training; 35 teachers). A considerable number of teachers (264 across 21 schools) have received in-service training.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DROPOUTS

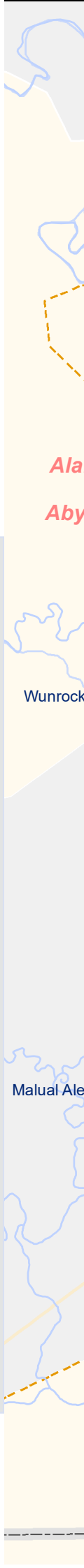
Every Boma has more male students than female students, except for 'Dungop' and 'Mabok', which have more female students. Student enrollment and dropout rates vary across Bomas. The Boma of Akec-nhial has the highest total student enrollment, but it also experiences a significant number of dropouts. On the other hand, Todac, with the lowest total student enrollment, reports a relatively low number of dropouts. Bomas like Maker and Leu have high student enrollments, but while Maker records a high number of dropouts, Leu reports no student dropouts.

Barriers hindering children's access to schools include the absence of school feeding programs, insecurity, migration, lack of space, and lack of interest among children. The main reasons for girls not attending primary schools include early marriage, security concerns, and high costs. For boys, it's mainly due to poor education standards, lack of interest, and early marriage.

In terms of attendance, five bomas reported that most girls aged 14-17 attend school, while six bomas reported the same for boys. The main reasons for school dropouts are conflict and insecurity, early marriage, long distance, and high cost.

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

The student-teacher ratio, indicative of the potential attention each student might receive, varies across the bomas. Todac has the lowest student-teacher ratio at approximately 25:1, suggesting a more favorable student-teacher distribution. On the other hand, Leu and Tajalei have higher ratios of 57:1 and 54:1, respectively, indicating a larger student load per teacher.





ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA EDUCATION

NEEDS

SIXTEEN SCHOOLS REPORTED HAVING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, facing difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking or climbing steps, remembering or concentrating, self-care, and communication.

FOURTEEN SCHOOLS REPORTED THEIR BUILDINGS AS INAPPROPRIATE, UNSAFE, AND INSECURE. School assets like classrooms, furniture, latrines, and water facilities are mostly reported as insufficient and unavailable. Six schools charge a registration fee, and parents in thirteen schools find it difficult to pay these fees.

TWENTY SCHOOLS REPORTED THAT ALL CHILDREN RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE SUBSTANTIAL MEAL A DAY. The main supporters of these schools are the government, NGOs, the community, religious organizations, and the private sector.

SCHOOL FACILITIES: There are 49 educational facilities across 7 Bomas in Abyei AA, Marial boma doesn't report education facility. However, operational challenges such as a lack of staff, insecurity, and infrastructure damage affect many of these facilities.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DROPOUTS: The total student enrollment is highest in the Boma of Akec-nhial, but it also records a significant number of student dropouts. On the other hand, Todac, despite having the lowest total student enrollment, reports a relatively low number of dropouts.

GAPS: The most frequently cited needs across the schools are more classrooms or space, provision of furniture, and improved latrines or sanitation. Water supply and teacher training also appear frequently in the top needs of schools.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:

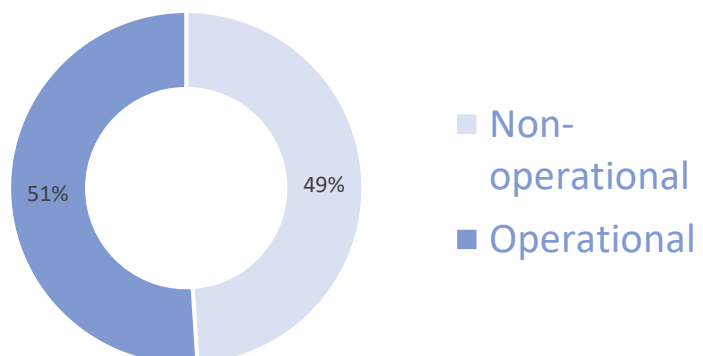
There's a significant disparity in teacher training across the Bomas. While some Bomas like Todac have all teachers trained, others like Tajalei have only about 15% of their teachers trained.

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO:

There's a wide variation in the student-teacher ratio across the Bomas. Todac has the most favorable ratio while Bomas like Leu and Outside Boma experience larger student loads per teacher.

GENDER DISPARITIES:

There's higher female student enrollment compared to male students in most Bomas. However, the number of male dropouts is generally higher than female dropouts, indicating potential gender-specific challenges.



PROTECTION

PROTECTION CONCERNS IN ABYEI ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

Within the past 12 months, five bomas experienced violence from or between armed groups, with significant apprehension about recurring violence. The two-year timeframe reveals an array of challenges, including armed conflicts in six bomas, droughts in three, floods affecting seven, hunger in seven, and epidemics in four. Local conflicts and domestic violence concerns are prevalent, with particular emphasis on violence against women. While community relations remain positive, there are considerable concerns related to crime, cattle raiding, pastoralist-farmer conflicts, and communal tensions.

NEEDS:

PROTECTION MECHANISMS: The community's responses to these adversities have been varied, involving Community Protection Committees, negotiations, seeking aid from the national government, UNISFA, and reporting to local authorities like the Payam.

LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE: Six bomas have police stations, with a range of cases reported from sexual violence to theft. However, there's a concerning lack of access to judicial courts, with residents relying predominantly on traditional courts.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK CHANNELS: Boma meetings serve as the primary medium for residents to voice opinions or provide feedback on decisions.

Over two years, multiple bomas experienced armed conflicts, natural calamities, and domestic issues. Despite good inter-community relationships, concerns about crime and tensions persist. Access to essential services is hindered by distance, insecurity, and resource shortages, with residents often turning to humanitarian aid and traditional courts for support.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: The care for separated children leans towards relatives and community support, but there are also instances of reliance on NGOs and churches. Safety concerns are raised for both genders in workplaces, particularly relating to violence, abduction, and harassment.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES: Barriers in accessing essential services, such as food security, water, health, education, protection, and conflict mitigation, are mainly attributed to distance, insecurity, resource shortages, and service unavailability.