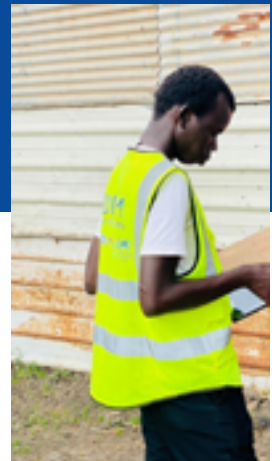




RUBKONA

Village Assessment Survey



DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX
SOUTH SUDAN

SERVICE MAPPING

Bentiu, Budang, Dhor Bor, Kaljak, Ngop, Nhialdiu,
Panhiany, Rubkona, Wathjak

Data collection:

14th September to 3rd October 2023

LIST OF ACRONYMS

DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix

FIS: Facilities Infrastructure and Services

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

HLP: Housing, Land, and Property

IDP: Internally Displaced Person

MT R14: Mobility Tracking Round 14

S/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

DTM IS SUPPORTED BY:



DISCLAIMER:

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



KEY FINDINGS

Urgent Housing Reconstruction

THE ASSESSMENT REVEALS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DESTROYED OR ABANDONED BUILDINGS, EMPHASIZING THE PRESSING NEED FOR HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS IN THE COUNTY.

Limited Access to Adequate Services

MANY AREAS WITHIN RUBKONA COUNTY LACK ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, AND MARKETS, INDICATING A NEED FOR TARGETED INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE SERVICE PROVISION AND OVERALL COMMUNITY WELL-BEING.

Land-Related Challenges for Return

IN 67% OF BOMAS, THE FEAR OF DISASTERS, SUCH AS FLOODING, POSES A SUBSTANTIAL CHALLENGE FOR PEACEFUL RETURN, EMPHASIZING THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

Land Ownership and Disputes

A PREVALENT ISSUE IN MULTIPLE BOMAS ACROSS RUBKONA COUNTY IS THE PRESENCE OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING ON LAND/PROPERTY WITHOUT PAYING RENT OR OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM THE OWNERS, WITH 57% OF BOMAS REPORTING SUCH INSTANCES.

Lack of Livelihood Opportunities

A COMMON CHALLENGE REPORTED ACROSS VARIOUS BOMAS IS THE LACK OF LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES, IDENTIFIED BY 57% OF THE BOMAS AS A SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE TO A PEACEFUL RETURN.

High Vulnerability to Natural Disasters

RUBKONA COUNTY FACES A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS, PARTICULARLY FLOODING, IMPACTING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION.

Absence of Permanent Infrastructure for Housing

MOST RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES IN RUBKONA COUNTY LACK PERMANENCY, CHARACTERIZED BY THE PREVALENCE OF TEMPORARY SHELTERS SUCH AS TENTS AND TUKULS. THESE CONSTRUCTIONS ARE PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF MUD WALLS AND THATCHED ROOFING, INDICATING A DEFICIENCY IN DURABLE AND LASTING HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE.

Need for Education Infrastructure Development

CRITICAL NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING INSECURE BUILDINGS, CLASSROOM SHORTAGES, INSUFFICIENT FURNITURE, AND INADEQUATE WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES, TO CREATE A CONDUCIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

Need for Health Infrastructure Enhancement

URGENT NEED FOR RENOVATIONS, UPGRADES, AND CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS.

Need for WASH Infrastructure Rehabilitation

THE PRESSING NEED TO REHABILITATE NON-OPERATIONAL BOREHOLES TO ENSURE A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY. THE LACK OF WATER USER COMMITTEES IN CERTAIN BOMAS INHIBITS LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.

Prevalence of armed violence and conflict

INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT ARE REPORTED BY SEVERAL BOMAS. THE MAIN BARRIER FACED TO ACCESSING CONFLICT MITIGATION ARE LACK OF EFFICIENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM, TRADITIONAL BELIEFS, AND DISTANCE.

Main survey recommendations

IMPLEMENT DISASTER RISK

REDUCTION MEASURES: Develop and implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies, with a specific focus on addressing the high vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly flooding. This includes the construction of protective infrastructure and early warning systems.

ENHANCE SERVICE PROVISION IN UNDERSERVED AREAS:

Target interventions to improve access to essential services in areas lacking adequate facilities for education, healthcare, and markets. This involves strategic planning and resource allocation to address service gaps and improve community well-being.

PRIORITIZE HLP DUE DILIGENCE FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY: Prior to implementing any interventions, it is recommended to conduct thorough HLP (Housing, Land, and Property) Due Diligence to mitigate and address risks associated with natural hazards, disputes, and security concerns. This proactive approach will ensure the safety of communities and help in effectively managing potential risks.

FACILITATE LAND OWNERSHIP RESOLUTION AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES:

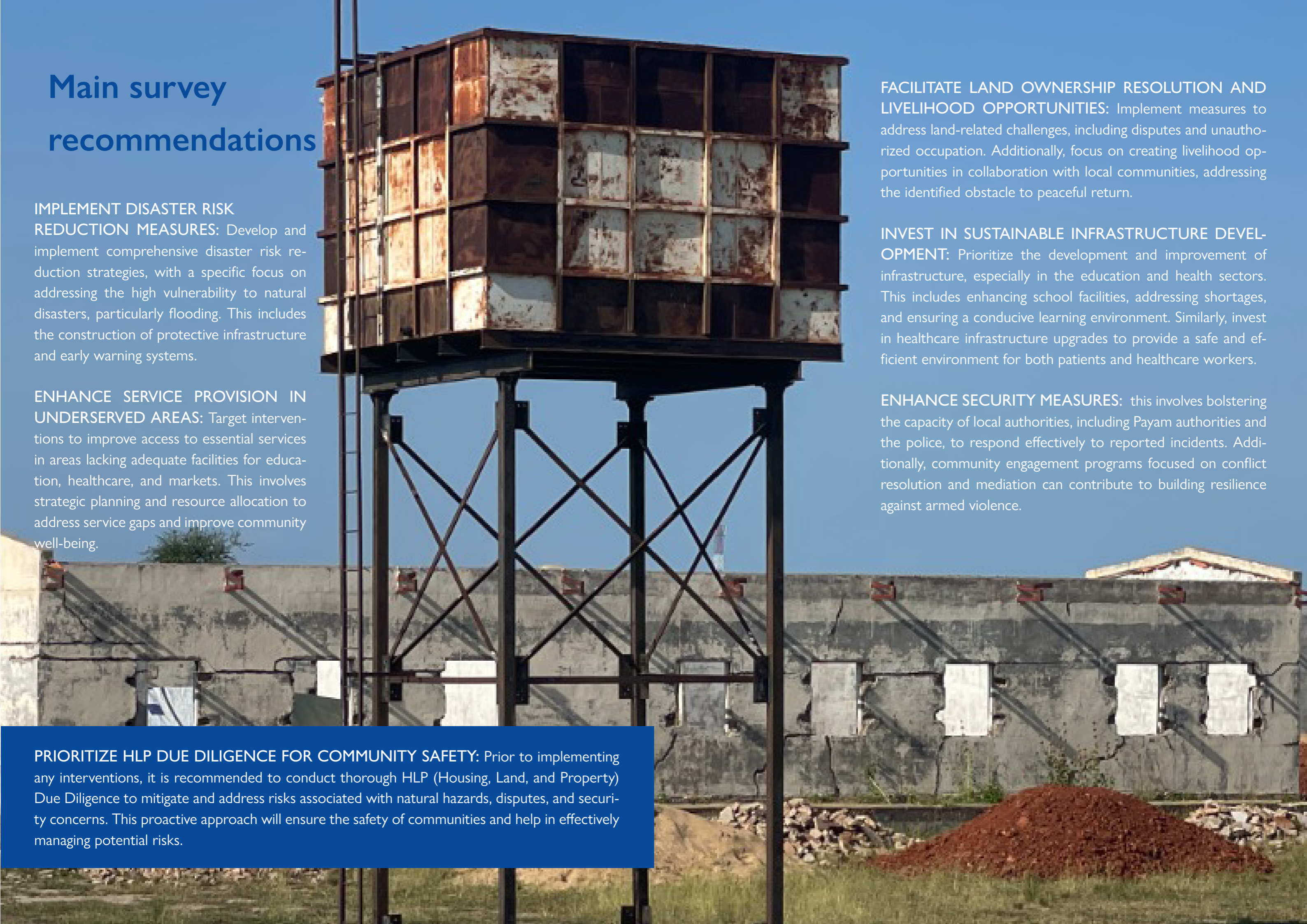
Implement measures to address land-related challenges, including disputes and unauthorized occupation. Additionally, focus on creating livelihood opportunities in collaboration with local communities, addressing the identified obstacle to peaceful return.

INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT:

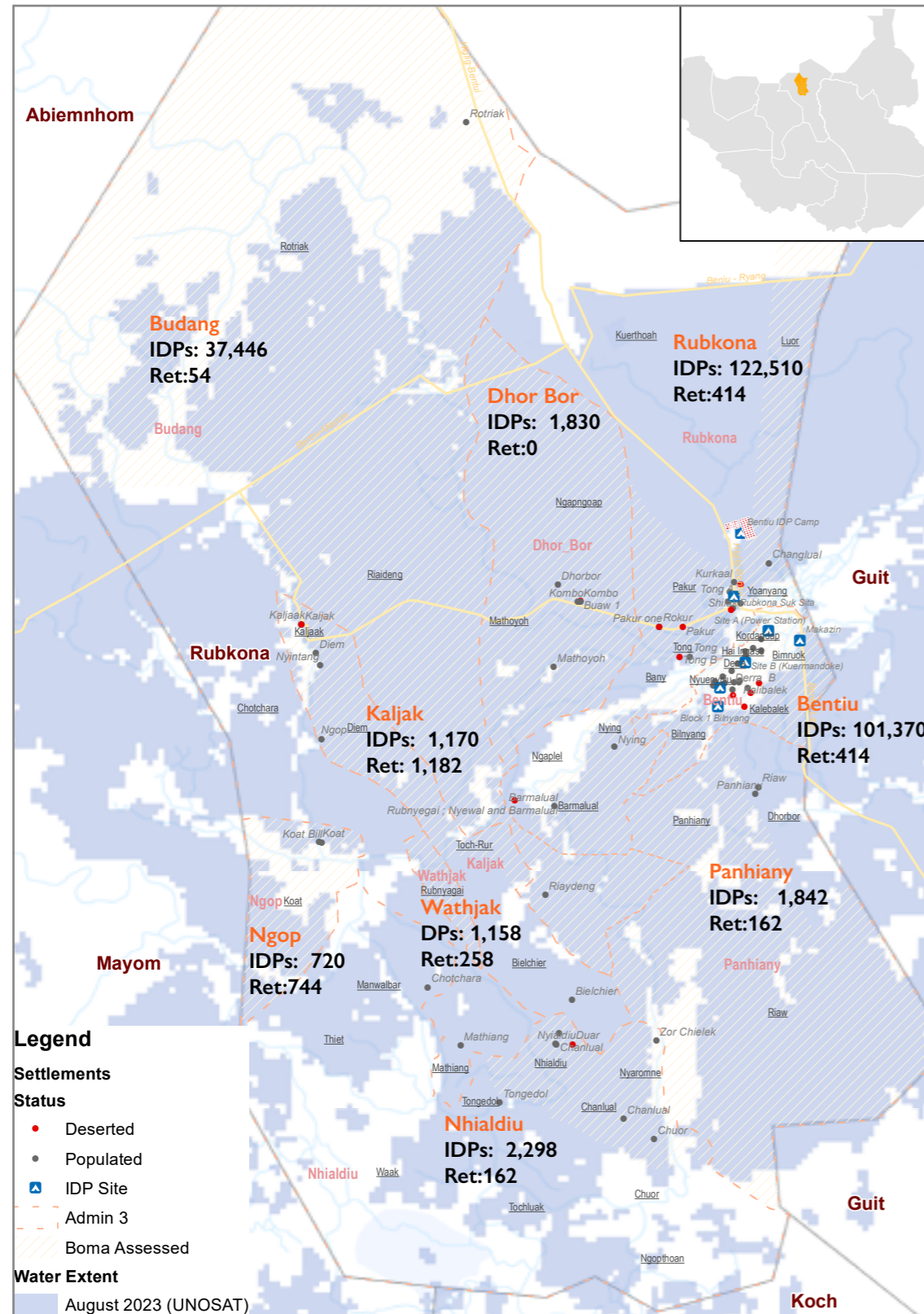
Prioritize the development and improvement of infrastructure, especially in the education and health sectors. This includes enhancing school facilities, addressing shortages, and ensuring a conducive learning environment. Similarly, invest in healthcare infrastructure upgrades to provide a safe and efficient environment for both patients and healthcare workers.

ENHANCE SECURITY MEASURES:

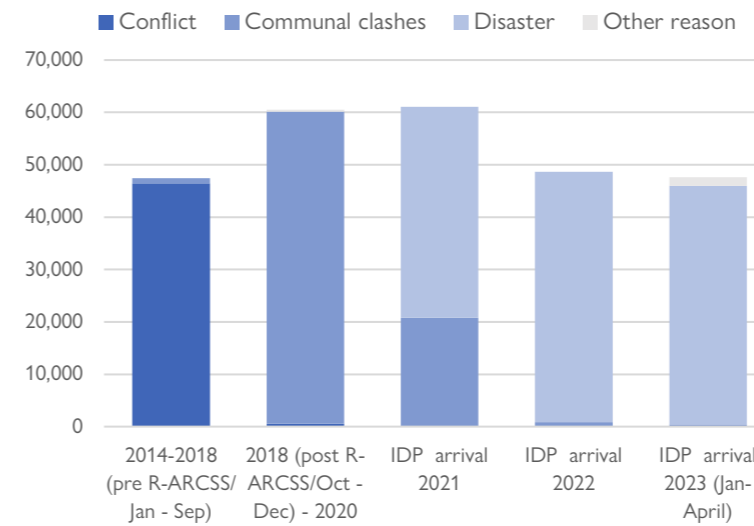
this involves bolstering the capacity of local authorities, including Payam authorities and the police, to respond effectively to reported incidents. Additionally, community engagement programs focused on conflict resolution and mediation can contribute to building resilience against armed violence.



DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN



Reason and year of displacement



The round fourteen of Mobility Tracking ¹ data for Rubkona County reveals a complex landscape of population displacement and returns. Ongoing environmental challenges, particularly floods, significantly influence these dynamics. The information encompasses nine payams and 105 locations, offering valuable insights into the challenges faced by the population in the area.

Rubkona County stands as a significant host for internally displaced persons (IDPs), accommodating 270,344 individuals, which accounts for 58% of the total IDPs in Unity State. Notably, 61% of these IDPs reside in designated displacement sites, while 106,594 have sought refuge within the host community.

Recent Displacements

During the initial four months of 2023, 50% of the locations hosting displaced populations in Rubkona experienced new arrivals. Importantly, 42% of these newly displaced individuals were originally from within the same county, underscoring the localized nature of displacement factors.

Impact of Natural Disasters:

Since 2021, Rubkona County has grappled with severe floods, resulting in the displacement of approximately 130,000 people. In 2023 alone, 45,535 IDPs were forced to move due to floods, presenting a persistent vulnerability to environmental challenges.

Displacement Site Significance:

Rubkona hosts the largest displacement site in South Sudan, providing shelter to 99,519 IDPs as of September 2023, based on a population count. This highlights Rubkona's crucial role in addressing the internal displacement crisis within the country.

Returnee Dynamics

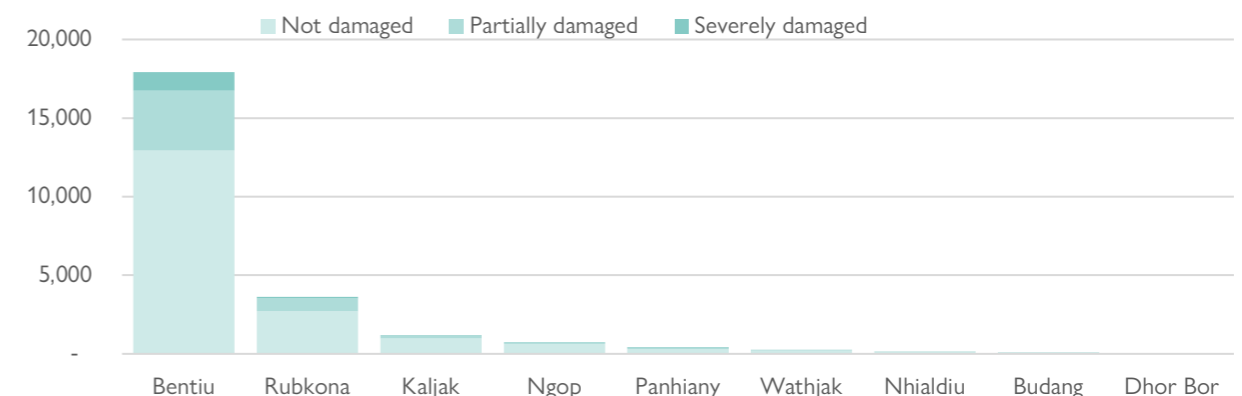
A total of 24,354 individuals have returned to Rubkona since 2016, with 74% currently residing in Bentiu Payam. During the first quarter of 2023, 3,528 individuals returned, with a significant portion returning within the same county, indicating a local reintegration trend.

Shelter Conditions for Returnees:

Despite the positive trend in returns, 26% of the returnees are living in shelters classified as damaged or severely damaged. This highlights the ongoing challenges associated with the return process and the need for comprehensive support for successful reintegration.

While the returnee statistics suggest a positive trend, challenges related to shelter conditions indicate the need for sustained efforts to ensure the successful reintegration of the population.

Number of returnees by house status



¹ Mobility Tracking R14 report

RUBKONA COUNTY

CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

The population of Rubkona County has been significantly affected by both conflict and floods, with the largest Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) site in South Sudan currently providing shelter to 99,519 IDPs.

2011

Independence

South Sudan gains independence from Sudan, and Rubkona county (formerly known as "Yoanyang") becomes one of the nine counties under Unity state. It consists of ten payams, including Kaljak, Dhorbor, Wathjak, Budang, Nhialdiu, Panhiany, Norlamwel, Ngop, Rubkona, and Bentiu town, which serves as the state capital.

2012

Development (2011-2012)

Rubkona county experiences a population boom and witnesses the installation of various services and infrastructures by both the government and humanitarian organizations due to its proximity to the state capital, Bentiu. Health and education facilities are accessible to 60% of the population in Rubkona compared to other counties under Unity.

2013

Night of Conflict (December 15)

Armed conflict erupts in the South Sudan capital, Juba, between forces loyal to the president and vice president. The violence escalates to states and counties, including seven in Unity state (Rubkona, Koch, Guit, Mayendit, Mayom, Leer, and Payinjar). Civilian displacement increases, with people fleeing homes both within South Sudan and to foreign countries.

2014

Crisis and Displacement

Intensified armed fighting, particularly in Rubkona county, leads to widespread civilian displacement, displaced persons struggle to find safety, protection, and access to basic services. The formation of Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) follows, hosting over 160,000 IDPs in Rubkona County.

2018

Path to Peace (2018)

A revitalized peace agreement is signed between the rival parties SPLM-IO and SPLM-IG, leading to improved conditions outside the camp. Some IDPs return home voluntarily, reducing the camp population to 102,000. Returned populations include people from Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Leer, Mayendit, and other counties under Unity state.

2023

Return from Sudan

After turmoil in Sudan, many returnees come back to South Sudan. Rubkona County becomes one of the significant destinations for returnees, following Mayom county.

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.

The Village Assessment Survey, through its tools covered key indicators for durable solutions such services and built environment. These included contextual information to gauge the adequacy of living standards, encompassing access to basic services, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), healthcare, and education. The surveys also delved into aspects such as existing ownership/tenancy of housing, land, and property within bomas, as well as the mechanisms in place to dispense justice to the population. These efforts aimed to establish a baseline for identifying the availability of services, pinpointing areas that require further in-depth assessments and analysis, serving as a foundation for devising durable solutions strategies tailored to the South Sudanese populations. 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, health and education facilities.

QUESTIONNAIRES AND A MAPPING TOOL.

BOMA/AREA MAPPING SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE:

Conducted through focus group discussions, with the group comprising the boma chief, returnee representative, IDP representative, female representative, and youth representative.

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: by direct observation, utilizes satellite imagery and smartphone map.

IOM CONDUCTED THE VAS IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION (RRC)

IOM conducted a comprehensive four-day training for locally recruited data enumerators. The first three days focused on effective data collection techniques, questionnaire review, and technical training on GPS devices and mapping facilities. On the fourth day, enumerators applied theory and skills in a field simulation. After successfully completing the training, two data collection

- Determining levels of access to basic services, considering different potential barriers to access such as distance to inhabited areas and security
- Identifying gaps in capacities of local services to accommodate demand including status of infrastructure and availability of trained personnel
- Establishing an understanding of key service providers such as local government, NGO/UN and communities themselves.

teams were deployed to cover the nine payams in Rubkona County, assessing 27 out of 41 bomas. The assessment took place between September 14th and October 3rd, 2023.

Due to flooding and insecurity, 13 bomas, mainly in Nhialdiu Payam, were not assessed, including Chotchara, Mathiang, Bielchier, Chuor, Manwalbar, Ngopthoan, Thiet, Tochluak, Tongedol, Waak, Bany, Kuerthoah, and Ngaplel. In the master list based on the 2008 Census, not officially endorsed by IOM, Dhorbor boma in Panhiany Payam was found not to exist, as verified by IOM.

Challenges during Rubkona VAS Data collection included road inaccessibility due to flooding, high canoe fares disrupting access, long distances requiring enumerators to overnight, and the absence of phone networks hindering coordination.

To address the challenge of inaccessibility, it is recommended to strategically schedule VAS assessments during dry seasons when transportation is more feasible. Furthermore, expanding VAS data collection activities to other dry and accessible counties within Unity State is advised to achieve a more comprehensive regional coverage. Considering intention surveys and focusing on locations where internally displaced persons (IDPs) express an intent to return would be beneficial for expanding coverage and tailoring efforts to the specific needs of the affected population.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT RUBKONA

LOCATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Rubkona County, known as Rubkona and Bentiu, is in northern Unity State, sharing borders with Abiemnhom, Mayom, Koch, Guit, and Pariang counties. It is the ninth county in Unity State, with B58 highway connecting it to Yirol East in Lakes state and extending to Sudan's Heglig area. Accessing Rubkona County can be achieved by air through flights from Juba to Bentiu, or by road through Juba – Rumbek - Wau Road and barges from Juba through Bor Shambe and Adok river port. However, extensive flooding in recent years has affected roadways.

POPULATION AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES

Rubkona County has a diverse population predominantly Nuer, with minorities of Dinka and Shilluk in specific bomas. This cultural diversity is reflected in the main languages spoken- Nuer, Dinka, Arabic (in seven bomas), and English. Residents engage in farming, livestock herding, and fishing as their primary means of livelihood.

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

Rubkona experiences a tropical savannah climate with annual high and low temperatures of 36.60°C and 24.35°C, respectively. The area is characterized by acacia and lalug trees, tall grass, and water plants in swamps, while clay soil and its location at the confluence of the White Nile and Bahr el Ghazal rivers lead to significant flooding.

TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

The land in Rubkona is flat with clay soil, and major rivers, including the White Nile, Bahr el Ghazal River, River Naam, and River Malual, contribute to flooding. The plain topography and massive water vegetation impede water flow, causing extensive and devastating floodings.

Rubkona County is strategic geographical location at the junction of the White Nile and Bahr el Ghazal rivers. This positioning not only contributes to the county's susceptibility to extensive flooding due to its flat topography and clay soil but also highlights its vital role as a crossroads for river systems in the region. The confluence of these major rivers shapes the landscape, influences local livelihoods, and underscores the environmental challenges faced by the residents, making Rubkona uniquely situated at the heart of South Sudan's hydrological dynamics.

DROUGHT AFFECTED TEN BOMAS IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, LEADING TO TEMPORARY MIGRATION AND RELIANCE ON HUMANITARIAN AID. FLOODS IMPACTED 24 OUT OF 27 ASSESSED BOMAS, RESULTING IN VARIOUS RESPONSES, INCLUDING REPORTING TO AUTHORITIES, TEMPORARY MIGRATION, AND RELIANCE ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

VAS RUBKONA

PERIOD

The data collection took place from September 14th, 2023, to October 3rd, 2023, covering a period of twenty days.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), a unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), conducted a 20-day Village Assessment Survey (VAS) in Rubkona county to assess transition and recovery needs.

The survey focused on 09 payam and 27 bomas accessible, as rainy season and flood limited access to some of the areas.

MAPPING

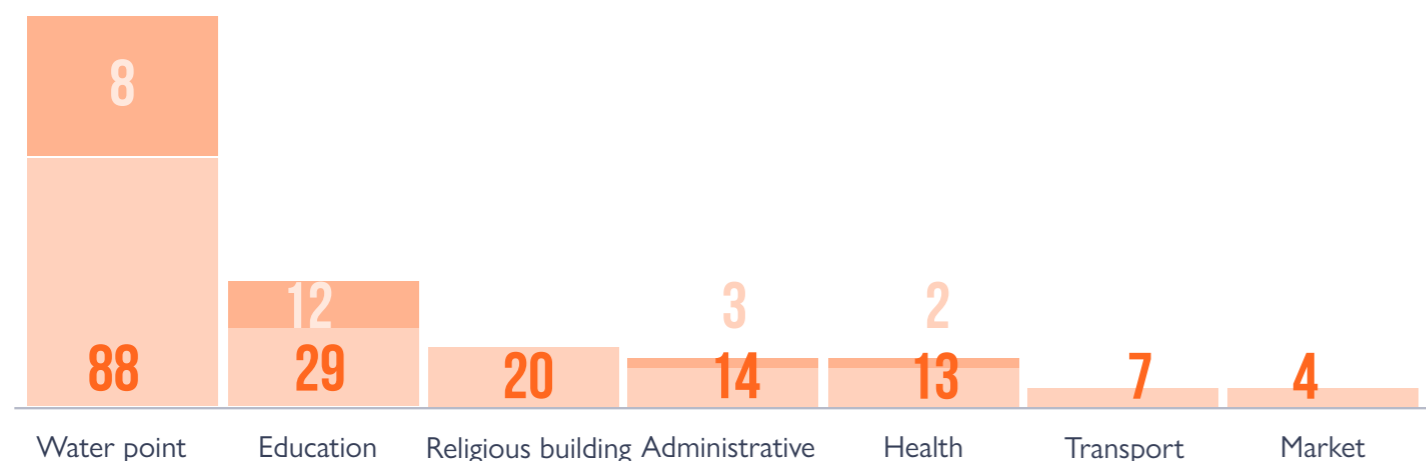
Of the 76 settlements assessed, 12 were found deserted while 64 remained populated.

The survey meticulously mapped 240 facilities, 76 settlements, and 2 livelihood areas across the surveyed bomas. This includes 6 settlements in 6 bomas not assessed due to flooding. Among the 76-settlement identified, there are 37 neighborhoods, 30 permanent villages, 7 IDP sites and 2 temporary sites. The team managed to map 2 livelihood areas categorized into fishery grounds.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES:

The survey team mapped 240 facilities, including 17 administrative buildings, 4 markets, 20 religious' structures, 7 bus stations, and 136 water points. Educational and healthcare facilities were also identified, with 41 education facilities and 15 health facilities mapped. It's important to note that facilities inside the IDP camps are not included in this report.

■ Non-Operational
■ Operational

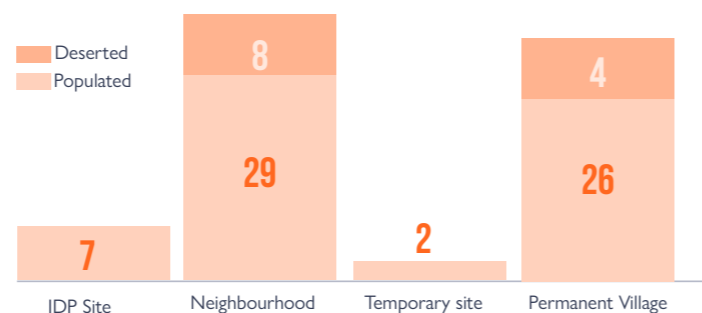


ACROSS THE 27
BOMAS ASSESSED,
240 FACILITIES,
76 SETTLEMENTS,
ARE MAPPED

VILLAGE CONDITIONS:

In terms of village conditions, out of the 76 accessed settlements, 12 were found deserted, primarily in Rubkona (5) and Bentiu (5) payams, while 64 remained populated. Among the 37 neighborhoods, 8 were deserted, and 29 were populated. The study revealed that 83 percent of the populated settlements are either partially destroyed or completely destroyed. Six settlements were found intact and populated, 16 villages were destroyed, with 10 being deserted, and 54 settlements were partially destroyed, with 2 being deserted.

SETTLEMENT TYPE



The main town

The following analysis aims to offer a more in-depth context for the most populated areas in Rubkona County by providing a specific analysis of the infrastructure situation. Rubkona and Bentiu payam emerge as the most populated areas in Rubkona County. Bentiu town encompasses all the bomas (Bilnyang, Bimruok, Derra, Hai Ingass, Kalebalek, Kordapdap, and Nyuenypi), each hosting facilities within the populated area. Meanwhile, Rubkona payam includes two bomas, Pakur and Yoanyang.

BACKGROUND:

Bentiu Town, situated in Rubkona County, serves as the state capital of Unity State in South Sudan. Between 2011 and 2012, Rubkona County witnessed a substantial population influx, leading to the establishment of various services and infrastructures by both government entities and humanitarian organizations. This development solidified its role as the state capital.

During this period, Rubkona County was well-connected to the other seven counties of Unity State via murrum (type of soil) roads, excluding Payinjar county. The county boasted accessible health and education facilities, catering to around 60% of the population residing in the Rubkona vicinity, a percentage higher than the other eight counties in Unity State.

However, in 2014, armed conflicts escalated in Unity State, particularly in Rubkona County, resulting in widespread civilian displacements. Many individuals were compelled to seek safety and access to basic services. In response to the crisis, the Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) was established, providing refuge to over 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The year 2018 marked a positive shift with the signing of the revitalized peace agreement between the rival parties SPLM-IO¹ and SPLM-IG². The improved security situation outside the camp encouraged some IDPs to voluntarily return home. Consequently, the camp's population decreased to 102,000 IDPs as individuals returned to their previous habitual residences, including those from Rubkona, Guit, Koch, Leer, and Mayendit, among other counties in Unity State.

Since 2021, Rubkona is among the affected counties by extreme floods, where 80% of the land has been impacted, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of agriculture and livelihoods. In response, to safeguard the population seeking shelter in Bentiu town, IOM and other partners constructed dikes to prevent water from inundating the entire town, in addition to pumping water out of residential areas.

In April 2023, amid turmoil in Sudan, a wave of returns sought refuge in Rubkona, underscoring the county's significance as a destination for those fleeing the conflict in Sudan.

Despite the challenges, the town remains a dynamic hub with a history marked by both conflict and floods, as ongoing efforts persist toward recovery and stability.

ENUMERATION AREAS ASSESSMENT RESULTS (EAS):

While not part of VAS, the 2022 EAS, provides insights into the building footprints and living conditions in Bentiu Town. According to the last update, the following statistics were estimated:

1 Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition
2 Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Government

- A total of 1,145 structures were identified as either destroyed or abandoned, highlighting the impact of conflict and flood faced by the community.
- The assessment identified 116 buildings designated as facilities.
- The town is home to 933 informal settlement structures, reflecting the presence of a significant population in less formal housing arrangements.
- A total of 2,337 non-residential structures were identified, indicating spaces used for purposes other than residential living.
- One of the largest concentration of structures was found in the Bentiu Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, comprising 4,504 buildings.
- Bentiu Town accommodates 5,928 residential buildings, with the note that one household can have more than one building footprint.
- IOM identified and added 279 buildings in newly residential areas, indicating potential growth in some areas.

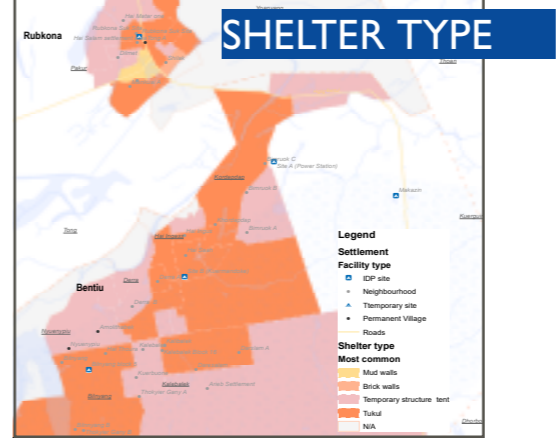
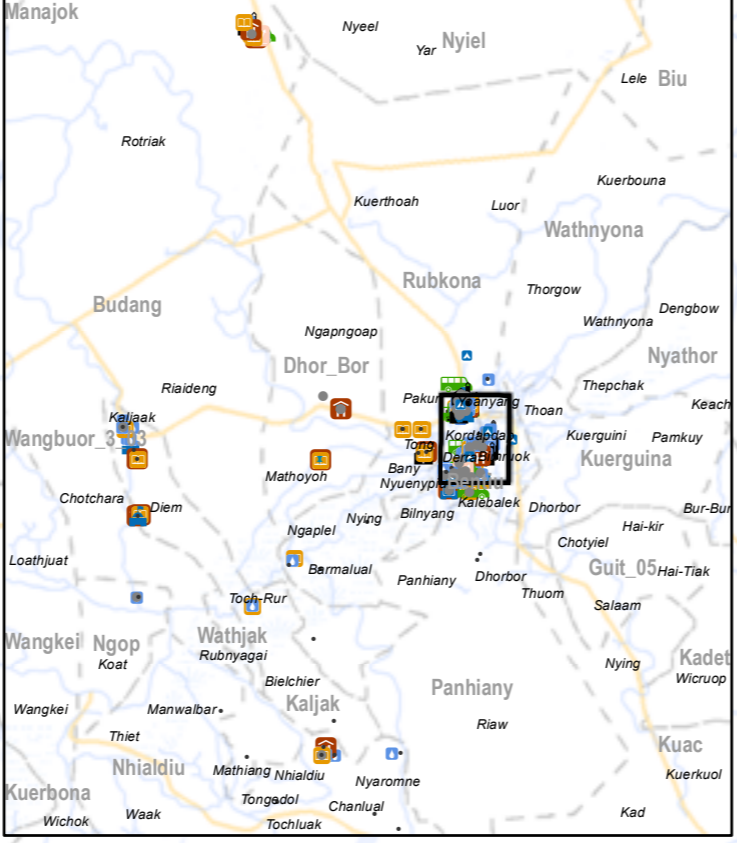
Market access and public transport availability were assessed in the town. Notably, nine areas lack access to the three available markets in Rubkona, including the monthly market known as Kalebalek Market. However, most areas, hosting thousands of residential buildings, have access to public transport, including 1 airstrip, 2 bus stations, and 3 river ports.

In terms of education facilities, 59% of the mapped institutions are in Bentiu Town, making it a significant educational hub. The state capital hosts 86% of the annual student enrollment for the entire county. Operational primary and secondary schools play a crucial role in providing education, although there are no universities or vocational training facilities available for the population.

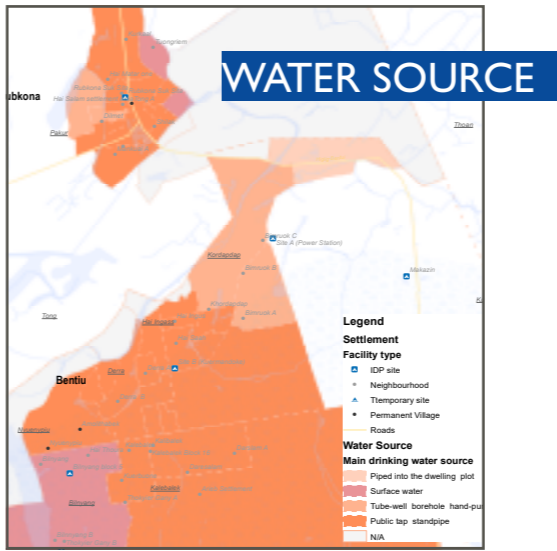
Key healthcare center, hosting the only hospital in the entire county. In addition to the hospital, four Primary Health Care Centres and one Primary Health Care Unit contribute to the overall well-being of the community. These healthcare facilities attend to a monthly average of almost five thousand individuals, with a balanced distribution between male (2,364) and female (2,558) patients.

The predominant shelter type consists of temporary structures, including tents and tukuls constructed with mud walls and thatched roofing. Unfortunately, these structures are highly susceptible to damage from heavy rains and flooding.

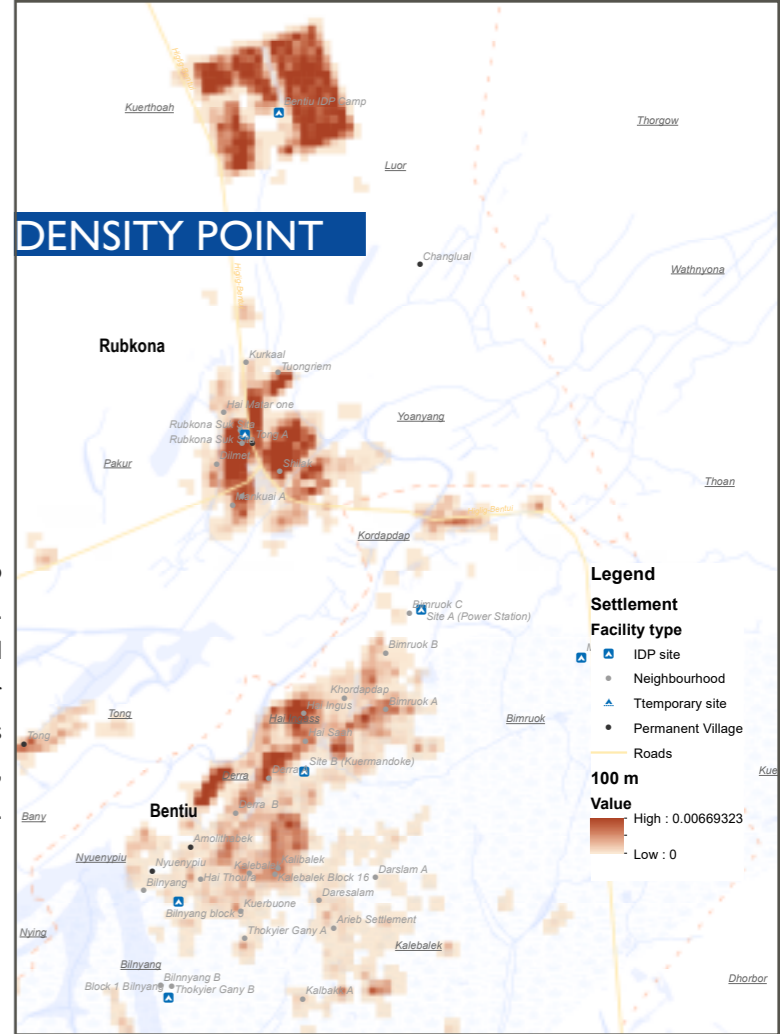
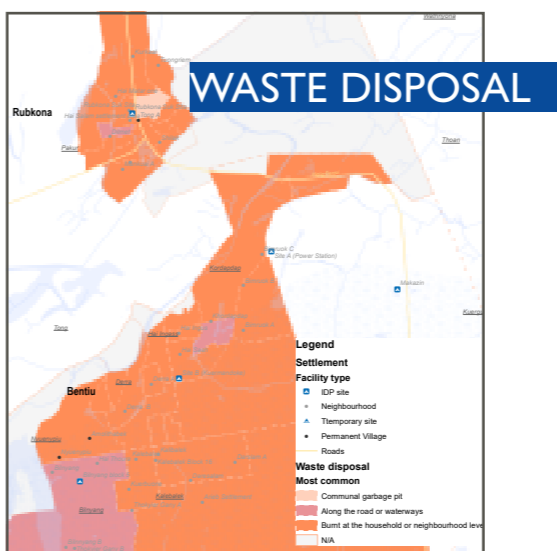
FACILITIES MAPPED



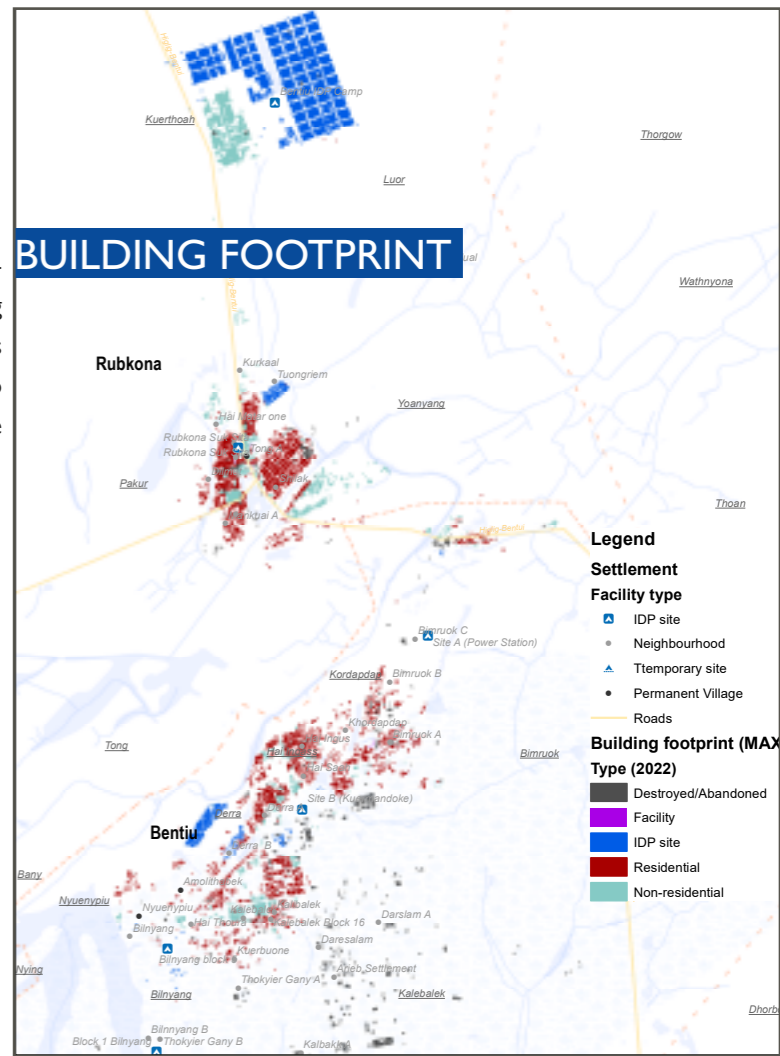
Water sources in the town are diverse, with the public tap standpipe serving as the primary drinkable water source. Some areas rely on surface water from the river, and tube-well borehole hand-pumps are also utilized. A total of 103 water points were accounted for in the town, encompassing various activities. However, 35 boreholes were found non-operational, emphasizing challenges in maintaining reliable water sources. Additionally, 6 streams and 3 wells were mapped.



Waste disposal practices in Bentiu Town are largely characterized by burning at the household or neighborhood level, along roads, or waterways. Sanitation facilities vary, with most areas resorting to bush/open defecation. Some areas have access to public latrines as part of the humanitarian response, and some few areas use household latrines.



Bentiu Town remains a dynamic hub with significant infrastructure, serving as a vital center for the population in Rubkona County.



PAYAM SUMMARY

01 Bentiu (Bilyang, Bimruok, Derra, Hai Ingass, Kalebalek, Kordapdap, and Nyuenypiu)

101,370 IDPs and 17,928 returnees

Facilities: 119 facilities and 28 settlements | 15 operational education facilities and 3 non-operational | 2 operational health facilities.

Demographics: Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk population.

Land issues: All the bomas reported having people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner. 57% of the bomas reported facing land-related or property-related disputes.

Challenges for return: 57% of the bomas reported the loss or destruction of personal property documentation, making it challenging to prove ownership. Additionally, a lack of livelihood opportunities is identified as a significant obstacle to peaceful return. Meanwhile, 29% face the destruction of property, which is either too expensive or difficult to repair, along with a shortage of livelihood opportunities as the primary limitation. Bilyang acknowledges the presence of harmful traditional practices, which restrict ownership, inheritance, and use, particularly affecting certain individuals such as women, the elderly, widows, the disabled, and child-headed households.

Preferences: 86% of the bomas assessed chose to return as the preferable solution for their displacement condition, while Derra prefers local integration.

02 Budang (Riaideng and Rotriak) Chotchara and Mathiang not assessed.

37,446 IDPs and 54 returnees

Facilities: 18 facilities and 4 settlements | 5 operational education facilities | 2 operational health facility

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: one boma reported having people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner.

Challenges for return: The two assessed bomas reported the biggest problem for peaceful return as the loss or destruction of personal property documentation, making it challenging to prove ownership.

Preferences: The two bomas in Budang payam chose return as the preferred solution for the displaced population.

03 Dhor Bor (Ngapngoap and Mathoyoh)

1,830 IDPs and 0 returnees

Facilities: 4 facilities, 5 settlements, and 2 livelihood areas | 1 operational and 1 non-operational education facility | 1 operational and 1 non-operational health facility

Demographics: Nuer

Challenges for return: the two bomas face the risk of disasters (e.g., flooding) in the area, leading to a fear of further displacement due to natural disasters as the biggest problem for peaceful return.

Preferences: Local integration (Ngapngoap) and relocation (Mathoyoh) are the preferred solutions for the displacement situation in the assessed bomas.

04 Kaljak (Diem, Kaljaak, and Toch-Rur) Bielchier not assessed

1,170 IDPs and 1,182 returnees

Facilities: 17 facilities and 6 settlements | 3 non-operational education facility | 1 operational health facility

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: 67% of the bomas reported having people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner. One boma reported facing land-related or property-related disputes.

Challenges for return: 67% of the bomas have Risk of disasters (e.g., flooding) in the area / fear of further displacement due to natural disasters as the biggest problem for return. While Diem has the biggest problem, destruction of property/ too expensive or difficult to repair.

Preferences: Return (Diem) and relocation (Toch-Rur and Kaljaak) are the preferable solutions for the displaced population.

05 Ngop (Koat)

720 IDPs and 744 returnees

Facilities: 7 facilities and 3 settlements | 1 non-operational education facility | 2 operational health facilities

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: Koat boma reported people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner. They are also facing land-related or property-related disputes.

Challenges for return: Inadequate services in the area (schools, water points, clinics, etc.) are the biggest problems limiting return.

Preferences: Local integration is the most preferable durable solution for the displaced population in this boma

06 Nhialdiu (Chanlual, Nhialdiu and Nyaromne) Chuor, Manwalbar, Ngopthoan, Thiet, Tochluak, Tongedol and Waak, not assessed.

2,298 IDPs and 162 returnees

Facilities: 8 facilities and 8 settlements | 1 non-operational education facility | 1 non-operational health facilities

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: in 67% of the bomas, houses or land within the boma are occupied by individuals other than the owners, who are living there without paying rent or obtaining permission from the rightful owners.

Challenges for return: in 67% of the bomas, the primary obstacle to peaceful return is the loss or destruction of personal property documentation, making it challenging to prove ownership. Additionally, Nhialdiu boma identifies the destruction of property as the most significant problem, being either too expensive or difficult to repair.

Preferences: local integration is the preferred solution for the displaced population in 67% of the bomas, while Chanlual boma has chosen relocation.

07 Panhiany (Panhiany and Riaw)

1,842 IDPs and 414 returnees

Facilities: 2 settlements | 1 non-operational nursery and 1 primary school mentioned by the FGD, but are not mapped due to flooding in the area.

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: Riaw reports people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner.

Challenges for return: the risk of disasters (e.g., flooding) in the area and the fear of further displacement due to natural disasters are the biggest problems that the displaced population from this area face.

Preferences: the preferable durable solution for IDPs in Riaw is return, while in Panhiany, it is local integration.

08 Rubkona (Barmalual, Luor, Ny- ing, Pakur, Tong, and Yoanyang) Bany, Kuerthoah and Ngaplel not assessed.

122,510 IDPs and 3,612 returnees

Facilities: 65 facilities and 20 settlements | 8 operational education facilities, and 2 non-operational | 5 operational health facilities.

Demographics: Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk.

Land issues: Five bomas report ancestral land as the most common form of land ownership. In 50% of the bomas, there are reports of houses or land where individuals other than the owners are living, without paying rent or obtaining permission.

Challenges for return: In 67% of the bomas, the main obstacle to return is the risk of disasters (e.g., flooding) in the area and the fear of further displacement due to natural disasters. Additionally, Yoanyang and Pakur identify the loss or destruction of personal property documentation as the most significant problem.

Preferences: Fifty percent of the bomas consider return as the preferable solution for displaced population, while 33% prefer local integration, and 17% prefer relocation.

09 Wathjak (Rubnyagai)

1,158 IDPs and 258 returnees

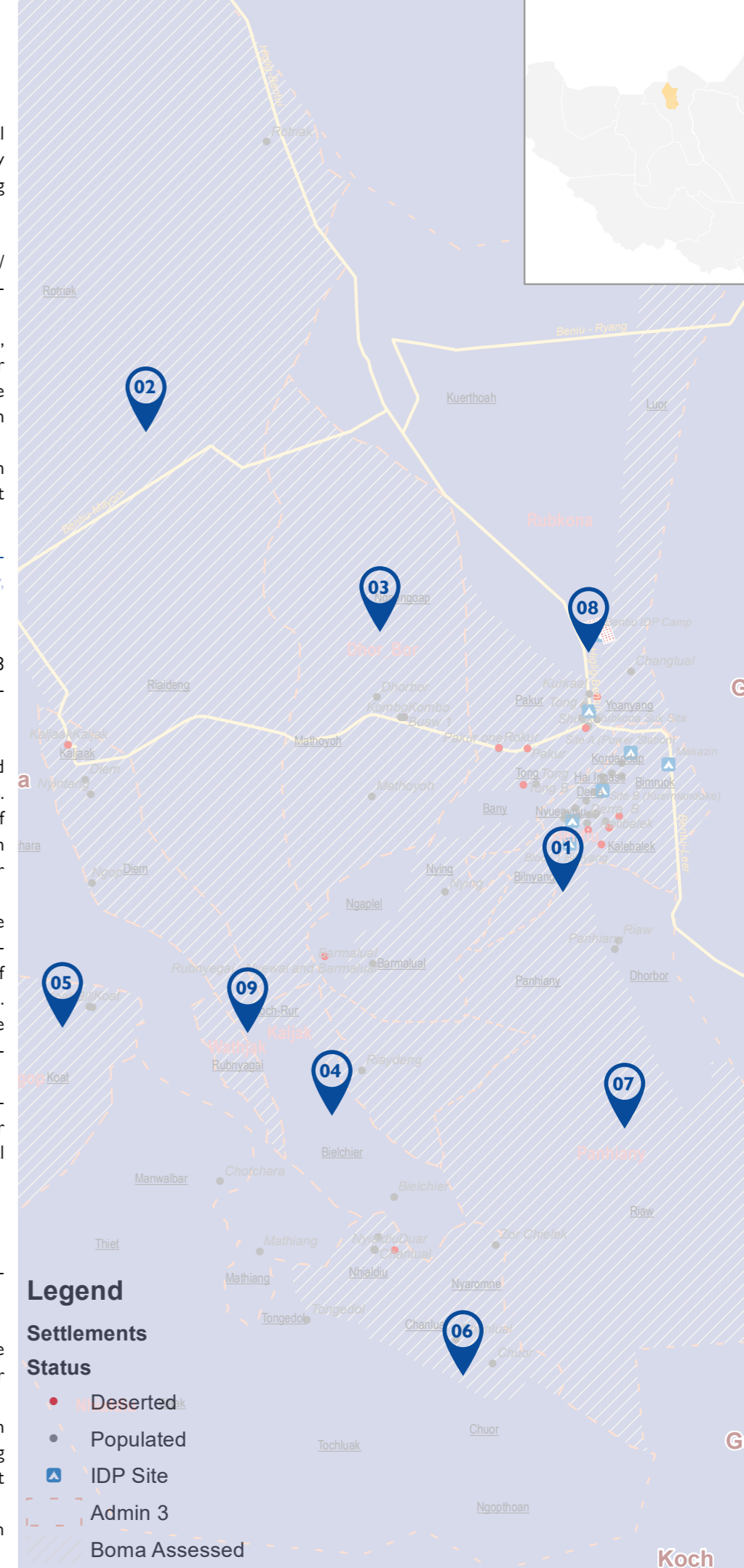
Facilities: 2 facilities | 1 non-operational education facility | no health facility mapped.

Demographics: Nuer

Land issues: Rubnyagai boma reports people living on land/property without paying rent or receiving permission from the owner.

Challenges for return: the loss or destruction of personal property documentation, making it challenging to prove ownership, is the most significant problem limiting returns.

Preferences: The preferable durable solution for displacement in this boma is the return.



HLP, NFI

Rubkona County, has faced considerable challenges, including armed conflicts, flooding, and displacement over the past years. This context has left many residents without adequate housing. The influx of returnees, both from internal displacement and abroad, has strained the existing housing infrastructure, disputes over land, exacerbating the need for clear land tenure systems and dispute resolution mechanisms. Many residents lack formal documentation for their properties, leading to vulnerabilities and uncertainties.

The assessment reveals pressing needs in housing, land, and property (HLP), particularly with 15 out of 27 surveyed bomas lacking proper surveying and demarcation for residential use. This deficiency poses significant challenges in establishing clear land tenure, leading to potential disputes and uncertainties about property ownership. Access to civil registration and valid identity documents, reported by 12 bomas, is crucial for community members to assert their legal status, access services, and participate in civic processes. The existence of unlawful houses and land occupancy, as highlighted by 16 bomas, indicates a critical need for regularization and legal frameworks to address these issues systematically. Addressing these needs requires a comprehensive approach including:

- **A comprehensive assessment of housing conditions**, land availability, and property documentation to identify vulnerable households and address specific needs.
- **Community engagement** to understand their perspectives, prioritize needs, and involve them in decision-making processes related to HLP.
- **Establishing or strengthening legal frameworks** for land tenure and property rights, ensuring clarity and security for residents.
- **Infrastructure Rehabilitation** of damaged infrastructure, including housing, and provide support for reconstruction.
- **Raise Awareness on HLP Rights** and Alternative Dispute Resolution among communities, local authorities, and traditional leaders
- **Strengthen land administration and registration capacity**, including support for resolving HLP disputes in statutory and customary courts

Key Challenges:

Displacement and Return:

The significant displacement caused by conflicts and the subsequent return of individuals to their homes has created a strain on existing housing and property resources.

Land Disputes:

Increased competition for limited land resources has resulted in disputes, necessitating effective mechanisms for conflict resolution and land governance.

Infrastructure Damage:

The impact of armed conflict on infrastructure, including housing, has been severe. Rebuilding efforts require a coordinated approach to ensure sustainable development.

Implementing an integrated and community-centered approach, addressing shelter, infrastructure, information dissemination, and community development to enhance resilience and improve living conditions in Rubkona County. Encouraging collaboration between local communities, authorities, and humanitarian organizations for sustainable solutions.

SHELTER

In Rubkona County, shelter types vary widely across bomas, with Tukuls (mud walls with thatched roofing) being the most common in 21 bomas. Mud walls with iron sheets roofing and emergency/improvised shelters are present in 2 and 3 bomas, respectively.

Access to construction materials varies, with 22 bomas relying on resources from surrounding forests, while some face challenges due to flooding.

Is important to prioritize housing rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in areas with less favorable housing conditions. Including suitable materials for construction and repair, considering the prevalent housing types which get damaged with heavy rains.

UXOS PRESENCE:

Rotriak, Ngapngoap and Yoanyang reported the presence of Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) in their areas, where demining efforts are ongoing.

Continuous collaboration is crucial to guarantee safe environments and enhance community aware-

ness regarding unexploded ordnances (UXOs).

PEACEFUL RETURN/DURABLE SOLUTION:

Residents face multiple challenges for a peaceful return or durable solution, including loss of personal property documentation, destruction of property, harmful traditional practices, inadequate services, and the risk of natural disasters. Preferred durable solutions include returns, local integration, relocation, in various bomas.

Comprehensive interventions are necessary, focusing on property documentation, housing reconstruction, community awareness, service provision, and disaster risk reduction. It's crucial to prioritize community preferences, taking into account factors like security, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Conducting thorough analyses, including intention surveys and engaging in focus group discussions, ensures that decisions align with the community's preferences.

TRANSPORT/ROADS:

Nineteen bomas lack functioning roads. Public transport

- The most common types of shelters are Tukuls
- Residents face challenges such as loss of personal property documentation, property destruction, harmful traditional practices, inadequate services, and risk of disasters
- Three bomas report the presence of UXOs where demining is ongoing.
- 19 bomas lack of working roads, emphasizing the need for road construction.
- Only Bimruok boma has electricity.
- Community leaders/elders, friends/relatives, and radio are prominent information sources.

access is limited, with only 5 bomas reporting such access.

Developing roads workable during the rainy and dry season is essential for improved accessibility and service delivery.

TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK AND ELECTRICITY SOURCES:

Nineteen bomas have mobile network coverage, while 7 bomas lack it. Solar panels are commonly used for electricity, with only Bimruok boma having access to electricity.

25 BOMAS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Expanding telecommunication infrastructure will improve connectivity and information dissemination. Sustainable energy solutions are required to increase access to electricity for more bomas.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Various community groups operate in bomas, including Boma Development Committees, Water Management Committees, Parents Teachers Associations, Youth Associations, Farmers Associations, Herders Associations, Women Associations, Religious Associations, and Traditional Courts, contributing to the overall development and well-being of the community. The role of these groups is crucial in fostering collaboration, addressing community needs, and ensuring sustainable development.

It is essential to persist in involvement and assistance to existing committees for comprehensive community development.

LIVELIHOOD

Rubkona County exhibits diverse livelihood practices with farmers, herders, fishermen, and daily laborers engaged in various economic activities. Farming is a prominent livelihood in Rubkona, with eight bomas, including Luor, Bimruok, Kordapdap, Hai Ingass, Pakur, Koat, Riaideng, and Nyaromne, relying heavily on agriculture.

- **FARMERS** in Rubkona face challenges such as crop diseases, conflicts, and natural disasters, impacting crop production and livelihood sustainability.
- **FARMING PRACTICES:** Sixteen bomas engage in farming, with a majority practicing one-season cropping and others opting for two-season farming.
- **WATER SOURCES AND CROPS:** Rainfed water is the primary source for 93.75% of farming bomas, cultivating crops like maize, sorghum, groundnuts, and vegetables.

NEEDS

- Strengthen support mechanisms, including communal farming and cooperatives, to enhance community collaboration.
- Address the demand of land, seeds, and technology.
- Equip farmers with knowledge and skills through the implementation of agricultural extension services, addressing challenges related to crop diseases, conflicts, and natural disasters.
- Develop strategies for disease prevention and disaster risk reduction in farming communities.
- Improve infrastructure, including roads and transportation networks, to facilitate the movement of agricultural products and enhance access to markets for farmers.

FARMING PRACTICES:

Sixteen bomas, engage in farming activities. Among them, 56.25% practice one-season cropping, while 43.75% engage in two-season farming.

WATER SOURCES AND CROPS:

Fifteen farming bomas (93.75%) rely on rainfed water, and eight bomas have access to river water for irrigation. The main crops cultivated include maize (93.75% of farming bomas), sorghum (43.75%), groundnuts (25%), and vegetables (50%).

SEED SOURCES AND HARVEST SALES:

Farmers secure seeds from various sources, including previous harvests, markets, the Ministry of Agriculture, and UN/FAO/NGO distributions. Ten bomas reported selling their harvest, with maize being the primary crop sold by seven bomas, vegetables in nine bomas, and sorghum in three bomas.

FARMERS' NEEDS AND PROBLEMS:

Eight bomas, including Luor, Bimruok, Kordapdap, Hai Ingass, Pakur, Koat, Riaideng, and Nyaromne, predominantly rely on farming as their primary livelihood. These communities face challenges associated with agricultural activities.

Land is identified as the most crucial input in seven bomas, followed by seeds, training, and tools. Tractors are deemed essential technology in nine bomas, along with compost fertilizers and irrigation equipment in some. Crop diseases, conflicts, and natural disasters are identified as significant problems affecting crop production.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS:

Thirteen bomas practice communal farming, four have cooperatives, and three engage in wholesale trade. Support sources include the government, UN/FAO/NGO, private business, and community initiatives.

FOOD AVAILABILITY:

Fish is available in 14 bomas, vegetables in eight bomas, beans in three bomas, and livestock meat in two bomas.

LIVESTOCK

Livestock rearing, fishing, and market activities play crucial roles in sustaining the communities across the 27 surveyed bomas.

Twenty-one bomas experience periodic food scarcity during different seasons.

Coping mechanisms during food shortages include loans, reduced meals, temporary migration, and extended family support.

Livelihood shocks occurred in all bomas, primarily due to floods and, in one boma, cattle raiding.

Coping mechanisms during shocks include waiting for assistance, migration, taking loans, and selling livestock.

LIVESTOCK REARING:

In 12 bomas, livestock rearing is a primary means of livelihood, involving communal and individual grazing lands. Pasture sufficiency varies, with 66.6% of herding bomas reporting enough water throughout the year. Communal water sources are prevalent, yet certain bomas encounter water scarcity (Nhialdiu and Bentiu Town). Livestock owners lack consistent markets, with only Rortriak and Hai Ingass bomas reporting access. Challenges include grazing land availability, livestock diseases, and water scarcity.

Recommendations:

- **Community Collaboration:** Facilitate community discussions to manage grazing lands collectively, ensuring equitable access and sustainable utilization.
- **Water Resource Management:** Develop water management strategies, especially in areas facing scarcity, and establish mechanisms for fair water use.
- **Livestock Health Services:** Strengthen disease prevention programs to enhance livestock health and productivity.

FISHING:

Fishing is a widespread livelihood practice in 27 bomas, providing sustenance for communities. While 14 bomas engage in fish sales, challenges such as lack of equipment, droughts, floods, storage,

and market facilities impact fishermen.

Recommendations:

- **Equipment Access:** Introduce initiatives for providing fishing equipment to enhance productivity and income for fishermen.
- **Climate Resilience:** Implement climate-resilient practices and infrastructure to mitigate the effects of droughts and floods on fishing activities.

MARKET ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

Access to markets varies across bomas, with challenges such as transportation, limited storage facilities, safety measures, and road conditions. Eight bomas have access to major markets within their boundaries, while others travel varying distances for market access. Some bomas report inadequate safety measures.

Absence of storage facilities reported in 19 bomas. Safety measures, wash facilities, and sanitation vary in markets, indicating the need for improvements.



Recommendations

- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Develop storage facilities, safety measures, and sanitation infrastructure in markets to ensure a conducive environment.
- **Transportation:** Enhance transportation options to improve market accessibility, especially in areas with limited connectivity.
- **Financial Services:** Introduce community-led financial initiatives or explore partnerships to provide access to credit facilities for local businesses.

LIVELIHOOD SHOCKS

Livelihood shocks, mainly floods, droughts, and cattle raiding, impact the community. *Coping mechanisms include waiting for assistance, migration, taking loans, and selling livestock.*

Bomas engage in diverse income-generating activities, including employment, pension, remittance, and cash assistance. Income sources vary, highlighting the need for targeted support for vulnerable groups.

Recommendations

- **Community Resilience Programs:** Implement resilience-building programs to empower communities in dealing with recurrent shocks.
- **Diversification of Income Sources:** Encourage income diversification strategies to reduce vulnerability during shocks.

SEASONAL MIGRATION

Seasonal migration plays a significant role in the socio-economic dynamics of Rubkona County, with a nuanced impact on the local communities. The survey reveals that seasonal migration is a practiced strategy, particularly among the youth, to cope with livelihood shocks and seize economic opportunities in neighboring areas. While some bomas actively engage in seasonal migration, others have abandoned the practice. The reasons for migration vary, ranging from employment opportunities to accessing markets and resources during specific seasons. Understanding the patterns and motivations behind seasonal migration is crucial for tailoring development interventions. Additionally, the survey highlights the need for policies that address the challenges faced by migrating individuals and communities, ensuring that the practice contributes positively to both the source and destination areas. Balancing the benefits and challenges of seasonal migration is essential for fostering sustainable development and enhancing the resilience of Rubkona County's communities.

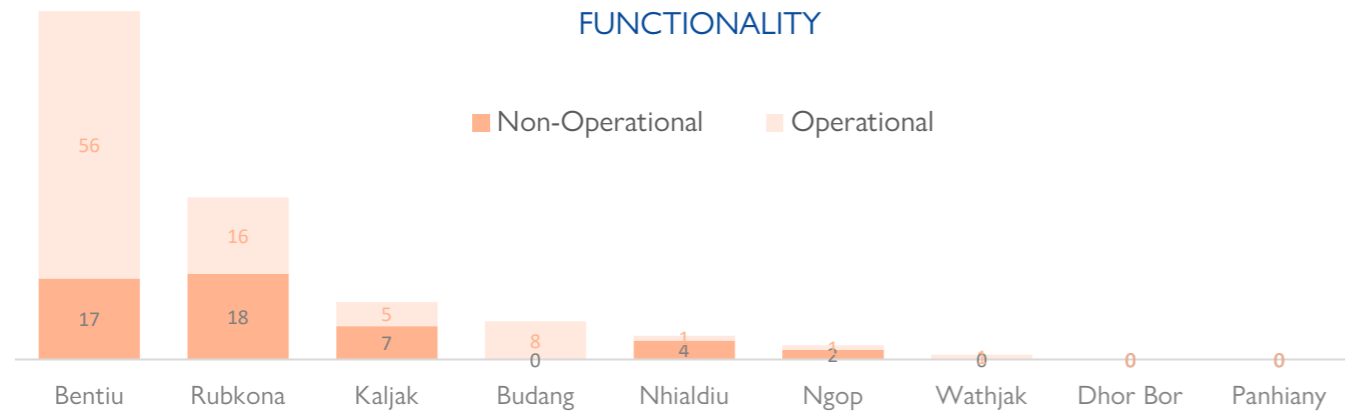
Key highlights:

- **FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS:** Periodic food scarcity in most bomas necessitates interventions to improve food security. Diversifying agricultural practices, enhancing access to markets, and implementing climate-resilient farming techniques can mitigate food insecurity.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS:** Infrastructure gaps, including limited storage facilities and safety measures in markets, pose challenges to economic activities. Investments in market infrastructure and safety measures are crucial for fostering a conducive business environment.
- **INCOME DIVERSIFICATION:** While income sources are diverse, there is a need to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to these opportunities. Programs promoting income diversification, especially for those with limited options, can contribute to economic resilience.
- **FISHING INDUSTRY STRUGGLES:** The fishing industry faces equipment shortages, climate-related issues, and market access challenges. Solutions such as improved storage facilities, climate-resilient practices, and market development can enhance the sustainability of the fishing sector.
- **LIVESTOCK REARING CHALLENGES:** Limited access to livestock markets, insufficient grazing land, and water scarcity during certain seasons pose challenges to livestock herders. Targeted support in terms of market access, communal resource management, and water infrastructure is essential.
- **DIVERSITY OF LIVELIHOODS:** Livelihoods in Rubkona County are diverse, ranging from livestock rearing and fishing to various income-generating activities. This diversity highlights the need for tailored interventions to address the specific challenges of each livelihood group.
- **MARKET ACCESS DISPARITIES:** Disparities in market access are evident, with some bomas having markets within their boundaries and others facing challenges in transportation and safety. Addressing these disparities is crucial for equitable economic development.



WASH

WATER POINT FACILITY BY PAYAM AND FUNCTIONALITY



DRINKING WATER SOURCES

The majority of bomas (18) rely on the river as their main water source for drinking, while 2 bomas depend on a stream. In Bentiu Town, most bomas prioritize alternative sources, with 4 bomas relying on boreholes, and others utilizing tanks and taps for their drinking water needs.

WATER ACCESSIBILITY

Public water taps and community boreholes serve as primary sources of water across the bomas. Challenges include seasonal and insufficient water, as well as accessibility issues due to non-functioning infrastructure, distance, insecurity, and water quality.

Primary Water Sources: The predominant water point type across 16 bomas is the public water tap, followed by community boreholes in 10 bomas. Notably, one boma in Bentiu specifically requires a JICA tanker/truck water point.

Year-Round Accessibility: Sixteen bomas consistently access water throughout the year. Yet, one boma, situated in Nhialdiu, encounters seasonal water availability, and another in Dhor Bor is deemed entirely inaccessible. On the flip side, nine bomas, mainly in Bentiu Town, Budang, Dhor Bor, and Nhialdiu, confront issues related to insufficient water availability.

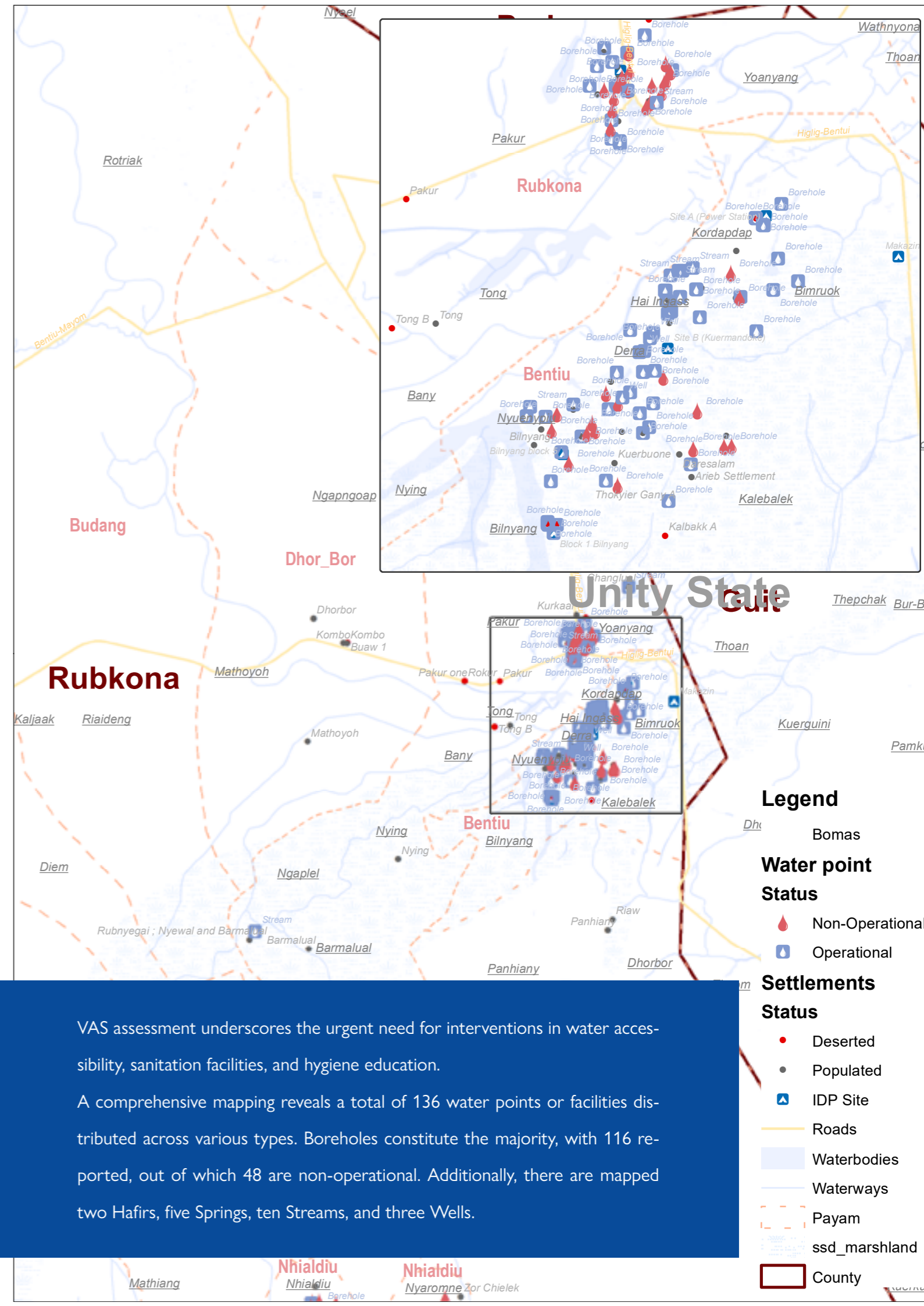
Access Challenges: seven reported that water sources are not accessible to all households, citing various reasons. Notably, three bomas attribute the lack of accessibility to non-functioning infrastructure, while others cite issues such as distance, insecurity, water quality, and insufficient water supply as contributing factors.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICTS

Water Fees: Residents report purchasing water from water trucks, with prices ranging from 120 SSP per 20 liters to 15.00 SSP per 1 barrel (250 liters).

Water management: Government entities take the lead with a substantial responsibility of 37, ensuring infrastructure upkeep. Community and self-organized initiatives contribute significantly with a total of 13, showcasing local engagement. UN/NGOs actively participate, demonstrating a global commitment with a total responsibility of 35. Private individuals/companies and religious entities play more modest roles with totals of 2 and 1, respectively. Notably, 15 bomas report not having water user committees.

Water Conflict: Water conflicts are prevalent in Rubkona County, where five out of nine Payams report at least one boma experiencing such conflicts. Notably, Rubkona Payam includes two bomas, Yoanyang and Barmalual, affected by these conflicts. It is essential to address these issues to foster sustainable water management practices and promote harmonious relationships among communities.



VAS assessment underscores the urgent need for interventions in water accessibility, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education. A comprehensive mapping reveals a total of 136 water points or facilities distributed across various types. Boreholes constitute the majority, with 116 reported, out of which 48 are non-operational. Additionally, there are mapped two Hafirs, five Springs, ten Streams, and three Wells.

Sanitation, Hygiene Education

Defecation Practices and Visibility of Human Waste: The data highlights diverse sanitation practices across bomas, including open-air/bush defecation in 21 bomas, public latrines in three bomas, and household latrines in two bomas. Concerningly, human feces were observed openly in 20 bomas, emphasizing the urgent need for improved sanitation infrastructure.

Limited Reach: A significant portion of bomas (80.76%) report not having received sanitation and hygiene education. While some bomas (5) have received sessions, the coverage is insufficient.

Training Focus: topics covered in most populated bomas in Bentiu and Rubkona payam includes handwashing, clean drinking water, clean hygiene, and garbage disposal, indicating a lack of information in rural areas.

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

Critical need for:

The analysis underscores the need for strategic planning, especially in rural areas with limited access.

NON-OPERATIONAL FACILITIES: The presence of 48 non-operational water points indicates a significant gap in access. These areas require immediate attention to restore functionality and ensure an uninterrupted water supply.

LIMITED ACCESS IN CERTAIN AREAS: Bomas like Mathoyoh and Ngapngoap, with no operational water points, represent areas of limited access. It is important to address factors contributing to inaccessibility, including non-functioning infrastructure, distance, insecurity, water quality, and insufficient supply. Identifying the reasons for this limitation and implementing appropriate solutions is crucial.

ENHANCED COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT: Strengthening community-managed facilities, especially in areas with operational challenges, requires targeted capacity-building initiatives. Address the bomas lacking water committees to enhance community management and developing conflict resolution mechanisms to address water conflicts reported in multiple bomas. This will empower communities to effectively manage and maintain their water infrastructure.



A needs-based approach is essential to ensure that all communities, whether rural or populated, receive adequate support.

HEALTH

The assessment aimed to evaluate the operational status, support and management structures, infrastructure, staffing, patient attendance, disease outbreaks, immunization, and community involvement in the targeted health facilities.

- Urgent renovations and upgrades to ensure a safe and secure environment for both patients and healthcare workers.
- Construction of permanent structures to replace temporary and semi-permanent facilities.
- Infrastructure assessment and rehabilitation to address flood-related issues.
- Recruitment of trained personnel to fill staffing gaps. Training for healthcare providers in addressing mental health issues.
- Provision of necessary infrastructure, such as incinerators, for effective waste management.
- Health facilities have experienced disease outbreaks, employing various coping mechanisms. Strengthened disease surveillance systems for early detection.
- A significant portion of bomas reported do not attend the health facility when sick, indicating barriers that need addressing.
- Inconsistencies in drug availability and limited operational hours pose challenges. The community expresses dissatisfaction, mainly related to drug shortages and the facility's operational schedule.

DIVERSE STAFF COMPOSITION

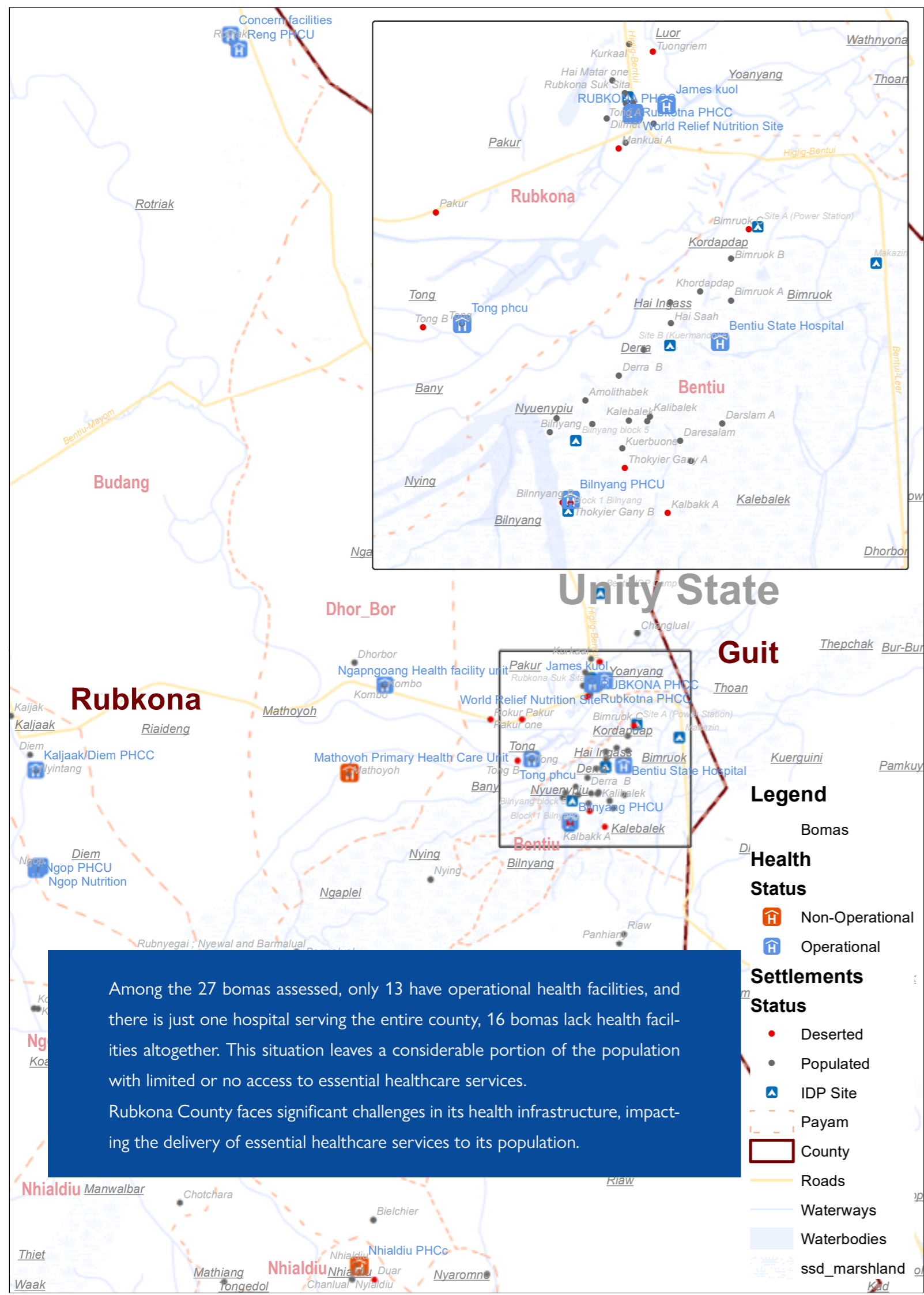
One facility reported a lack of trained staff. The overall staff composition includes doctors, medical assistants, nurses, traditional birth assistants, laboratory assistants, pharmacists, maternal child health workers, midwives, vaccinators, community health workers, nutrition assistants, and a significant number of untrained staff.

FACILITY SERVICES AND ATTENDANCE:

The services offered in the bomas include outpatient and inpatient care, maternity ward services, laboratory services, health education, feeding centers, psycho-social support, and SGBV clinical management. Seven facilities lack means of transport for referrals. Only three facilities charge patients for treatment. Patient attendance data for 2022 reveals gender and age disparities, emphasizing the need for targeted healthcare interventions. Outpatient services are offered in all 14 facilities, but gaps exist in inpatient care, maternity wards, and mental health services.

Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) Dominance: PHCCs exhibit the highest patient attendance, indicating their significant role in catering to the healthcare needs of the population in populated areas.

Hospital Attendance: The hospital serves as a crucial healthcare facility, with a notable number of both male and female attendees.



Among the 27 bomas assessed, only 13 have operational health facilities, and there is just one hospital serving the entire county, 16 bomas lack health facilities altogether. This situation leaves a considerable portion of the population with limited or no access to essential healthcare services. Rubkona County faces significant challenges in its health infrastructure, impacting the delivery of essential healthcare services to its population.

NEEDS AND GAPS

INADEQUATE ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION: The limited number of healthcare facilities, particularly in certain bomas, results in inadequate coverage and accessibility. This scarcity of facilities adversely affects the overall health outcomes of the population. Access to health facilities varies, with some bomas having facilities within a 30-minute walking distance, while others require less than an hour.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES: Out of the 15 healthcare facilities present in 11 bomas, 13 are operational. However, two facilities, one in Mathoyoh and another in Nhialdiu boma, are non-operational due to infrastructural damage and flooding, respectively. The operational facilities primarily rely on support from NGOs (10 facilities) and the government (3 facilities).

INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIENCY: Nearly half of the operational facilities (45.2%) reported inadequate, unsafe, or insecure buildings. The nature of health facility structures varies, with one operating in open air/under trees, four in temporary shade/Tukul, six in semi-permanent buildings, and only two in permanent structures.

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED STAFF: Staffing levels include 11 doctors, 45 medical assistants, 82 nurses, and various other roles. However, one facility lacks trained staff, pointing to a potential gap in expertise. Addressing staff training and recruitment is crucial for improving the quality of healthcare services.

PAYAM	# OF FACILITIES	DOCTORS	TOTAL MALE ATTENDED	TOTAL FEMALE ATTENDED	TOTAL ATTENDED	MONTHLY AVERAGE
BENTIU TOWN	2	6	4,186	1,700	5,886	491
BUDANG	2	-	14	10	24	2
DHOR BOR	2	-	365	429	794	66
KALJAK	1	-	530	864	1,394	116
NGOP	2	-	451	545	996	83
NHIALDIU	1	-	-	-	-	-
RUBKONA	5	5	17,089	21,320	38,409	3,201
PANHIANY	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	11	22,635	24,868	47,503	3,959

HEALTH

LIMITED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Mental health services were absent in five facilities, indicating a critical gap in addressing psychological well-being. Incorporate mental health services into existing healthcare frameworks to address the psychological well-being of the population.

CLINICAL WASTE DISPOSAL: The disposal of clinical wastes also presents challenges, with six facilities burning waste in incinerators, four burning in open air, two disposing in open garbage, and one resorting to ground burial.

INADEQUATE DATA REPORTING: Inconsistencies in reporting protocols across healthcare facilities and regions result in non-standardized data. This lack of uniformity hampers the comparability of health indicators and makes it challenging to derive meaningful insights.

INADEQUATE RESOURCES: insufficient availability of medical supplies and essential drugs hampers the effective delivery of healthcare services. The health facilities expressed needs for refrigerators for storing vaccines, training, referrals, public awareness, and other unspecified needs. Additionally, suggestions included

separating maternity wards from permanent mothers' wards, incrementing beds, providing more drugs, staff, feeding services, and immunization support.

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION: Seven facilities lack means of transport for referrals, impacting timely access to specialized care. Lack of transportation for patient referrals results in delayed access to specialized care. This limitation can exacerbate health conditions and contribute to preventable complications. There is a need for road infrastructure improvement to address transportation challenges and enhance accessibility.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: Health education sessions were conducted in 11 facilities, covering topics such as hygiene and sanitation, child nutrition, family planning, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other transmissible diseases.

PATIENT DISSATISFACTION: While the majority of the bomas reported that people attend these health facilities when sick, there is widespread dissatisfaction. Eight out of ten bomas expressed dissatisfaction, with six citing a lack of drugs as the main reason. In addition, accessibility concerns were raised by two bomas, highlighting that these facilities are only accessible to certain groups.

VULNERABLE TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS: Twelve out of 14 operational facilities reported disease outbreaks in the past year, including cholera, measles, meningitis, malaria upsurge, and other skin rashes. Various coping mechanisms were employed during disease outbreaks, such as setting up camps, increasing staff and beds, referrals to other hospitals, vaccination, and stocking medicines. Expectant facilities anticipate outbreaks of cholera, measles, meningitis, malaria upsurge, relapsing fever, yellow fever, and other transmissible diseases.

While one facility reported not providing a full schedule of immunization for children, 13 facilities did, with support mainly coming from the World Health Organization and NGOs.

IDENTIFIED AREAS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Opportunities for community involvement include addressing infrastructure challenges, providing support during disease outbreaks, and enhancing health education initiatives. Additionally, fostering community involvement through awareness campaigns, collaboration, and support during disease outbreaks.

EDUCATION

The educational landscape in Rubkona County comprises a total of 41 schools, of which 29 are operational. These facilities serve as vital hubs for knowledge dissemination, nurturing the intellectual growth of the county's youth.

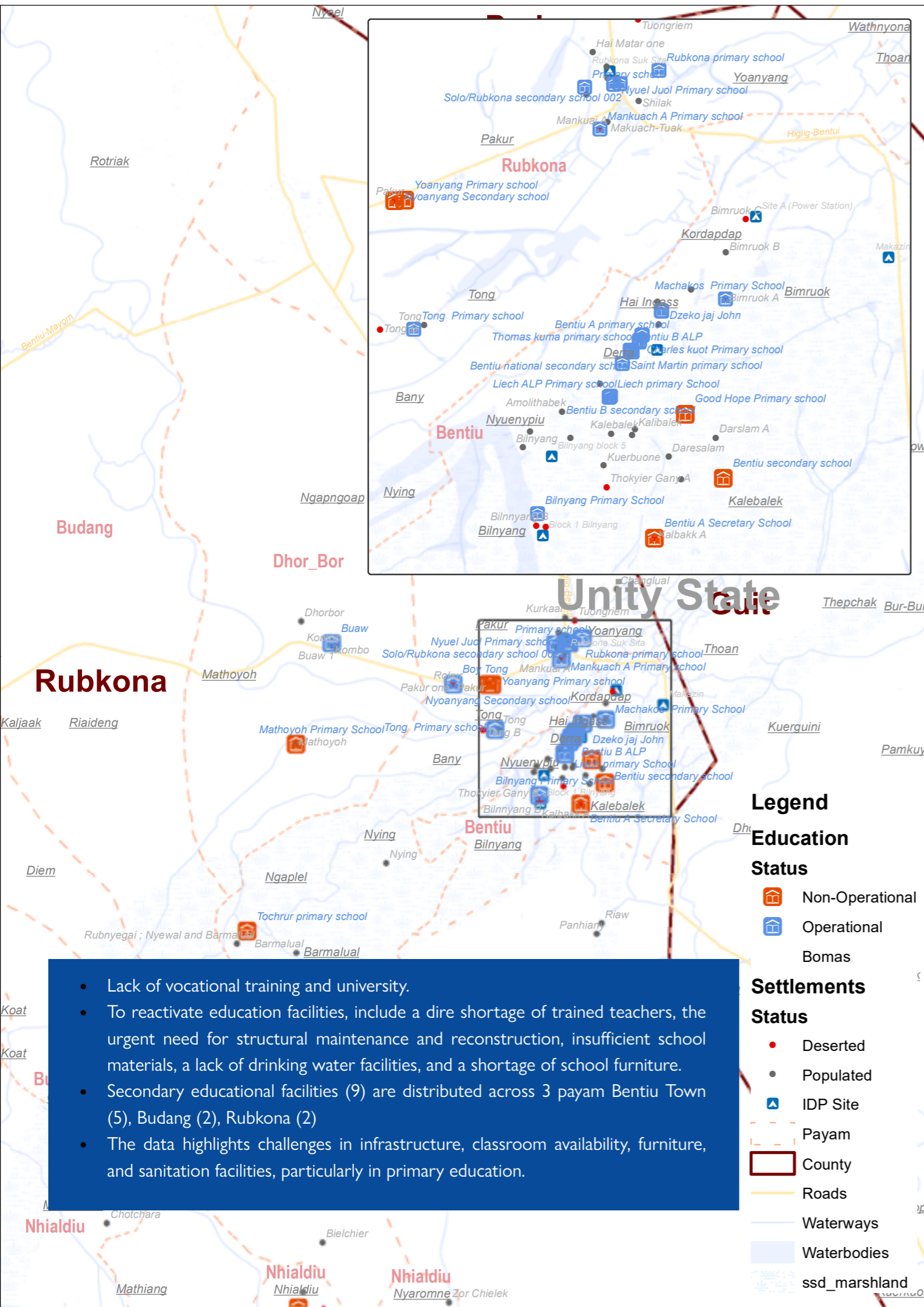
The schools in Rubkona County are categorized into primary and secondary institutions. Of the 41 schools, 32 are primary schools, addressing the foundational educational needs of the community, while the remaining 9 cater to secondary education. Moreover, a notable trend is observed, as 28 education facilities report that students opt to pursue further education elsewhere. This suggests a potential gap in the local educational landscape, prompting students to seek additional educational opportunities beyond the confines of their current institutions.

School ownership structures diversify across governmental, community-owned, faith-based, and private entities. Government ownership extends to 33 schools, with 25 dedicated to primary education and 8 to secondary education. Additionally, 4 facilities are community-owned, 2 are faith-based, and 2 operates under private ownership. Flood-affected areas, non-functional schools, and absence of facilities contribute to the challenges. Insecurity, cultural factors, early marriage, and lack of school feeding programs are additional barriers.

The functionality of schools varies across bomas, with 12 institutions facing operational challenges. These challenges range from the absence of staff to infrastructural damage or destruction, underscoring the complex hurdles hindering the seamless operation of educational facilities in certain regions. English serves as the primary language of instruction in 29 schools, fostering a standardized approach to education that aligns with the New Sudan curriculum. The educational curriculum adopted in Rubkona County reflects the commitment to aligning with the New Sudan curriculum.

BOMAS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION: Eight bomas in Bentiu, Kaljak, Ngop, and Rubkona have reported dissatisfaction with the standard of the schools in their respective areas. This dissatisfaction suggests concerns or issues related to the quality, infrastructure, or overall conditions of the schools in these bomas.

DISPARITIES ACROSS PAYAMS: Bentiu Town, boasting 15 operational schools, stands as an educational hub, while other bomas, such as Dhorbor, house fewer operational facilities. In Kaljak, Ngop, Nhialdiu, Panhiary, and Wathjak payams within Rubkona county, there is a notable absence of any functional educational facilities. Geographic considerations also play a pivotal role in educational access. Some bomas experience difficulties in reaching schools due to geographical constraints, such flood, road conditions, distance. Several bomas mention children attending schools outside their area, facing long commutes of up to 30 minutes. Accessibility issues are noted, with some schools not accessible throughout the year.



- Lack of vocational training and university.
- To reactivate education facilities, include a dire shortage of trained teachers, the urgent need for structural maintenance and reconstruction, insufficient school materials, a lack of drinking water facilities, and a shortage of school furniture.
- Secondary educational facilities (9) are distributed across 3 payam Bentiu Town (5), Budang (2), Rubkona (2)
- The data highlights challenges in infrastructure, classroom availability, furniture, and sanitation facilities, particularly in primary education.

EDUCATION

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS: With a total of 622 teachers, comprising 542 males and 80 females, the importance of teacher qualification becomes evident as the number of trained teachers is notably lower, standing at 287. The data highlights a need for targeted efforts to address teacher qualifications and training in primary and secondary education facilities. While there is a significant number of untrained teachers, especially in primary education, steps to enhance professional development are crucial. Most primary education teachers hold qualifications in secondary education, indicating a need for a more diverse academic background. Emphasizing training programs for untrained teachers and ensuring a balanced distribution of qualifications can contribute to an improved overall quality of education across all facilities.

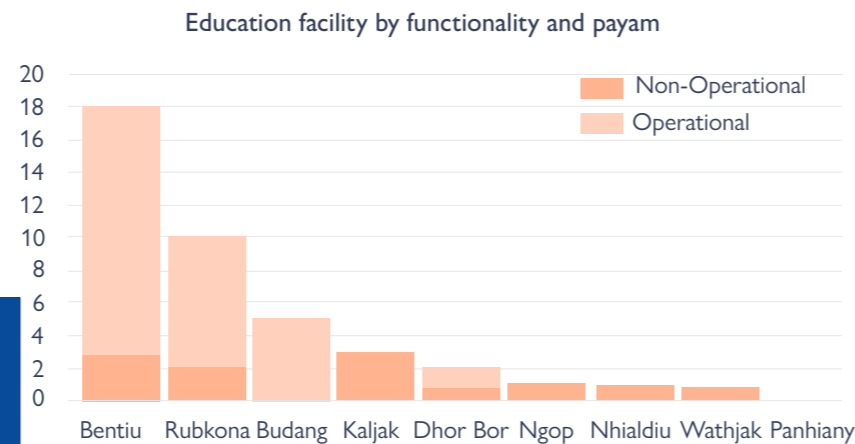
STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO: The ratio of teachers to students is a crucial metric for assessing the adequacy of educational support. In Bentiu Town, despite the highest student enrollment, the ratio of students to trained teachers is 126, pointing to potential difficulties in providing individual attention. Budang faces a similar concern with a ratio of 64, emphasizing the demand for more trained educators. Dhor Bor, on the other hand, exhibits a relatively lower ratio of 31, potentially contributing to an environment conducive to enhanced individual attention. Rubkona Payam, with a ratio of 78, underscores the need for additional trained teaching staff. Kaljak, Ngop, Nhialdiu, and Wathjak report no students, with no operational schools assessed. Within primary schools, with an overall enrollment of 26,678 students (14,610 males

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DROPOUTS

A total of 28,799 students are currently enrolled, comprising 16,129 males and 12,670 females, distributed across primary (26,678) and secondary (2,121) education. This highlights a trend where a significant number of students do not progress to higher education. Factors contributing to non-attendance include subpar education standards, migration, inadequate facilities, disinterest, distance, and space constraints.

The annual student dropout rate stands at 4%, accounting for 1,255 students. Notably, most dropouts are male, totaling 656, while 599 are female. In primary education, the dropout rate is 4%, and in secondary education, it rises to 5%, with 77 males and 39 females discontinuing their studies. It is crucial to emphasize the absence of secondary schools in most bomas.

Various factors contribute to student dropouts, with a lack of food being the most cited issue, followed by high school fees, migration, distance, natural disasters (flooding), and illness/death. These challenges collectively contribute to the struggle students face in maintaining consistent enrollment and attendance in both primary and secondary educational facilities.



and 12,068 females), there are 542 male and 80 female teachers, out of which 222 are trained. This results in a student-teacher ratio of 120 for all teachers and 43 for trained teachers. Secondary schools, with a total enrollment of 2,121 students (1,519 males and 602 females), are served by 111 male and 9 female teachers, with 65 being trained. Consequently, the student-teacher ratios are 33 for all teachers but 18 for trained teachers. These figures suggest that primary schools face a higher demand for teacher resources compared to secondary schools.

20 SCHOOLS REPORTED HAVING CHILDREN WITH DIVERSE NEEDS.

The data underscores the significance of addressing diverse needs in the educational system. In primary education facilities, challenges include difficulty in seeing (4), hearing (11), walking or climbing steps (16), remembering, or concentrating (4), self-care activities (6), and using hands and fingers (2). In secondary education facilities, hearing difficulty (1) and walking or climbing steps (3) are reported. Notably, 65% of these facilities do not make efforts to reduce barriers faced by students with diverse needs.

18 SCHOOLS REPORTED THEIR BUILDINGS AS INAPPROPRIATE, UNSAFE, AND INSECURE.

The facilities encompass open-air/under trees, permanent, semi-permanent, and temporary structures. Among these schools, there is a shortage of classrooms, with 23 reporting insufficiency and 2 having none. Insufficient furniture is

STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DROPOUTS:

Bentiu exhibits the highest student enrollment but faces substantial annual dropouts. Conversely, Kaljak, Ngop, Nhialdiu, and Wathjak report no enrolled students, signaling operational gaps. Schools stress the importance of supporting feeding programs to curb dropouts. Environmental challenges like flooding impact five schools, highlighting regional vulnerability. Geographic distance, high fees, and migration are key contributors to student dropouts, revealing a complex interplay of economic, environmental, and accessibility challenges in the educational landscape.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:

significant need for qualified and trained teachers across education facilities. The challenge of employing and compensating teachers regularly and adequately was consistently identified as a key concern. This underscores the importance of investing in the professional development of educators to ensure a high standard of teaching and to address the staffing challenges faced by schools.

SCHOOL FACILITIES:

bomas like Bentiu, Kaljak, Ngop, Nhialdiu, Panhiary, and Wathjak, lack functional facilities. Infrastructural challenges include open-air or under-tree classrooms, insufficient permanent buildings, and inadequate latrines. Urgent needs include building renovation, more classrooms, improved water supply, sufficient latrines, and provision of essential furniture and learning materials.

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO:

Bentiu Town and Rubkona payam, with the highest student enrollment, face challenges in maintaining an optimal student-teacher ratio, indicating potential difficulties in providing individual attention. This underscores the critical need for additional trained educators in these areas to enhance the quality of education.

prevalent, with 23 facilities lacking adequacy, and 4 having no furniture. Additionally, 17 facilities report a shortage of latrines, 5 have no latrines, and 10 lack sufficient drinking water, while 12 have no supply. Furthermore, non-drinking water for hygiene purposes is insufficient in 12 facilities and completely absent in 14.

15 SCHOOLS REQUEST SOME FORM OF FEES,

encompassing registration, school, exam, and uniform fees. 14 operational facilities find it difficult to get parents to pay the required fees. Actions taken for non-payment include child suspension (4), delayed school results (1), and telling students to do work in-kind (1).

12 SCHOOLS REPORTED THAT CHILDREN DO NOT RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE SUBSTANTIAL MEAL A DAY

Government support is a significant contributor to both primary and secondary education facilities, followed by NGOs.

GENDER DISPARITIES:

Gender disparities exist in student enrollment, with 14,610 males and 12,068 females. Male teachers significantly outnumber female teachers, contributing to gender imbalances in the education workforce.

PROTECTION

Rubkona County faces complex protection challenges that require a multifaceted approach. The community's responses, the state of law enforcement, and relationships within and outside the community must be considered in designing interventions aimed at addressing these concerns and enhancing the overall protection of the population.

ARMED VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT: In the past 12 months, four bomas reported experiencing violence between armed groups, with an additional four bomas reporting armed conflict within the last two years. Nine bomas reported local conflicts in the last two years, with responses including negotiation and reporting to authorities. The community's response to such incidents varied, with reporting to Payam authority or the police being the primary method. The main barrier faced to accessing conflict mitigation are lack of efficient judicial system (9 bomas), traditional beliefs (8 bomas) and distance (7).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Domestic violence was reported by seven bomas, and the community responded by reporting to authorities, traditional courts, and seeking protection from relatives. Nine bomas reported experienced violence against women mainly reported to traditional court (5 bomas), to payam authority and seek protection from relatives.

HUNGER AND EPIDEMICS: Hunger was reported by 24 bomas, leading to responses such as reporting to authorities, temporary migration, reliance on humanitarian assistance, and support from neighboring bomas. Epidemics affected 15 bomas, prompting reporting to authorities, reliance on humanitarian assistance, support from neighbors, and other health authorities.

PROTECTION MECHANISMS: Rubkona County exhibits various protection mechanisms in response to armed violence, conflict, and natural disasters. The community relies on reporting incidents to Payam authorities and the police. Negotiation and traditional courts are also utilized in local conflict resolution.

LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE: The legal infrastructure in Rubkona County faces challenges, with 19 bomas lacking a police station. Seventeen bomas reported no judicial courts. Cases referred to authorities include sexual violence, murder, conflict, theft, land grabbing,

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK CHANNELS: The community actively engages in voicing opinions and providing feedback through boma meetings, which are prevalent in 24 out of 27 assessed bomas. Indirect channels also exist, such as conveying feedback through religious leaders. However, one boma reported the absence of any complaint or feedback mechanism.

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: Unaccompanied and separated children in the boma receive support primarily from relatives, community members, NGOs, churches, and, in some cases, they live on their own. Vulnerable populations, including victims of domestic violence, receive support through reporting to authorities, traditional courts, and seeking protection from relatives.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES: Access to basic services is a significant concern in Rubkona County. Residents express apprehensions about the safety of water points in 13 bomas. Barriers to food security include distance, lack of resources, and inadequate services. Barriers to accessing water, health, education, and protection services are complex, encompassing issues such as distance, insecurity, lack of services, quality of water, and flooding. The presence of operational judicial courts varies across bomas, emphasizing the need for improvements in legal infrastructure.

SPECIFIC NEEDS REQUESTED THROUGH FGD

NGOP:

KOAT: Lacks borehole, school, and Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC).

PANHIANY:

PANHIANY: fishing nets, school materials, mosquito nets, chlorine for water treatment, and crop farming.

RIAW: Requests seeds, mosquito nets, drugs, water purifier, fishing nets, and canoes.

RUBKONA:

TONG: requests food assistance.

LUOR: Requests iron sheets, school, and health facility; also, fishing nets.

YOANYANG: Requests more schools, health facilities, nursery schools, latrines, tap water points, agricultural equipment (e.g., tractors), vegetables, and other crops. Also seeks Non-Food Items (NFIs) assistance, cash assistance, and in-kind assistance. Recommends the construction of women's association centers. Returnees require urgent assistance, water tanks, construction of a youth center and computer stationery, fencing of schools for learner safety, and the construction of a separate school for girls.

PAKUR: Experiences food insecurity and recommends humanitarian assistance. Requests cash assistance, fishing nets, anti-venoms, torches for the night due to snakes, school construction if water recedes, NFIs provision, and health services.

NYING: Requests health care, mosquito nets, farming seeds, fishing nets, soaps, and watering cans for irrigating gardens.

BARMALUAL: Needs canoes for fishing, fishing nets, mosquito nets, farming seeds, irrigation equipment, healthcare, schools, and soaps.

BENTIU:

NYUENYPIU: Residents need policing due to reported cases of crimes.

KORDAPDAP: Residents request food, police presence for security concerns, and fishing gears, such as fishing nets.

DERRA BOMA: In need of plastic sheets and food.

DHOR BOR:

MATHOYOH: access to aid or assistance, plastic sheets, crops, seeds, and vegetables.

KALJAAK:

DIEM: Needs food, requests vocational training.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS: Good or excellent relationships were reported between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host community. However, one boma in Bentiu Town reported a negative relationship between returnees and the host community. Similarly, in terms of the relationships among different ethnic groups/tribes in the boma, one boma in Bentiu Town reported a poor dynamic, and in Kaljak, it was characterized as bad. The relationship between refugees and the host community also faced challenges, with one boma reporting poor relations.



For more information:

southsudandtm@iom.int

<https://dtm.iom.int/south-sudan>