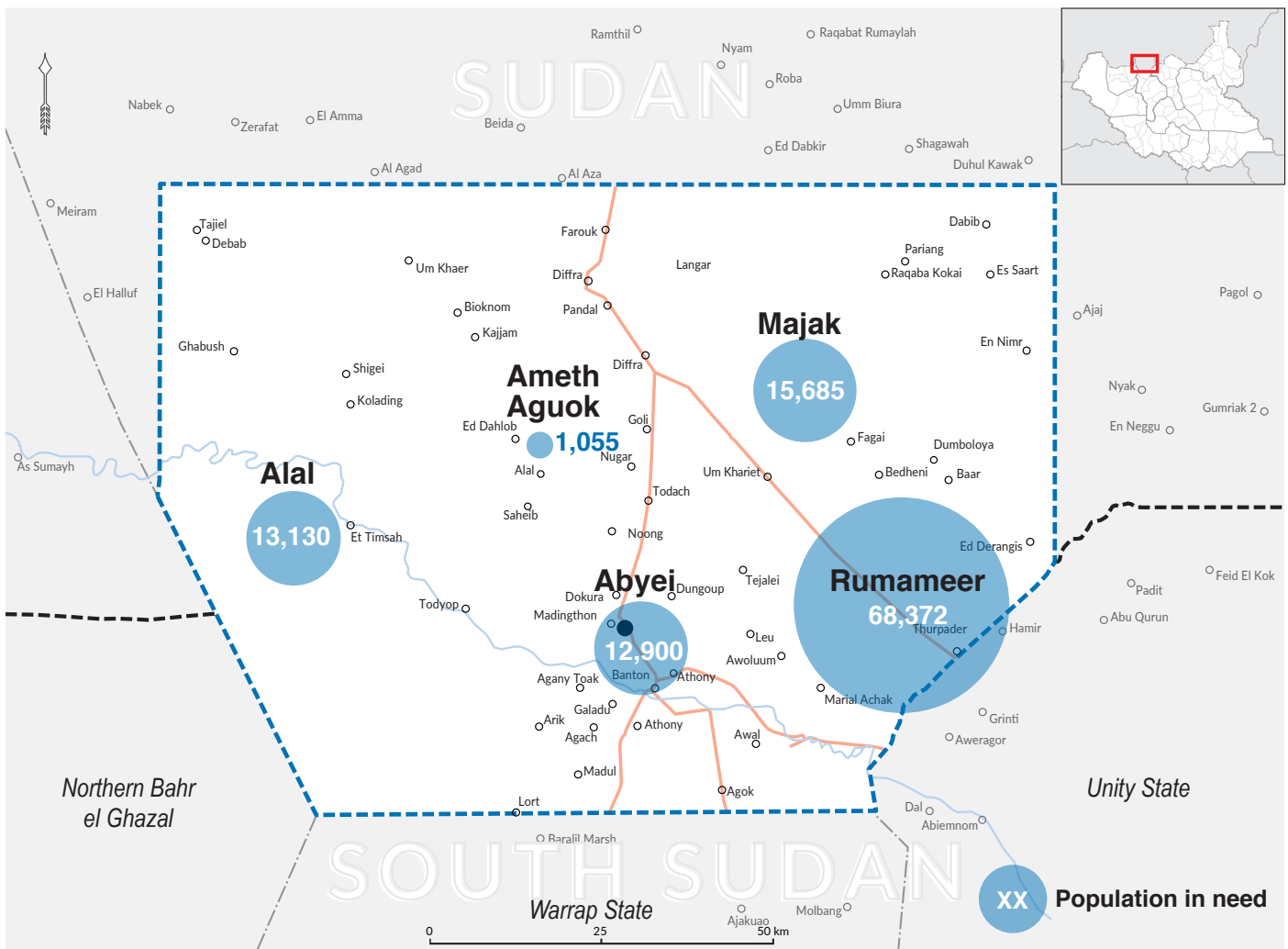
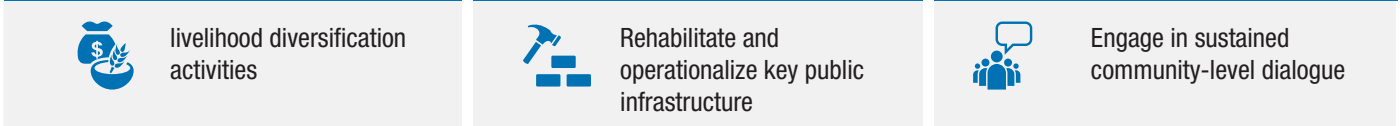




MAIN RECOMMENDATION



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2016 Population in need figures (IOM estimates as of December 2016)

Payam	# population in need	# IDPs	# returnees	# host community
Abyei town	12,900	0	10,320	2,580
Ameth-Aguok	1,055	0	791	264
Alal	13,130	5,252	6,565	1,313
Majak	15,685	6,274	7,058	2,353
Rumameer	68,372	37,605	23,930	6,837
Total	111,142	49,131	48,664	13,347

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the VAS is to provide baseline data for mapping the basic needs and critical gaps in areas of high return and to share the findings with government authorities and partners for better planning and targeting of transitional and recovery activities.

The sources of data used in the VAS are derived from four complementary and integrated questionnaires: Boma Questionnaire, Payam Authorities Questionnaire, Health Technical Questionnaire and Education Technical Questionnaire. A mixed methods approach of key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation was utilized to collect and triangulate data throughout the data collection process. The data collection teams conducted the assessments in the locations of interest by physically visiting each of the bomas, villages and health and education facilities.

In efforts to build the capacity of national and locally based actors, IOM conducted the VAS in close collaboration with two national non-governmental organizations, Abyei Community Action for Development (ACAD) and Abyei Peace and Human Rights Organization (APHRO). IOM conducted a comprehensive 3-day training for data enumerators from ACAD and APHRO. The first two days provided focused on effective data collection techniques and methods, an in-depth review of the questionnaires and technical training on GPS devices. On the third day, data enumerators applied the theory and skills in a field simulation.

Following the successful completion of the training, the data collection teams were deployed to cover all 5 payams/counties and 30 bomas from 4-11 December 2016. IOM worked closely with ACAD and APRHO using a mentorship approach throughout the data collection period.

IOM Boma Mapping Survey

Conducted in each boma with the administrators and representatives at the Boma level and representatives of the returnee, women and youth groups.

Payam Authority Questionnaire

Conducted at each payam with the senior payam authority (i.e. Payam Administrator or Executive Director)

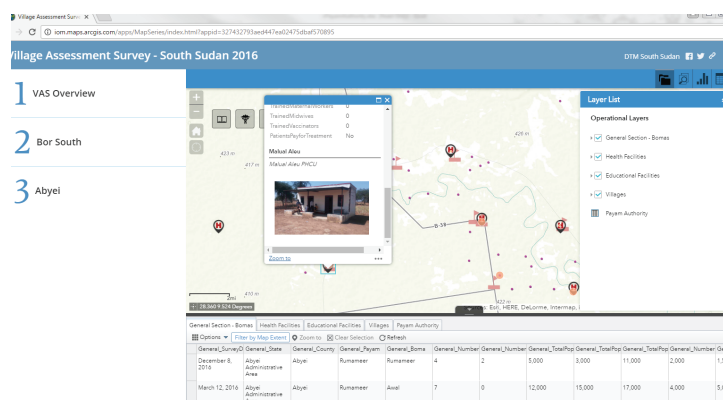
Education Technical Questionnaire

Conducted at each education facility with the facility staff (i.e. teachers or the headmaster)

Health Technical Questionnaire

Conducted at each health facility with the facility staff (i.e. doctor or health officer)

The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) datasets, questionnaires and reports including pictures of key infrastructure can be found at <http://arcg.is/2jhTg1j>



The Village Assessment Survey (VAS) was conducted in partnership with:



ABYEI OVERVIEW AND DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

The Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) is a territory of 10,546 km² bordering Sudan and South Sudan and disputed by the two countries. While the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement mandated a referendum to determine Abyei's permanent status, the vote has yet to be held due to disputes over who qualifies to vote and composition of the Abyei Referendum Commission.

The AAA is divided by two dominant culturally distinct groups: the agro-pastoralist Dinka-Ngok and the pastoral Misseriya. Conflict dynamics between the two groups are complex, with a number of different contributors or drivers. This includes drivers embedded in livelihood patterns that require migrations through Dinka-Ngok territory by the Misseriya. Those tensions have been exacerbated by national politics that have made Abyei a contested area following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 that would eventually lead to South Sudan's independence from Sudan in 2011. The relationship between the communities has been subsumed by the struggle between the countries to the north and south. The Dinka-Ngok have strong cultural and political ties to the Government of South Sudan while the Misseriya have supported the interests of the Government of Sudan. Competition over Abyei between the two capitals (Juba and Khartoum) is linked to maintaining loyalties of their respective communities and the impact that these communities have on national politics. Serious fighting in 2007 to 2008 in the area led to the displacement of up to 25,000 people² from the central part of Abyei including Abyei town to areas south of river Kiir in Agok and surrounding villages. In 2011 when Sudanese military and Khartoum-supported militia groups moved into the Abyei area, approximately 110,000³ Dinka-Ngok were displaced and residences and critical public infrastructure destroyed/looted mainly in areas north of the river. Most were displaced into the southern parts of Abyei including Agok and Abathok. Households were also displaced to neighboring states in South Sudan including Warrap, Northern Bahr Ghazal, Unity, Western Bahr Ghazal, Lakes and Central Equatoria States. Some of the IDPs have not yet returned to Abyei due to fears of renewed violence. Mutual mistrust between the two communities continued to be a source of intermittent conflict, including the murder of a senior Dinka-Ngok leader in 2013.

Since the displacement of 2011 and particularly following the withdrawal of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) from the Abyei Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Box in May 2012, a number of the displaced households started returning to Abyei PCA Box. Initially most (approximately 37,000 persons) returned to areas around Agok – a village South of River Kiir/ Bahr Al Arab along the border between Abyei and Warrap State. As of late 2016, approximately 15,000 individuals are estimated to have returned to their areas of origin in the following villages: Noong, Dungop, Leu, Marial Achak, Tajalei, Rumameer, Mijak, Mading and Miyodol and the surrounding villages north of River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab.

After the emergence of civil conflict in South Sudan in December 2013, approximately 6,000 IDPs⁴ from neighboring Unity and Warrap states in South Sudan fled to Abyei. The IDPs from Unity temporarily settled in Rumameer payam in Mading Deng Kaya (MDK), Magar, Rumameer and Awal. Most of those who moved during 2015 to 2016 travelled onwards to Sudan, a smaller number returned to Unity or integrated with communities in Abyei and in the Greater Bahr el Ghazal region. Most of the IDPs from Warrap have returned, moved to other locations within South Sudan or travelled northwards to Sudan.

In 2016, there were multiple inter-communal security incidents between the communities and the Abyei population in need continued to move to Sudan due to economic hardships. Push factors included the closure of blanket food distribution for the Abyei community and IDPs in 2016, lack of adequate services including health and education and the impact of the July 2016 insurgency in Juba which exacerbated already dire living conditions. In the month of January 2017, cross-border movement trend tracking conducted by IOM indicated approximately 2,000 individuals or 1,200 households⁵ moving to Sudan to seek better health and education services whereas approximately 90 individuals were recorded entering into Abyei during the same period⁶. These figures indicate an overall outward trend of movements from Abyei to Sudan.

² IOM Registration, 2007 - 2008

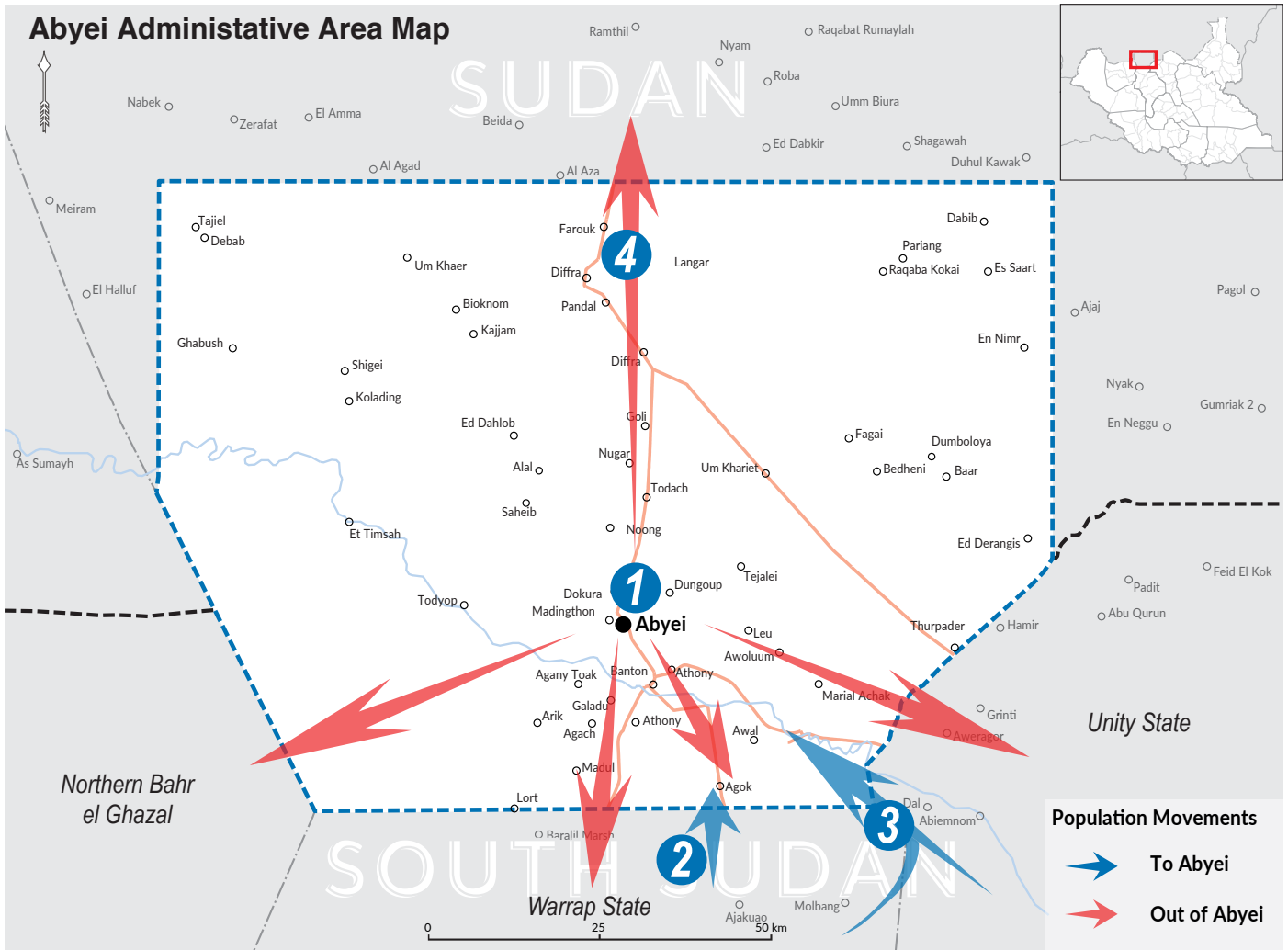
³ IOM Registration, May-July 2011

⁴ IOM Registration, April 2014

⁵ IOM Movement Trend Tracking, Abyei, January 2017

⁶ IOM Movement Trend Tracking, Abyei, January 2017

CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT TIMELINE



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Incident timeline



KEY FINDINGS

From November to December 2016, IOM conducted the Village Assessment Survey (VAS) in close collaboration with ACAD and APHRO to evaluate the availability of basic services and infrastructure in the AAA and to provide key recommendations to facilitate transition and recovery programming. Key findings of the exercise include:





- There are gradual return movements, with the majority of returnees received in Rumameer and Abyei town.
- Ameth Aguok remains the most deserted payam with few returnees, possibly due to the perception of a possible attack.
- Need for livelihood activities including seeds/inputs due to lack of income generating activities for residents in Agok, Mading Jok Thiang and Maker-Anet within Rumameer payam.
- The majority of health and education facilities was found to be functional, particularly north of River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab.
- Investments in rehabilitating key public infrastructure that have been adversely affected by drought and/or looting, including roads, health and education facilities and water points will greatly benefit communities, particular those south of the River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab.
- Investments in rehabilitating roads will facilitate access to return, especially in the rainy season
- Empty houses observed (particularly prevalent south of River Kiir/Bahr Al Arab) could indicate families have either returned to their original areas or moved to other places including Sudan.
- Although the security situation in Abyei continues to improve since the deployment of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in mid-2011, security remains a major concern for return communities. There are intermittent infiltrations of armed groups into AAA attacking civilians.
- The intention to return to villages including but not limited to Nyinkook, Todach, Noong and Tajalei and Marial Achak is a prime consideration for displaced households.



Abyei focus group discussions

PAYAM LEVEL FINDINGS

PAYAMS

		ABYEI TOWN	AMETH AGUOK	ALAL	MAJAK	RUMAMEER
	Population in Need (Individuals)	12,900	1,055	13,130	15,685	68,372
	# of bomas	6 bomas	3 bomas	6 bomas	5 bomas	9 bomas
	Populated villages	19 villages	10 villages	29 villages	35 villages	50 villages
	Deserted villages	6 villages	13 villages	3 villages	13 villages	2 villages
	# of bomas with presence of UXOs/ mines	4 bomas	1 boma	5 bomas	2 bomas	3 bomas
	Functional schools	2 schools	None	5 schools	3 schools	17 schools
	Non-Functional schools	6 schools	1 school	2 schools	2 schools	None
	Functional health facilities	3 facilities	None	2 facilities	2 facilities	10 facilities
	Non-Functional health facilities	1 facility	None	2 facilities	1 facility	2 facilities



Lou Primary Health Care Facility

PAYAM LEVEL ANALYSIS

The Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) (formerly Abyei County) consists of four payams - Alal, Ameth Aguok, Majak and Rumameer. The main urban centre Abyei town is governed by the Abyei Mayor.

Alal

- Alal payam covers the western area of the AAA.
- The UNISFA disengagement line passes through Noong, which has made it a frontline of the conflict between the Missiriya and Dinka-Ngok. In 2016 and 2017 Noong has been targeted by armed elements which has discouraged Ngok-Dinka communities from returning.
- IDPs are gradually returning to their places of origin in Alal, including the major village of Noong.
- The southern villages continue to host IDPs from central Abyei, particularly Malual Aleu, Akech Nhial and Athony.
- Most of the services in Alal are concentrated in the southern parts of the payam.
- Noong is where the first common market was established after the violence in 2011. However, following the joint agreement between the Ngok-Dinak and Missiriya chiefs, the market was moved from Alal. Residents travel to Amieth or Abyei town to access market goods.
- Seasonal sorghum farming is the major livelihood activity practice in Alal. A few residents also cultivate vegetable throughout the year to supply the market in Abyei, and some keep small numbers of livestock.

Ameth Aguok

- Ameth Aguok payam covers parts of the central and north part of Abyei.
- Most communities from Ameth Aguok were displaced from the villages in the southern part of the payam, including Todach, Dungop, Miyen Kor and Miokol in 2011. Most villages have not yet seen mass returns as communities fear being attacked.
- Ameth Aguok was traditionally the least populated payam, and is now the most deserted payam. Accessibility during rainy season is impossible due to the degradation of routes⁷.
- Seasonal sorghum farming is the major livelihood activity practice in the area, and livestock keeping the least practiced.
- Ameth Aguok payam hosts the Amieth Common Market, which is a unique place that allows members of the Missiriya and Ngok-Dinka communities to trade. This market is the one of the biggest market in Abyei PCA Box, supplying essential food and non-food commodities.

Majak

- Majak payam covers parts of the northern, central and southern parts of Abyei.
- Villages in southern Majak including Wunpeth and Abathok continue to host many of the IDPs displaced from central and northern parts of Abyei in 2011.
- Majak was affected by 2011 Abyei crisis and most inhabitants were displaced to Agok and South Sudan (Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal).
- From 2011 - 2013 Majak was nearly deserted. However, since 2014 the payam has witnessed gradual returns to the villages of Majak, Tajalei and Leu.
- The community of Majak payam mainly utilizes the Abathok market. Although not as big as Amieth, the market in Abathok is able to provide basic household supplies.
- Seasonal sorghum farming is the major livelihood activity practice in Majak. A few residents also cultivate vegetables throughout the year to supply the market in Abyei, and some keep small numbers of livestock.

Rumameer

- Rumameer payam covers the eastern part of Abyei.
- Rumameer payam continues to host the biggest IDP population in Abyei, with the current population estimate of 68,372 individuals. The major villages that host IDPs from northern and central Abyei are in the southern part of the payam and include Agok, Juoljok and Miyom Ngok. The villages of Magar and Majak Deng Kaya (MDK) and Awal host IDPs from neighboring Unity and Warrap in South Sudan.
- Certain villages in central and northern areas of Rumameer have started to see returnees, particularly the villages of Marial Achak, Rumameer and Miydol.
- The major market for Rumameer is the Anet market in Agok town. Seasonal sorghum farming is the major livelihood activity practice in Rumameer, followed by livestock rearing.
- Agok town within Rumameer hosts several international development or humanitarian organizations, including those working in health, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and livelihoods. The main hospital operated by MSF-Switzerland in AAA is located in Agok.

Abyei Town


- Abyei town is the seat of the AAA, the entity directly reporting to the President's Office of South Sudan and administering Abyei town and the four payams (counties) where Ngok-Dinka communities have settled. The UNISFA base is located in Abyei town.
- Most Abyei town inhabitants were displaced to Agok and the states of South Sudan during the 2011 crisis. Since 2012, Abyei town has witnessed gradual returns of these populations. IOM's current estimate population in need of assistance in Abyei is 12,900, with more IDPs continuing to return.
- The extensive presence of UNISFA gives a sense of confidence and safety to the returning community, and stimulates continuous voluntary returns. Major neighborhoods of returns in Abyei are within close proximity to the UNISFA compound including Mulmul (3,222 individuals), Ameth Bek (2,317 individuals) and Abyei Jokyom (1,673 individuals)
- The main livelihood activities practiced by the community are farming, trading and livestock keeping.

⁷ IOM estimation triangulated with feedback from Boma and Payam representatives

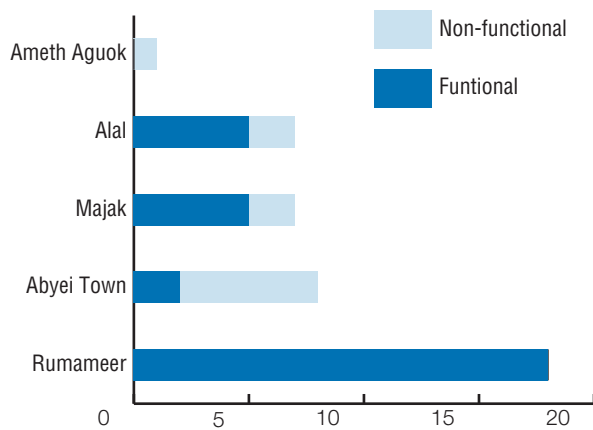
SECTORIAL FINDINGS

Education

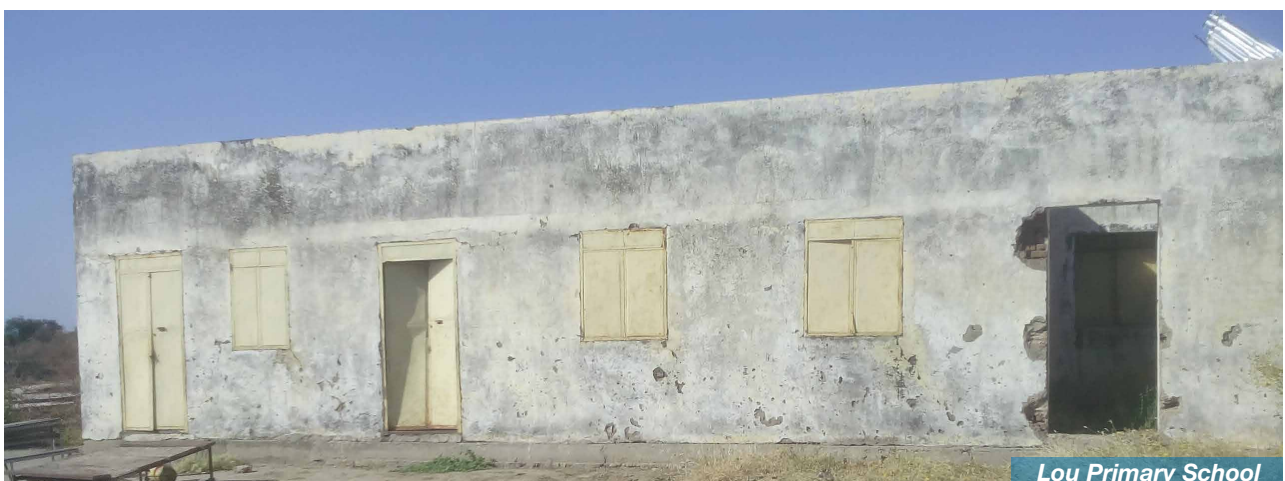
PAYAMS

	ABYEI TOWN	AMETH AGUOK	ALAL	MAJAK	RUMAMEER
 Functional primary schools	1 school	None	5 school	3 schools	15 schools
Functional secondary schools	1 school	None	None	None	1 school

Status of schools by payam




- Of the eight education facilities in Abyei town, six are non-functional in Abyei town and two are functional – one primary and one secondary school, for a population of 9,004 people. The reasons for non-functionality have changed throughout the years. Most are non-functional mainly due to infrastructure damage and looting, lack of staff presence and lack-of-use due to insecurity. While the majority of the facilities had been renovatod, they are now not in use either due to the lack of teachers/support or low populations.
- The ratio of male to female enrolment across all counties averages 55% male and 45% female with a significant drop for females enrolled in secondary school in Abyei town (77% male and 23% female) and slight drop in Rumameer payam (59% male and 41% female).
- The majority of bomas report that over 75% or up to 100% girls attend primary school.



SECTORIAL FINDINGS

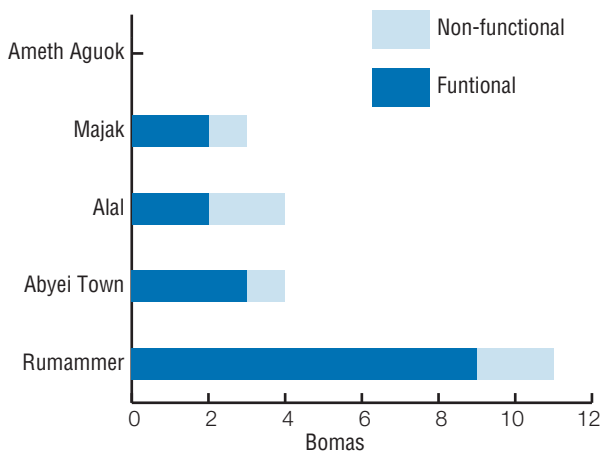
Health

PAYAMS

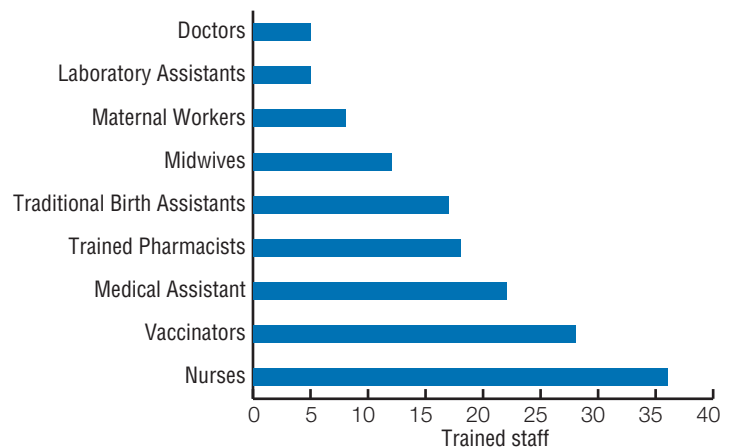
	ABYEI TOWN	AMETH AGUOK	ALAL	MAJAK	RUMAMEER
 Functional PHCU	3 PHCU	None	2 PHCU	2 PHCU	10 PHCU
Ratio - Population to PHCU <small>*Sphere standard 10,000:1</small>	4,300:1	-	6,565:1	7,843:1	6,837:1

- The ratio of Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) to persons for Abyei town, Alal, Majak and Rumameer meet Sphere standards of at least 1 PHCU per 10,000 persons. However, there are no PHCU's in Ameth Aguok payam; the population of Ameth Aguok use the PHCU facilities in Abyei town and Majak.
- Alal payam has the greatest proportion of non-functional health facilities (two out of four non-functional), due to infrastructure damage and general decay after the lack of care and maintenance and staff presence, and obvious looting.
- 68% health facilities reported having trained staff.

Status of health facilities by payam



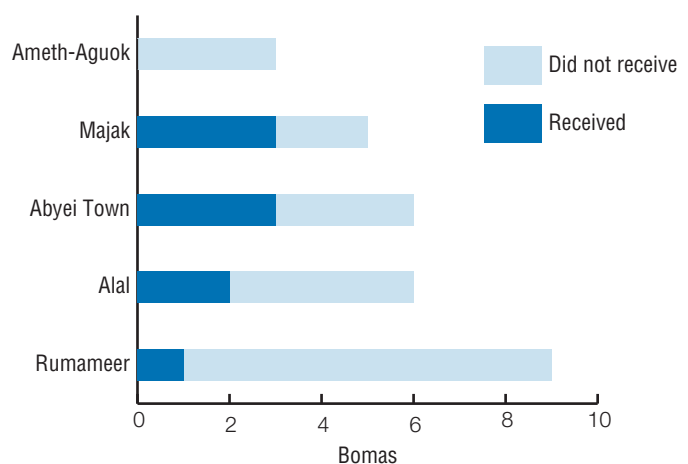
Overall Number of Trained Staff in Health Facilities Across the Abyei Administrative Area



WASH

- A natural water source is available for the majority of bomas across the four payams, apart from in Abyei town where only 33% of the bomas assessed have a natural water source. Majak payam has the highest availability with 80% of bomas reporting access.
- The majority of bomas assessed have not received any campaigns on sanitation or hygiene promotion.

Number of bomas by payam that received sanitation & hygiene promotion education in 2016

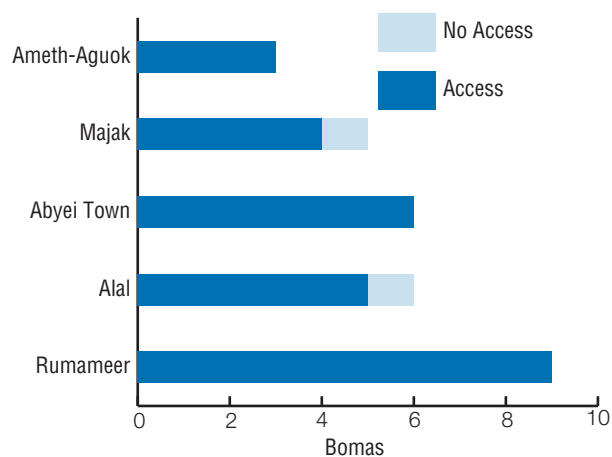


SECTORIAL FINDINGS

Livelihoods

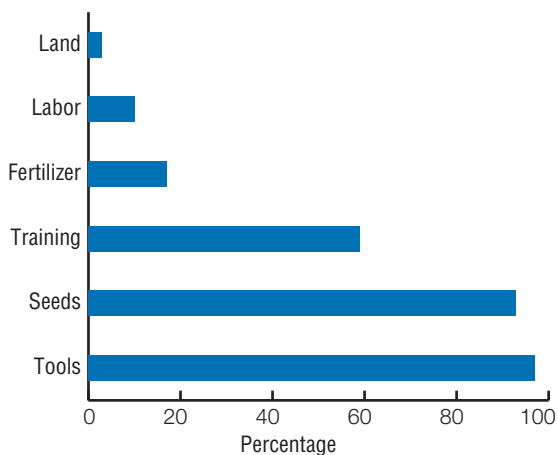
- 93% of bomas report having access to a nearby major market.
- Promotion of livelihood activities such as cultivation and microfinance opportunities in areas south of River Kiir and Abyei town through the support of NGOs and UN agencies.
- All bomas report that farming is practiced within the boma. 48% bomas indicate that farmers sell crops harvested in the market while 52% do not. The majority report selling sorghum in the markets.
- Communal farming is practiced in 48% bomas with some support from private business and the community.
- Extension services/inputs is available in 34% bomas with support mainly from FAO and NGOs.
- There are no credit facilities or co-operatives that provide support to farmers.

Number of Bomas by Payam Reporting Access to a Major Market

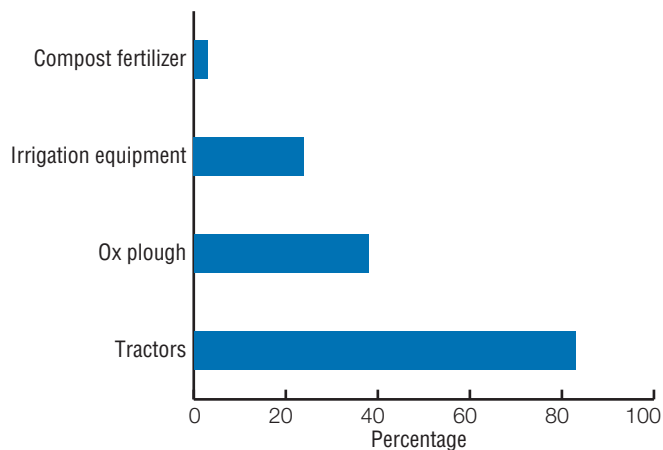


- 100% bomas indicate the need for inputs while 83% indicate the need for technologies to support the production of food crops within their bomas.
- The major problems affecting the production of food crops is reported to be: 83% crop damage (i.e. from insects, livestock, wildlife, etc.); 72% natural disasters; 69% crop diseases; 24% conflict.
- 79% bomas indicate that people in the boma own livestock.
- 86% bomas indicate that they experienced a major livelihood shock in the last two years mainly from pests (56%) and livestock diseases (48%) followed by drought (40%), flood (40%), crop disease (36%), and conflict (28%) and human epidemic (28%).
- 41% of the bomas report that people within their boma practice seasonal migration of mainly youth male and female members of the household versus the whole household.

Percentage of Bomas reporting need for inputs



Percentage of Bomas reporting need for technology

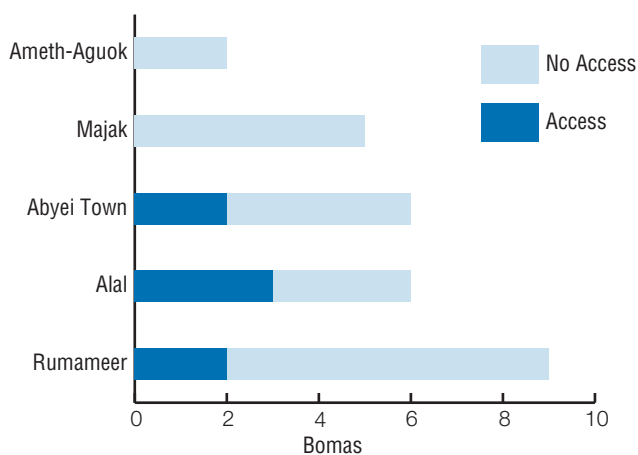


SECTORIAL FINDINGS

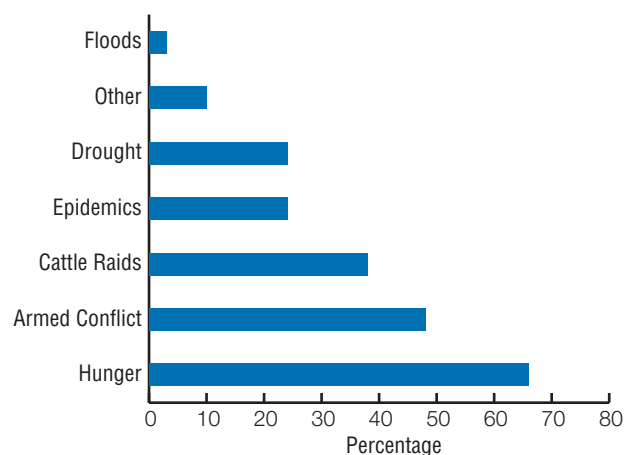
Protection

- Overall, 83% bomas report availability of traditional boma court with Abyei town and Majak reporting availability across all bomas, however, 72% bomas reported judicial courts inaccessible in their boma with Majak payam reporting 100% inaccessibility followed by 78% in Rumameer; 67% in Abyei town and Ameth-Aguok; and 50% in Alal.
- Women feel report feeling insecure in their boma when they are out of their homes earning a living or working in the farm in 69% bomas. The majority report feeling insecure due to: abduction (60%); rape (60%); harassment/assault (55%); and violence (40%).
- 21% bomas indicate that there have been cases of rape/sexual violence against women reported in the boma

Number of Bomas by Payam with Access to a Judicial Court



Percentage of Bomas reporting external violations, threats and risks in 2016



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