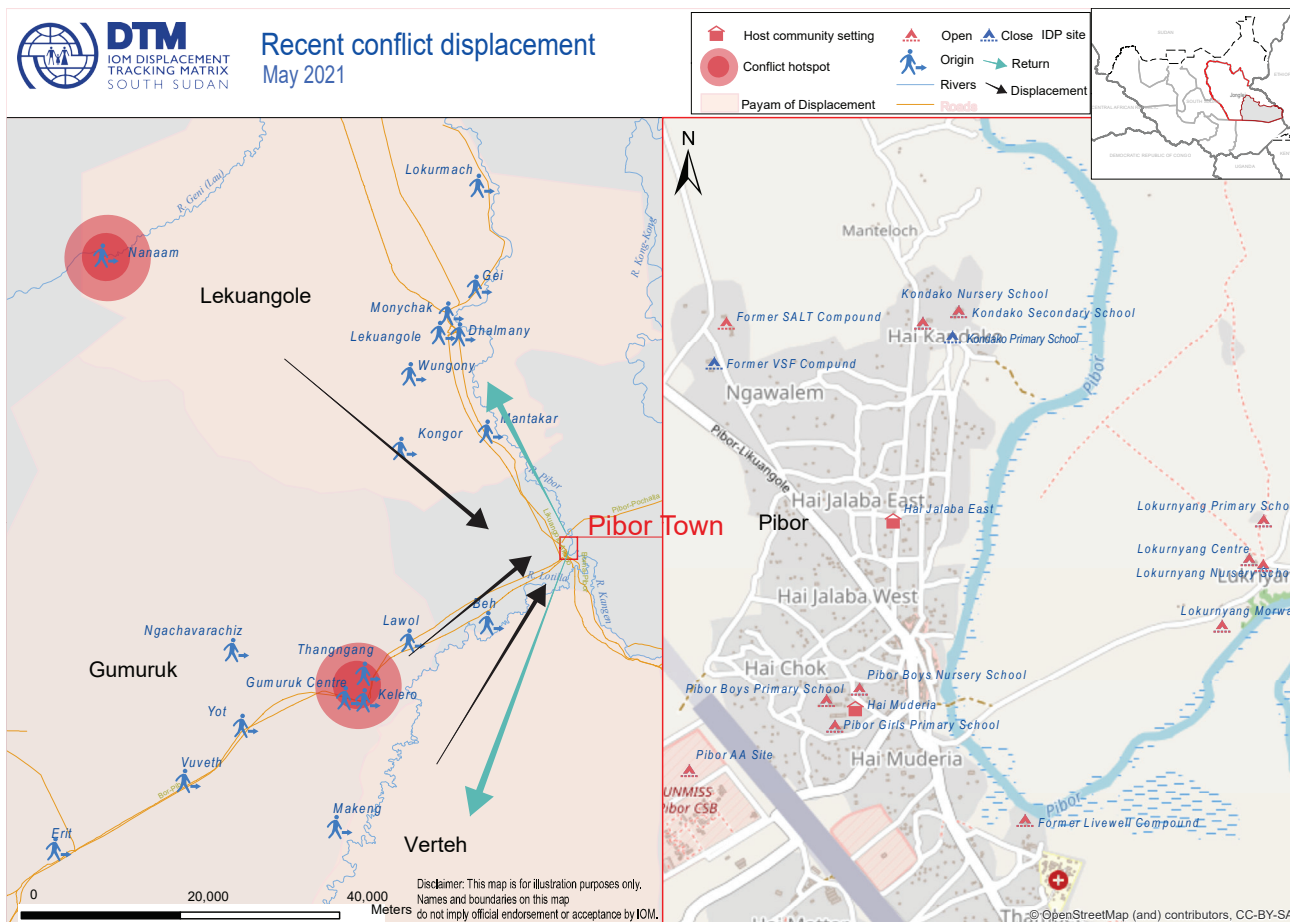


Assessment Recommendations:

- Humanitarian actors should immediately respond to the emergency humanitarian needs of over seven thousand internally displaced persons living in collective centres and spontaneous sites within Pibor town. While many people from areas not directly affected by violence have already returned, IDPs from the Nanaam area and Gumruk payam lost their homes and most of their belongings. They are likely to remain in Pibor until the situation stabilizes and assistance is provided for them to return.
- Humanitarian actors should assess needs and scale up the response in Gumruk Centre, which suffered its second attack in twelve months, and to other affected communities within the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), such as those living in the border area of Kongor boma (Lekuangole payam) along the Nanaam river. Previous assessments have shown that hard-to-reach areas in GPAA face the highest levels of need across sectors and may soon become inaccessible with the onset of the rainy season and likely flooding.
- The Government of South Sudan and UNMISS peacekeepers should step up efforts to protect civilians across the GPAA and in Pibor Town and facilitate the work of humanitarian and development partners while peacebuilding actors continue to engage in, and expand, community dialogues to address the root causes of conflict in coordination with partners on the ground. Repeated failures to prevent and address conflict in Jonglei and the GPAA over the past decade-plus have resulted in the multiple displacements of a large numbers of civilians, collapse of livelihoods systems and destruction of local infrastructure, and catastrophic levels of humanitarian need.





The IDPs occupying one of the NGO's compound in Pibor Town © IOM 2021

Context

An escalation in conflict has led to the displacement of thousands of individuals in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA, former Pibor County) in May 2021, deepening humanitarian needs in an area already facing catastrophic conditions across sectors (HNO 2021) and which had been classified as IPC Phase 5 – ‘Famine Likely’ by a global Famine Review in November 2020.

On 7 May, an attack on Murle villages close to the Nanaam river in Lekuangole payam by armed youth from the Gawaar Nuer and Dinka communities was reported by several sources. Between 7-10 May, a DTM event tracking assessment in three locations within Pibor town carried out by IOM enumerators in collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), estimated the arrival of 1,602 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) from multiple locations in Lekuangole, Gumruk and Pibor Payams. On 10 May the civilian population left Gumruk town, which was overtaken by armed attackers. According to a follow up event tracking assessment, this led to the arrival of an additional estimated 19,090 IDPs to Pibor

town between 11-13 May, most of whom have settled in collective centres within existing school buildings. An unknown number of individuals were also displaced in difficult to reach rural areas in Lekuangole, Gumruk, Pibor and Verteth Payams. After overtaking Gumruk, armed Nuer groups proceeded towards Verteth Payam, allegedly to recover stolen livestock, before returning to their areas of origin outside GPAA. While it is said that the Murle communities have re-established control over the area, the situation remains fragile, especially with respect to the prospect of counter-attacks that could fuel further cycles of conflict both in the GPAA and wider Jonglei State.

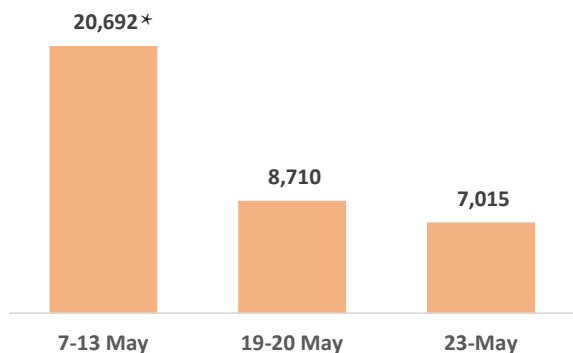
Following a request from OCHA, IOM deployed a joint DTM, CCCM and SNFI team on 18 May to verify the initial displacement figures, assess the needs of the recent IDPs and begin coordinating the response. The team, together with the OCHA field coordinator, held consultations with the RRC and the Chief Administrator of GPAA, before assessing all IDP sites within Pibor town.

Displacement and Return

Upon arrival, the assessment team observed ongoing returns from Pibor town to the IDPs areas of habitual residence, particularly in Lekuangole and Verteth. Based on site assessment findings from 19-20 May, 8,710 individuals (1,743 households) were present in fourteen collective centres and spontaneous sites within Pibor town. By 23 May, the figure had decreased to 7,015 individuals (1,404 households), as 1,055 IDPs staying at the former VSF compound had vacated the site and another 640 left the

former SALT Compound. This represents approximately one third of the 20,692 IDPs estimated through event tracking assessments between 7-13 May. An additional 625 individuals were initially estimated to be living with relatives and friends among the host community and could not be verified through site assessments, while the rest have already returned to their areas of habitual residence. The majority of the remaining recent IDPs in Pibor town are women and children, with some elderly male individuals.

Recently displaced IDPs in collective centres and spontaneous sites within Pibor Town.



* Includes 625 individuals in host-community settings.

The remaining IDPs – primarily from Gumruk payam and the Nanaam area which were directly affected by the conflict – were afraid of further insecurity but expressed a willingness to return to their areas of habitual residence should the situation normalize and plastic sheets be distributed to build emergency shelters.

Based on community group discussions and key informant interviews held across all informal sites and collective centres hosting IDPs within the town, three key drivers of return were identified:

1. The Chief Administrator announced on Sunday 16 May that people from Pibor, Verteth and Lekuangole payams, with exception of those from the Nanaam area near the border of GPAA, should return back to their homes since the fighting did not directly affect them.
2. WFP's planned food distribution in Verteth and Lekuangole led to many IDPs returning to be able to collect food assistance.
3. The security situation in Lekuangole and Verteth improved with Nuer / Dinka armed youth leaving GPAA.

Priority Needs of IDPs in Pibor Town

As of 19-20 May, humanitarian partners in Pibor had not yet began responding to the influx of new IDPs, leaving many in urgent need.



Emergency food assistance

Most IDPs who fled from Gumuruk payam have been severely affected by the violence, losing food supplies and livelihood assets, and are urgently requesting for emergency food assistance. The assessment team found that most households close to no food supplies left to eat.



Emergency shelter and non-food items

The majority of IDPs who fled from Gumuruk payam urgently need shelter materials and NFIs. Many had their shelters destroyed by the attackers and left all their belongings behind as they rushed to leave their homes. The IDPs are sheltering in schools, old buildings and some makeshift shelters built with old plastic materials.



Water access, sanitation and hygiene

People are drinking from the nearby contaminated river. WASH partners should address critical water access, hygiene and sanitation concerns to avoid possible disease outbreaks in the collective sites. With the onset of the raining season acute diarrhea outbreaks may arise if the IDPs are unable to access suitable sanitation facilities. The assessment team observed open defecation within the perimeter of the collective sites.



Health

The available health services lack medicines and supplies to treat the few who are wounded.



Pibor Girls Primary School, one of the locations where thousands of IDPs are living after fleeing conflict in Gummuruk © IOM 2021 / Liatile Putsoa

Situation in the Rest of Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)

As a result of seasonal rains, the roads leading out of Pibor town were impassable at the time of the assessment, complicating efforts to reach the areas most affected by the violence. An inter-agency assessment by helicopter was facilitated by WFP on 22 May.

Gumuruk



Structures were burnt in Gumuruk © IOM 2021

- According to the deputy commissioner, up to 500 individuals returned to Gumuruk Centre from hideouts in the surrounding bush, in Verteth and in Lotila. Between 5 and 10 households return every day to Gumuruk, while a few youths also return to look for their separated family members or to assess whether the area is safe to return their families.
- The deputy commissioner reported that 55 people had been killed, 19 people wounded, 24 children and 10 women abducted, 331 homes destroyed, with attackers targeting homes containing food supplies, and 34,867 heads of cattle raided. The main market, RRC Office, Gumuruk Girls and Clement Primary schools have been burnt down.
- The following humanitarian structures have been destroyed: Medair compound, UNH compound, Logistics Cluster warehouse, Plan International distribution centre, JAM nutrition centre, ZOA store, Across store and NCA compound. Humanitarian supplies of food, NFIs and medicines have been looted or burnt.

Lekuangle

- Lekuangle Centre was not affected by the fighting and most of the population remained in the town. People primarily fled from the affected area near the Nanaam river in Kongor boma, and from other parts of Kongor boma for fear of being attacked. Most people went directly to Pibor town, but an unknown number came to stay with relatives in Lekuangle Centre. The IDPs are waiting for WFP food distribution before returning to Kongor, so as to avoid additional travel between the two locations.



Distribution of tokens for emergency shelter for IDPs living at UNMISS AA site © IOM 2021 / Liatile Putsoa

IOM's responses

IOM continues to scale-up and respond to urgent humanitarian needs amongst displaced populations in the GPAA through Shelter/NFI, CCCM and DTM services, while also addressing the drivers of vulnerability in the area through strategies for enhancing resilience and promoting early recovery, embedding evidence-based and contextual analysis into response planning.

Shelter and Settlement

Shelter and Settlement team conducted a rapid need assessment on the 17th May 2021 for conflict displaced persons in Pibor town. Based on the assessment report findings, the urgent needs include plastic sheet, blankets, mosquito nets and rubber ropes. IOM shelter and Settlement aims to assist the estimates 8,710 individuals (1,743 households) in Pibor town. IOM will start registration and issuance of token for distribution on May 25. As IDPs are voluntarily returning to their area of origin, the number of households may change at the time of distribution. As soon as items are transported, IOM will start the distribution process. Some of the items were expected to arrive Pibor on May 24, 2021, however the flight was cancelled due to bad/wet patches on runway. The cargo is now scheduled for May 25, 2021. The key challenge is delay in delivery of items.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Following the request from OCHA and the CCCM cluster, IOM deployed experienced CCCM staff to assess and respond to the needs of displaced population living in the collective centers in Pibor town. On 19-20 May 2021, CCCM team assessed 14 collective centers with a population of 8,710 individuals (1,743 households) and common to all sites is the immediate need for food, shelter/ NFI, WASH and Health. CCCM also participated in the initial rapid needs assessment (IRNA) in Gumuruk and Lekuangle town on 22 May, these are the areas heavily affected by the violence. CCCM, in coordination with OCHA, RRC and the Chief Administrator, will continue to scale up the core activities to ensure coordination and service monitoring, support self-governance, site care and maintenance, establish complaint and feedback mechanism in Pibor collective sites.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

In response to the influx of IDPs, IOM estimated the extent of displacement in Pibor town through Event Tracking assessments carried out by its local enumerator in collaboration with the RRC. Following a request from OCHA and the CCCM cluster to verify the IDP estimates, IOM deployed a DTM staff who participated in the joint assessment on 19-20 May and coordinated further monitoring of population movement.

Tables showing population in sites and change over time

IDPs in Collective Sites in Pibor Town, 19-20 May 2021

S/N	IDP Sites	Areas of origin	Number of HHs	Number of Individuals	Period of arrival
1	UNMISS AA Site	Lekuangole (Kongor, Wungony, Dhalmany, Lekuangole and Nanaam)	41	200	2019 / 2020
2	Pibor girls primary school	Gumruk (Thangnyang, Kelero, Lawol, Ngacaravarachiz, Gumruk Centre, Vuveno and Irit)	451	2,255	8th to 19th May 2021
3	Pibor boys primary school	Lekuangole (Lekuangole Centre, Mantakar, Gei, Kongor, Lokurmach, Nanaam) and Gumruk Centre	614	3,070	8th to 19th May 2021
4	Pibor boys Nursery School	Gumruk Centre and Lekuangole (Nanaam and Monychak)	51	255	8th to 19th May 2021
5	Kondako Secondary School	Lekuangole (Kongor boma)	10	50	8th to 19th May 2021
6	Kondako Nursery School	Lekuangole (Kongor boma)	11	55	8th to 19th May 2021
7	Langachot Primary School	Gumruk (Thangnyang, Gumruk Centre and Yot)	49	245	8th to 19th May 2021
8	Lokurnyang Morwan	Gumruk (Thangnyang, Gumruk Centre and Yang) and Lekuangole (unspecified)	40	200	8th to 19th May 2021
9	Lokurnyang Nursery School	Gumruk (Gumruk Centre and Kelero)	26	130	8th to 19th May 2021
10	Lokurnyang Primary School	Gumruk (Gumruk Centre and Thangnyang) and Lekuangole (Monychak)	21	105	8th to 19th May 2021
11	Lokurnyang Centre	Gumruk (Gumruk Centre and Kelero) and Verteth	83	415	8th to 19th May 2021
12	Former VSF Compound	Gumruk Centre and Lekuangole (Kongor)	211	1,055	8th to 19th May 2021
13	Former SALT Compound	Lekuangole (Nanaam) and Gumruk (Thangnyang)	130	650	8th to 19th May 2021
14	Former Livewell Compound	Gumruk Centre	5	25	8th to 19th May 2021
TOTAL			1,743	8,710	

IDPs in Collective Sites in Pibor Town, 23 May 2021

S/N	IDP Sites	Areas of origin	Number of HHs	Number of Individuals	Period of arrival
1	UNMISS AA Site	Lekuangole (Kongor, Wungony, Dhalmany, Lekuangole and Nanaam)	41	200	2019 / 2020
2	Pibor girls primary school	Gumruk (Thangnyang, Kelero, Lawol, Ngacaravarachiz, Gumruk Centre, Vuveno and Irit)	451	2,255	8th to 19th May 2021
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11	Lokurnyang Centre	Gumruk (Gumruk Centre and Kelero) and Verteth	83	415	8th to 19th May 2021
12	Former VSF Compound	Gumruk Centre and Lekuangole (Kongor)	-	-	8th to 19th May 2021
13	Former SALT Compound	Lekuangole (Nanaam) and Gumruk (Thangnyang)	2	10	8th to 19th May 2021
14	Former Livewell Compound	Gumruk Centre	5	25	8th to 19th May 2021
TOTAL			1,404	7,015	

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