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RETURN AND REINTEGRATION ENDLINE SURVEY IN SOUTH SUDAN'S FORMER BREADBASKET

Central Equatoria State

Kajo-Keji, Morobo, Lainya and Yei Counties

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INTRODUCTION

As the humanitarian situation in South Sudan remains precarious due to prolonged conflict, socio-political instability, and economic downturns, the dynamics within the Central Equatoria region provides a nuanced perspective. The complex interplay between climate-induced challenges, political strife, and systemic societal shifts continue to shape the humanitarian landscape in South Sudan.

In the early months of 2023, the Southern Central Equatoria region experienced a significant reduction in security-related risks, a promising shift from previous reporting quarters. This can be attributed to numerous dialogues and interventions by consortium members and partner organizations. There has been a notable improvement in conditions conducive to the peaceful return of IDPs and returnees across all four counties. The project peace dialogues between military and civilians and engagement of authorities have reduced tensions, which has granted better access. A crucial highlight of this period is the relocation of the Diocesan office from a refugee camp in Uganda to Liwolo, which marked a significant milestone in the return process for the civilian population.

Nevertheless, challenges persist. The state of social services remains critical, and the amount of returnees although being a very positive outcome, may further strain the health and educational sectors. There is a continued circulation of arms, potential for violence due to untrained law enforcement, and complications arising from cattle migration and the ongoing presence of the National Salvation Front (NAS).

The subsequent quarter saw a relatively calmer security environment, benefiting program implementation. This period witnessed a marked drop in the number of attacks, especially in Lainya and Kajo-Keji counties. Yet, pockets of insecurity persist, as highlighted by the ambush on the Diocesan Anglican Bishop in Morobo County. Tensions continued in Lainya County, primarily due to cattle influx and its associated challenges.

Initiatives from the consortium continued having positive impact on the reduction of violence, diverting the youth from potential criminal activities. The period also saw the reemergence and renovation of markets decimated by the civil war, signifying a slow yet hopeful journey towards economic recovery.

In summary, while there is a notable improvement in the security and socio-economic landscape of the Southern Central Equatoria region in the first half of 2023, challenges remain. The humanitarian situation in South Sudan necessitates continued efforts and interventions tailored to the evolving needs and challenges of the affected communities.

OBJECTIVE

To gain comprehensive insights into the dimensions of return and reintegration, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit executed a targeted study within Southern Central Equatoria State, as part of the Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) project in July 2022. This survey served as the baseline assessment for the project. After a project mid-term review conducted in March 2023 by the company DETCRO Research advisory, the DTM unit in coordination with the RSRTF consortium conducted an endline survey based on the initial baseline. This report presents the findings derived from the data collection exercise and the subsequent development of the Return and Reintegration Index.

This phase of the study will involve a meticulous difference analysis between the baseline and endline, designed to illuminate the shifts in the region's circumstances and provide clarity regarding its current trajectory. By drawing comparisons between these surveys, the intention is to furnish stakeholders with actionable insights that can inform future humanitarian and developmental strategies, ensuring their relevance and effectiveness.

The aim of this report is to enhance the knowledge base available, particularly concerning the barriers and facilitators associated with return and reintegration in Southern Central Equatoria State. It does so by offering a comprehensive overview of the diverse experiences within different population groups residing in Kajo-Keji, Morobo, Lainya, and Yei counties.

The findings obtained through the survey serve the purpose of establishing an endline and pinpointing the gaps and barriers that impact reintegration and stabilization efforts in Southern Central Equatoria State. This report presents a comprehensive analysis based on data that is representative of the county level. It is crucial to interpret the findings with an understanding of this scope. While the collected data provides valuable insights into the conditions and trends within the counties, its representation of smaller, sub-county divisions is more indicative in nature. In essence, while the report captures broader county-level trends, it may not precisely detail every nuance or variation present at sub-county levels.

Thus, while our findings serve as a robust tool for policy direction and understanding at the county scale, further localized studies may be required to gain a granular perspective of specific sub-county regions.

In summary, while there is a notable improvement in reduction of violence and socio-economic landscape of the Southern Central Equatoria region in the first half of 2023, challenges remain. The situation in Southern Central Equatoria necessitates continued efforts and interventions tailored to the evolving needs and challenges of the affected communities.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection Overview

A quantitative survey was carried out between the 11th to 28th of August 2023 within four counties in Southern Central Equatoria State: Kajo-Keji, Lainya, Morobo and Yei. These counties were targeted for Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience area-based programming. In each of the four counties, areas within the capital city and accessible locations that were experiencing return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) were assessed. The study used a stratified two stage sampling method with a replacement strategy and representativeness at county level (see the Appendix for further information on the sampling used to select the households for the survey). The data covered four population groups, namely: returnees, relocated persons, IDPs and members of the host community. The data also includes information on eight key areas: housing (shelter), livelihoods, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), health, education, social cohesion, community stability and protection.

Data Conversion

The survey had both single-answer questions and multiple-answer questions. Single-answer questions asked respondents to pick one option from a pre-determined list of answer options while multiple-answer questions invited respondents to “check all that apply.” The data for the single-answer questions was converted into a numerical version. Each response was ranked, and each rank was converted into a numeric value, from 0 to 10. The rank for each option on a question was assigned from the most favourable option to the least favourable option. For example, questions with only two answer options (such as: Yes or No) were ranked as either most favourable (1) or least favourable (2). The ranks are then converted to numeric values, where a rank of 1 means 10 and a rank of 2 means 0. This logic was extended to all the single-answer questions regardless of the number of options. If a question has three answer options, the rank for each will be converted to a numeric value of either 0 (least favourable), 5 (neutral) or 10 (most favourable). Please see table below for examples on data conversion. This formula of calculation was designed to ensure that all options fall between 0 and 10, regardless of question format, or the number of options that a question had. This ensured any subsequent analysis on the numerical version of the data was done on indicators that are on the same scale. (Please see the Appendix on page 28 for further information on the methodology used to convert the respondents’ answers into numbers).

Table 1: Examples of how the data conversion was done for some of the questions in the survey

Question on the Survey	Response options	Rank	Numeric data
Do you own a house/property?	Yes	1	10
Do you own a house/property?	No	2	0
Rate the level of stability of your community	Very stable	1	10
Rate the level of stability of your community	Stable	2	7.5
Rate the level of stability of your community	Neutral	3	5
Rate the level of stability of your community	Unstable	4	2.5
Rate the level of stability of your community	Very unstable	5	0

Return And Reintegration Index Calculation

The Return and Reintegration Index provides an indication of the conditions in different counties in Southern Central Equatoria, and how favourable these conditions are for the return and reintegration of displaced people. The calculation of the Index is a sum of the different indicators with a weight assigned to each of the indicators to show the relative importance to of the indicator. The different Index Components and weights applied to them are based on the IASC durable solutions criteria: 1.) Safety and security, 2.) Adequate standard of living, 3.) Access to livelihood, 4.) Restoration of housing, land, and property, 5.) Access to documentation, 6.) Family reunification, 7.) Participation in public affairs, and 8.) Access to effective remedies and justice.

$$\text{Return and Reintegration Index} = \text{stability} * 0.3 + ([\text{peace} + \text{safety}]/2) * 0.2 + \text{services} * 0.2 + \text{livelihood} * 0.2 + \text{housing} * 0.1 + \text{justice} * 0.1 + \text{governance} * 0.1$$

This formula defines the Index as a combination of community stability (weighted at 30.0%), peace plus safety (weighted at 20%), access to services (weighted at 15%), access to livelihood (weighted at 15.0%), housing (weighted at 10.0%), access to justice (weighted at 5.0%) and presence of fair governance (weighted at 5.0%). All the indicators used in the calculation of the Index are on a Likert Scale from 0 to 10, therefore, the Index ranges from 0 to 10.

Table 2: Table showing the different questions (indicators) that were used in the calculation of the Return and Reintegration Index

Index Component	Question
Stability	Rate the level of stability of your community from very unstable to very stable.
Peace	Do you feel that people live peacefully together in your community?
Services	Do you feel that you have access to basic services in your community without discrimination?
Safety	Do you feel that you live in a secure and safe community?
Livelihood	Do you feel that you have access to livelihoods in community without discrimination?
Services	Do you feel that you have access to basic services in your community without discrimination?
Housing	Do you own a house property?
Governance	Do you feel that your local government in your community is fair?
Justice	Do you feel that you have access to justice in your community without discrimination?

KEY FINDINGS

1. IDP & Returnee Reintegration Conditions:

- The reintegration conditions for IDPs and returnees are moderately satisfactory, with an average index score of 5.7 out of 10, indicating moderate favorability.
- Kajo-Keji and Morobo offer more favorable conditions for both return and reintegration compared to Lainya.
- Safety and access to resources are pivotal, with localities scoring higher on the index typically being safer and having better resource access.
- Housing, while important, has a smaller correlation with the index and thus plays a less significant role in the overall favorability of conditions.

2. Housing Land and Property:

- Property ownership is high, with 74.9% of respondents reporting ownership of a house or property. However, there is a notable gap in official documentation, with only 35.9% indicating they possess land ownership documents, an increase from the baseline figure of 28.1%.
- Rental accommodations are common, with 63.01% of respondents living in rented spaces, and of these, a significant percentage of shelters are reported as partially damaged, necessitating infrastructural attention.

3. WASH & Healthcare:

- The establishment and maintenance of boreholes as the primary water source are essential. Despite some progress in sanitation, with 55.3% of respondents having access to household latrines, open defecation is still practiced by 27.7%, highlighting the need for improved sanitation infrastructure.

- Health facilities, despite the increase in accessibility (14.5% increase from the baseline), challenges such as shortages in medicine still persist.

4. Education:

- School attendance has surged, but this is marred by increasing dropout rates.
- Although barriers to education including financial issues (fees or school related costs) and logistical issues (far distance to school or lack of transportation) might have eased, infrastructural and teaching quality concerns need to be addressed.

5. Community Engagement & Gender Dynamics:

- Community involvement is growing, but regional and demographic disparities continue. For example, the percentage of female property owners is highest in Yei at 50.4% and lowest in Morobo at 44.1%, reflecting the varied levels of community engagement across regions.

6. Population Group Index Scores:

- The average index scores for different population groups are as follows: IDPs and Returnees both have an average score of 5.7, indicating a moderate level of reintegration success.
- Members of the Host Community have a slightly lower score of 5.4, and Relocated individuals have the lowest score of 5.3, suggesting that while there is some level of stability and reintegration success, there are still challenges that need to be addressed to improve the conditions for all groups.

7. Economic Livelihoods and Protection:

- There is a downward trend in the perception of fair access to livelihoods (a 13.4% decrease in the endline), indicating the need for more inclusive economic strategies.
- Rising awareness of protection services is encouraging, yet there are emerging challenges requiring adaptive policy adjustments.

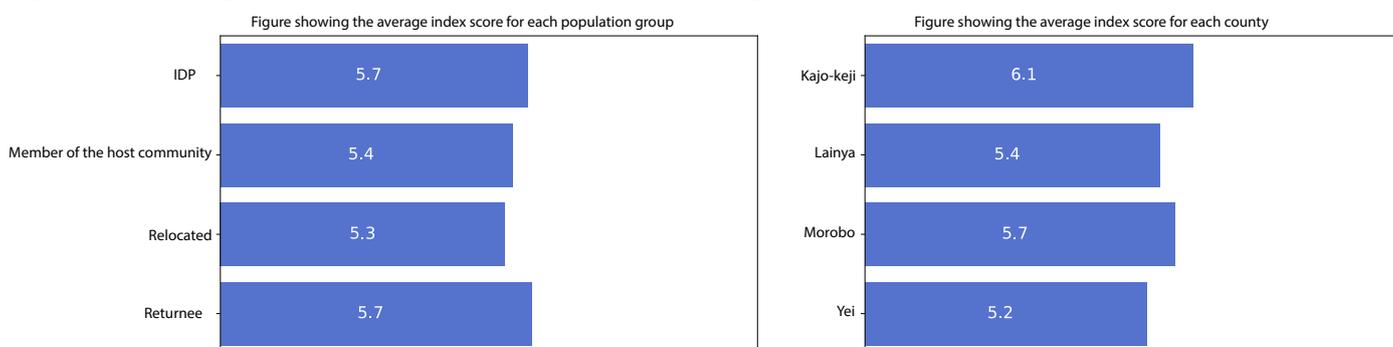
INDEX RESULTS

Results and Findings from the Index

The index score ranges from 0 to 10, where the higher the index the more favorable the conditions are for the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees. The calculation of the index was done at the household level and the results were aggregated at all administrative levels and by population type.

The average (mean) index score across all population types is 5.56 out of 10, with both the mean and median values indicating that the central tendency of the data is between 5 and 6.

Figure 1: The average index scores across the different population groups and across the four counties, respectively.



Kajo-Keji and Morobo emerge as the two best-performing counties, as determined by the average (mean) index scores. While ‘Returnees’ and ‘IDPs’ report the highest mean index scores at 5.79 and 5.72 respectively, it’s important to note that the deviation among the different population groups is minimal, with all scores ranging between 5.3 and 5.7. This indicates a relatively uniform experience across the board, suggesting that while some groups are slightly better off, no single group is significantly outperforming or lagging behind the others in terms of the index score. Returnees and IDPs appear to experience relatively favorable conditions for return and reintegration compared to those who have been relocated.

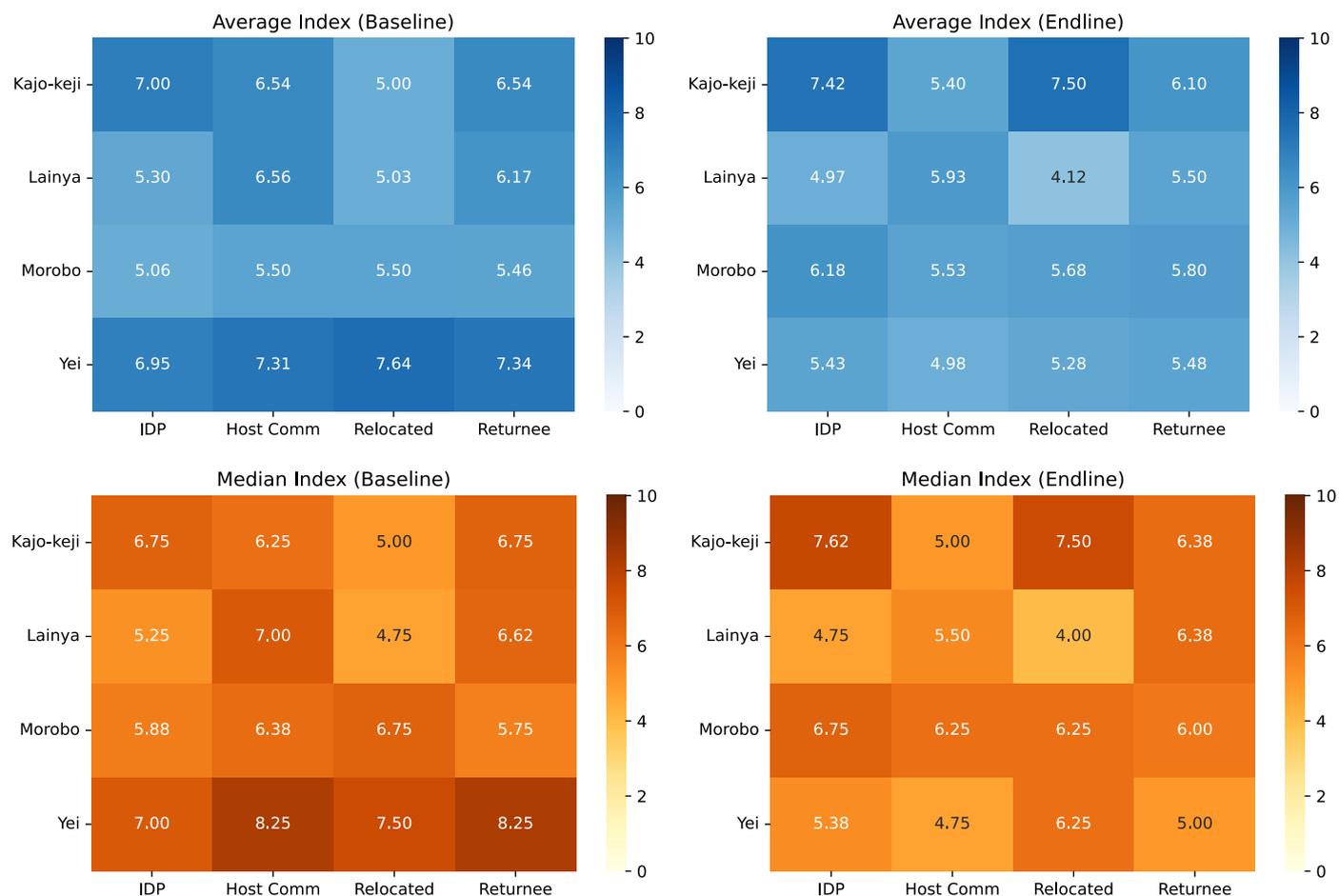
To promote a more equitable transition and recovery phase, it is imperative to ensure the accessibility of diverse services across all communities, especially those accommodating IDPs and relocated individuals.

Only 2 households (in Kajo-Keji County) have an index of 0, while 3 households have an index of 10. None of these households with an index of 10 are in Yei County. This highlights that among the population groups surveyed, IDPs and returnees experience the most favorable conditions. Therefore, a key challenge is to extend these conditions to the recently relocated and host community members.

The two figures below display the average and median index scores, ranging from 0 to 10, for each of the population groups across the four counties. While the mean and median are closely aligned for all the 16 combinations illustrated in the heatmaps below, it's essential to note that due to the small sizes of some population groups, a particularly high or low index score can significantly influence the average index score. While some of the sample sizes might not be substantial enough to derive definitive conclusions, the heatmaps below provide insights into the level of intervention required in each community. Communities with lower index scores necessitate more intervention than those with higher index scores. Moreover, the heatmaps shed light on the specific type of intervention needed in different communities. For instance:

- In Kajo-Keji County, IDP households have a notably higher average index score of 7.42 compared to the Host Community's 5.40. This suggests that while services are available and accessible to IDPs in this county, there's room for improvement in extending these services or raising awareness about them among the Host Community.
- Lainya County presents a scenario where all population groups have relatively lower average index scores, with IDPs at 4.97 and Relocated individuals at 4.12. This indicates a need for a more comprehensive intervention across all communities in Lainya to enhance living conditions and service accessibility.
- In Morobo County, the average index scores for all population groups are closely clustered, ranging from 5.53 for the Host Community to 6.18 for IDPs. This suggests that interventions in Morobo can be broad-based, targeting all communities equally to uplift the overall living conditions.
- Yei County shows a more balanced distribution of average index scores across the population groups, with scores hovering around the mid-5s. This indicates a general need for improvements across all communities, without any particular group lagging far behind the others.

Figure 2: Comparison between the baseline and endline average (mean) and median index scores for each population group across the four counties.



Kajo-Keji County:

- Average Index (Baseline): IDP households had a notably higher average index score of 7.0 compared to the Host Community's 6.5, indicating better conditions for IDPs.
- Average Index (Endline): The trend continues with IDPs having a higher average index score of 7.4 compared to the Host Community's 5.4 in the Endline. This suggests that services are generally available and accessible to IDPs in this county, but there's room for improvement in extending these services or raising awareness about them among the Host Community.
- Median Index (Baseline): IDPs had a median index score of 6.8, again indicating better conditions compared to the Host Community's 6.3.
- Median Index (Endline): In the Endline, the pattern remains, with IDPs having a higher median index score of 7.6 compared to the Host Community's 5.0.

Lainya County:

- Average Index (Baseline): All population groups had relatively lower average index scores in the Baseline, with IDPs at 5.3 and Relocated individuals at 5.0, indicating a need for comprehensive intervention across all communities.
- Average Index (Endline): In the Endline, the pattern continues with IDPs at 4.9 and Relocated individuals at 4.1, reaffirming the need for a more comprehensive intervention across all communities in Lainya.
- Median Index (Baseline): Similar to the average scores, all population groups had lower median index scores in the Baseline, with IDPs at 5.3 and Relocated individuals at 4.6.
- Median Index (Endline): In the Endline, the pattern persists, with IDPs at 4.6 and Relocated individuals at 4.0, reinforcing the need for comprehensive interventions.

Morobo County:

- Average Index (Baseline): The average index scores for all population groups in Morobo County were closely clustered in the Baseline, ranging from 5.1 for the Host Community to 5.5 for Relocated individuals, suggesting a need for broad-based interventions targeting all communities equally.
- Average Index (Endline): In the Endline, this pattern continues, with average index scores ranging from 5.5 for the Host Community to 6.2 for IDPs, reinforcing the need for broad-based interventions to uplift overall living conditions.
- Median Index (Baseline): Similar to the average scores, the median index scores in the Baseline were closely clustered, ranging from 5.5 for Relocated individuals to 6.8 for IDPs.
- Median Index (Endline): In the Endline, this pattern persists, with median index scores ranging from 5.3 for Relocated individuals to 6.8 for IDPs.

Yei County:

- Average Index (Baseline): Yei County showed a more balanced distribution of average index scores across the population groups in the Baseline, with scores hovering around the mid-6s. This indicated a general need for improvements across all communities, without any particular group lagging far behind the others.
- Average Index (Endline): In the Endline, a similar pattern is observed, with average index scores continuing to hover around the mid-5s, reinforcing the general need for improvements across all communities.
- Median Index (Baseline): In the Baseline, Yei County exhibited a balanced distribution of median index scores, with scores ranging from 6.3 for Relocated individuals to 7.2 for IDPs.
- Median Index (Endline): In the Endline, this pattern remains consistent, with median index scores ranging from 6.38 for Relocated individuals to 7.0 for IDPs.

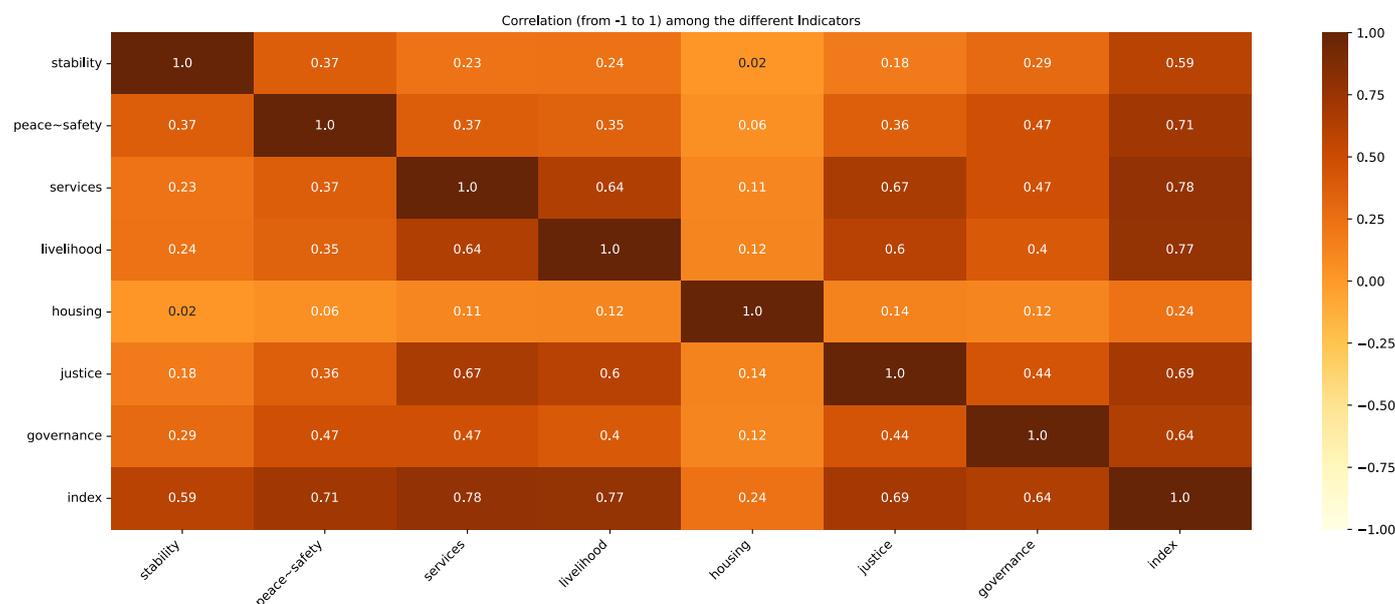
Furthermore, these index scores can guide the type of programming by IOM (and its partners) and the South Sudan government. Analyzing the progress, especially in counties like Kajo-Keji, can provide insights into replicable projects that can be implemented in other regions to enhance the favorability of conditions there. The difference analysis indicates that, while some improvements have occurred, the general trends and relative conditions among population groups and counties have remained consistent over time, highlighting the ongoing need for intervention and support.

Correlations Among the Index Indicators

Correlation coefficients provide insights into the strength and direction of the relationship between two variables. In this analysis, a Pearson correlation was employed to discern any linear relationships among the indicators used to compute the index. This coefficient is a singular value that encapsulates both the strength and direction of the linear relationship between two continuous variables, with potential values ranging from -1 to +1.

1. **Strength:** The absolute value of the Pearson correlation coefficient indicates the strength of the relationship. Extreme values of -1 and 1 signify a perfectly linear relationship, where a change in one variable is perfectly mirrored by a change in the other. Conversely, a coefficient of zero denotes no linear relationship.
2. **Direction:** The sign of the Pearson correlation coefficient indicates the relationship's direction. Positive coefficients arise when both variables tend to increase or decrease together, while negative coefficients arise when one variable's increase corresponds to the other's decrease.

Figure 3: The heatmap below illustrates the correlations among the indicators used to compute the index.

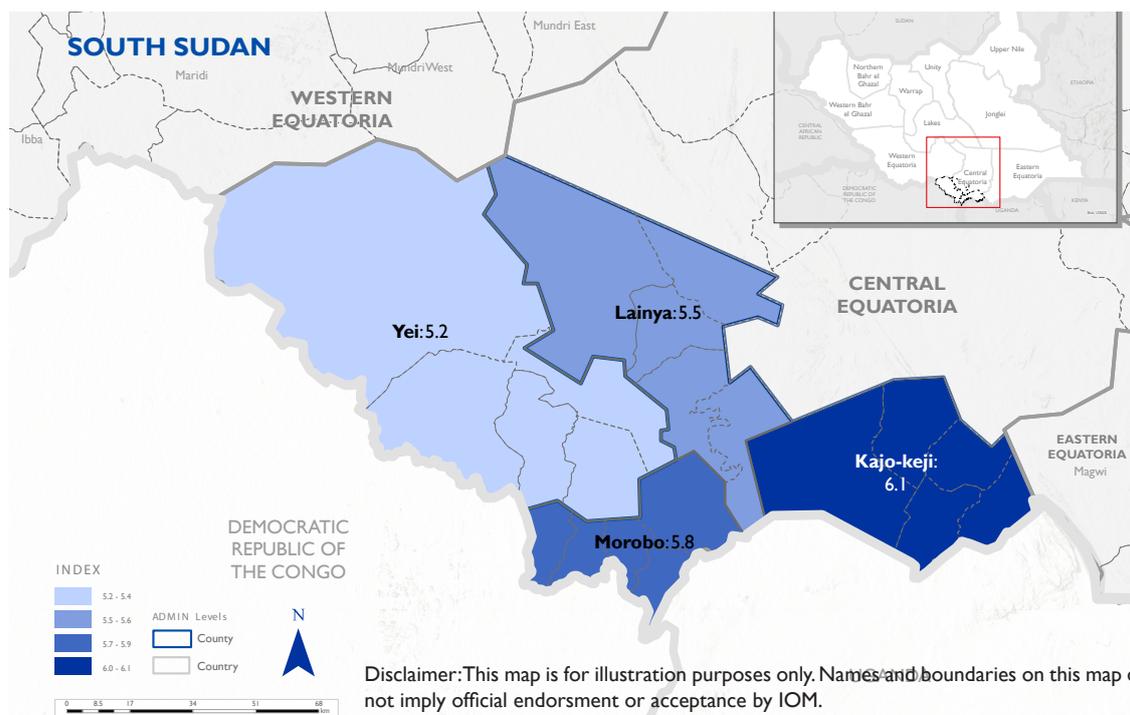


It is paramount to understand that correlation does not equate to causation; only controlled experiments can ascertain if a relationship is causal.

Key findings from the correlation heatmap include:

- The analysis of correlation coefficients indicates a robust linear relationship between the return and reintegration index and three key indicators: services, livelihood, and peace and safety. Specifically, services exhibit the strongest correlation (0.78), followed closely by livelihood (0.77) and peace and safety (0.71). This pattern suggests that areas scoring high on these indicators are likely to have higher overall index values, pointing to better conditions for return and reintegration. Conversely, a decline in any of these indicators tends to correspond with a lower index score.
- Among the indicators used in the index, housing (0.3) exhibits the weakest correlation with the overall index, suggesting that the return and reintegration index isn't predominantly determined by ownership of property.
- Further emphasizing the importance of these indicators, an overwhelming majority of households (183 out of 190) with an index score of 8/10 also achieved the highest possible scores for services, livelihood, and peace and safety. This highlights the critical role these indicators play in shaping the conditions for return and reintegration, and suggests they should be focal points for any interventions aimed at improving these conditions.

Map 2: Average return and reintegration index for the 4 counties that were assessed.



Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

The comparison between the initial and subsequent surveys reveals a decrease in the return and reintegration index scores, with the average score moving from 6.40 to 5.56 and the median from 6.75 to 5.50. Kajo-Keji remains consistent in its performance, while Morobo now ranks above Yei, which had previously been at the forefront. The group with the lowest index score has shifted from IDPs at 5.37 to relocated individuals at 5.30. There is also a noted increase in households with an index score of 0 and a decrease in those achieving a score of 10, with Yei County no longer featuring households in the highest scoring bracket.

These observations indicate changes in the living conditions of displaced individuals in Southern Central Equatoria State. Yei County's reduced scores and the issues facing relocated individuals are particular areas where the current situation differs from the past. The variation in index scores, including the rise in the lowest scores and the reduction in the highest, suggests a change in the landscape of displacement and reintegration.

While some regions show progress, the overall context for the reintegration of displaced individuals in Southern Central Equatoria State presents a complex picture. The data reflects a dynamic situation that continues to evolve, underscoring the diverse experiences and conditions of the displaced populations across different counties and groups.

SURVEY FINDINGS ON ANALYSIS FROM THE THEMATIC AREAS

Household Demographic Profiles

In the latest findings from DTM's Mobility Tracking Round 14, significant demographic trends emerge across various regions. Kajo-Keji remains home to approximately 27,195 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as of April 2023 and has received 56,994 returnees, reflecting the dynamic nature of population movements. Yei hosts a substantial population, with 58,069 IDPs and 62,366 returnees while Lainya's data reveals approximately 55,190 IDPs coexisting with 26,098 returnees. Morobo registers 12,765 IDPs and 8,338 returnees

Table 3: Distribution of the number of households surveyed across counties, by population group

Population Group	Kajo-Keji	Lainya	Morobo	Yei	Total
Returnee	106	59	116	48	329
Reocated	1	4	7	9	21
Member of the Host Community	33	56	34	64	187
IDP	16	40	19	26	101
Total	156	159	176	147	614

Returnees constituted the majority of survey respondents, making up 51.6 per cent of the total. This was followed by members of the host community at 29.3 per cent, internally displaced persons (IDPs) at 15.8 per cent, and relocated persons at 3.3 per cent.

Data overview by population group: The distribution of population groups varies across the four counties. The highest proportion of returnees was found in Morobo (33.1%) followed closely by Kajo-keji (32.2%). Yei had the largest share of host community members at 34.2 per cent. The majority of IDPs and relocated persons were in Lainya, accounting for 39.6 per cent and 19.0 per cent respectively.

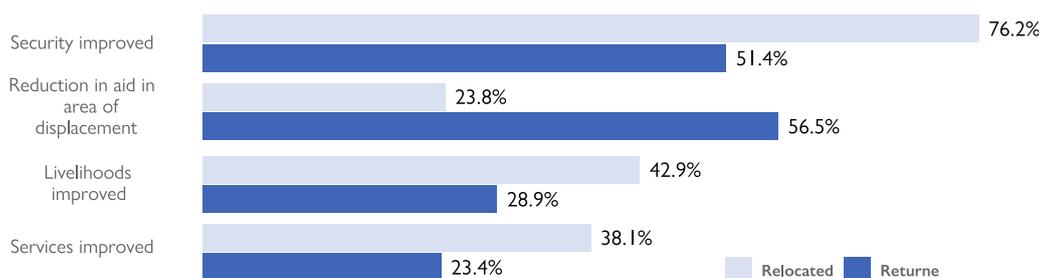
Data overview by county: In both Kajo-keji and Morobo, returnees were the predominant group, representing 67.9 per cent and 65.9 per cent respectively. In Lainya, the largest group was returnees as well, but they made up a slightly smaller proportion at 37.1 per cent. In Yei, the majority were members of the host community, accounting for 43.5 per cent of respondents.

The average age among all participants remains 42 years old, and the majority of survey participants are the head of their household (88.8%). The gender distribution in the survey was almost even, with 48.9 per cent female and 52.1 per cent male, indicating a balanced representation of female-headed households in South Sudan. The proportion of female participants was highest in Yei County (54.8%) and lowest in Morobo County (39.6%). The average household size stands at 6.7 persons per household, with a median of six persons. Household sizes range from a single individual to as many as 28 members.

Snapshot on returnees and relocated persons

In 2023, South Sudan witnessed significant population movements, as documented by IOM during their Mobility Tracking conducted between March and April 2023. As per the Mobility Tracking exercise in March and April, a total 2,335,602 returnees and 2,027,331 IDPs were reported. Of the total, 27 per cent were returnees from abroad, while 73 per cent were returnees within South Sudan. Counties like Twic, Gogrial West, Yambio, Maiwut, and Ayod had the highest numbers of returnees, with border counties hosting a significant portion of those returning from abroad. For IDPs, 92 per cent were displaced within SSD and 8 per cent had been previously displaced abroad. Approximately 31 per cent of IDPs were concentrated in Rubkona, Juba, Canal Pigi, and Bor South counties, while Ulang county hosted fewer than 1,000 IDPs. Overall, the data indicated a net decrease in IDPs from 2,257,672 in August 2022 to 2,027,331 in April 2023, attributed to various factors, including both increased IDPs in re-assessed locations and the addition of IDPs in newly assessed areas.

Figure 4: Main reported reasons for returning to areas of return among returnees and relocated persons, by percentage



For context, the numbers presented in this analysis represent the total count of individuals within each surveyed household, offering insights into the demographic trends across different regions. In Morobo, with the highest number of returnees at 791, the main reason for their return was the security improvement in the return area, with 60 households (29.70%) citing this reason. Similarly, in Kajo-Keji, out of the 586 returnees, 88 cited the reduction in aid as the primary reason. On the other hand, in Lainya, which has 403 returnees, 46 households (or 38.65%) reported that they returned because the security situation improved. This suggests that a significant majority of respondents from Lainya have positive perceptions of the general security situation and believe that conditions in Lainya are favorable for return. Over the assessments, the reasons for return among the displaced population present noticeable variations. For instance, the endline indicates an uptick in the number of returnees attributing their decision to improved security in the return area, with a total of 169 citing this reason compared to the 136 from the baseline. Similarly, there was an increased emphasis on the enhancement of services as a motivating factor, with the number rising from 55 in the baseline to 77 in the endline. However, not all reasons saw an increase. The notion of improved livelihoods as a reason for return seems to have taken a backseat in the endline, declining from 143 in the baseline to 95 in the endline. Interestingly, the factor of a reduction in aid has maintained its influence consistently across both surveys, with 186 returnees identifying it as a primary reason in each survey. Frictions with the host community, on the other hand, have lessened as a cause for concern, dropping from 69 in the baseline to 57 in the endline. Delving into regional variations, Kajo-keji observed a reduction in its returnee population from 721 to 586 between the baseline and endline respectively, while the relocated figures shifted from 12 to 3. Lainya showcased a contrasting trend.

In the endline, the number of returnees surged to 403, a stark increase from 214 in the baseline, though the number of relocated individuals dipped from 83 to 24. Morobo's returnee count rose moderately from 712 to 791, and the number of relocated individuals experienced a negligible decrease from 50 to 45. Lastly, Yei demonstrated a mixed bag of results. The endline recorded a slight decline in returnees from 368 to 311 but saw an elevation in relocated numbers from 40 to 68. These figures reflect the changes in population distribution as recorded in the surveys and may not necessarily indicate broader population movements or trends.

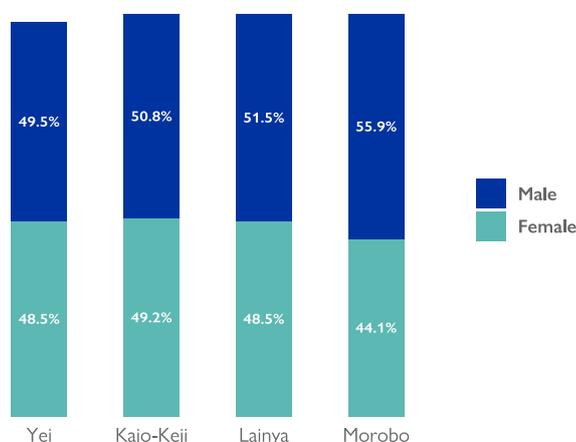
Housing, Land and Property

Among all survey respondents, 74.9 per cent reported owning a house or property. Breaking this down by gender, 52 per cent were male and 48 per cent were female. Morobo had the highest percentage of respondents owning property at 56.6 per cent, followed by Yei at 52.1 per cent. The share of female property owners was highest in Yei at 50.4 per cent and smallest in Morobo at 44.1 per cent.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents who reported owning a house or property, by population group

Do you own a house or property?		
Population Group	Yes	No
Returnee	76.0%	24.0%
Relocated	52.4%	47.6%
Host community	87.7%	12.3%
IDP	52.5%	47.5%

Figure 5: Distribution of respondents who reported owning a house or property, by sex, in each county, by percentage



Among the respondents, the percentage that reported owning a house or property remains consistent between the baseline and endline, being roughly 74.9 per cent. Delving into the specifics of possession of land ownership documents, the endline reveals that 64.0 per cent of the respondents confirmed they do not possess these documents. In contrast, 35.9 per cent indicated having them.

This represents an increase from the baseline where only 28.1 per cent confirmed having land ownership documents, while a sizable 71.9 per cent did not.

HLP and Population Categories:

- 75.9 per cent of the returnees reported owning a house or property in the endline a slight decrease from 78.1 per cent in the baseline.
- Relocated respondents owning property increased marginally from 52.0 per cent in the baseline to 52.3 per cent in the endline.
- Members of the host community have seen a reduction in property ownership from 89.1 per cent in the baseline to 87.7 per cent in the endline.
- IDPs owning property increased from 43.8 per cent in the baseline to 52.4 per cent in the endline.

The observed changes underscore the importance of land and property ownership documentation. While there's a slight improvement in the endline, a significant portion of the population still lacks these crucial documents, emphasizing an area that may benefit from focused intervention. Among those who reported having land ownership documents, the distribution varies across different regions and population groups. Specifically:

Figure 6: Reported population groups with land ownership documents

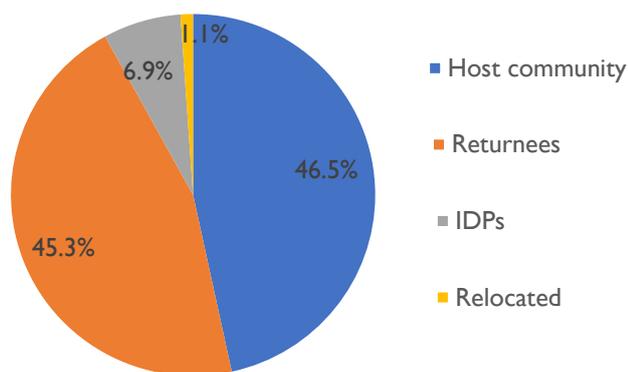


Table 5: Distribution of respondents who reported possessing land ownership documents, among each population group, by county

Do you possess a land ownership document?								
Population group within each county	Returnee		Relocated		Host community		IDP	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Kajo-Keji	86.4%	13.6%	100.0%	0.0%	80.7%	19.4%	83.3%	16.7%
Lainya	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%	0.0%	52.4%	47.6%	80.0%	20.0%
Morobo	62.2%	37.8%	80.0%	20.0%	43.8%	56.3%	77.8%	22.2%
Yei	61.1%	38.9%	75.0%	25.0%	39.0%	61.0%	66.7%	33.3%

Regarding the living situation, 36.9% of respondents reported living in owned accommodation, while a significant 63.0% were in rented accommodation. Of those renting, 43.6% had a formal agreement, 47.5% had an informal agreement, and 8.9% were renting from the authorities.

Figure 6: Distribution of respondents who reported living in a house or property that is their own vs those renting, among respondents who reported owning a house.

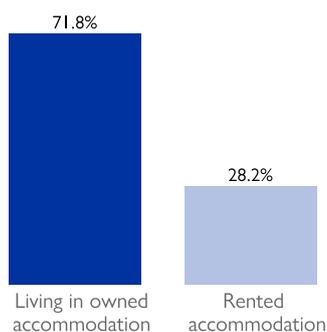
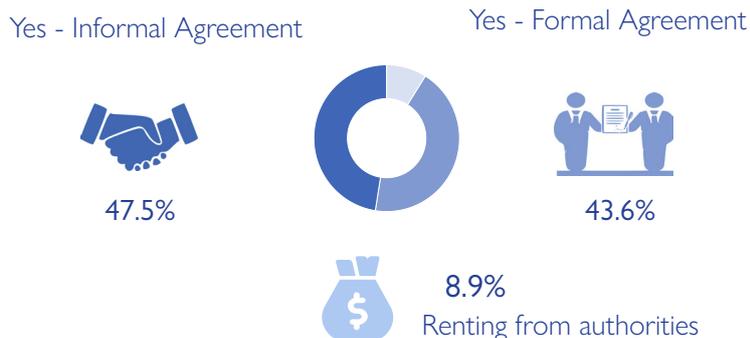
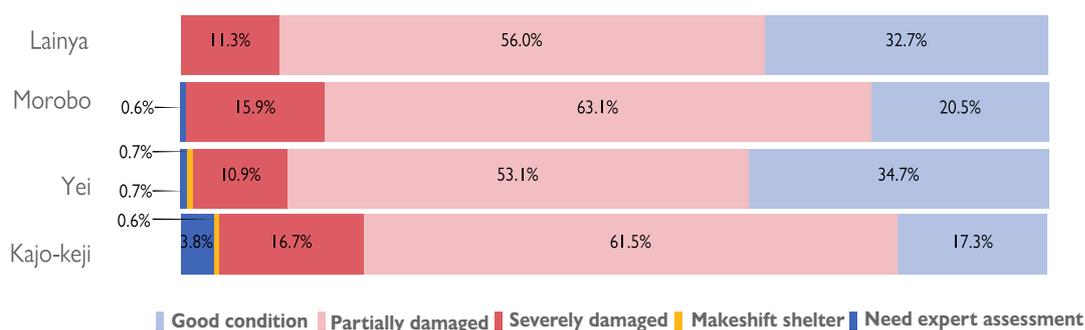


Figure 7: Types of reported rental agreements, among respondents who are renting their places of accommodation



When assessing the condition of the housing, in Morobo, 63.1 per cent of respondents reported that their shelters were partially damaged, followed by Kajo-keji at 61.5 per cent, Lainya at 55.9 per cent, and Yei at 53.0 per cent. Among respondents who reported that their shelters are damaged, the majority required roofing.

Figure 8: Reported housing conditions



Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

When comparing the baseline and endline datasets, a series of evolving patterns and constants are discerned:

Housing, Land, and Property Ownership: The overall property ownership remains stable, with a negligible 0.1% increase from the baseline to the endline report. However, the gender dynamics of ownership have shifted towards a more equitable distribution, with females now owning a slightly larger share compared to the baseline

County Dynamics:

- Increase in Property Ownership: Kajo-Keji and Lainya counties experienced an uptick in property ownership rates, with Kajo-Keji showing a notable increase of 4.09 per cent from 23.5 per cent to 27.6 per cent, and Lainya a modest rise of 0.6 per cent from 20.0 per cent to 20.7 per cent.
- Decrease in Property Ownership: In contrast, Morobo and Yei counties saw a decline in property ownership rates. Morobo’s ownership rate slightly decreased by 0.3 per cent from 28.7 per cent to 28.4 per cent, while Yei faced a more significant reduction of 4.4 per cent from 27.6 per cent to 23.2 per cent.

These shifts provide insights into the evolving socio-economic conditions in these regions or potential data collection discrepancies. The stark contrast, especially in Yei’s significant reduction and Kajo-keji’s growth, underscores the need for closer examination and potential interventions.

Land Ownership Documentation: A striking change is observed in the number of respondents possessing land ownership documents. Compared to the baseline, the endline data reveals a marked increase from 28.1 per cent to 35.9 per cent. This shift could suggest a heightened awareness about land rights, enhanced administrative efficiency, or both.

Shelter Conditions: While the baseline report presented a consolidated percentage for damaged shelters, the endline offers a county-specific breakdown. Morobo stands out with a notably high percentage of respondents reporting damaged shelters.

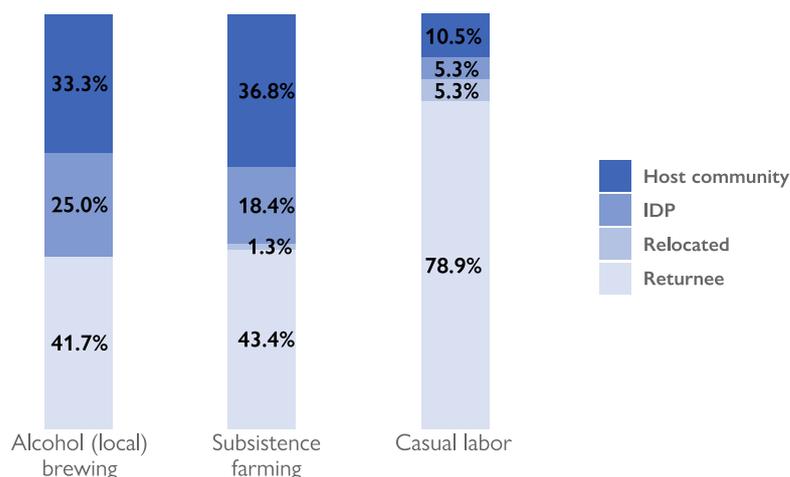
Significant Changes: The near-constant percentage in property ownership suggests a stable trend, potentially indicative of unchanged socio-economic conditions or consistent property rights awareness. The gender distribution’s shift towards balance might be a testament to progressive societal norms or effective gender equality campaigns. The pronounced decrease in property ownership in Morobo and Yei raises concerns about potential socio-economic challenges or displacement issues in these counties. The surge in land ownership documentation is a positive sign, potentially reducing land disputes and bolstering property owners’ security. The county-specific shelter conditions, especially Morobo’s high damaged shelters percentage, underscore the need for targeted shelter interventions.

In summary, the data indicates stable property ownership rates alongside significant changes in gender dynamics, increased documentation of land ownership, and diverse shelter conditions. These developments, particularly the advancements in gender equality in property ownership, are noteworthy. Housing, land, and property (HLP) rights are crucial factors in assessing durable solutions. The progress observed, especially among female-headed households, plays a vital role in fostering long-term stability and effective reintegration.

Livelihoods

The predominant source of income for survey respondents remains subsistence farming, with 80.4 per cent of respondents engaged in this activity. This is followed by casual labor, which accounts for 19.6 per cent of respondents. When breaking down by population status, 75.7 per cent of returnees, 89.4 per cent of relocated individuals, 84.2 per cent of members of the host community, and 86.9 per cent of IDPs rely on subsistence farming.

Figure 9: Chart showing the population group who do not feel safe and the livelihood activity they engage in



In terms of other sources of income, 50.8 per cent of respondents are involved in agriculture, 18.7 per cent in business, 2.5 per cent in other specified activities, 4.2 per cent in handicrafts, and 15.4 per cent in livestock. A detailed breakdown of specific occupations reveals that 48.1 per cent are engaged in tailoring, 37.1 per cent in carpentry, 32.1 per cent in food processing, and smaller percentages in dairy processing (2.2%).

Figure 10: The reported technical skills HH members have, by percentage (more than one answer option possible, total equals more than 100%)

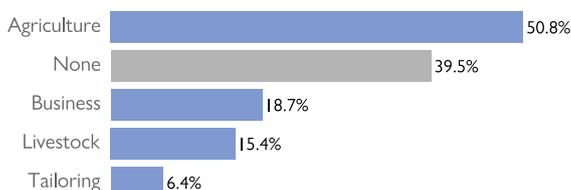
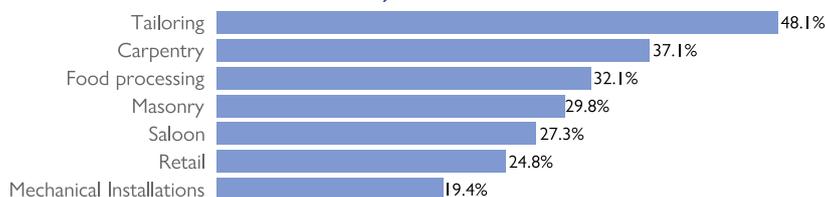


Figure 11: The livelihood and vocational skills respondents perceived to be relevant to them or members of their HH (more than one answer option possible, total equals more than 100%)



Market access is crucial for their livelihoods. In terms of accessing major markets, respondents from Kajo-keji predominantly access markets in Uganda (77.8%), while those from Lainya primarily access Yei markets (85.0%). Respondents from Morobo have a more diverse market access, with 35.5 per cent accessing Uganda markets, 25.8 per cent accessing markets in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring counties. In Yei, a significant 86.1 per cent of respondents access Yei markets.

Figure 12: Reported places respondents get their supplies from, by each county, by percentage

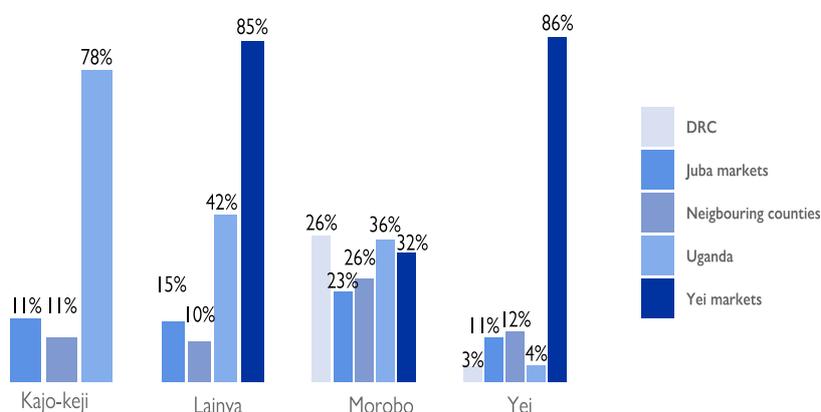
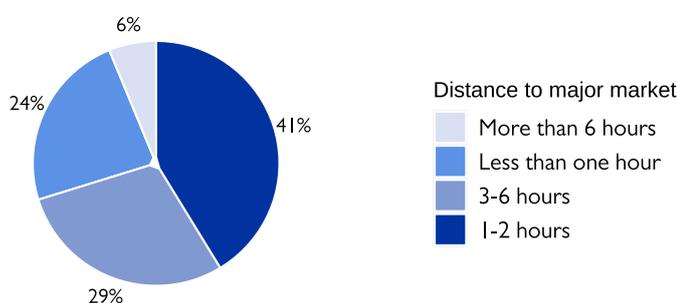


Figure 13: Reported distance to access nearest major markets, by percentage



Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

When comparing the baseline and endline datasets on livelihoods and income sources, a series of evolving patterns and constants emerge:

Livelihoods and Income Sources: Subsistence farming remains the primary source of income for survey respondents, with an increase from 55.8 per cent in the baseline to 80.4 per cent in the endline report. This heightened reliance on subsistence farming could indicate a pivot towards more traditional or agrarian livelihoods. Conversely, casual labor, previously accounting for 21.7 per cent in the baseline, now stands at 19.6 per cent in the endline, showing relative stability over time. When examining the breakdown by population status, the dependence on subsistence farming is evident across all groups. A significant 75.7 per cent of returnees, 89.4 per cent of relocated individuals, 84.1 per cent of members of the host community, and 86.9 per cent of IDPs rely on subsistence farming

Other Sources of Income: 50.8 per cent of respondents are involved in agriculture, noting an increase from the baseline's 35.2 per cent who were economically active in the agricultural sector. Other activities, including business (18.7%), livestock (15.4%), and 39.5 per cent of respondents indicated they are not involved in any activity.

Market Dynamics: Market access remains crucial for their livelihoods. The endline data offers a nuanced understanding of market access based on geography. For instance, respondents from Kajo-keji predominantly access markets in Uganda (77.8%), while those in Lainya primarily access Yei markets (85.0%). Such specifics provide valuable insights into changing trade dynamics and regional dependencies. The distance to these markets plays a vital role, with 23.6 per cent reporting that the nearest market is less than an hour away. This metric introduces an additional layer of challenge in market accessibility, considering transportation costs and overall profitability.

Significant Changes: The surge in subsistence farming might indicate challenges in other sectors or a perceived reliability in agrarian practices. The consistent percentage in casual labour suggests either a steady demand in this sector or persistent challenges that prevent growth. The endline report's emphasis on diverse market access, especially to international markets, hints at changing trade routes or improved infrastructure. Additionally, the introduction of data on the distance to markets in the endline can be a crucial metric in understanding the challenges and costs associated with market accessibility.

Implications of Changes: The pronounced shift towards subsistence farming could be attributed to challenges in other sectors or a strategic move towards more stable, traditional livelihoods. The minimal change in casual labor dynamics might point to a plateau in opportunities, impacting short-term income avenues. The detailed insights into market access, based on geography, are indicative of changing trade routes and possibly improved infrastructural connectivity. However, distance to these markets remains a challenge, with potential implications for profitability and transportation costs.

In Summation: The livelihood landscape is undergoing notable changes. While there is an evident reliance on subsistence farming and changing market access dynamics, challenges remain, particularly around market accessibility and distance. Addressing these challenges while capitalizing on emerging opportunities will be crucial for bolstering livelihoods and improving economic conditions.

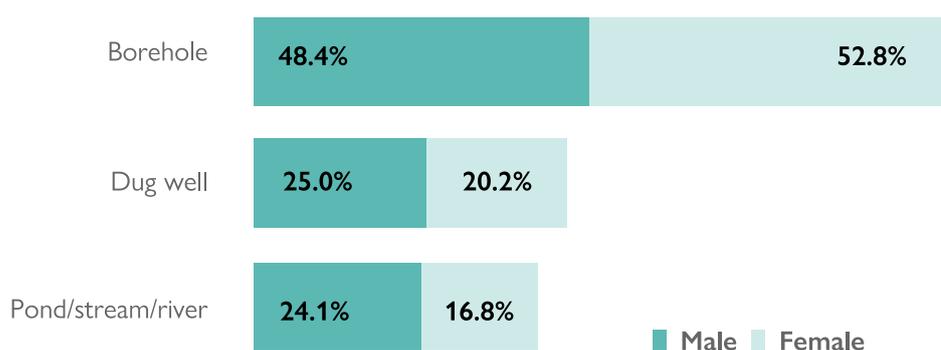
In essence, to foster durable solutions to displacement, it is imperative to address the existing challenges in livelihoods while leveraging new opportunities to enhance the economic well-being of displaced individuals.

WASH

When using the endline data to examine the sources of drinking water utilized by different genders, distinct patterns emerged. For male respondents, boreholes are the predominant source of drinking water, with 48.4 per cent relying on them. This is closely followed by dug wells (an unimproved water source), which cater to 25.0 per cent of the male respondents. Interestingly, a significant 24.1 per cent of males also depend on other unimproved drinking water sources such as ponds, streams, or rivers. Hand pumps and other specified sources are minimally used by males for drinking water, at 0.6 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively.

Females, however, show a slightly different pattern. A majority, 52.8 per cent, access their drinking water from boreholes, while 20.2 per cent utilize dug wells, another unimproved water source. Notably, there's a higher reliance on water trucking among females for drinking water at 1.9 per cent and purchased water at 1.6 per cent. Only 16.8 per cent of females use unimproved water sources like ponds, streams, or rivers for drinking, which is less compared to their male counterparts. Moreover, 4.7 per cent of females reported using other sources for their drinking water.

Figure 14: Reported water sources among respondents, by gender.



A significant 86.4 per cent of respondents indicated that they feel secure while undertaking the essential task of collecting water. In Morobo and Yei, an impressive 89.8 per cent and 89.8 per cent respectively of the population expressed confidence in their safety during water collection. Contrarily, in Kajo-keji, 19.2 per cent of the population had concerns about their safety during water collection, with 15.1 per cent expressing similar sentiments in Lainya.

Water accessibility further presents challenges, especially during the dry season, with 72.3 per cent of respondents reporting diminished access to this vital resource during these drier months. On the water storage front, the majority of households possess either one or two water containers, making up 35.7 per cent each of the respondents. The duration of water collection varies across households: while 36.2 per cent can access water within 30 to 59 minutes, a notable 15.4 per cent stated that this task takes them between 1 to 2 hours.

Sanitation practices also provide insightful data. A significant 55.3 per cent of respondents have access to and utilize household latrines, while 27.7 per cent still resort to open defecation in bushes, signifying a pressing need for improved sanitation infrastructure and awareness campaigns. In terms of waste management, 40.9 per cent of households utilize garbage pits, followed by 33.7 per cent who opt for burning their waste.

On the hygiene front, households demonstrate awareness and adoption of several practices. Covering drinking water is a practice observed in 69.1 per cent of households, and a praiseworthy 58.5 per cent ensure their food is both washed and covered, minimizing health risks. Drinking treated water is observed in 27.1 per cent of households, and the use of water guard/aqua tab is practiced by 14.7 per cent.

Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

The baseline revealed that 51.0 per cent of respondents utilized boreholes for their primary water source. The endline presents a division based on gender: 48.4 per cent of male respondents and 52.8 per cent of female respondents utilize boreholes, representing a decrease of 2.5 per cent for males and an increase of 1.8 per cent for females. For pond, stream, or river water, the baseline indicated a 25.2 per cent reliance. In contrast, the endline shows a 24.1 per cent reliance among males and a 16.8 per cent reliance among females, signaling a decline for both genders. Regarding wells, the baseline reported 22.5 per cent usage, whereas the endline shows 25.0 per cent for males (an increase of 2.5%) and 20.2 per cent for females (a decrease of 2.3%).

Safety during water collection has observed an increase between the surveys. The baseline had 74.4 per cent of respondents reporting feeling safe while collecting water. This number increased to 86.4 per cent in the endline, marking an increase of 11.9 per cent. Water accessibility during dry seasons presents a heightened challenge. The baseline indicated that 62.1 per cent experienced reduced access during dry spells, and this number escalated to 72.1 per cent in the endline, a rise of 10.1 per cent.

Sanitation practices have also evolved. The baseline noted that 51.1 per cent of respondents utilized household latrines, while this figure rose to 55.5 per cent in the endline, an increase of 4.4 per cent. Notably, the practice of open defecation declined from 35.1 per cent in the baseline to 27.0 per cent in the endline, a decrease of 7.4 per cent.

Drawing from the comparative results, specific key areas of change can be identified. The most significant is the increase in the reported feeling of safety during water collection. Another area of change is the increased challenge of water accessibility during the dry season. On sanitation practices, a noticeable shift towards better practices, specifically regarding the use of household latrines and reduced open defecation, is evident.

The implications of these observed changes are significant for the return and reintegration of displaced individuals in Southern Central Equatoria State. The increased reported safety during water collection could suggest enhanced security or infrastructural improvements in the surveyed areas. The growing challenge of water access during the dry season points to the need for further investment in water infrastructure. The observed shift in sanitation practices implies a possible enhancement in community awareness and infrastructure, both of which are critical for the health and sustainability of reintegrated communities.

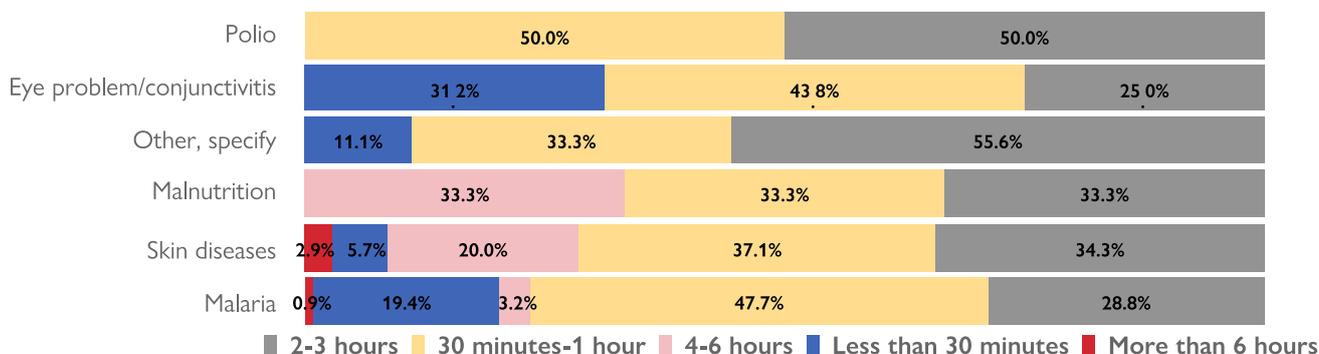
In summary, the findings indicate both advancements and areas in need of attention in Southern Central Equatoria State. Addressing these specific areas, especially water accessibility during dry months, will be critical for the successful and sustainable reintegration of displaced populations.

Health

According to the survey, 79.2 per cent of respondents indicated the presence of a nearby functional health facility. When categorized by gender, 78.5 per cent of male respondents and 79.8 per cent of female respondents confirmed the availability of such facilities. Dissecting the data regionally reveals that 96.2 per cent in Lainya, 81.4 per cent in Kajo-keji, and, 71.4 per cent in Yei have access to nearby health facilities. However, Morobo shows a relatively lower percentage, with only 68.7 per cent affirming the presence of a health facility close by.

The survey further shed light on the types of health facilities available to respondents. Public Health Care Centers (PHCC) were identified by 44.4 per cent of respondents as the most accessed type. This was followed by Public Health Care Units (PHCU) at 41.4 per cent. Hospitals were the choice of 13.1 per cent of respondents. Notably, Mobile clinics recorded minimal utilization, with only 0.9 per cent of respondents mentioning their presence.

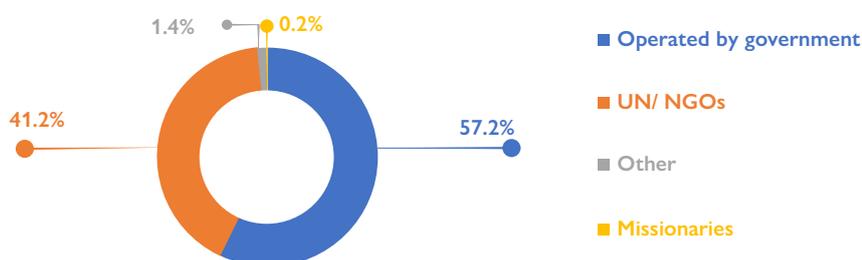
Figure 15: The reported sickness respondents had, and the time taken to access the closest health facility, by percentage



In terms of accessibility, an impressive 92.9 per cent of respondents who reside near a health facility confirmed their ability to access it when required. Regional data aligns closely with this overarching percentage, with Morobo at 86.7 per cent, Kajo-keji at 95.3 per cent, Lainya at 95.4 per cent, and Yei at 93.3 per cent.

Safety during transit to these facilities was also explored. Overall, 88.3 per cent of individuals living in the vicinity of a health facility felt safe on their way there. The breakdown by community type reveals that 88.1 per cent of returnees, 82.4 per cent of relocated individuals, 89.6 per cent of members of the host community, and 87.8 per cent of IDPs reported feeling safe during transit. Yet, it's essential to note the variance across counties; particularly in Morobo, where 95.0 per cent reported feeling safe, contrasting with the 82.4 per cent of relocated individuals who felt the opposite.

Figure 16: Reported management of health facilities



In the financial dimension of healthcare, 53.5 per cent of respondents near a health facility indicated that services are offered free of charge. But, there's an evident challenge concerning medicine availability. Only 6.7 per cent stated consistent medicine availability, a striking 82.9 per cent reported intermittent shortages, and 10.3 per cent confirmed that medicines are frequently unavailable.

A pressing health issue highlighted was malaria. Among the respondents living near a health facility, a significant 85.9 per cent reported malaria cases within their households over the previous year.

The collated data emphasizes the critical role of health facilities and their accessibility. While there's a tangible presence of health facilities across most regions, evident challenges remain, particularly concerning medicine availability and health worker presence. The pervasive prevalence of Malaria accentuates the requirement for dedicated interventions. Safety during transit to health facilities, especially for certain relocated groups, demands focused attention.

Health and Population Categories:

- **Returnees:** 92.86% of returnees have access to health care services when needed, with only 7.14% reporting no access.
- **Relocated Individuals:** A similar high access rate is seen among relocated individuals, with 94.12% able to access health care services and 5.88% without access.
- **Members of the Host Community:** The majority of host community members, 92.21%, report having access to health care services, while 7.79% do not have access.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** 93.90% of IDPs have access to health care services, with a small minority of 6.10% reporting no access.

Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

Presence of Functional Health Facilities: The endline data indicates that 79.2 per cent of respondents are in proximity to a functional health facility, an increase of 14.5 per cent from the baseline figure of 64.7 per cent. A gender analysis reveals a slight difference with more females (79.8%) having access than males (78.5%). Regionally, Lainya has the highest access rate at 96.2 per cent, while Morobo has increased to 68.2 per cent, up from the baseline's 41.7 per cent.

Type of Health Facilities: The endline unveils a shift in the type of health facilities utilized. Public Health Care Centers (PHCC) have increased to 44.4 per cent, up from the baseline's 35.8 per cent. In contrast, Public Health Care Units (PHCU) have decreased to 41.6 per cent from 53.1 per cent. The preference for hospitals remains almost consistent, with mobile clinics continuing as a minority choice.

Accessibility to Health Facilities: Accessibility has decreased by 1.1 per cent, from the baseline's 94.0 per cent to the endline's 92.9 per cent. Despite this drop, a significant majority can still access these facilities when required.

Safety En Route to Health Facilities: The endline suggests an increase of 6.2 per cent in the overall feeling of safety when accessing health facilities, rising to 88.3 per cent from the baseline's 82.1 per cent. There are, however, disparities among different communities, with relocated persons, especially in Morobo, still feeling relatively insecure.

Management of Health Facilities: There's a shift in management. The baseline indicated 56.9 per cent of health facilities were operated by UN organizations or NGOs. The endline shows a 0.33% increase, with 57.2 per cent now being government-operated.

Financial Aspects of Healthcare: The endline points to an 8.2 per cent decrease in facilities offering free services, dropping to 53.5 per cent from the baseline's 61.7 per cent. A concerning trend highlighted is medicine availability. Only 6.7 per cent indicate consistent availability, while 82.9 per cent mention intermittent shortages.

Predominant Health Concerns: Malaria continues to be prominent. The endline suggests an increase, with 85.9 per cent reporting Malaria cases within their households over the last year.

Implications: The increased presence of health facilities and the shift towards more government-operated facilities suggest a potential strengthening of local healthcare infrastructure. However, challenges like medicine shortages and feelings of insecurity for certain groups en route to health facilities highlight areas that require further attention. The continued prevalence of Malaria signifies the need for targeted health interventions and campaigns. Ensuring medicine availability and enhancing the security landscape for relocated persons, especially in regions like Morobo, are areas that should be prioritized in future initiatives.

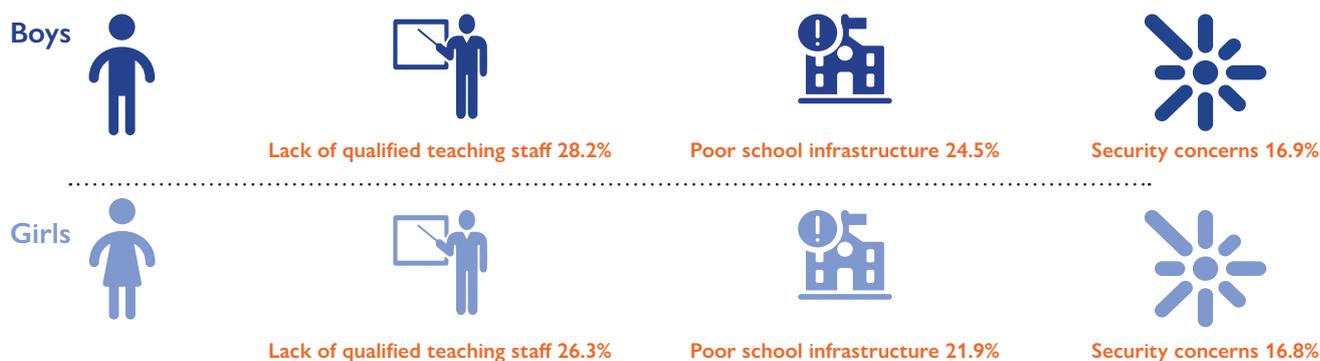
Education

Among all survey respondents, 44.2 per cent reported that girls in their household attend school, compared to 53.6 per cent who reported that boys in their household attend school. Whereas 26.2 per cent of respondents reported that girls in their household dropped out of school, compared to 23.8 per cent who reported that boys in their household dropped out.

The barriers boys and girls face to accessing education are the same, however their prevalence across sexes is slightly different.

The top two reported challenges children face in accessing education opportunities are lack of financial resources (51.4% among boys and 50.8% among girls), and long distance to education facilities or lack of transportation (29.5% among boys and 32.1% among girls).

Figure 17: Reported barriers boys and girls face to accessing education



Upon comparison, there are notable differences concerning education for boys and girls:

School Attendance: The endline indicates an improvement in school attendance for both genders. Specifically, girls' school attendance rose by 3.3 per cent, from a baseline of 40.9 per cent to 44.2 per cent. Similarly, boys saw an increase of 6.4 per cent, with attendance rates going from 47.2 per cent to 53.6 per cent.

Dropout Rates: The dropout rates also saw shifts. For girls, it increased by 7.5 per cent, from a baseline of 18.7 per cent to 26.2 per cent. For boys, the rise was 3.0 per cent, going from 20.8 per cent to 23.8 per cent. This indicates that while more children might be enrolling in school, a growing number are leaving before completion.

Barriers to Education:

- **Financial Resources:** Initially, 75.2 per cent of boys and 69.7 per cent of girls cited financial constraints. The endline shows a decrease in this challenge, with figures dropping to 51.41 per cent for boys (a 23.8% reduction) and 50.9 per cent for girls (an 18.9% reduction).
- **Distance/Transportation:** The concern about distance or lack of transportation has reduced, decreasing by 14.0 per cent for boys (from 43.5% to 29.5%) and by 8.1 per cent for girls (from 40.2% to 32.1%).
- **Poor School Infrastructure:** Concerns for boys increased by 3.4 per cent, from a baseline of 21.1 per cent to 24.5 per cent. For girls, there was an increase of 8.1 per cent, from 13.8 per cent to 21.9 per cent.
- **Lack of Qualified Staff:** There was a rise of 7.7 per cent for boys, moving from 20.5 per cent to 28.2 per cent. For girls, the increase was 9.8 per cent, from 16.5 per cent to 26.3 per cent.
- **Security Concerns:** The figures remain relatively consistent, with a decrease of 3.3 per cent for boys (from 20.2% to 16.9%) and a decrease of 4.7 per cent for girls (from 21.5% to 16.8%).

Implications:

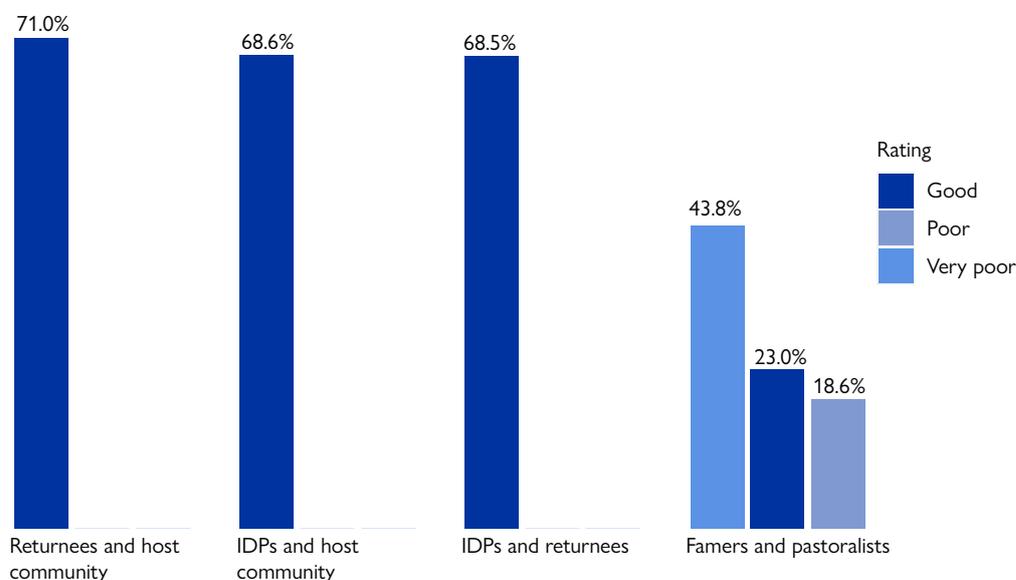
- **Increased Attendance:** The rise in school attendance for both genders suggests the positive impact of potential educational initiatives or evolving societal views on education.
- **Higher Dropout Rates:** The growing dropout rates, particularly for girls, signal underlying socio-economic factors or challenges within the school environment, highlighting areas for further research.
- **Challenges:** The reduction in financial and transportation-related challenges could reflect enhanced economic conditions or infrastructural improvements. Yet, the increase in concerns like subpar infrastructure and a lack of qualified school staff underscores the need for targeted efforts to improve educational quality.

Social Cohesion, and Community Involvement

In the baseline survey, approximately 27.6 per cent of participants disclosed that someone in their household is a member of a social group, such as a community organization, farmers' association, youth group, mother support group, etc. Delving deeper into this, of those households involved in social groups, 69.3 per cent are males, 60.2 per cent are females, 15.9 per cent are girls under 18, and 7.4 per cent are boys below 18. Meanwhile, 3.4 per cent chose not to specify. Examining this by population type, 44.3 per cent of returnees, 6.2 per cent of relocated individuals, 17.1 per cent of IDPs, and 32.4 per cent of host community members affiliate with a social group. By counties, Lainya had 31.8 per cent respondents' part of social groups, Morobo with 25.0 per cent, Yei with 24.4 per cent, and Kajo-keji at 18.8 per cent.

In terms of women’s involvement in community decision-making, 54.9 per cent believed women have a moderate say, 33.1 per cent felt they’re infrequently involved, 6.9 per cent said they are deeply involved, and 4.2 per cent thought they’re never included. Additionally, less than 1.0 per cent opted not to answer. As for community acceptance, 45.9 per cent of respondents felt somewhat welcomed, 43.4 per cent felt entirely welcomed, 7.7 per cent felt marginally welcomed, and 2.0 per cent didn’t feel welcomed. Returnees and IDPs predominantly felt very welcomed (11.9% and 59.6%, respectively). Conversely, 3.8 per cent of relocated individuals felt somewhat welcomed. For the host community, 25.9 per cent felt entirely welcomed, while 31.4 per cent felt moderately so.

Figure 18: Reported inter-communal relationship between different population groups



Nearly half, or 46.6 per cent, agreed that community members treat everyone with equal respect. However, 42.2 per cent felt that it would be challenging to integrate if they belonged to a different subclan, whereas 31.5 per cent disagreed. Encouragingly, 55.6 per cent are open to living alongside someone from a different subclan.

The latest results show a minor uptick in household members’ engagement in social groups, moving from an initial 25.1 per cent to 27.6 per cent. Within these households, there’s a shift in composition. Initially, 51.3 per cent were females, 44.4 per cent males, and 3.2 per cent children under 18 years. The latest figures show 60.2 per cent females, 69.3 per cent males, 15.9 per cent girls under 18, and 7.4 per cent boys under 18 years. From a demographic viewpoint, the endline data reveals an increase in returnees’ participation (from 28.8% to 44.3%), whereas relocated individuals have seen a decline from 28.0 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Regionally, Kajo-keji’s participation has decreased from 36.3 per cent to 18.8 per cent.

Women’s Role in Decision-Making: The level of women’s engagement in community decisions remains relatively stable across both surveys, with over half of respondents sensing a moderate involvement of women. Yet, a significant rise in the recent survey (33.1%) suggests that more feel women are seldom involved, up from the prior 20.4 per cent.

Community Reception: The sentiment of being warmly welcomed in the community shows a slight dip from 51.0 per cent to 43.4 per cent. On the other hand, there’s an increase in those feeling moderately welcomed, up from 39.4 per cent to 45.9 per cent. Returnees’ sense of welcome has notably shifted, dropping from an earlier 57.6 per cent to the recent 11.9 per cent.

Inter-Community Dynamics: Relations between different community groups hint at improving sentiments. Initially, 44.8 per cent deemed the bond between IDPs and the host community as ‘good’. This has risen to 68.7 per cent. Similar positive shifts are evident between IDPs and returnees, and between returnees and the host community. Yet, the rapport between farmers and pastoralists remains a consistent challenge, with many seeing it as ‘very poor’.

Community Respect & Cohesion: Perspectives on universal respect within the community have mildly shifted. Initially, 53.6 per cent felt an equitable treatment of all, higher than the latest 46.6 per cent. The feeling of belonging, especially regarding various subclans, remains a topic of interest. Initially, 38.1 per cent felt integration challenges with the majority subclan. This sentiment has seen a minor increase to 42.2 per cent in the latest data.

To sum up, the endline offers insights into the shifting community dynamics, revealing positive trends in community interactions and bonds. However, areas like women’s participation and the integration challenges faced by different subclans require sustained focus.

Community Stability

Peaceful Community

Self-reported perceptions of survey respondents allude to a general sense of harmony within the community, as 75.4 per cent reported that they feel that they live peacefully together with their host community members, of whom 51.9 per cent were female and 48.1 per cent male. The share of respondents who reported feeling peaceful in their community, across population groups, was highest among members of the Returnees (54.8%) and lowest among relocated (3.1%). Around 39.6 per cent of respondents in Lainya and 24.0 per cent in Morobo do not perceive that people live peacefully together in their locality.

Community's Sense of Peace: The endline shows a decline in the overall perception of peaceful living from 77.9 per cent in the baseline survey to 75.2 per cent in the endline survey.

Gendered Perceptions: The gendered perception of peace has shifted considerably. Female respondents feeling peaceful increased from 47.3 per cent to 51.8 per cent, while the percentage for males decreased from 52.7 per cent to 48.1 per cent.

Perceptions Among Population Groups: Previously, the highest peaceful feeling was reported by the host community at 85.1 per cent, while the IDPs reported 56.1 per cent. In the new report, the returnees report a peaceful feeling at 54.7 per cent, and the relocated persons at just 3.1 per cent. This stark contrast for relocated persons suggests they might face challenges in adapting to new environments or integrating with existing communities.

Regional Sentiments: In Lainya, the percentage of respondents who perceive a lack of peace decreased from 41.0 per cent to 39.6 per cent. Similarly, in Morobo, the percentage went down from 29.2 per cent to 24.0 per cent.

Implications of Changes: The marginal decline in the overall sense of peace emphasizes the need for sustained community engagement and conflict resolution initiatives. The changing gender dynamics highlight that interventions might need to cater more specifically to the unique challenges and experiences of both genders. The alarmingly low peaceful perception among relocated persons accentuates the need for targeted support.

Safe Community

According to the endline survey, 73.8 per cent of respondents feel that they live in a secure and safe community. We observe that 53.0 per cent of returnees feel secure and safe, a sentiment shared by 28.8 per cent of members of the host community, 15.2 per cent of IDPs, and 2.7 per cent of relocated persons. Region-wise, 25.4 per cent of respondents from Kajo-keji reported feeling safe, compared to 24.6 per cent in Lainya, 29.3 per cent in Morobo, and 20.5 per cent in Yei. However, it's worth noting that 25.2 per cent of the total respondents did not feel the same sense of security.

Regarding community respect, nearly half of the respondents (46.5%) agreed that community members treat each other with equal respect, with a combined 36.9 per cent either strongly disagreeing or disagreeing with this sentiment. Probing further into the dynamics of clan/ subclan integration, 42.1 per cent of respondents agreed that it would be challenging to fit in with the community if they hailed from a different subclan. Contrastingly, 31.5 per cent disagreed with this notion.

Lastly, the spirit of inclusiveness was highlighted when discussing neighborly coexistence. A significant 55.6 per cent of respondents agreed they would be willing to live next to someone from a different clan or subclan. Still, 6.9 per cent strongly disagreed with the idea, underscoring some lingering hesitations in community integration.

Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

The comparison between the baseline and endline surveys shows a slight change in community attitudes. Previously, 77.9% of respondents reported positive integration within their communities, which has decreased to 73.8% in the recent survey, indicating a small shift in the sense of community cohesion.

Delving into the demographics, previous numbers hovered around 47.3 per cent of females and 52.7 per cent of males experiencing tranquility. Contrastingly, the updated figures offer a diversified view: 53.0 per cent returnees, 28.8 per cent from the host community, 15.2 per cent IDPs, and a mere 2.7 per cent relocated persons report feelings of security. Regional differences are also apparent. Past data showed that approximately 59.0 per cent of residents from Lainya and Morobo combined reported feeling at peace.

In terms of communal respect, the baseline survey revealed 53.6 per cent endorsing mutual respect in their environment. This sentiment has seen a minor decline in current times, with 46.5 per cent endorsing this positive view.

The contemporary data introduces a new angle with 36.9 per cent leaning towards a dissenting view on mutual respect, alluding to underlying strains or rifts.

Regarding assimilation, the baseline unveiled that 38.1 per cent anticipated hurdles in blending with a community of a different subclan, countered by 26.5% who didn't foresee such issues. Contemporary findings highlight a sharper distinction: 42.1 per cent envision difficulties, while 31.5 per cent exude optimism.

In the baseline and endline surveys, the proportion of respondents willing to live next to individuals from different subclans remained stable: 55.9% in the baseline and 55.6% in the endline. This data indicates a consistent level of acceptance for diverse cohabitation among the surveyed groups

Fair Government

In the endline survey, 57.1 per cent of the respondents believe that their local government is fair. Breaking down these numbers by gender, 62.1 per cent of females held this belief compared to 51.9 per cent of males. Delving further into the sentiments across various population groups, the perception of fairness was somewhat uniform. Specifically, 59.4 per cent of IDPs, 58.9 per cent of returnees, 57.1 per cent of relocated persons, and 52.4 per cent of members of the host community feel their local government is fair.

The regional nuances also offer intriguing insights. Respondents from Yei displayed the highest confidence in local governance fairness, with 61.2 per cent affirming their positive perception. This sentiment was closely followed by Morobo at 57.9 per cent, Lainya at 57.8 per cent, and Kajo-keji at 51.2 per cent. However, it's crucial to highlight that across all regions and groups, a noticeable proportion holds reservations, as evident from the 41.5 per cent who feel that their local government isn't fair.

In the contemporary landscape of governance, the endline unearths nuanced transitions in community beliefs concerning fairness and justice in local administration.

Historically, a considerable 63.7 per cent of participants acknowledged their local governing body's fairness. Fast forward to the present, this belief has seen a mild retreat to 57.1 per cent. The gender-lens comparison presents a compelling narrative: the past data showcased a predominant male confidence (52.2%) compared to their female counterparts (47.8%). However, the current metrics offer an intriguing twist, with 62.1 per cent of women holding a positive stance vis-a-vis 51.9 per cent of men.

Scrutinizing Population Segments: Those who relocated were overwhelmingly optimistic about administrative fairness at a solid 80.0 per cent, contrasting with the relatively muted 59.5 per cent confidence among returnees. The modern study delivers a more harmonized sentiment, exemplified by the proximate beliefs across IDPs at 59.4 per cent, returnees at 58.9 per cent, relocated individuals at 57.1 per cent, and the host community populace standing at 52.4 per cent.

Geographical Narratives: Region-centric dissections unveil captivating variations. Historically, Yei stood out with a robust 80.3 per cent vouching for governmental fairness, which has curtailed to 61.2 per cent lately. Concurrently, Kajo-keji's faith experienced a minimal ebb, transitioning from 49.0 per cent to 51.2 per cent. The baseline was silent on Morobo and Lainya's figures, but the endline bridges this gap, documenting 57.9 per cent and 57.8 per cent positive sentiments respectively.

In summation, juxtaposing the baseline and endline casts light on possible tides in public sentiment. The attenuated confidence in governmental fairness is a subtle alarm bell, raising questions about its efficacy or image. The gender-centric flip, spotlighting an ascending trust among females, may reflect gender-tailored policy shifts or events. Regional oscillations emphasize the weight of individualized governance experiences and their resultant public sentiments. Such insights hold paramount value for authorities, necessitating apt strategizing to align with the evolving populace pulse.

Access to Basic Services

The endline survey indicates that 45.6 per cent of participants report having non-discriminatory access to basic community services. Gender-wise, 46.5 per cent of female respondents and 44.6 per cent of male respondents shared this view. By population group, 49.5 per cent of IDPs reported optimistic access, with returnees at 48.6 per cent. In contrast, 39.0 per cent of the host community and 38.1 per cent of relocated persons reported access without discrimination.

Regionally, the endline illustrates variations in perceptions. In Kajo-keji, 48.1 per cent of respondents feel they have fair access to basic services. This sentiment is closely mirrored in Morobo and Lainya, with 47.7 per cent and 45.2 per cent respectively. Yei has the lowest percentage of respondents (40.8%) who believe they have non-discriminatory access to services. When it comes to specific services, health (58.5%) and education (49.7%) stand out as the most accessed without discrimination, highlighting potential areas where community perceptions are more positive.

Based on the endline, 45.6 per cent of respondents feel they have access to basic services in their community without experiencing discrimination. When segmented by gender, 46.5 per cent of females and 44.6 per cent of males expressed this belief. Among the different population groups, IDPs felt the most optimistic with 49.5 per cent believing they have non-discriminatory access to services.

This was closely followed by returnees at 48.6 per cent. However, members of the host community and relocated persons were more reserved in their opinions, with only 39.0 per cent and 38.1 per cent respectively feeling they have such access.

Regionally, the endline illustrates variations in perceptions. In Kajo-keji, 48.1 per cent of respondents feel they have fair access to basic services. This sentiment is closely mirrored in Morobo and Lainya, with 47.7 per cent and 45.2 per cent respectively. Yei has the lowest percentage of respondents (40.8%) who believe they have non-discriminatory access to services. When it comes to specific services, health (58.5%) and education (49.7%) stand out as the most accessed without discrimination, highlighting potential areas where community perceptions are more positive.

Over time, there's been a notable shift in sentiments about access to basic services without discrimination, as seen from the transition from the baseline to the recent endline report's results.

Overall Perception: In the baseline survey, a more significant percentage of respondents, 57.3 per cent, felt they had non-discriminatory access to basic services. This figure has declined in the latest findings to 45.6 per cent. This suggests a somewhat deteriorating sentiment or possibly changing circumstances that influence people's perceptions.

Gender Dynamics: The endline presents some changes. While the perception among females showed a slight uptick, increasing from 45.7 per cent to 46.5 per cent, the sentiment among males saw a more significant decline, going from 54.3 per cent down to 44.6 per cent.

By Population Groups: The survey data presents varying perceptions of access to services without discrimination among different population groups. According to the results, 49.5 per cent of IDPs and 48.6 per cent of returnees reported positive access to services. On the other hand, the host community and relocated individuals reported lower rates of positive access, with 39.0 per cent and 38.1 per cent respectively. Regional differences are also evident, with 40.8 per cent of respondents in Yei reporting non-discriminatory access to services. These variations highlight the potential need for region-specific and population-targeted interventions to improve equitable service access for all groups involved.

Regional Insights: Regionally, some areas have seen drastic changes in perceptions. Yei, for instance, witnessed a sharp decline, from 70.7 per cent in the baseline survey to 40.8 per cent in the endline. However, Morobo showed resilience with a slight rise in positive perception from 47.2 per cent to 47.7 per cent.

Service-specific Analysis: When zeroing in on specific services, health has emerged as a brighter spot. The perception of non-discriminatory access to health facilities has risen from 48.8 per cent to 58.5 per cent. However, sentiments around education have waned a bit, moving down from 56.2 per cent to 49.7 per cent.

Implications: The changes in these perceptions hold significant implications for policy-making and intervention strategies. The declining overall positive sentiment indicates the need for a more in-depth analysis to identify and address the underlying causes. The contrasting gender perceptions suggest that interventions might need to be gender-specific to address unique challenges faced by each group. The sharp decline among the host community, coupled with regional disparities, highlights the importance of geographically targeted interventions. Lastly, the varying sentiments concerning health and education services could indicate differences in service delivery or access challenges between these sectors, necessitating sector-specific solutions.

Access to Livelihoods

Around 47.6 per cent of respondents perceived that they have access to livelihood opportunities without discrimination, among whom 50.3 per cent were female and 49.6 per cent were male. The share of respondents who feel they have access to livelihoods, across population groups, was highest among members of the relocated community (57.1%) and lowest among Member of the host community (43.8%). In Yei, 40.8 per cent perceived having access to livelihood opportunities without discrimination, compared to 52.4 per cent in Morobo.

Figure 19: Percentage of household against the community stability



Comparing Baseline and Endline Data

The juxtaposition of the baseline and endline reports provides a comprehensive understanding of the evolving perceptions and experiences of community members in accessing livelihood opportunities:

Access to Livelihood Opportunities: The decline from 61.0 per cent to 47.6 per cent in respondents who feel they can access livelihood opportunities without discrimination is significant. This suggests that while there might have been improvements in some areas, there are emerging challenges in ensuring equitable access to livelihood opportunities.

Gender Dynamics: The slight shift in gender perceptions, with females feeling slightly more positive about accessing livelihood opportunities, is noteworthy. This could be attributed to gender-focused initiatives, changing societal norms, or specific economic opportunities that are more accessible to females.

Population Group Dynamics: The shift in perceptions among population groups is intriguing. The relocated community members now having the most positive perception might be due to targeted interventions, better integration, or specific opportunities available to them. Conversely, the decline among the host community members suggests potential challenges or feelings of marginalization.

Regional Perceptions: The sharp decline in positive perceptions in Yei is alarming. This could be due to economic downturns, increased competition for resources, or heightened discrimination. The slight decrease in Morobo, while not as drastic, still indicates potential challenges in the region.

Implications of Changes: The decline in the overall perception of non-discriminatory access to livelihood opportunities underscores the need for targeted economic interventions. This could include skill-building programs, access to capital, or anti-discrimination campaigns.

The changing dynamics among population groups emphasize the importance of understanding the specific challenges and opportunities each group faces. Tailored interventions might be necessary to ensure that all groups have equitable access to livelihood opportunities.

The significant decline in Yei's perceptions highlights the need for a focused approach in this region. Understanding the root causes of this decline will be crucial for designing effective interventions.

In Summation: While there are shifts in perceptions, especially among different population groups and regions, the overall trend suggests challenges in accessing livelihood opportunities. A multi-faceted approach, considering gender dynamics, regional disparities, and group-specific needs, will be essential to ensure equitable access to livelihood opportunities for all in Southern Central Equatoria State.

The comparison between the baseline and endline report provides a clear picture of the evolving perceptions and sentiments regarding community stability:

Community Stability Perception: The decline from 45.4 per cent to 40.9 per cent in respondents who feel their community is stable is a clear indication of growing concerns or challenges within the community. This decline suggests that there might be factors or events that have impacted the community's sense of stability.

Instability Perception: The increase in the perception of instability, from 24.8 per cent to 28.5 per cent, is significant. This rise indicates that a larger portion of the community feels that their environment is becoming less secure or predictable.

Neutral Perception: The rise in neutral perceptions, from 17.9 per cent to 21.3 per cent, might suggest that a segment of the community is uncertain about the direction in which things are heading. They might be waiting to see how certain situations or challenges pan out before forming a definitive opinion.

Very Stable vs. Very Unstable: The sharp decline in the perception of very stable communities, from 5.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent, is alarming. This suggests that the most optimistic segment of the community has seen a significant reduction. Conversely, the slight increase in the perception of very unstable communities indicates growing concerns among some community members.

Implications of Changes: The overall decrease in the perception of community stability and the corresponding increase in instability perceptions highlight the need for targeted interventions. These could include community dialogue sessions, conflict resolution initiatives, or socio-economic programs to address potential challenges.

The significant decline in the perception of very stable communities underscores the need to understand the specific challenges or events that have led to this shift. Engaging with community members, especially those who previously felt the community was very stable, could provide insights into the root causes of this change.

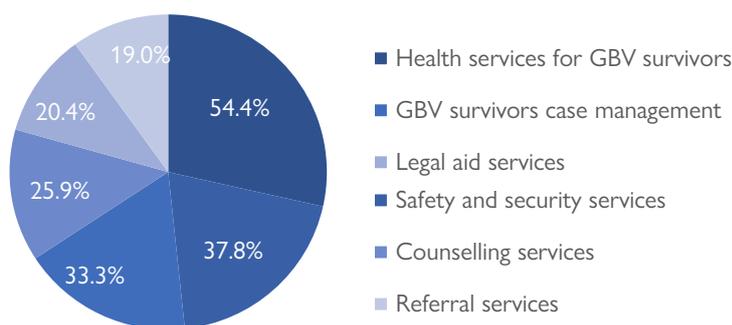
The rise in neutral perceptions suggests that there might be an opportunity to engage with this segment of the community. Understanding their concerns and providing clarity or solutions could help in swaying their perceptions towards stability.

In Summation: The changing perceptions regarding community stability are indicative of evolving challenges and dynamics within the community. Addressing these concerns proactively and engaging with various community segments will be crucial to restoring and maintaining community stability and cohesion.

Protection

In South Sudan, women and girls face significant risks of domestic and sexual violence. Their marginalized status further increases their vulnerability to discrimination, abuse, and stigma. A survey reveals that only 46.1 per cent of respondents indicated the availability of protection services in the region.

Figure 20: Reported available protection services



Other services such as tracing and reunifications, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection concerns, child protection awareness, and socio-economic assistance were also mentioned but with lower percentages.

County-Specific Protection Services

When we delve deeper into the data at a county level:

- In Lainya, health services for GBV survivors stood out prominently at 73 per cent, followed by counselling at 33.3 per cent, and police safety and security services at 50.8 per cent.
- Yei reported 52.2 per cent availability for health services related to GBV, 23.9 per cent for counselling, and 30.4 per cent for police safety and security services.
- Morobo showed a 51.3 per cent availability of health services for GBV, 30.8 per cent for counselling, and a significant 55.1 per cent for police safety and security services.
- In Kajo-keji, health services for GBV survivors were available to 42.6 per cent, counselling services stood at 14.8 per cent, and police safety and security services at 13.1 per cent.

Figure 21: Reported risks faced by boys

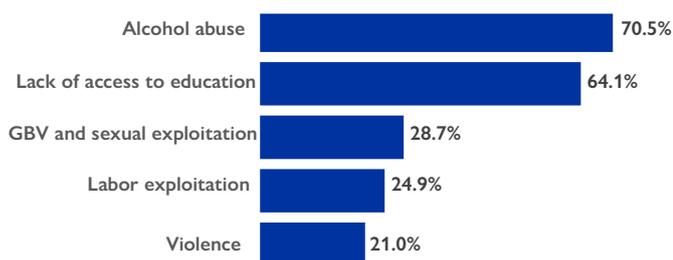
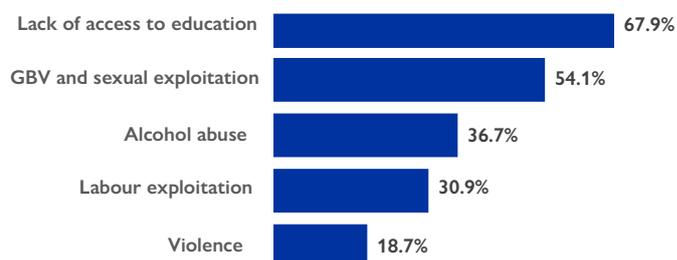


Figure 22: Reported risks faced by girls



The comparison between the baseline and the endline report provides a comprehensive understanding of the evolving perceptions and challenges related to protection services and risks faced by vulnerable groups in South Sudan:

Women and girls in South Sudan continue to grapple with the threat of domestic and sexual violence. The data presented, both baseline and endline, paints a picture of their struggles and the efforts in place to support them. But a comparative look at the numbers offers intriguing insights into evolving dynamics and possibly, policy implications.

One of the immediate observations is the increase in the general awareness of protection services. Initially, 41.5 per cent of respondents reported the availability of protection services, which has seen an uptick to 46.1 per cent. This uptrend hints at a potentially positive change, suggesting that either more services have become available, or advocacy and awareness campaigns are reaching more people.

However, while general awareness has increased, the nature and availability of specific protection services have seen shifts. Health services for GBV survivors still remain at the forefront, but a decline in the reported availability of safety and security services by the police is concerning. On a brighter note, the introduction of legal aid in the newer data signals a nuanced approach, indicating that there's an increasing emphasis on addressing the legal concerns and rights of survivors.

The data's granularity is evident when observing the county-specific services. Both sets of data provide percentages, but the discrepancies in these numbers from the baseline to the endline can be significant. For instance, health services for GBV survivors in Lainya saw an increase from 64.4 per cent to 73.0 per cent. These variances from county to county suggest that the landscape of services might be uneven, constantly evolving based on local challenges, needs, or even improvements in infrastructure and outreach.

Another notable distinction is the evolving risks faced by boys and girls. Alcohol abuse, for instance, has surged as a significant concern, especially for boys. The data makes it clear that societal challenges are not static; they evolve, requiring constant reassessment of interventions. While education remains a major concern for both genders, the sharp rise in alcohol abuse amongst boys compared to girls is a challenge that needs to be addressed.

Finally, while the baseline dwelled on the community's broader protection concerns, such as the lack of resources for women and girls or discrimination, this sentiment seems absent from the endline. The shift seems to have moved towards a more service-focused approach, offering detailed insights into protection services' availability and reach.

Table 6: Participants reporting severity of protection concern in their community

Severity of protection issues	Serious concern	Moderate concern	Not a concern	Prefer not to answer
Potential Protection/Security Issues in Your Community	19.1%	45.1%	34.6%	1.1%
Inter-communal Violence/Riots	12.1%	44.1%	41.4%	2.5%
Mistreatment or Beating by Armed Groups/ Army/Police	24.3%	43.5%	30.4%	1.7%
Mistreatment or Physical Violence by Others	18.3%	52.2%	28.5%	0.9%
Arbitrary Detention	17.5%	44.5%	35.6%	2.4%
Abduction/Forced Recruitment	12.8%	37.9%	46.5%	2.8%
Potential Sexual Exploitation	22.6%	49.5%	26.3%	1.7%
Sexual Abuse/Rape/Assault	28.5%	43.4%	26.6%	1.4%
Domestic Violence	23.9%	55.9%	19.3%	0.8%
Mistreatment of Women and Girls/Emotional Violence	22.9%	51.6%	24.6%	1%
Lack of Resources/Opportunities for Women and Girls	32.4%	51.1%	15.2%	1.3%
Security Issues - Harmful Traditional Practices	11.3%	36.1%	49.8%	2.8%
Security Issues - Gender-Based Violence	26.5%	52.3%	20.4%	0.8%
Forced/Arranged Marriage	16.9%	40.7%	40.4%	1.9%
Discrimination	31.5%	46.1%	21.3%	1.1%

Table 7: Participants reporting frequency of protection concern in their community

Frequency of protection issues	Same	Decreased slightly	Decreased substantially	Increased slightly	Increased substantially	Prefer not to answer
Likelihood or frequency of this protection issue changed community	31.7%	56.6%	9.3%	1.5%	0.2%	0.7%
Inter communal violence riots changed in your community	26.3%	64.8%	8.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%
Mistreatment or beating by armed groups army	31.8%	56.3%	10.2%	1.2%	0.5%	0.0%
Mistreatment or physical violence by others	25.6%	60.7%	12.2%	0.9%	0.2%	0.4%
Arbitrary detention	27.5%	58.8%	10.6%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%
protection security issues abduction forced recruitment	28.4%	58.3%	11.4%	1.20	0.3%	0.3%
Sexual exploitation	29.4%	52.9%	15.5%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Sexual abuse rape assault	34.2%	48.6%	14.8%	1.7%	0.4%	0.2%
Domestic violence	31.1%	61.3%	18.0%	1.1%	1.3%	0.0%
Harmful traditional practices	30.0%	54.9%	14.2%	1.9%	1.7%	0.2%

CONCLUSIONS AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

In conclusion, this comprehensive assessment in Southern Central Equatoria State provides vital insights for informed decision-making and the formulation of targeted strategies. This assessment has shed light on numerous critical aspects that impact displaced populations and host communities.

One significant observation is the decline in both average and median index scores, which underscores a potential decrease in the overall favorability of conditions for displaced individuals in Southern Central Equatoria State. While Kajo-Keji consistently performs well, the decline in Yei's performance, particularly among households previously scoring a perfect 10, warrants attention.

Based on feedback from our field staff who recently visited Yei, several concerning factors contributing to Yei's decreased score were identified:

- Residents in village areas report harassment and incidents of looting, highlighting security challenges in the region.
- Resource Scarcity: Civilians lament the lack of resources to support their children, indicating an essential basic needs gap.
- Insecurity on Roads: While accessing vital services like health facilities, especially on market days, people face the risk of being robbed and assaulted. This insecurity adds to the hesitancy in movement and reduces their ability to access critical services.
- Checkpoints and Monetary Extortion: Travelers are subjected to several checkpoints on the roads, where they are coerced into paying money, adding to their economic strain.
- Agricultural Challenges: In certain areas, residents' farms were destroyed by cattle, directly impacting their livelihoods and making life increasingly challenging.

The combination of these issues paints a distressing picture of the conditions in Yei, necessitating continued interventions and strategies to improve the situation and ensure the safety and well-being of its residents.

The analysis of population group dynamics reveals a transition from IDPs to relocated individuals as the group bearing the lowest index, highlighting evolving dynamics among displaced populations. Concerningly, the decline in perceptions among the host community and in Yei signals potential disparities in service delivery, emphasizing the critical need to ensure that interventions are inclusive and do not inadvertently marginalize any group.

Access to essential services and livelihoods is crucial for displaced populations, and the findings indicate positive trends in education and health access, possibly due to effective targeted interventions. The livelihood landscape presents a pronounced reliance on subsistence farming and evolving market access dynamics, with emerging opportunities in international markets alongside challenges related to market accessibility.

Protection and safety remain paramount concerns, with a decrease in reported key protection services highlighting the necessity for a comprehensive assessment of service provision and outreach. Safety perceptions have decreased in specific regions, such as Yei and Morobo, underscoring the urgency of enhancing security measures. Additionally, emerging risks for boys and girls emphasize the importance of prioritizing child protection initiatives.

Community dynamics and participation play a significant role in the well-being of displaced populations. Positive signs of increased community participation, especially among children, signify progress toward inclusivity. However, the decline in active women's participation in decision-making is a concern, indicating potential gender disparities or cultural barriers. Ensuring complete community integration remains a challenge despite improvements in inter-community relations.

Finally, patterns of return shed light on the drivers behind displaced individuals' decisions to return to their places of habitual residence. The reduction in aid in areas of displacement remains a primary driver for return, highlighting the critical role of humanitarian assistance. The consistent percentage of returnees suggests a stable trend in their return, indicative of a maintained equilibrium in the return conditions or a persistent scenario in displacement areas. However, there is a noticeable evolution in county-specific dynamics and reasons prompting returns, suggesting the dynamic nature of the humanitarian situation in Southern Central Equatoria State.

APPENDIX

Data collection sampling

In the initial stage of sampling, Bomas (Administrative 4 level) that are located within the County capital city or those that are accessible and had experienced the return of IDPs served as clusters or Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The size of a PSU was determined by the number of households residing in that PSU. Household numbers were based on a combination of IDP and Returnee estimates from the DTM Mobility Tracking Round 11 (July to September 2021) and Host Community estimates were based on the WorldPop non-IDP raster layer. All Bomas were divided into strata based on key attributes: county capital, administration, and impact by conflict (measured by [ACLED](#) conflict data). To ensure that the probability of a household (the Secondary Sampling Unit or SSU) to be included in the sample is equal for all SSUs, Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) was used, with the probability of sampling a PSU being proportional to the number of elements in a PSU. For cases where a Boma could not be visited, additional clusters were randomly selected (without replacement) to serve as reserve clusters.

In the second stage of sampling, households as SSUs were selected from each cluster or PSU based on a differentiated method of sampling SSUs. Each Boma had different geographical and administrative characteristics that limit our methods for sampling SSUs systematically with one method.

When a household was visited, the head of household was asked to participate in the survey. In cases where the head of household is not available, another member of the household was interviewed to represent the household. In cases where households denied consent, field teams obtained an alternative sample.

Data Ranking and Conversion

The numeric conversion used this calculation;

$$\text{prop} = 1 - (\text{rank}/\text{num_options})$$

$$\text{scaled} = (\text{scale_max} - \text{scale_min}) * (\text{prop} - \text{min_grp}) + \text{scale_min} \\ (\text{max_grp} - \text{min_grp})$$

Where:

Prop = Proportion

Rank = Rank of options

Num_options = Total number of options for that indicator

Scale_max = Maximum scale which is 10

Scale_min = Minimum scale which is 0

Min_grp = Minimum proportion of options in that group of indicators

Max_group = Maximum proportion of options in that group of indicators.

A “Yes” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 10, the most positive assessment of the scale used (most stable), and a “No” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 0, the least positive assessment of the scale used (most unstable). The safety and stability index component was answered by one of five options: Very stable, Stable, Neutral, Unstable, Very unstable. A “Very stable” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 10, the most positive assessment of the scale used (most stable) and a “Very unstable” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 0, the least positive assessment of the scale used (most unstable).

On a three-point scale using the question “How much of a concern is the following protection and security issues in your community” as an example, a “Not a concern” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 10, the most positive assessment of the scale, a “Moderate concern” is equivalent to a numeric score of 5 and a “Serious concern” response is equivalent to a numerical score of 0, the least positive assessment of the scale used (most unstable).



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