

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second half of 2020, the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) and the World Food Programme's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (WFP VAM) units undertook a joint household-level assessment of *Juba's urban area and Juba IDP Camps I and III, Wau's urban area and Naivasha Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp, the urban area of Bentiu / Rubkona and Bentiu IDP Camp, and Malakal's urban area and Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site*. These profiles quantify the prevalence of vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs across sectors, generate a better understanding of urban displacement and migration, including return and relocation after displacement in South Sudan or abroad, and evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions.

The assessment contributed to the extended Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS+) initiative – endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) – to pilot a household-level multi-sector needs assessment for South Sudan. By expanding FSNMS coverage to key urban areas and IDP camps, the assessment addressed a long-standing information gap for the humanitarian response. Moreover, during this exercise, IOM updated the urban sampling frame developed in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) using satellite imagery and field mapping. The study collected a representative sample of 1,770 households in urban areas and 1,642 households in IDP sites.

KEY FINDINGS

Household **demographics and vulnerabilities** varied to some degree in all locations. In general, households were more likely to be headed by women than men, ranging from 63 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) to 87 per cent (Bentiu IDP Camp), although most households had more male than female members. Using the Washington Group Short Set of Questions, between 40 per cent (Malakal PoC site) and 58 per cent (Malakal Town) of households self-identified having members with a disability. Among the overall low prevalence of single-headed households, Naivasha IDP Camp stood out with having over 21 per cent of households headed by single women.

Displaced persons and migrants, including returnees and relocated persons, constituted 32 per cent and 51 per cent, respectively, of the population of the largest urban areas, Juba and Wau. In contrast, the population of the urban areas of Malakal and Bentiu / Rubkona had a significantly higher prevalence, with 86 per cent and 90 per cent of households being displaced or having migrated, respectively. Few displaced households intended to return within six months at the time of the assessment, with a particularly low percentage of 10 per cent in Juba. In IDP sites, most households were displaced from settlements within the same county¹. Households in the Juba IDP Camps and Malakal PoC site were more likely to intend to return within two years (64% and 52%) than households in Bentiu IDP Camp (45%), where a nearly equal proportion of households intended to remain at the site (42%). Further, more households in the sites in Juba and Malakal needed information on their preferred location of return or relocation (76% and 72%) than those in Bentiu (59%). The main barrier to return was insecurity for households in Malakal PoC site and Bentiu IDP Camp while the lack of means outranked the former in the Juba IDP Camps.

Household **mobility** was limited by a multitude of factors. Apart from Juba's urban area, more than three quarters of households in all other locations did not possess identification documentation. In Naivasha IDP Camp and in the urban area of Bentiu / Rubkona, over 90 per cent did not have IDs. In Juba town, Juba IDP camps and Malakal

town, over three in five displaced or migrant households reported that they could not travel due to the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic enforced in April 2020.

At least 10 per cent of households in all locations live in partially damaged or completely destroyed **shelters**, with a higher prevalence in the urban areas of Malakal (31%) and Bentiu / Rubkona (36%) as well as the Juba IDP Camps (37%). Between 2 per cent (Malakal PoC site) and 20 per cent (Bentiu IDP Camp) of households are involved in house, land and property (HLP) disputes, although the sensitivity of this issue in the context of South Sudan may have resulted in under-reporting.

The attendance rate of children in **school** in the year prior to the assessment ranged from 66 (Juba town) to 80 per cent (Juba IDP Camps), while the drop out rate ranged from 2 per cent (Wau town) to 19 per cent (Malakal PoC site). Further, between 10 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) and 22 per cent (Bentiu / Rubkona town) indicated that their children had never attended school.

Regarding household-level needs in **WASH**, access to safe and timely water varied considerably among the assessed locations due to differences in the main sources for water and distance to that source. In Naivasha IDP Camp where the main water source is the public tap, 95 per cent had access to safe and timely water, while only 13 per cent of households in Juba town did due to households mainly relying on water from tanks or trucks. In the Juba IDP Camps, Naivasha IDP Camp, Wau town, and Malakal town, female-headed households were more likely to feel unsafe collecting water in the two weeks prior to the assessment than male-headed households. Between 13 per cent (Malakal PoC site) and 75 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) of households do not have access to soap. Most of these households report that they ran out of soap or could not afford any.

Between 20 per cent (Bentiu / Rubkona town) and 34 per cent (Wau town) of households in urban areas and in Bentiu IDP Camp and Naivasha IDP Camp were unable to access **health**

1 Questions on return intentions were not included in the survey for Naivasha IDP Camp.

care when needed in the six months prior to the assessment. Households in the Juba IDP Camps and Naivasha IDP Camp were also likely to be unable to access health care despite having a functional health care facility close by. The main barrier to access for these households was the lack of medicines in the clinic. In Juba Town, the main barrier was the high cost.

While awareness of **COVID-19** was high across all locations, knowledge of asymptomatic transmission was lower, ranging between 60 (Bentiu IDP Camp) and 95 per cent (Juba town). Only 14 per cent (Bentiu / Rubkona town) to 42 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) of households reported that they would self-isolate in their home if they or their family members showed COVID-19 symptoms, reflecting a ubiquitous challenge to isolate symptomatic individuals.

The COVID-19 pandemic increased the **economic vulnerabilities** of households. Between 11 per cent (Malakal town) and 39 per cent (Juba town) of households experienced a substantial decrease in their income since April 2020. The most common shocks faced by households due to the pandemic included reduced income of household members, loss of employment, unusually high food prices, depreciation and lack of food in markets. Of the 15 per cent (Malakal PoC site) to 48 per cent (Juba town) of households that used credit or borrowed, most of them did so to purchase food.

Pandemic-induced micro-economic challenges and rising food prices have constrained **food access** for market-dependent urban households. Households' perception of food deprivation and experience of severe episodes of hunger as measured by the Household Hunger Scale (HHS) shows that prevalence of moderate hunger ranged from 40 per cent (Bentiu town) to 63 per cent (Malakal town) of households, while hunger of severe catastrophe and severe emergency ranged from 0 (Bentiu town) to 2 per cent

(Juba town) and < 1 per cent (Bentiu town) to 4 per cent (Wau town) respectively. In IDP camps, the prevalence of moderate hunger was slightly higher, ranging from 42 per cent (Bentiu IDP camp) to 71 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) while hunger of severe catastrophe and severe emergency ranged from < 1 per cent (Malakal PoC site) and 7 per cent (Naivasha IDP Camp) and none (Malakal PoC site) to 5 per cent (Juba IDP Camps). The assessment was conducted prior to the reduction in food assistance in April 2021.

With regards to **protection**, between 6 per cent (Wau town) and 25 per cent (Juba IDP Camps) of households reported to had been affected by a safety or security incident in the month prior to the assessment. Further, in all locations a share of households suffered from psychological distress that severely impacted their daily life. Women were particularly affected as a result of GBV / sexual harassment and sexual exploitation, with households in the IDP camps and in the urban areas of Juba and Malakal being most likely to report these issues as serious concerns in their community. Households also saw girls at risk of forced marriage and GBV / sexual exploitation in all assessed locations. In contrast, households saw lack of education, substance abuse and involvement in youth gangs as the main risks to boys.

All location profiles included an **intersectoral analysis** that looked at household 5 (in IDP sites, 4) vulnerabilities and 20 indicators of needs. 56 per cent (Bentiu IDP Camp) to 95 per cent (Malakal town) of households suffer from at least one vulnerability, with female-headed households being more likely to do so than their male-headed counterparts. The median number of needs per household ranged between five (Malakal PoC site) and eight (Juba IDP Camps), with female-headed, displaced and returned households indicatively faring worse. The most common combinations of needs included those with needs in protection and/or WASH sectors.

FULL REPORTS AVAILABLE HERE:



[Urban Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Juba Town](#)



[IDP Site Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Juba IDP Camps 1 & 3](#)



[Urban Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Rubkona / Bentiu Town](#)



[IDP Site Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Bentiu IDP Camp](#)



[Urban Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Malakal Town](#)



[IDP Site Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Malakal UNMISS PoC Site](#)



[Urban Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Wau Town](#)



[IDP Site Multi-Sector Needs, Vulnerability and COVID-19 Impact Survey \(FSNMS+\) – Naivasha IDP Camp](#)