

Key findings

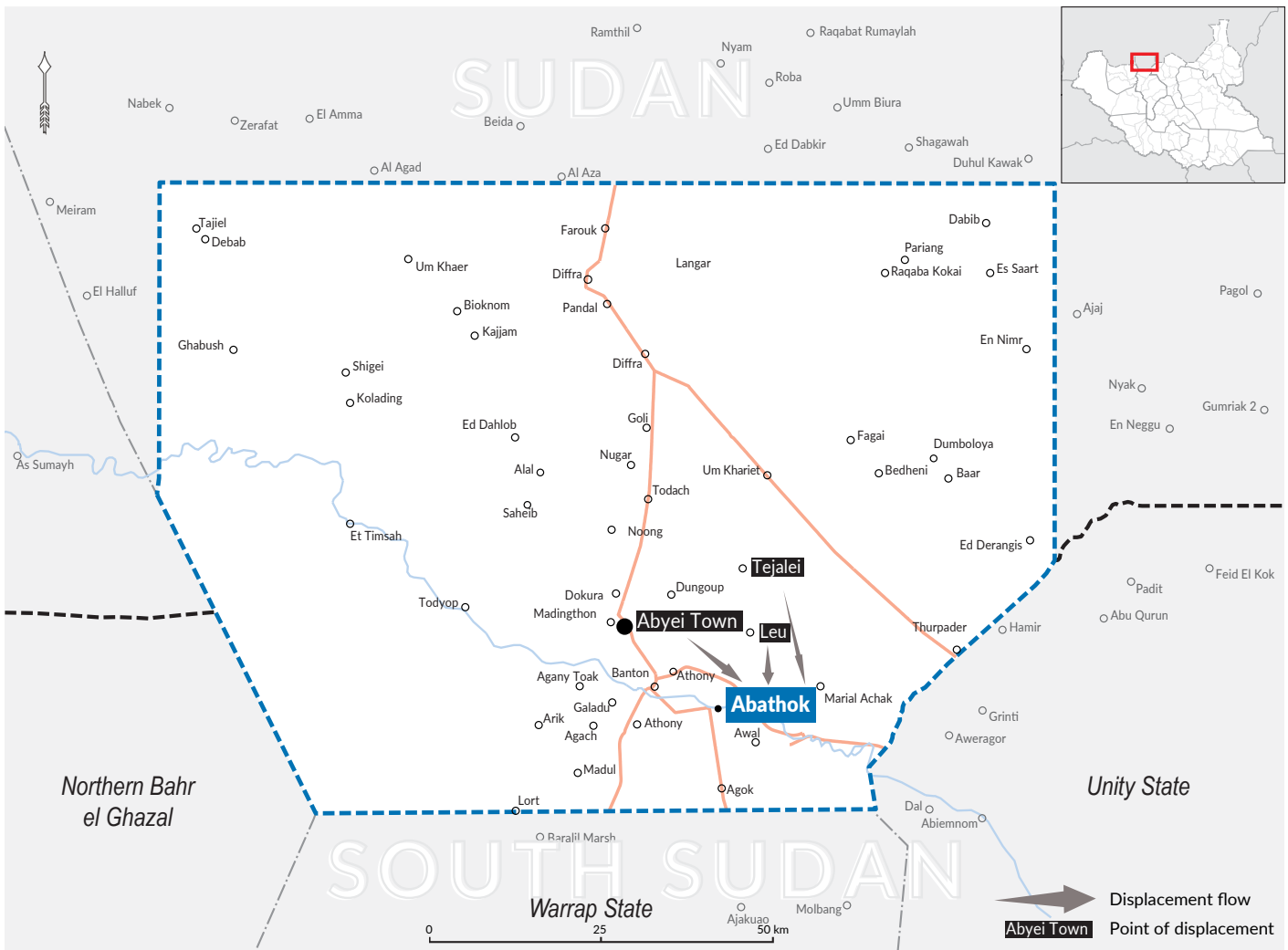
96% displaced from within Abyei

49% selected Abathok for safety reason

48% intend to return

83% request security information on places of origin for returning

Map of Abyei and surroundings



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METHODOLOGY

IOM collected quantitative data through a household questionnaire targeting a sample size of 10% of the displaced population. In an attempt to triangulate the information, IOM also collected data from focus groups and key informants.

BACKGROUND

The Abyei Area is divided by two dominant culturally distinct groups; the agro-pastoralist Dinka Ngok and the pastoral Misseriya. Conflict between the two is embedded in livelihood patterns that require migrations through Dinka-Ngok territory by the Misseriya in search of pasture and water for livestock. Tensions have been exacerbated by international politics that have made Abyei a contested area following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 that eventually lead to South Sudan's independence in 2011. Failure to settle the status of the Abyei region led to serious fighting from 2007 to 2008 leading to the displacement of up to 25,000 people. In 2011, violence erupted in Abyei town and the nearby villages causing the displacement of as many as 110,000 Dinka Ngok, destroying residences and public infrastructure.

Most were displaced to southern parts of Abyei and into Warrap and Northern Bahr Ghazal have not yet returned to Abyei until today due to fears of renewed violence. Abathok is one of the villages located in the southern part of Abyei, hosting displaced communities from Abyei town and the nearby villages. This report essentially aims to highlight the intention of displaced communities settled in Abathok village.

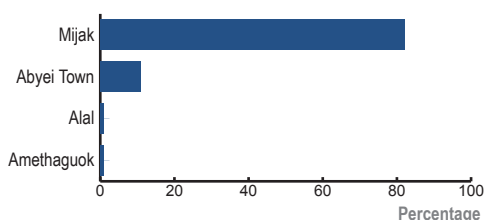
OVERALL FINDINGS

1. General

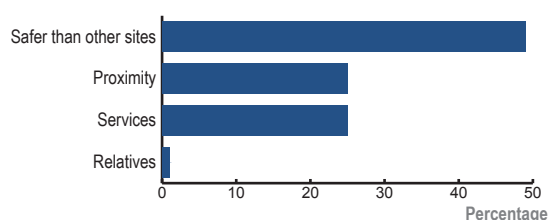
Most of the households (96%) within the displaced community were displaced from within Abyei, particularly Mijak County, while the rest(4%) came from Warrap and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. Most (85%) of the displaced from within Abyei were displaced from Mijak county followed by Abyei town (11%).

More than 92% of the individuals that were uprooted from Mijak County (75% of the total displaced in Abathok) were displaced from the villages of Tajalie and Lou. The main reason that motivated displaced households to settle in Abathok is the relative safety that prevailed in Abathok at the time of the crisis in 2011, followed by the proximity of Abathok to the place of residence before their displacement.

Graph 1: Point of displacement



Graph 2: Why did you chose this location?



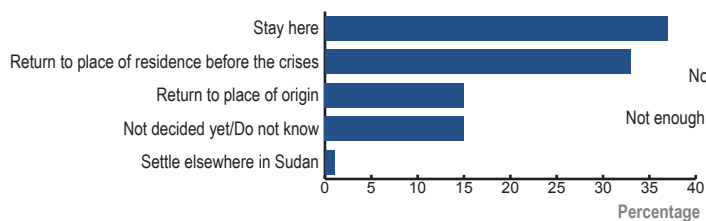
Close to 90% of the respondents are staying in Abathok with all their family members, while 8% have more than 75% of their family members with them. This is a strong indication that displaced families are well established in Abathok. Among the households that do not have their members with them, 89% responded that their members have settle elsewhere, which is neither the place of residence before crises nor the place of origin.

2. Intentions

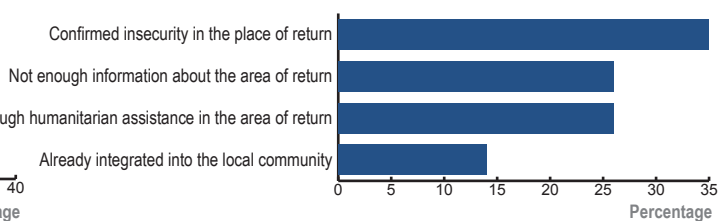
48% of the displaced population intend to return (to place of origin or place of residence before displacement) or settle elsewhere, while 36% intends to stay in Abathok. 15% have not decided yet. Among families that are returning, close to 70% plan to return to the places of thier residence before the crises as opposed to approximately 30% returning to the place of origin.

A closer look at the response of households that were displaced from Abyei town, indicates that 50% intend to return to the place of residence before crises; while 25% intend to stay. Only 32% of households displaced from within Mijak County, including Tajalie and Lou villages/bomas, intend to return. This indicates that IDPs from Abyei are more inclined to return to their place of origin thanIDPs from Mijak County returning to Mijak County. This is due to the strong UNISFA establishment in Abyei town which creates employment opportunities and, most importantly, may be security.

Graph 3: Intentions of IDPs



Graph 4: Why do you want to stay?

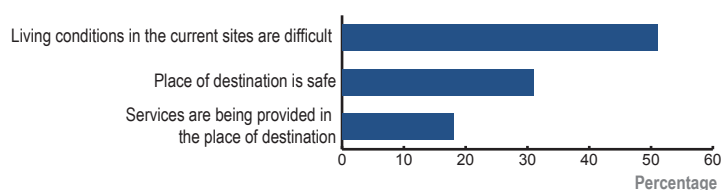


35% of the respondents, who opt to stay, believe that the places affected by the crisis are still not safe, while 26% opted to stay due to the lack of information about the place of destination and limited humanitarian services in the place of destination respectively. In addition, based on information gathered in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), some households mentioned that they lack the capacity to start a new afresh in the place of return. For instance, a widow woman, indicated that she does not have anyone to re-build her tukul and prepare her farm in Leu, so she prefers to stay in Abathok where she is well established, with a shelter and a farm.

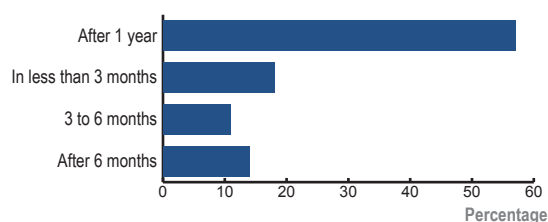
31% of the respondents who intend to return to their places of origin or settle elsewhere decided so due to improved security situation in the place of destination. 51% of the respondents opted to return or settle elsewhere due to difficult leaving condition in the place of settlement (Abathok), while 18% believe there are social services including schools and water facilities in the place of destination.

Among those who opted to return or settle elsewhere, 57% plan to leave their current location in Abathok after one year, while 18% intend to leave in less than three months.

Graph 5: Why do you want return or settle elsewhere?



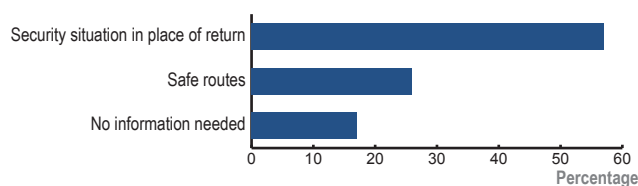
Graph 6: When IDPs anticipate to return/settle



3. Information

Most of the displaced households (83%) mentioned that information pertaining to security of place of destination and safe routes would be useful to facilitate return and settlement elsewhere.

Graph 7: Useful information to assist move



Many of the households (49%) rely on word of mouth for their information followed by communal meeting (16%) and local authorities (13%).



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