



Human Security Survey 2020 Annual Summary Report Greater Yirol, Lakes State, South Sudan

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- More than half of Greater Yirol respondents generally reported **improved security levels** during 2020-2021 compared with previous years, yet Yirol East County saw a worsening of security perceptions. In addition, the appointment of a new Governor in July 2020 meant a further improvement in security perceptions among data validation workshop participants from across Greater Yirol, representing a broad set of local stakeholders.
- The most frequently reported security incidents in Greater Yirol were **cattle raiding** and **forced marriage**, which are interlinked through the dowry system and the high demand for cattle. Forced marriages and elopements can lead to violence between families, but also to various forms of SGBV.
- The **police** is the most prominent local security actor in Greater Yirol, both in terms of accessibility and perceived performance. That said, armed youth and self-protection mechanisms still pose a challenge to police capabilities, and the police needs to be more present, better trained, and invest in better engagement with the communities they serve.

Introduction & Methodology

The Human Security Survey (HSS) is a unique survey methodology developed by PAX, that includes a series of complementary activities, including population-based research, active community engagement, and advocacy. The objectives of the HSS are: 1) to increase knowledge and understanding of local human security dynamics and trends; 2) to enhance the 'claim-making capacity' of civilians to hold security providers and decision-makers accountable; and 3) to inform evidence-based advocacy that enables international stakeholders to design and implement protection activities that reflect local realities. PAX currently implements the HSS in South Sudan in close collaboration with local field partners on the ground, such as the Assistance Mission to Africa

(AMA).

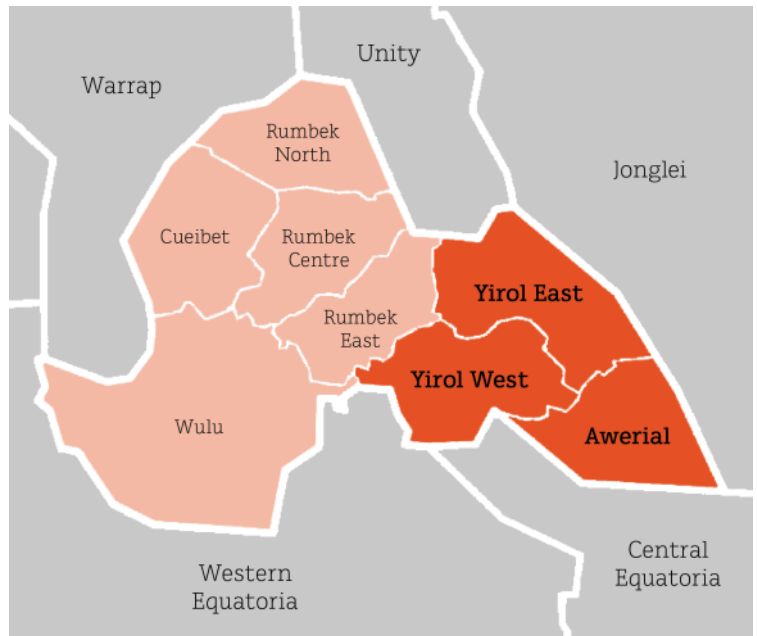
This survey cycle was the third data collection cycle to take place in the Greater Yirol region of Lakes State. This data collection took place in the course of three weeks in November 2020 by **10** enumerators (7 men, 3 women) who were trained for four days in data collection skills and procedures. A total of **407** surveys were collected across 14 *payams*¹ in Yirol West, Yirol East and Awerial counties. Within these payams, households and individual respondents were selected using an approximately random procedure to allow for some generalizability.²

In September 2021, PAX and AMA facilitated a 3-day community validation and security dialogue in Mingkaman. During this three-day dialogue the main

survey findings and their practical implications were presented, discussed, and validated; participants suggested main priorities and practical ways of addressing the main security issues, culminating in a community action plan. The local Community Security Committee (COMSECCOM), consisting of concerned community members of different backgrounds, will take on the responsibility to implement the new action plan agreed based on the 2020 data and communal discussions during the upcoming 1-1,5 years until the next data validation workshop will take place. This way, initiatives to address locally identified security issues originate from the community, and will also be locally followed up and accounted for, genuinely representing community-based grassroots capacities.

Demographics of the survey sample

Almost all (98.5%) of respondents indicated that they belonged to the ethnic group of Dinka, reflecting the ethnic distribution of the area. More than half (54%) of respondents were between 16-30 years of age, almost a third (31%) were between the ages 31-45, 14% were between 45-65 years of age and only 1% was above 65 years old.³ Two-thirds of respondents were female, one-third were male, most likely because surveys were primarily conducted during the morning and afternoon hours.⁴ At those times, many men are out herding cattle, working the fields, or engaging in other livelihood activities away from their homes. Female family members are more likely to be found in and around the house to look after children and do domestic chores,



Map of Lakes State, highlighting the surveyed counties

which was also confirmed by participants to the data validation workshop in Mingkaman.

More than half of respondents (58%) indicated that they relied on subsistence agriculture as their main source of livelihood at the time of the interview, with other respondents relying on wage labor (9%), being a student (8%), doing domestic tasks or having a small business or trade (both 7%, etc. More than half of the households surveyed (53%) indicated that their household relied on money sent home by family members elsewhere, while more than a third (35%) said they were self-employed.⁵

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents indicated they had not



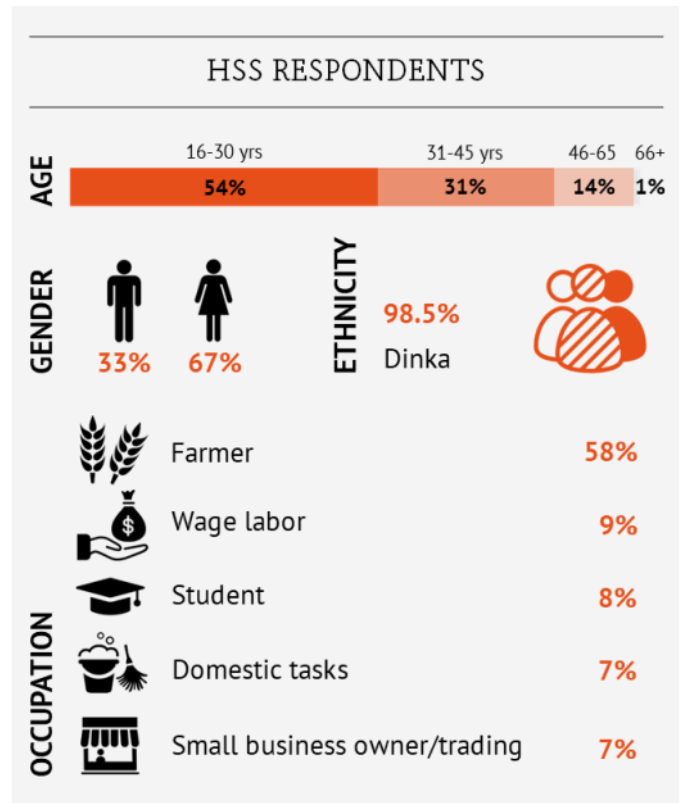
Map of South Sudan, highlighting the survey location Lakes State

completed any education (varying from **52%** in Awerial to **78%** in Yirol East), **15%** completed only primary education, **12%** completed secondary education, and only **6%** completed a higher level of schooling. More than three-quarters (**78%**) of respondents indicated that they have lived in their current payams continuously since 2013, while **22%** has migrated since then, **79%** of them migrating only once or twice in the last 7 years. More than half (**52%**) of respondents who indicated they migrated since 2013, claimed that insecurity played a role in their decision to migrate, while **42%** indicated they sought improved access to basic services and **26%** cited marriage or living closer to family as main reason for migration, and **24%** indicated they merely returned to their previous home area, among other less mentioned options. **55%** of the respondents who migrated, indicated that they have moved to another payam within their county.

MAIN FINDINGS

Perception of the general security situation

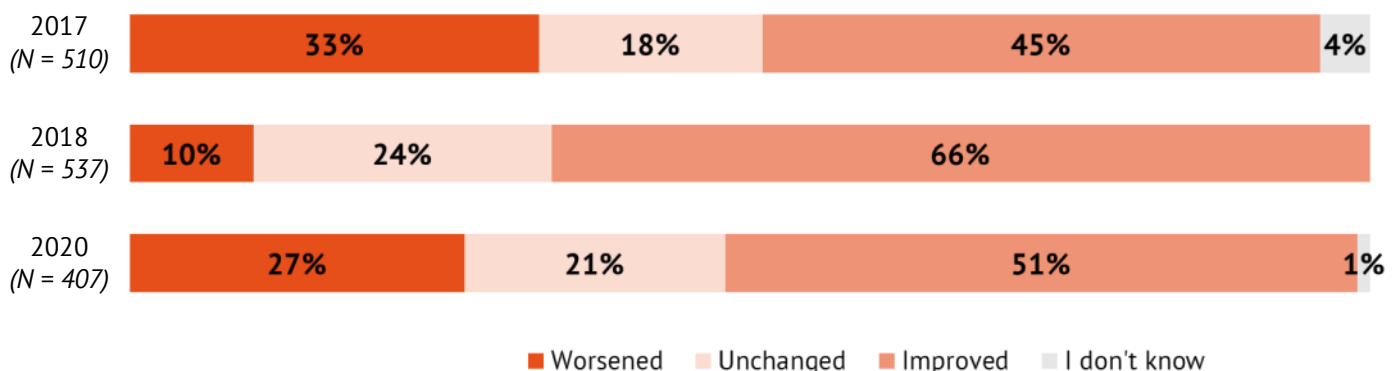
When asked how respondents perceived their own environment, two-thirds (**67%**) said either “very safe” or “somewhat safe”, while **32%** answered that their environment was “somewhat unsafe” or “very unsafe”.⁶ According to more than half (**51%**) of Greater Yirol communities, the local security situation over the previous year (2019-2020) had improved, with more than a quarter (**27%**) claiming the security situation had worsened, and an additional **21%** said the security situation hadn’t changed (see graph below). However, there was quite some regional variation in these perceptions, with **58%** of Yirol East respondents pointing to a worsening security situation over the year 2019-2020 (and only **14%** noticed an improvement, while in Awerial and Yirol West counties a comfortable majority perceived the situation to be improving, **83%** and **63%** respectively, see graph on next page). Despite these perceptions shared through the survey data, many participants to the data validation event in Mingkaman



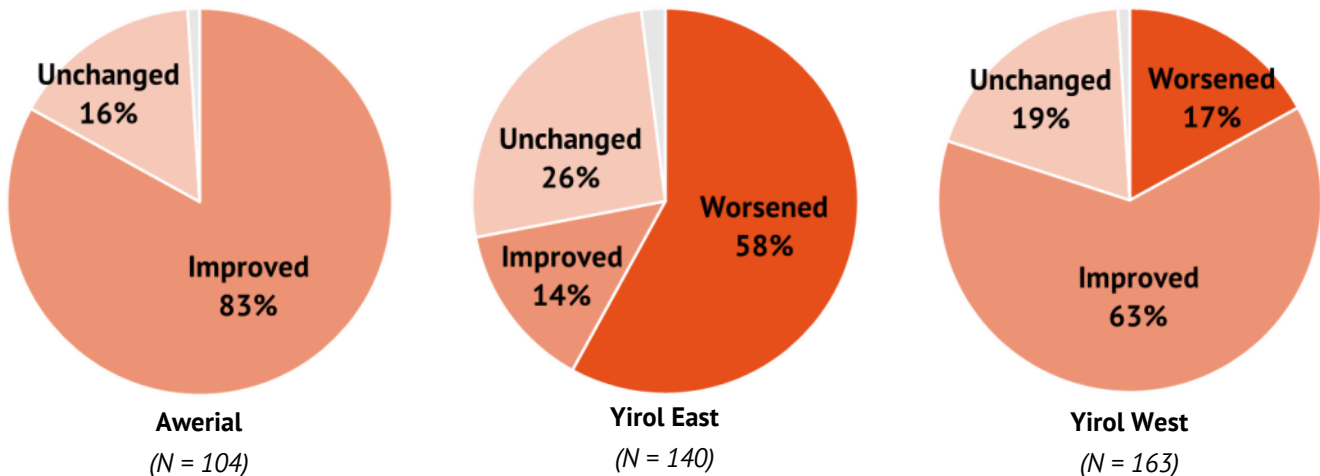
did not approve of the situation as being improved, and they said that the only improvement came after the new Governor was appointed just two months earlier (long after this survey data was collected among the communities).

This image of different security levels across Greater Yirol was confirmed by responses on the statement about how people perceived their immediate environment (“I generally feel safe from violence and crime in my community”), with the numbers across Greater Yirol being balanced (**51%** in agreement, **49%** disagreeing), but the different counties showing more pronounced views: in Yirol East county **80%** disagreed with the notion of feeling safe from violence and crime, while in Awerial and Yirol West counties **91%** and **53%** of respondents respectively, agreed with the statement that they generally felt safe from violence and crime in

HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR? (2017-2020)



HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR? (2020)



their community, while an additional **47%** in Yirol West disagreed to feeling safe.⁷

During the community data validation and dialogue meeting in Mingkaman, participants blamed this on the fact that Yirol East, and to a lesser extent Yirol West, shared a border with the neighboring Nuer communities of Payinjiar, with whom traditionally there is a rivalry which can lead to cattle raiding or other forms of communal violence, especially prior to 2018 when both communities settled their issues in a peace agreement that largely holds to this day. However, occasional raiding among cattle keepers in the border region still take place. Awerial participants claimed that their issues with their southern neighbors (the Mundari from Terekeka, which is part of Central Equatoria State) are a thing of the past.

The main practical consequences of improved security⁸ were “feeling less exposed to violence, crime or harassment when out of the house” (**65%**), “being able to travel more easily between my community and other areas” (**51%**), “seeing fewer criminal gangs in the streets” (**39%**), “having better access to food” (**33%**), “seeing fewer weapons on the street” and “having fewer worries related to my livelihood” (both **29%**), “having better access to basic services” and “knowing many friends or family who have been able to return home after being displaced” (both **24%**), and “having more access to support from NGOs or the UN” (**20%**), among other options less mentioned.⁹ The respondents who indicated that their personal security situation had become worse over the last year, based themselves mostly on a worsening food security situation¹⁰ (**65%** of the respondents who indicated worsening security), having less access to basic services (**53%**) and observing “more criminals gangs in the streets” (**50%**), among other less mentioned reasons.

Local communities generally develop coping strategies to respond to local levels of (in)security. Over a third (**34%**) of all respondents indicated that they “sought

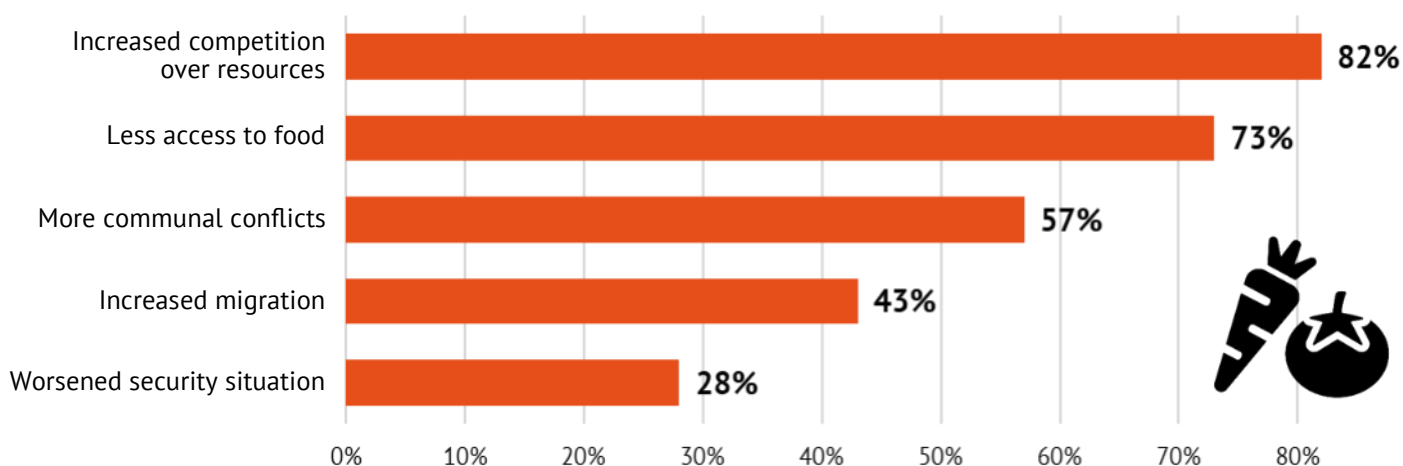
assistance from formal security forces” such as police, in dealing with insecurity, **32%** said that they “made the house safer”, **23%** “participated in peacebuilding initiatives”, **20%** “travelled less frequently outside of the home or avoided going to specific places” and **19%** “used tools for early warning”, among other options less often mentioned.¹¹

During the data validation meeting in Mingkaman, most participants confirmed and agreed with the views of the respondents. Relative improvements in the security situation were mainly attributed by the participants to the recent appointment of the new Governor of Lakes State (who was not yet appointed when the survey data was collected), and that this improved security diverted attention to the main humanitarian challenges in the area, such as food security and the low quality of medical services, education and roads. They also became aware that the payams and counties surveyed had different challenges and security contexts based on their geographical locations and their relations with neighboring communities. A high-ranking official from Awerial County stated that “What is on the projector here is the same as we experience in local government.”

Environment

The most prevalent environmental change observed across Greater Yirol was increased flooding (reported by **87%** of participants), followed by changes in temperatures (**52%**¹²), experiencing changes in the duration of dry and rainy seasons (**50%**), less predictable rainfall (**45%**), and increased drought (**38%**¹³), among lesser mentioned responses.¹⁴ Asked what the direct consequences of these environmental changes are to their community, **82%** of respondents claimed that “it increased competition over scarce resources like water or pastures”, **73%** said “it affected their access to food”, **57%** said “it created communal conflicts”, **43%** said that “it increased migration among communities” and **28%** claimed that “the general security situation worsened due

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN YOUR AREA? (N = 403)



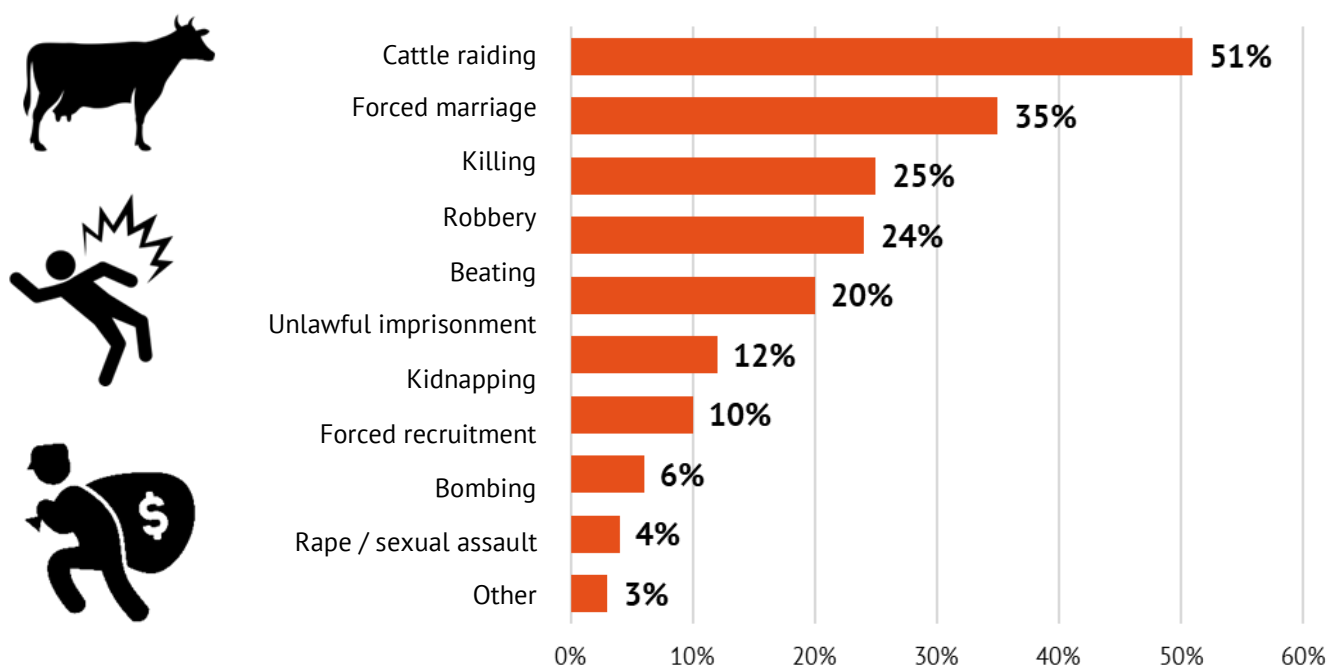
to the environmental changes” (see figure above).¹⁵

We asked respondents how they cope with these negative impacts of environmental changes on their community. Almost half of them (48%)¹⁶ indicated that “NGOs teach us new practices that help us to continue our livelihood or make necessary changes to our livelihood despite environmental changes”, whereas 37%¹⁷ said that “my family or the leaders in my community can agree with neighboring communities to share and exchange resources in times of shortage”, 34%¹⁸ answered that “local authorities in their area are able to address environmental changes”. An additional 32%¹⁹ said that their families “could migrate part of the year to locations where conditions are better” and another 32%²⁰ said that there are no ways to address the effects of environmental changes. Participants to the data validation workshop in Mingkaman generally agreed with the experiences provided by the respondents.

Incident reporting

Apart from environmental challenges to human security, community members in Greater Yirol have to deal with a variety of security-related incidents and threats. In total, the 407 respondents reported that their households experienced 789 incidents in the past year. More than three-quarters (76%) of all respondents indicated that they experienced one or more security incidents in the previous year (2019-2020): 33% of respondents actually reported only one security incident happening to them or their household over the last year, 25% reported two incidents, another 12% reported three incidents and a total of 5% reported more than three security incidents over the last year. Of the surveyed households, half (51%) experienced cattle raiding, 35% experienced forced marriages, 25% murders, 24% robberies, 20% assault, physical abuse or beating, 12% unlawful

HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING AN INCIDENT (N = 407)



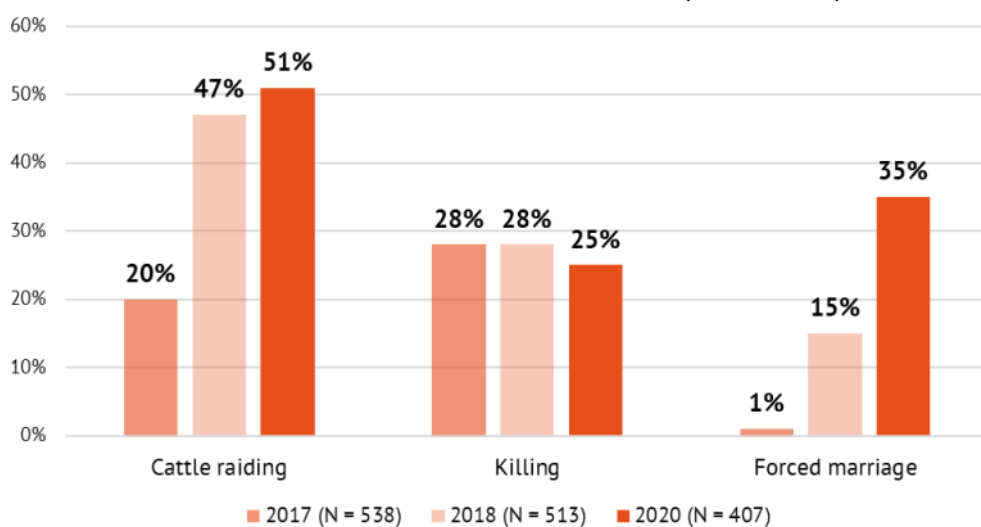
imprisonment, **10%** kidnapping, **6%** were subject to forced recruitment into organized forces or armed youth, etc. (see figures on the previous page and to the right).

The majority of the participants attending the validation workshop in Mingkaman validated these reported incidents. Cattle raiding was blamed on the copying behavior of young men wanting to prove themselves, while their parents and chiefs lack authority to hold them accountable.²¹ They claimed that cattle raiding and forced marriages are clearly interlinked: it was argued that especially raided cattle is used in forced marriages (“it leads to marriages to be concluded quickly and forcefully”), and as bride prices have soared over the years, the need for men to marry also drives the occurrence of new cattle raids, as more and more young men and their families cannot afford to collect enough cattle to marry (which is claimed to be the reason why only old men can marry young girls nowadays). Some chiefs even agreed that bride prices need to be brought down for more men to be able to marry. Some chiefs also blamed the occurrence of forced marriages because of the culture clash between older and younger generations: “young people want to abandon our culture for western style culture” and “girls are educated nowadays, they don’t accept forced marriage anymore and may even have boyfriends from elsewhere.”

Some women who attended the validation workshop claimed patriarchal structures still run deep and make it hard for girls and women to seek an education and a life away from early marriage: “Challenges women in Awerial [County] are facing are the issues of forced and child marriage. Our husbands and fathers decide on that. This is a big challenge. As mothers we try to send our daughters to school. Our husbands do not see this and think the priority is for them to get married. That is a big problem. Most of our daughters are committing suicide simply because of their forced marriage, often to old men.” The recent effects of climate change to the area (periods of increasing flooding or drought) have also added to the rise of forced marriage, as “floods and drought made people incur heavy losses, as their cattle died and forced some of them to sell off their daughters because of poverty.”

Across all security incidents, adult men are reportedly victimized much more frequently than women: **56%** of reported incidents involved adult men as victims, compared to **30%** in which adult women were reportedly victimized, while girls (**16%**) and boys (**12%**) were less frequently identified as being victims of the

HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING AN INCIDENT (2017-2020)



reported security incidents. Participants to the validation session in Mingkaman agreed to this view “because men are on the frontline, women are never on the frontline.” Almost a third (**32%**) of respondents who reported one or more security incidents happening to themselves or a household member, generally perceived that “someone from another community” were the most likely perpetrators of these incidents, followed by family members (**18%**), criminals (**16%**), “someone from my own community” (**14%**), police (**7%**), with ‘other’ response options scoring less than **5%**.

More than half (**61%**) of all respondents indicated that their household contacted someone outside their household to help them resolve the incident they experienced.²² The most contacted actors were the police (**72%** of respondents), local community leaders (chiefs; **59%**), local government officials (**43%**), family or friends (**25%**), the national army (SSPDF; **10%**), etc.²³ More than half (**54%**) of respondents, whose household sought outside assistance to resolve the incident, were not satisfied with the outcome or quality of the response received. Of those respondents, **54%** indicated they were unsatisfied because “the perpetrator was not caught”, followed by “no compensation for the losses was offered” (**51%**), “the perpetrator was not punished” (**43%**), “I did not feel safer generally” (**37%**), “I didn’t get my stolen goods back” (**27%**), etc.²⁴ For the **44%** of respondents who were satisfied with the response they received after reporting an incident, they based their satisfaction on the fact that “the perpetrator was caught and punished” (**70%**), “reconciliation with the perpetrator took place” (**60%**), “compensation for our losses was offered” (**52%**), and “honor was restored to the family” (**27%**).²⁵

Vulnerability

As could be seen already in the varying victimization rates of men, women, boys and girls in the previous section, the level of vulnerability of certain groups in

Security actor performance

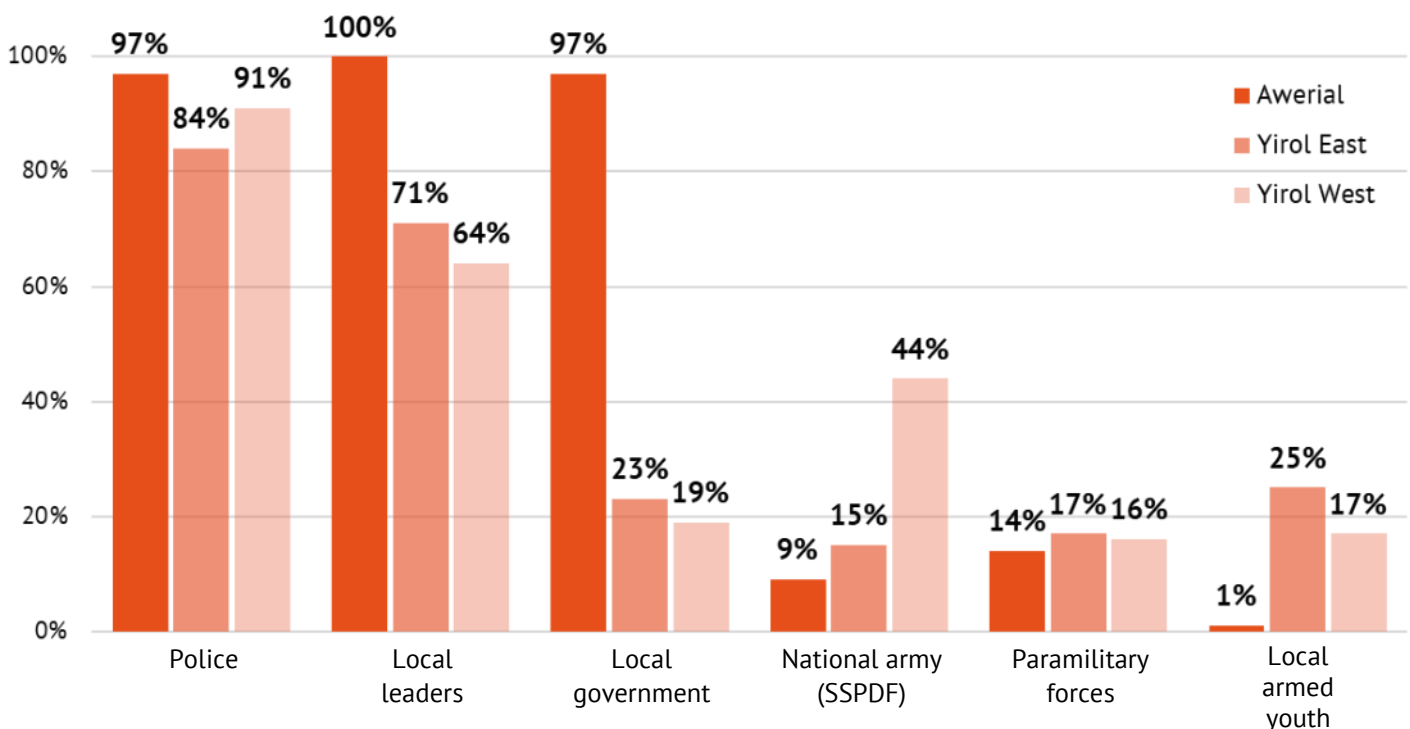
Respondents were asked which of the listed (security) actors they trusted the most. The police were mentioned by **87%** of respondents, followed by local leaders like customary chiefs and religious leaders (**72%**), followed by local government officials, like County Commissioners (**41%**)²⁹, the SSPDF or national army (**23%**), while armed youth was mentioned by only **11%** of respondents³⁰, together with other less mentioned options.³¹

Similarly, when asked which security actors were actually present and accessible in their respective payams throughout Greater Yirol, the police came out as most accessible security actor according to a clear majority (**90%**) of all respondents, followed by the local leaders (chiefs; **76%**), local government officials (“Commissioner”; **40%**)³², the SSPDF or national army (**25%**)³³, paramilitary forces (**16%**) and local armed youth (**15%**)³⁴, see the figure below.³⁵ The participants to the data validation session in Mingkaman agreed with and supported these views, showing a clear preference for the police compared to the informal armed youth that are so prominent in other rural areas across South Sudan. They made a clear distinction between the period before the new Governor was appointed (in which this data was also collected), and the period after the Governor took over (“Now we have law and order in which the armed youth should no longer play a big role” and “In those days the police got resistance from youth, but now we rely on trained police”), however it remained unclear if, and to what extent, actual police numbers and

capacities were actually improved in the months since the new Governor’s accession.

When we look at the performance rates³⁶ by community members for the three most accessible (“present”) local security actors, namely the police, local community leaders (chiefs), and local government officials (Commissioner), we see that the majority of community members look favorably at their performance: the police received **73%** of either “good” or “very good” reviews from respondents, and **11%** reporting “not good” or “very bad” views on their performance. Similarly, the local community leaders scored **80%** of (very) good reviews and only **4%** negative ones, and local government officials enjoyed **87%** of (very) good reviews and **0%** negative (none at all). Other security actors are less clearly appreciated, with the SSPDF or national army scoring **61%** of (very) good reviews, and **23%** claiming they did “not good” or “very bad”, the armed youth scored **66%** of (very) good rates and **25%** negative reviews, and spearmasters/magicians scoring even **63%** of negative scores by respondents (see graph on the next page). Participants to the data validation session in Mingkaman generally denounced the role of armed youth in providing security, but claimed they were most importantly creating insecurity and hindering a good performance by the police: “The local armed youth are not good. Let’s get out of the mindset that local armed youth are an important security actor, because they also cause problems.” And an intelligence officer said: “When there is a lot of arms, the police cannot do a good job, because they are getting resistance from the local armed youth. But now there are tough laws in place, so now they can go and do

WHICH SECURITY ACTORS ARE PRESENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY? (N = 407)



their job. But before, they could not do anything because the community was well armed. That was a challenge.” On the other hand, a female participant explained that armed youth do still have an important role to play if the community is under external attack.

Not only in physical security provision do informal law enforcement actors play an important role in rural areas, a more than two-thirds (69%) of all respondents prefers informal justice provision and communal dispute resolution by local community leaders or chiefs, over the judges and lawyers representing the state court system, preferred by 30% of respondents.

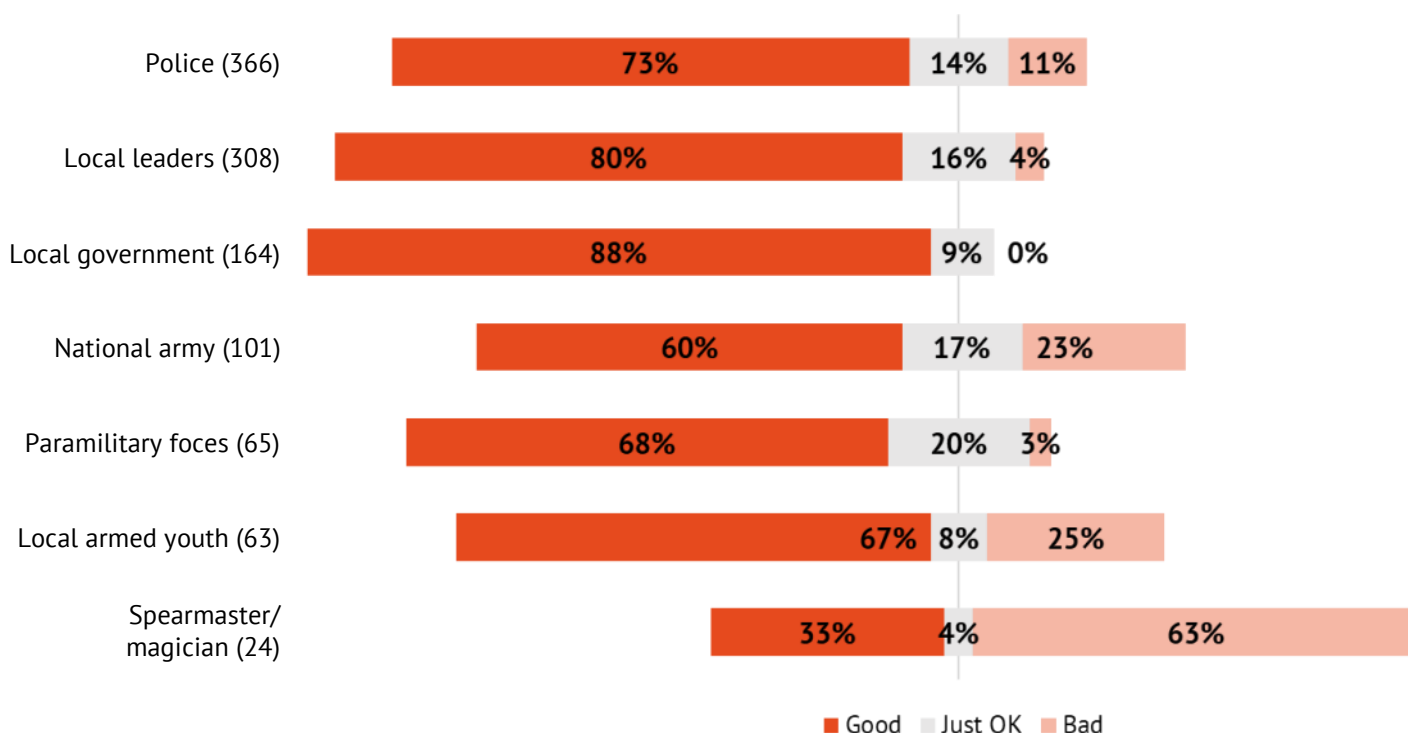
However, the general preference of the police in Greater Yirol compared to the armed youth (prevalent and appreciated by many rural communities) was further confirmed by responses to the statement “In my payam we trust local armed youth for our security more than any outsiders”. Almost two-thirds (62%) of all respondents disagreed with this statement, while 36% agreed. Similarly, almost two-thirds of respondents (64%) agreed that “my community relies on police presence to provide protection and security”³⁷, while 36% said their community relies on armed youth for security provision instead.³⁸ However, there still exists a tendency to prefer local and accessible law enforcement actors according to 53% of all respondents agreeing that “it is best when security forces are recruited from within our own community because they know us”, while a respectable number of 45% of respondents agreed that “it is best when security forces are from outside the payam, because they do not take sides”. Participants to the validation

session in Mingkaman highlighted (often from their own experience) how difficult it is to function as security provider within your own community: “Working in your own area causes a lot of problems. If we are sons of the areas, they will just make a phone call and warn us. Let people be transferred and mix-up.” Or: “If I report someone, they will accuse me of betraying them to their boss.” That this ‘closeness to the community’ directly affects the quality of law enforcement was made clear by a police captain: “Part of the criminals in the community have not been apprehended, because they have relatives in the forces.”

The general trust in the police was confirmed by 87% of respondents agreeing that “police take community reports seriously and are helpful in resolving them”, with only 12% disagreeing. A female participant to the data validation session in Mingkaman said that reporting incidents made the police more accountable than armed youth: “Police is very good because they write down the report and statement and they investigate. And they document incidents. But armed youth don’t do all that.” More than three-quarters (79%) of respondents claimed that men and women are treated equally by the police when they report cases, with 20% disagreeing with this statement. However, 90% of respondents thought that there should be more women serving in the police to help address security issues affecting women better, and another 93% would support women from their own families to apply for a position in the police force.

The participants of the data validation session in Mingkaman agreed that women were underrepresented

HOW DO YOU RATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE ACTORS IN PROVIDING SECURITY?



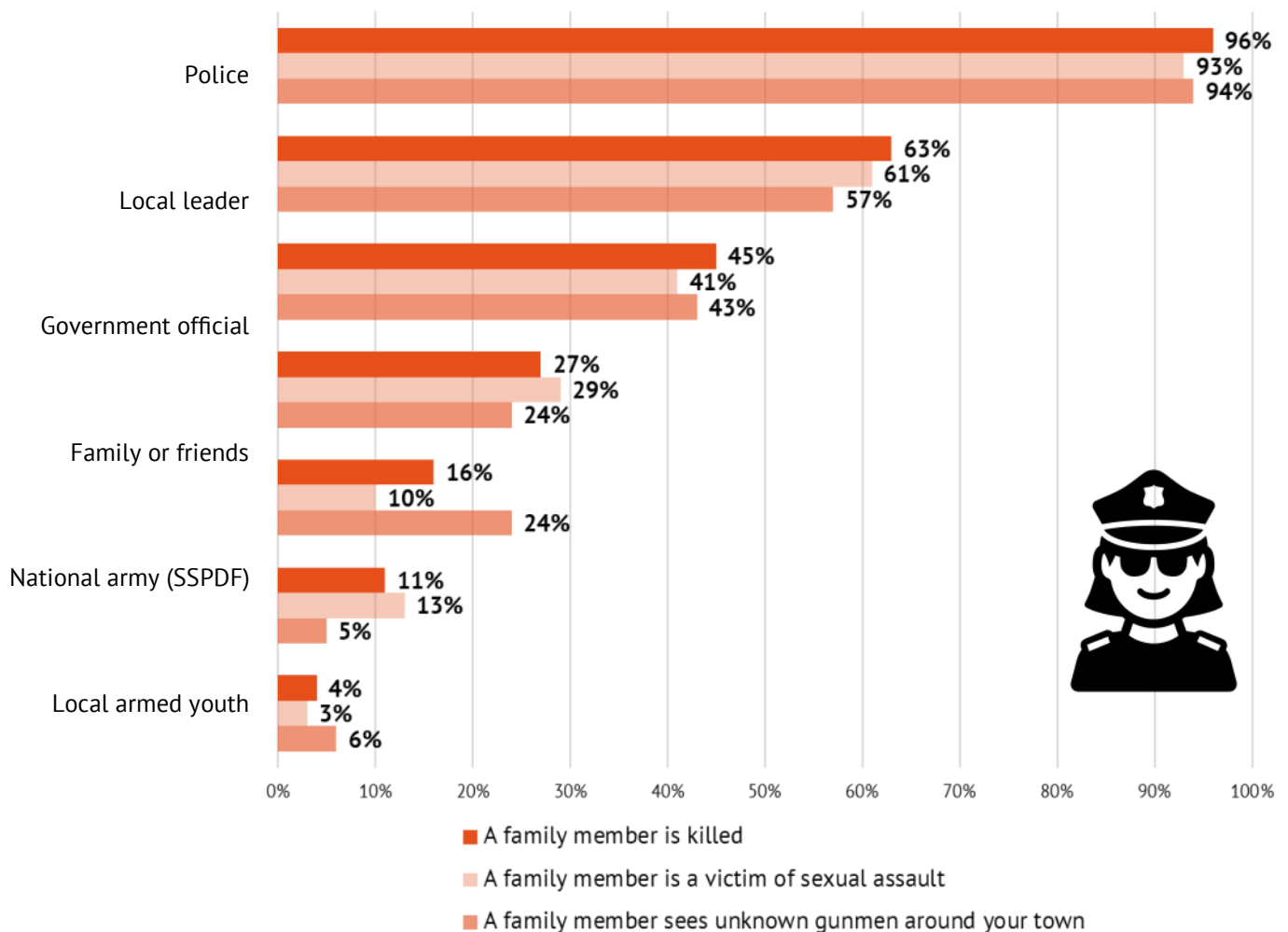
in the police and other security forces. A police captain gave an example why more women were needed in the prison service: *“Women inmates need to be escorted by a woman if they need to visit the restroom. This cannot be done by a man. So I support that women should join not only the police, but also the prison service”*. A woman participant recalled a recent case where a female inmate committed suicide in jail, and she suggested that more women working for the prison service could have prevented this: *“A woman that was arrested on the offenses committed by her husband committed suicide in the police cell, because she was improperly detained. If there were women in the police force, she would not have committed suicide. She would have received some advice from her sisters, who could make her understand.”* Generally, it was agreed that women have many qualities that are sorely needed in today’s law enforcement: *“Women are very honest and do not accept bribes. Anything that men can do, women can do.”* Another woman said: *“Many people who are in school now don’t think the police is important, but it is very important. Women should grow up realizing that they can also become a police officer.”*

When respondents were asked to indicate who they

would contact in imaginary cases of murder, sexual assault or sightings of unknown gunmen around their community, to see if respondents associate specific types of security incidents with particular security actors, the police, local leaders (chiefs) and local government officials (Commissioner) all scored similarly and consistently high in all three cases (see graph below).

When asked how the three security actors most visibly present across Greater Yirrol (police, local leaders/chiefs, local government officials) could improve their performance, **82%** of respondents indicated that the police should be better trained (**79%** of respondents who indicated their presence in the community), that more presence of the police is needed (**80%**)³⁹, that the police should be more responsive towards civilians (**52%**)⁴⁰, that they should be better armed or equipped (**43%**)⁴¹, that reporting to the police should be made easier for community members (**43%**), that more women should be working for the police (**43%**) and that the police should be more visible through patrolling (**33%**)⁴². During the data validation session in Mingkaman, the police officers who were present were also asked what the main challenges of the police are, and they stressed the current lack of mobility: *“Our challenges as police are*

WHO WOULD YOU CONTACT IF THE FOLLOWING HAPPENED? (N = 407)



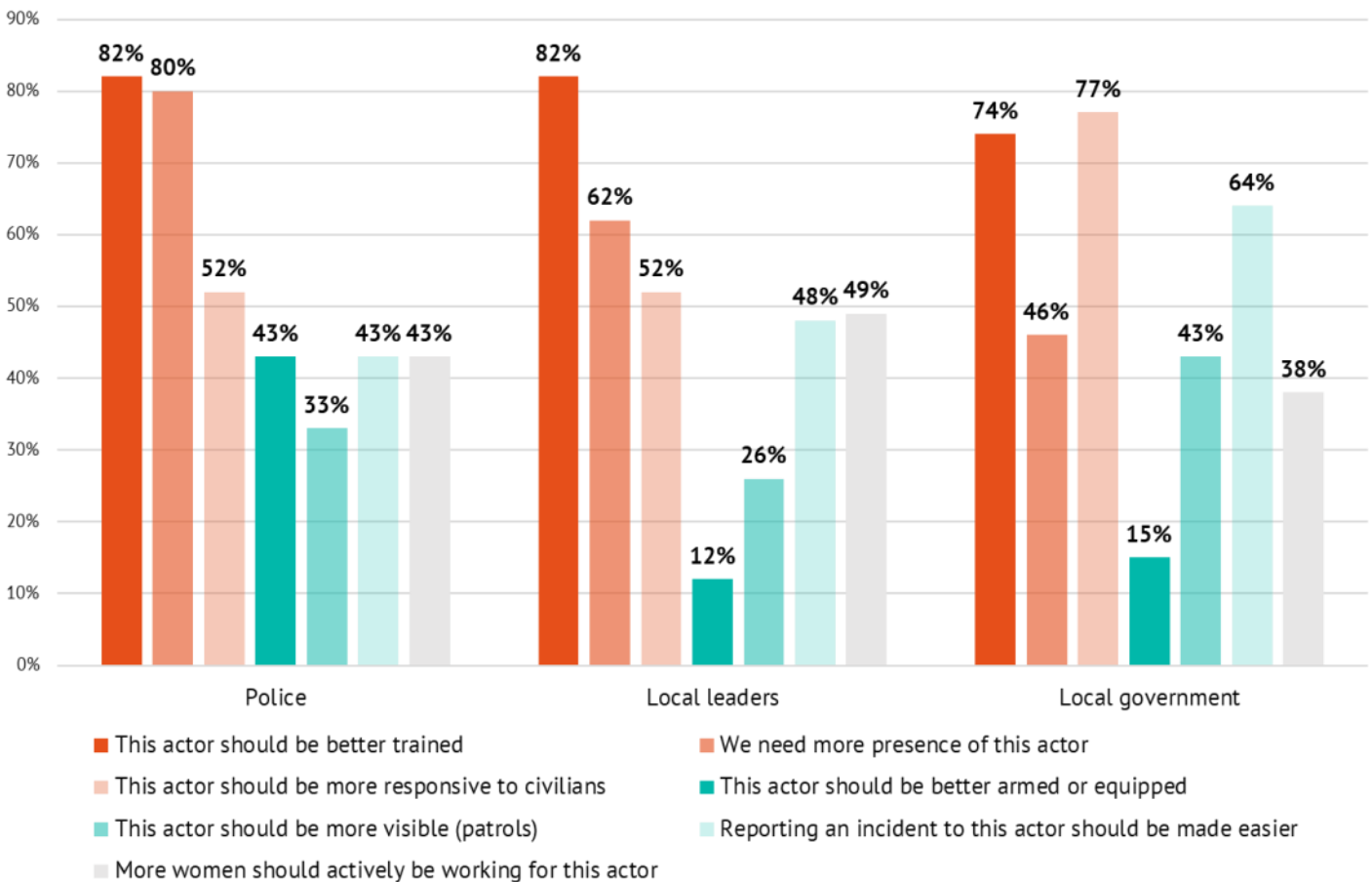
mobility. We lack transportation and other logistics. For example, when there is a report in Awerial that something is happening, we don't have a vehicle to drive there and reach the area." A police captain said: "Our challenges as people working in the field is that we don't have land for a prison. Our office is now used by the County Commissioner, the same office where we put the prisoners. We don't have handcuffs. We want these things."

Concerning the community leaders or chiefs, respondents thought they should be better trained (82%), that chiefs should be more present in the community (62%), that they should be more responsive to civilians (52%), that they should contain more women (49%) and that reporting an incident with them should be made easier for community members (48%). With local government officials (with the appointed Commissioner on top) on the other hand, 77% of respondents said they needed to be more responsive towards the community, 74% thought they should be better trained, 64% thought that reporting an incident by community members should be made easier, 46% thought more presence of local government officials was needed, more visibility by local government was suggested by 43% and more women working for local government by 38% (see graph below).⁴³

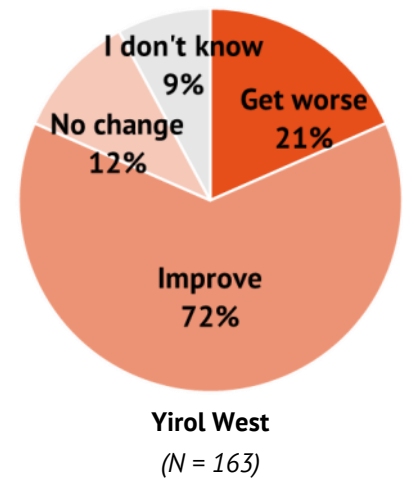
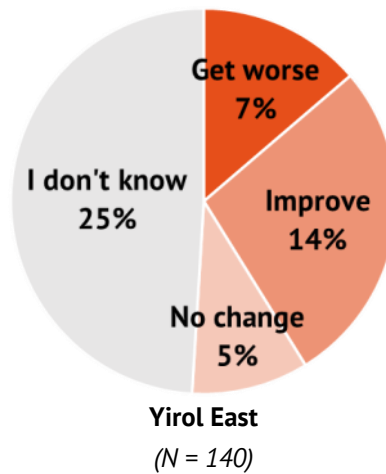
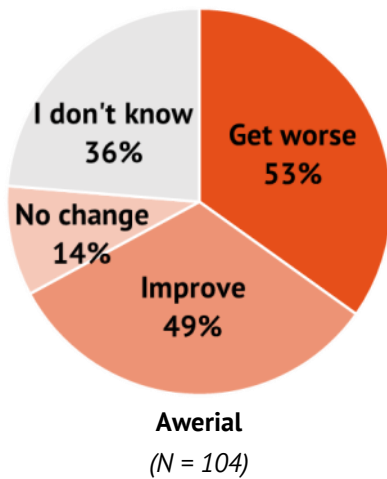


An enumerator collecting HSS data despite very challenging field conditions in Greater Yiro (Lakes State, November 2020)

WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE ACTORS?



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WILL HAPPEN WITH SECURITY IN THE NEXT YEAR?



Governance issues and how to address local insecurity

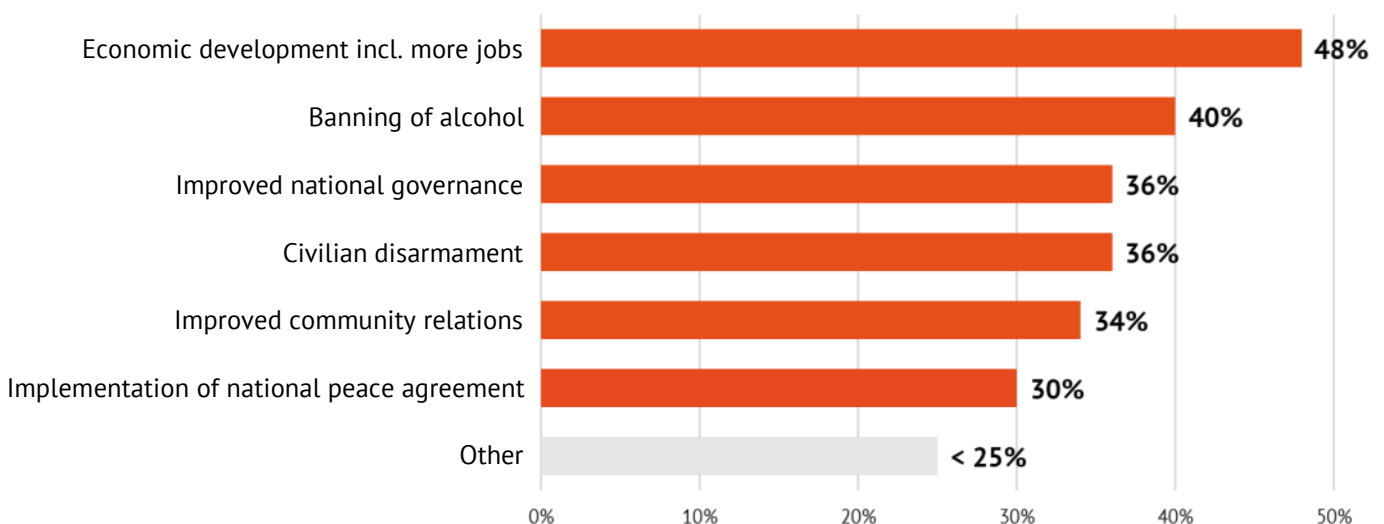
When looking towards the future, almost half of respondents (47%) expected either little or big improvements of the security situation in Greater Yirol, compared to 22% expecting the situation to become a little or much worse (see charts above for disaggregated results). In addition, more than half of all respondents (59%) indicated that “poverty or lack of livelihood opportunities” is the most likely factor to cause future conflicts in Greater Yirol⁴⁴, followed by “poor governance at the national level” (41%⁴⁵), Alcoholism (38%⁴⁶), “easy access to weapons” (36%⁴⁷), “tribalism or discrimination between ethnic groups” (36%⁴⁸), “competition over resources” (21%), “lack of basic services” (20%), and “cattle raiding and the increasing dowry prices” (19%), among other less mentioned reasons receiving less than 15% of respondent views.⁴⁹

When formulating future expectations more positively (“What are the 3 most significant changes that need to

happen to bring lasting peace to South Sudan?”), almost half of the respondents (48%) pointed towards “economic development”, followed by “banning alcohol” (40%), “improved governance at the national level” (36%), “civilian disarmament” (36%), “improved community relations” (34%), “implementation of the national peace agreement”⁵⁰ (30%), “improved food security” (25%), “better access to basic services” (20%), and other responses receiving less than 10% of responses, see the figure below.⁵¹

However, general legitimacy of local elites who are based in the capital (Juba) and their impact on the security situation in Greater Yirol, is considered positive by two-thirds (66%) of all respondents, agreeing that “local politicians and community leaders from Greater Yirol who live in Juba are helpful in preventing or resolving community conflicts”, whereas 28% was of the opinion that “local politicians and community leaders from this area who live in Juba are often creating community conflicts in their home area or make them worse”. Similarly, two-thirds of respondents (65%) agreed that

WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO BRING LASTING PEACE TO SOUTH SUDAN? (N = 407)



the national government in Juba “is taking effective steps to reduce violence in our community”, while 27% disagreed with this statement.

Respondents overwhelmingly feel that the results of this and future surveys should be actively shared with the community, primarily through “organizing community meetings with citizens, local authorities and security actors” (81% of respondents), by “organizing meetings with specific groups in society, like women, youth, or chiefs” (52%), or “sharing the results through local radio” (48%), or via social media (17%), publish a report (16%), or via national or local newspapers (12%).

Participants to the three-day data validation and community security dialogue in Mingkaman jointly identified five main security priorities most in need of addressing, based on the survey data and subsequent discussions: 1) Revenge killing; 2) Availability of arms in

the hands of civilians; 3) Cattle raiding; 4) Alcoholism; 5) Forced marriage. Common understanding of threats and priorities helps to focus local peacebuilding efforts in the upcoming year, as well as the follow-up activities initiated by the Community Security Committee (COMSECCOM) on the basis of a joint action plan, which is agreed and supported by the local authorities and other community representatives.

PAX is committed to continue conducting (bi-)annual rounds of survey collection and community engagement in the course of 2022-2023 at least, to generate additional insights into local security dynamics, to monitor how identified trends in local security provision develop over time, and to support the local follow-up activities undertaken by community representatives, with the aim of achieving sustainable results in improving the local security situation for communities across Greater Yirol and its neighboring states.



A chief contributes during the data validation workshop and community dialogue. Attendees included local government officials, security sector officials (police, army, prison service, fire brigade), community leaders and civil society representatives from church, women’s and youth groups (September 2021, Mingkaman)

Notes

¹ Lower governmental administrative area, mostly consisting of a town or a number of adjacent villages or hamlets. The payam often serves as a basic point of logistical orientation for many (rural) South Sudanese.

² For more details on the survey methodology, please visit <https://protectionofcivilians.org/report/human-security-survey-methodology-south-sudan/>

³ The median age in South Sudan is 18.6 years according to the CIA World Fact Book (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/south-sudan/>). By excluding respondents below 16 years of age, the average age in our sample is necessarily much higher.

⁴ 59% of respondents indicated that they reside in a female-headed household, and 40% in a male-headed household.

⁵ 82% of respondents said that their own livelihood comprised

the main livelihood of their household.

⁶ Regional variation showed that 98% of Awerial respondents and 86% of Yirol West respondents classified their environment as either “*somewhat safe*” or “*very safe*”, while in Yirol East County 77% of respondents said their environment was “*somewhat unsafe*” or “*very safe*”.

⁷ The community members in agreement are both the respondents who answered “*somewhat safe*” or “*very safe*” to this statement, while those that disagree are formed by respondents who answered “*somewhat unsafe*” or “*very unsafe*”.

⁸ Asked only to respondents who claimed their security situation improved during the last 12 months in December 2019–November 2020.

⁹ Respondents could pick more than one response option with this question, so the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

¹⁰ A chief from Awerial said: “*In Awerial there are no crops. People are dying now. What is taking a life now is not another human being, but it is hunger.*” Another chief representing former IDPs from Jonglei who reside in Awerial County, confirmed this: “*Who is responsible for us in the UN? Food ratios that we were given years back are not enough now. The UN will give us only till this month [September]. The rest of the months food ratios will not be given to us. How will we survive?*”

¹¹ Respondents could pick more than one response option with this question, so the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

¹² 96% in Awerial.

¹³ 76% in Yirol East.

¹⁴ Respondents could pick more than one response option with this question, so the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

¹⁵ Idem.

¹⁶ Ranging from 81% in Yirol West to 16% in Yirol East.

¹⁷ Ranging from 83% in Awerial to 4% in Yirol East.

¹⁸ Ranging from 88% in Awerial to 2% in Yirol East.

¹⁹ Ranging from 95% in Awerial to 8% in Yirol East.

²⁰ Ranging from 79% in Yirol East to 0% in Awerial.

²¹ Most participants claimed that cattle raiding reduced since the appointment of the new Governor of Lakes, a few months prior to the validation session: “*Back then laws were not upheld and people started to raid cattle. Now people are not raiding cattle anymore. If it stays this way, we will be peaceful.*”

²² Of the remaining respondents who did not seek external assistance, 72% said they did not do so because they “*did not believe anyone could help me resolve the issue*”, 20% “*expected bias against them or their family.*”

²³ For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result, the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

²⁴ Idem.

²⁵ For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result, the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

²⁶ Idem.

²⁷ Idem.

²⁸ Idem.

²⁹ Varying from 100% of Awerial respondents, to 19% and 21% for Yirol East and Yirol West respondents, respectively.

³⁰ Varying from 1% of Awerial respondents to 22% of Yirol East respondents.

³¹ For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

³² Ranging from 97% in Awerial County to 19% in Yirol West.

³³ Ranging from 9% in Awerial to 44% in Yirol West County.

³⁴ Ranging from 1% in Awerial to 25% in Yirol East County.

³⁵ For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

³⁶ Respondents were only asked to evaluate the performance of security actors that they indicated were “*present in their area most of the time*”. This leads to some skewing of results towards positive ratings, as presumably, the absence of a security actor is viewed as a negative.

³⁷ Ranging from 45% in Yirol East County to 83% in Awerial County.

³⁸ Ranging from 16% in Awerial County to 54% in Yirol East.

³⁹ Ranging from 48% in Awerial to 94% of Yirol East.

⁴⁰ Ranging from 28% in Yirol East to 94% in Awerial.

⁴¹ 83% in Yirol East.

⁴² For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result, the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

⁴³ Idem.

⁴⁴ Ranging from 36% in Yirol East to 85% in Yirol West.

⁴⁵ Ranging from 12% in Yirol East to 90% in Awerial.

⁴⁶ Ranging from 12% in Awerial to 62% in Yirol East.

⁴⁷ Ranging from 1% in Awerial to 50% of Yirol East.

⁴⁸ 75% in Awerial.

⁴⁹ For this question, respondents were allowed multiple answers. As a result, the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.

⁵⁰ The national peace agreement meant here is the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS), which was signed in September 2018 by the national government and the main armed opposition (SPLA-IO).

⁵¹ For this question, respondents were allowed to give three answers. As a result the sum of the responses exceeds 100%.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Peace. Are you in?

PAX