PAX — Peace. Are you in?

Human Security Survey
2021 Annual Summary Report
Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan

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protectionofcivilians.org

Key findings & recommendations to local government and UNMISS

- Almost two-thirds of Magwi respondents (**64%**) generally reported **improved security levels** during 2020 -2021 compared with previous years. Local stakeholders request UNMISS to:

#1 Actively assist in **protecting returning refugees** and IDPs to Magwi, and support **confidence-building measures** to guarantee and sustain the improved security to further encourage the return of refugees to the area, for instance by establishing a temporary field base in Magwi.

- **Local community leaders/chiefs and police** are the most often contacted security actors in Magwi County, and their performance is considered good (chiefs = **69%**, police = **57%**). Local stakeholders call upon local government authorities and UNMISS to:

#2 Increase engagement and **interaction with local communities**, including chiefs, local government authorities and the police.

#3 Provide concrete **support in improving local police capabilities** through technical training and necessary resources. Through improved communication and more regular patrols, police can execute its 'community policing' potential.

#4 Report and **punish all human rights abuses by uniformed personnel** pro-actively, as they undermine the community's confidence in local security actors.

#5 Provide logistical **support to community-based protection initiatives** such as local peace dialogues.
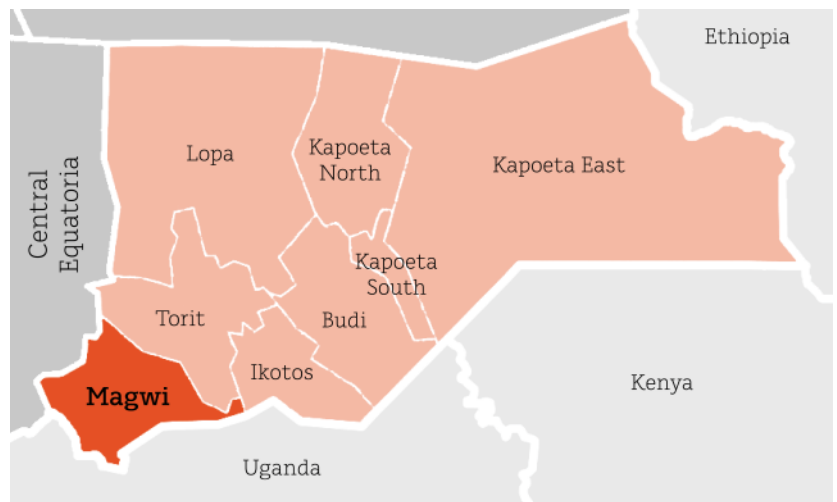
Introduction & Methodology

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 Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Torit (JPC-CDoT).

This survey cycle was the inaugural data collection to take place in Eastern Equatoria State.[1] This data collection took place in the course of three weeks in April 2021 by **12** enumerators (7 men, 5 women) who were trained for four days in data collection skills and procedures. A total of **393** surveys were collected across 6 *payams*[2] in Magwi County. Within these payams, households and individual respondents were selected using an approximately random procedure to allow for some generalizability.[3]

In late August 2021, PAX and JPC-CDoT facilitated a 3-day community validation and security dialogue in Torit. During this three-day dialogue the main survey findings

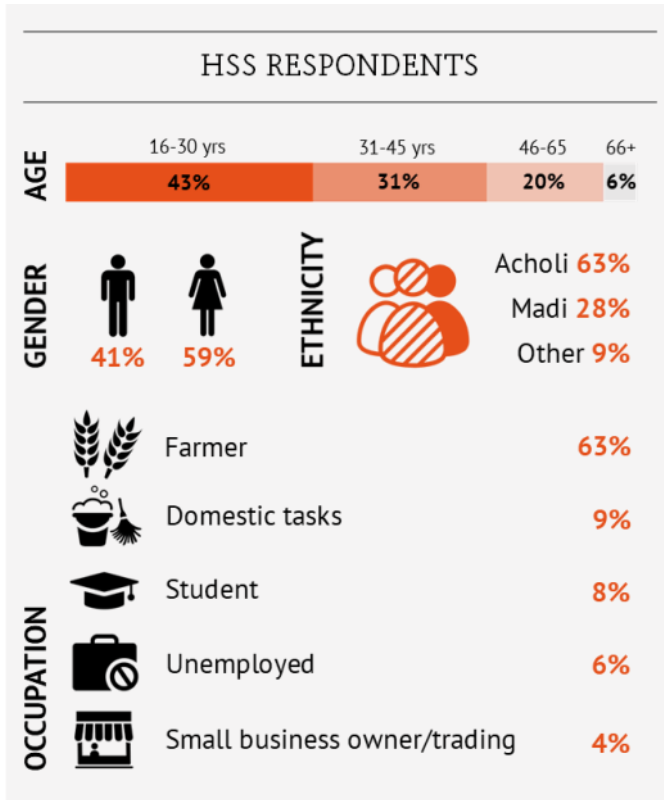*Map of Eastern Equatoria State, highlighting the survey location Magwi County*

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. A local Community Security Committee (COMSECCOM) was newly established after this meeting and consists of concerned community members of different backgrounds. The COMSECCOM will take on the responsibility to implement the new action plan agreed based on 2021 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.

Map of South Sudan, highlighting the survey location Eastern Equatoria State

For more information, please visit protectionofcivilians.org or the interactive dashboards of HSS South Sudan and HSS Iraq

Demographics of the survey sample

Almost two-thirds (**63%**) of respondents indicated that they belonged to the ethnic group of Acholi, while more than a quarter (**28%**) belonged to the Madi, which according to the participants to the local data validation workshop, did not fully reflect the common ethnic distribution across EES' Magwi county.[4]

HSS RESPONDENTS

AGE

16-30 yrs	31-45 yrs	46-65	66+
43%	**31%**	**20%**	**6%**

GENDER

41% **59%**

ETHNICITY

Acholi **63%**
Madi **28%**
Other **9%**

OCCUPATION

Farmer	**63%**
Domestic tasks	**9%**
Student	**8%**
Unemployed	**6%**
Small business owner/trading	**4%**

43% of respondents were between 16-30 years of age, almost a third (**31%**) were between the ages 31-45, **20%** were between 45-65 years of age and only **6%** were above 65 years old.[5] **59%** of respondents were female, **41%** were male, most likely because surveys were primarily conducted during the morning and afternoon hours. 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, which was also confirmed by some participants to the data validation workshop in Torit.

Almost two-thirds of respondents (**63%**) indicated that they relied on subsistence agriculture as their main source of livelihood at the time of the interview, with other respondents relying on domestic work (**9%**), being a student (**8%**), while **6%** claimed to be unemployed, etc.[6] More than a third (**38%**) of all respondents indicated they had completed only primary education, another third (**33%**; 47% of men, 23% of women) completed secondary education, and almost a quarter (**23%**; 35% of women and 7% of men) indicated that they hadn't completed any schooling at all. Over half

(**56%**) of respondents indicated that they have lived in their current payams since 2013, while **44%** has migrated since then, most of them migrating only once or twice in the last 8 years. **80%** of respondents who indicated they migrated since 2013, claimed that insecurity played a role in their decision to migrate, while **23%** indicated they (also) sought improved access to basic services and **22%** cited economic opportunities, such as the pursuit of work or an education. **71%** of the respondents who migrated, indicated that they have moved abroad. Magwi County borders Uganda to the south, which makes this neighboring country an important destination for many people from Magwi.
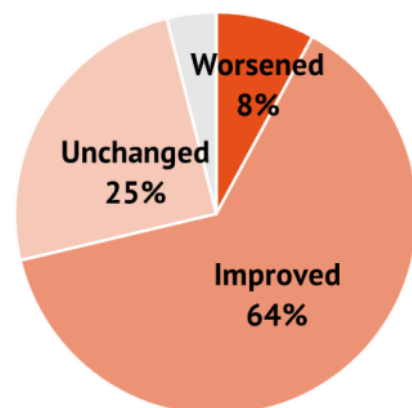
MAIN FINDINGS

Perception of the general security situation

According to almost two-thirds (**64%**) of Magwi County communities, the local security situation over the last year (2020-2021) has improved, with **8%** claiming the security situation had worsened, and an additional quarter said the security situation hadn't changed (see graph below).

This image of improving security levels across Magwi County was confirmed by responses on the statement about how people perceived their immediate environment, with **86%** of respondents replying with either *"very safe"* or *"somewhat safe"* and **12%** responding *"somewhat unsafe"* or *"very unsafe"*. Responses to the statement *"I generally feel safe from violence and crime in my community"* showed a similar picture, although with a narrower margin of **57%** of respondents being in agreement and **39%** in disagreement with the statement.
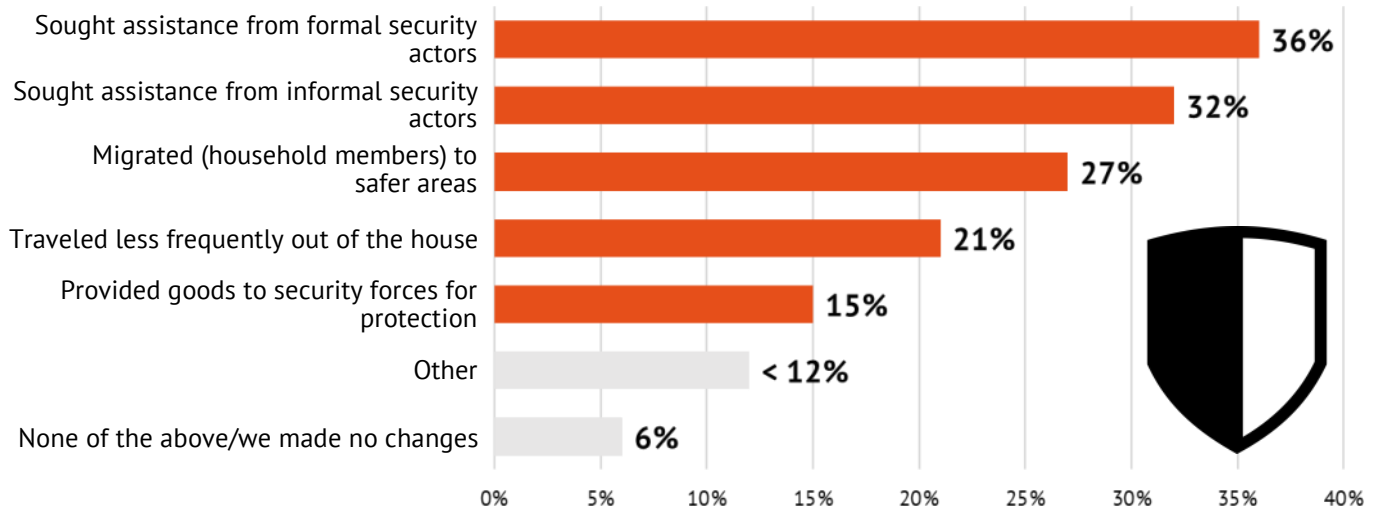
The main practical consequences of improved security[7] were *"feeling less exposed to violence, crime or harassment*

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

Magwi County
(N = 393)

IN THE LAST YEAR, HAVE YOU DONE THINGS TO PROTECT YOURSELF AS A RESULT OF INSECURITY? *(N = 393)*

Response	Percentage
Sought assistance from formal security actors	36%
Sought assistance from informal security actors	32%
Migrated (household members) to safer areas	27%
Traveled less frequently out of the house	21%
Provided goods to security forces for protection	15%
Other	< 12%
None of the above/we made no changes	6%

when out of the house" (**66%**), *"being able to travel more easily between my community and other areas"* (**20%**), *"seeing fewer criminal gangs in the streets"* (**19%**), *"seeing more uniformed security forces patrolling the streets"* (**18%**), *"seeing fewer weapons on the street"* (**13%**) and *"knowing many friends or family who have been able to return home after being displaced"* (**11%**), among other options less mentioned.[8]

Local communities generally develop coping strategies to respond to local levels of (in)security. Over a third (**36%**) of all respondents indicated that they *"sought assistance from formal security forces"* such as police in dealing with insecurity, **32%** said that they *"sought assistance from informal security forces"* such as armed youth, **27%** *"migrated, fled, or sent household members away to safer areas"*, **21%** *"travelled less frequently outside of the home or avoided going to specific places"*, **15%** *"provided goods to security forces in return for protection"*, and **12%** made their house safer, among other options less often mentioned (see figure above).[9]
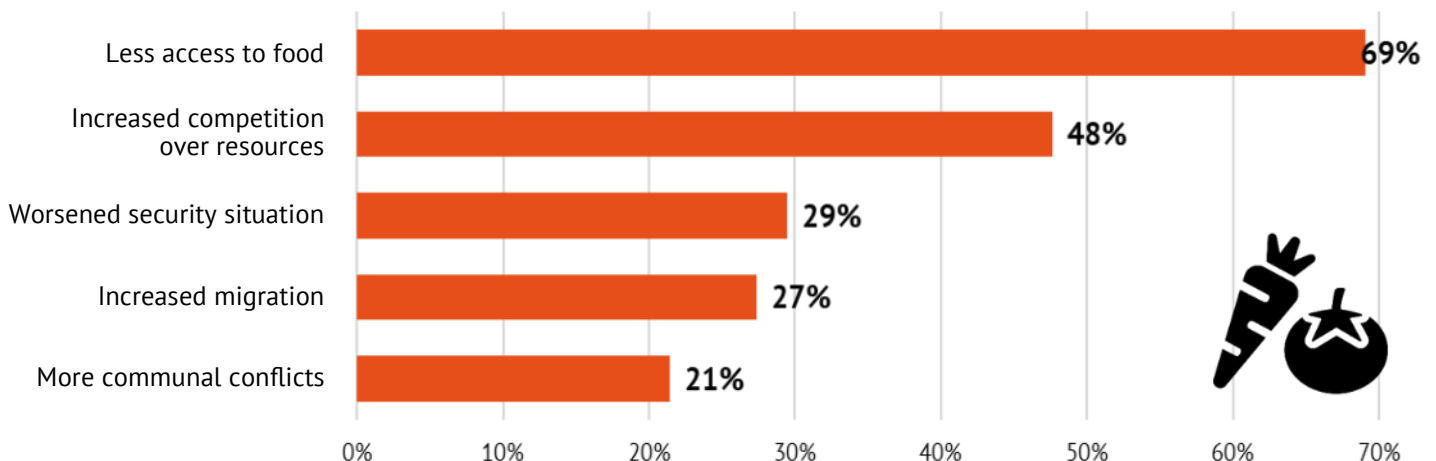
During the community data validation and dialogue

meeting in Torit, most participants confirmed and agreed with the views of the respondents. They commonly interpreted the perceived gradual improvement in security levels collected in 2020-21 as compared to the previous years from 2016 onwards, which they interpreted as being the result of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and the formation of the Government of National Unity, leading to improved stability. Some stated that now people could at least safely express their views in a way that was impossible just three years ago.

Environment

The most prevalent environmental change observed in Magwi County was less predictable rainfall (**48%**), experiencing changes in the duration of dry and rainy seasons (**45%**), changes in temperatures (**40%**) and increased flooding (**23%**), among lesser mentioned responses.[10] Asked about the direct consequences of these environmental changes to their community, more than two-thirds (**69%**) of respondents claimed that it

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN YOUR AREA? *(N = 363)*

Consequence	Percentage
Less access to food	69%
Increased competition over resources	48%
Worsened security situation	29%
Increased migration	27%
More communal conflicts	21%

For more information, please visit protectionofcivilians.org or the interactive dashboards of HSS South Sudan and HSS Iraq

affected their access to food, nearly half (**48%**) of them said it increased competition over scarce resources like water or pastures, **29%** said the general security situation worsened due to the environmental changes, **27%** said that it increased migration among communities and **21%** claimed it fueled communal conflicts (see figure on previous page).[11]

We asked respondents how they cope with these negative impacts of environmental changes on their community. Three-quarters of them (**75%**) 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 **41%** answered that local authorities in their area are able to address environmental changes. An additional **26%** said that their community members/leaders should agree with neighboring communities to share and exchange resources in times of shortage and contested access, and **22%** said that their families could migrate part of the year to locations where conditions are better. Participants to the data validation workshop in Torit agreed generally with the experiences provided by the respondents.

Incident reporting

Apart from environmental challenges to human security, community members in Magwi County have to deal with a variety of security-related incidents and threats. Over half (**58%**) of all respondents indicated that they experienced one or more security incidents in the previous year: **38%** of respondents actually reported only one security incident happening to them or their household over the last year, **14%** reported tw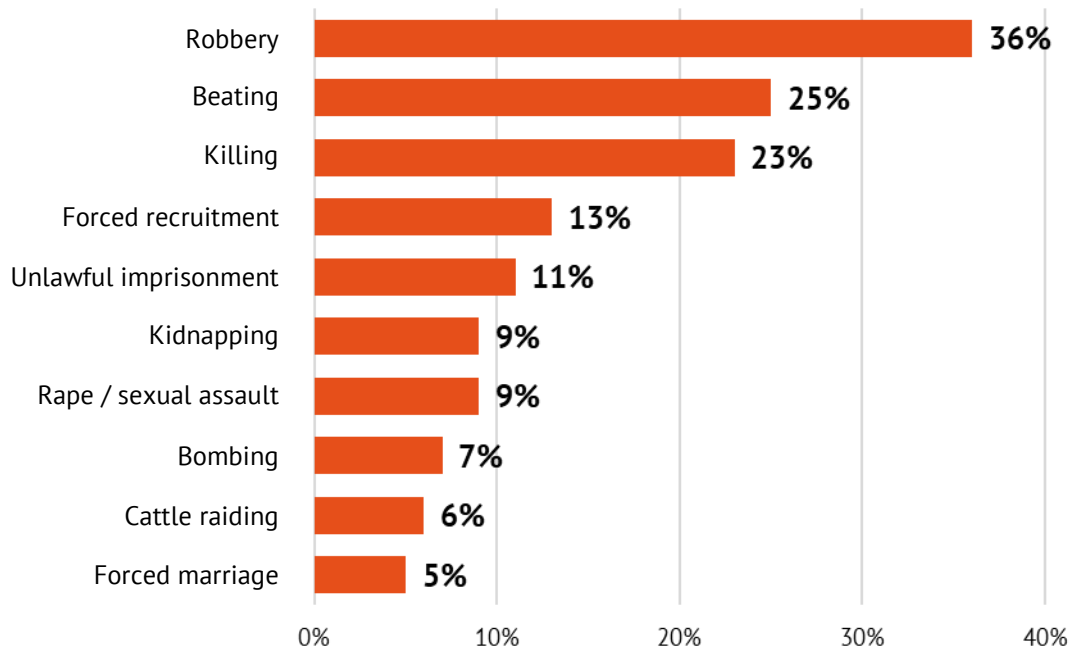o incidents, another **4%** reported three incidents and a total of **1.5%** reported more than three security incidents over the last year. All 393 respondents reported a total of **564** separate incidents, **36%** of which referred to robbery cases, **25%** to assault, physical abuse or beating, **23%** to murders, **13%** forced recruitment into security forces or armed groups, **11%** to unlawful imprisonment, **9%** to kidnapping as well as rape and sexual assault, **7%** to bombing, **6%** to cattle raiding and **5%** to forced marriages (see figure below).

The majority of the participants attending the validation workshop in Torit validated the occurrence of these incidents, however some of them were not sure on the last two type of incidents reported as security incidents in Magwi County. They claimed that cattle raiding and forced marriages are not that prevalent in Magwi, while armed cattle herders created tensions with farmers only during the time of the validation workshop. The Executive Director of Magwi County doubted these numbers too, as he claimed that the local communities, unlike the Dinka and the Nuer elsewhere, don't have much cattle and therefore cases of cattle raiding, as well as forced marriages linked to the distribution of dowries, were few. In addition, robberies were specified as often happening during road ambushes by criminals. During the validation meeting, two other frequent incidents were often mentioned as the main form of violent

48%
Respondents reporting less predictable rainfall

HOUSEHOLDS REPORTING AN INCIDENT *(N = 393)*

Incident	Percentage
Robbery	36%
Beating	25%
Killing	23%
Forced recruitment	13%
Unlawful imprisonment	11%
Kidnapping	9%
Rape / sexual assault	9%
Bombing	7%
Cattle raiding	6%
Forced marriage	5%

incidents in Magwi County, namely violent land conflicts (often after illegal occupation or sale of land) as well as violent outbreaks between local farmers and migrating pastoralists who become embroiled while conducting their respective livelihoods.

Across all security incidents, men are reportedly victimized much more frequently than women: **57%** of reported incidents involved adult men as victims and in **12%** boys were victimized, while adult women (**20%**) and girls (**11%**) were less frequently identified as being victims of the reported security incidents. **41%** of respondents who reported one or more security incidents happening to themselves or a household member, generally perceived that the national army (SSPDF) were the most likely perpetrators of these incidents, followed by SPLA-IO (**23%**), and three potential perpetrators receiving only **5%** of respondents' blame (criminals, local armed youth and *"someone from my own community"*), with other response options scoring a total of **21%**. The earlier mentioned road ambushes were blamed on both undisciplined SSPDF soldiers deployed along the roads (who were said to guard security checkpoints where travelers are bribed or intimidated) or on criminal gangs, by different participants to the data validation meeting in Torit.

In over one-third (**36%**) of all cases (505 incidents), respondents indicated that their household contacted someone outside their household to help them resolve the incident they experienced.[12] The most contacted actors were local community leaders (chiefs; **35%**), police (**23%**), local armed youth (**21%**), and the national army (SSPDF; **12%**), among other actors receiving less than **5%** of reports from respondents.[13] In almost two-thirds of cases where the household sought outside
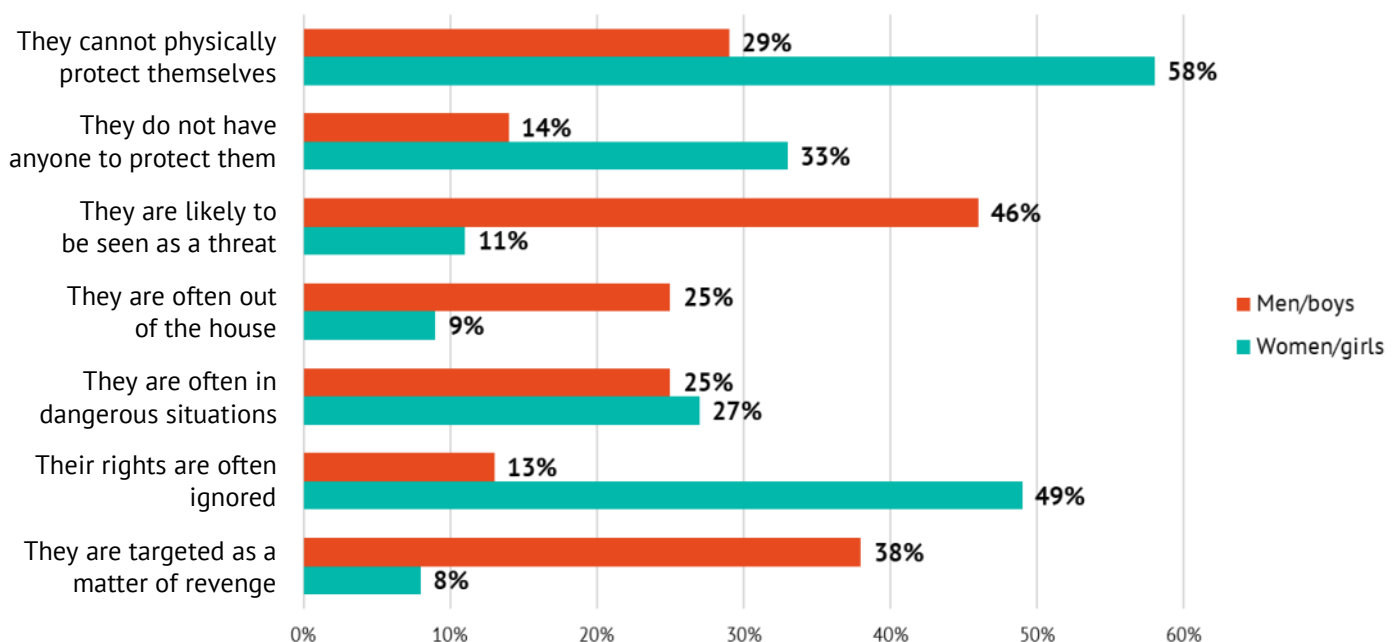
81%

"Disarmament of civilians in this payam is needed for security"

assistance to resolve the incident (**61%** of 181 incidents), the respondents were not satisfied with the outcome or quality of the response received. Of those respondents, **29%** indicated they were unsatisfied because *"the perpetrator was not caught"*, followed by *"the perpetrator was not punished"* (**17%**), *"no compensation for their losses was offered"* (**16%**), *"I didn't get my stolen goods back"* (**11%**) and *"I was threatened because I sought assistance"* (**9%**). In the remaining **38%** of cases in which assistance was requested, the respondent was satisfied with the response, because *"the perpetrator was caught and punished"* (**25%**), *"reconciliation with the perpetrator took place"* (**18%**), *"honor was restored to the family"* as well as *"compensation for losses was offered"* (both **11%**), and *"at least they tried to help me"* (**10%**).

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 society is very contextual. **69%** of respondents claimed that *"some people in this community are more likely to be exposed to violence than others"*, while **25%** were of the

WHY ARE MEN/BOYS AND WOMEN/GIRLS EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE? *(N = 393)*

Reason	Men/boys	Women/girls
They cannot physically protect themselves	29%	58%
They do not have anyone to protect them	14%	33%
They are likely to be seen as a threat	46%	11%
They are often out of the house	25%	9%
They are often in dangerous situations	25%	27%
Their rights are often ignored	13%	49%
They are targeted as a matter of revenge	38%	8%

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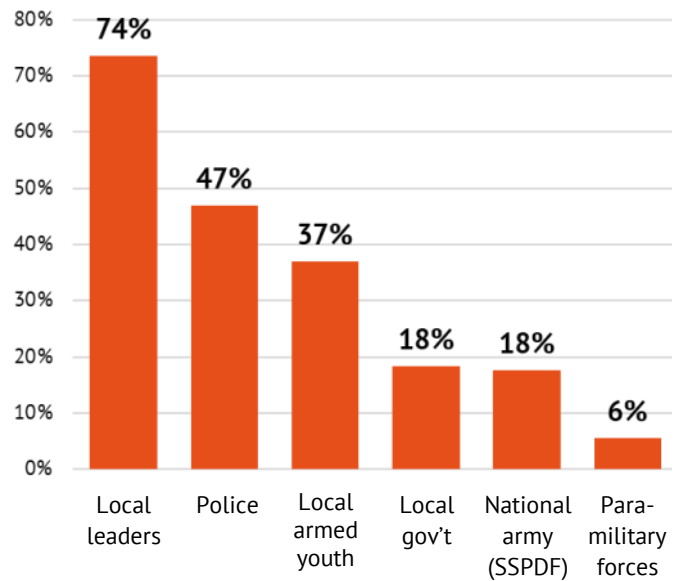
opinion that *"all people in this community are equally likely to be exposed to violence"*. When the former were asked which groups in society are most vulnerable to be victims of violence, **51%** indicated these were young women and girls, followed by elderly people (**50%**), small children (**45%**), young men and boys (**40%**), people with physical or mental disability (**25%**), and internally displaced people or refugees (**21%**), among other answer categories receiving less than **15%** of respondents' choice.[14]

However, in a question that focuses solely on gender differences in exposure to violence, around two-thirds of respondents (**65%**) agreed with the statement that *"men/boys and women/girls are equally likely to be exposed to violence"*, with **19%** saying that *"women and girls are most likely to be exposed to violence"* and **12%** that *"men and boys are more likely to be exposed to violence"*. However, while in people's perceptions women and girls are more vulnerable to become a victim of violence, we see that men and boys are more often reported to be victims in the actual incidents (see section Incident reporting).

Almost half of respondents (**46%**) thought that men and boys' vulnerability stems from *"likely being seen as a threat"*, followed by *"being targeted as revenge"* (**38%**), *"not being able to physically protect themselves"* (**29%**), *"being often out of the house"* (**31%**) or *"being often in dangerous situations"* (both **25%**), *"not having anyone to protect them"* (**14%**), or that *"their rights are often ignored"* (**13%**).[15] Women's and girls' vulnerability, on the other hand, was because *"they cannot physically protect themselves"* (**58%**), *"their rights are often ignored"* (**49%**), *"they don't have anyone to protect them"* (**33%**), *"they are often in dangerous situations"* (**27%**), and because *"they are likely being seen as a threat"* (**11%**), before other options less mentioned (see graph on previous page).[16]

During the data validation workshop, as reported earlier, some participants argued that it is mostly young men who are involved in cattle raiding and revenge killing, being the cause of their own vulnerability by carrying arms. However, the majority of participants agreed that due to random insecurity, every person is equally affected or exposed to violence, which is in contrast to the views of the HSS respondents, the majority of whom (**69%**) claimed that *"some people in*

WHICH SECURITY ACTORS ARE PRESENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY? *(N = 393)*

this community are more likely to be exposed to violence than others."

Security actor performance

Respondents were asked which of the listed (security) actors they trusted the most. More than two-thirds (**69%**) of respondents mentioned local leaders like chiefs and religious leaders, followed by the police (**49%**), local armed youth (**39%**; 45% of women respondents), local government officials, like County Commissioners (**17%**), the SSPDF or national army (**14%**), and UNMISS (**7%**; 12% of men respondents) with other options receiving less than **3%**.[17]

Similarly, when asked which security actors were actually present and accessible in their respective payams throughout Magwi County, local leaders (chiefs) came out as most accessible security actor according to almost three-quarters (**74%**) of all respondents, followed by the police (**47%**), local armed youth (**37%**), local government officials (*"Commissioner"*; **18%**), and the SSPDF or national army (**18%**), see the figure above.[18] The participants to the data validation session in Torit agreed with and supported these views. They acknowledged the role played by the local armed youth during the last four years of conflict (2016-2020) in parts of the Acholi Corridor, saying that *"they patrolled and took up the role of police"*, and *"they stood on their feet into the shoes of the police to provide security to their local population, till 2020 when they voluntarily handed back the police role."*

When we look at the performance rates by community members for the three most accessible (*"present"*) local security actors, namely local leaders (chiefs), police and armed youth, we see that the majority of community members look favorably at their performance: local

73%

"An early or forced marriage happens because there is a need for cows (dowry)"

leaders received **69%** of either *"good"* or *"very good"* reviews from respondents, and only **4%** reporting *"not good"* or *"very bad"* views of their performance. Similarly, the police scored **57%** of (very) good reviews and **8%** negative ones, and the armed youth enjoyed **76%** of (very) good reviews and **6%** negative. Other security actors are less clearly appreciated, with local government actors scoring **49%** of (very) good reviews, and **47%** claiming they did *"just OK"*, and the SSPDF or national army scored **40%** of (very) good rates and another **40%** of respondents saying they did *"just OK"* and **18%** negative reviews, and paramilitary forces (such as wildlife rangers, fire brigade, etc.) scoring even **91%** of negative scores by respondents (see graph below).

Even though both presence and preference of police is generally slightly higher than that of local armed youth, the legitimacy of local armed youth and the self-protection mechanism they represent, was prevalent from community's views regarding the statement *"In my payam we trust local armed youth for our security more than any outsiders"*. Almost two-thirds (**63%**) of all respondents agreed with this statement, while **36%** disagreed. Similarly, almost half of respondents (**48%**) agreed that *"my community relies on local armed youth to provide protection and security"*, while an equal amount of **47%** said their community relies on the police for security provision instead. This tendency to prefer local and accessible law enforcement actors was confirmed with **70%** of all respondents agreeing that *"It is best when security forces are recruited from within our own community because they know us"*, while almost a quarter (**24%**) of respondents agreed that *"It is best when security forces are from outside the payam, because they do not*
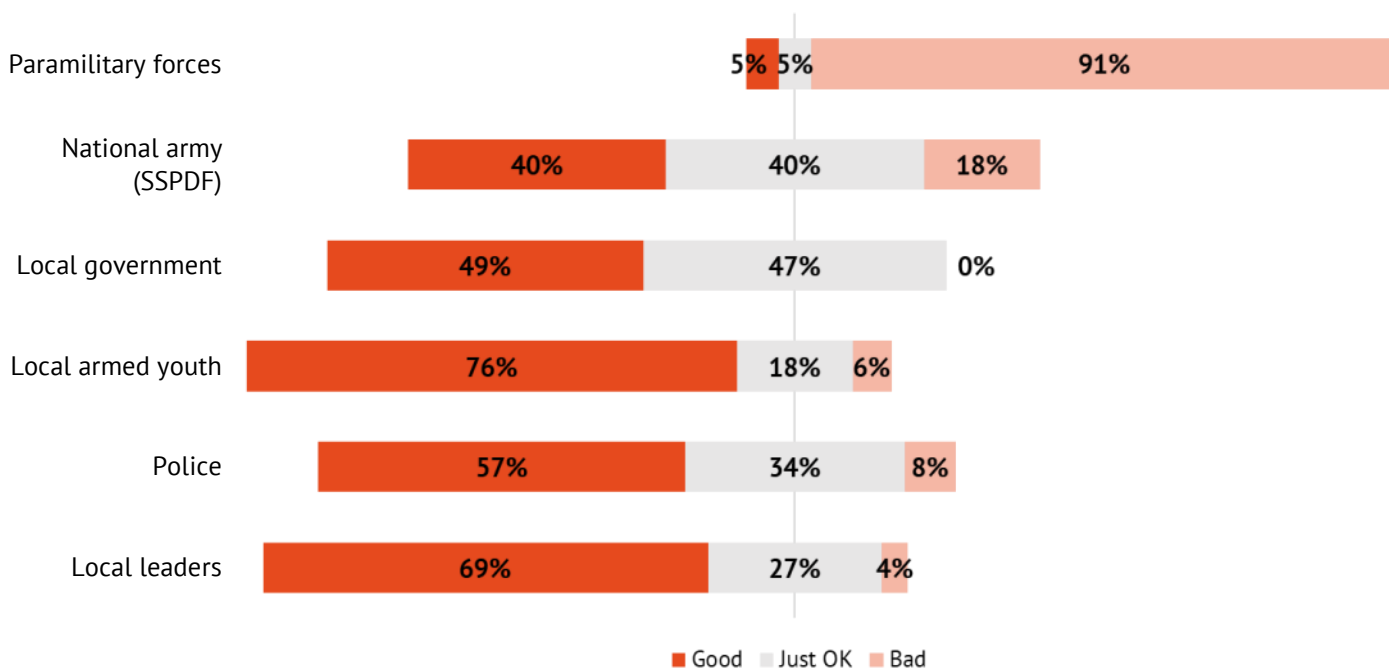

PAX colleague John Malith Mabor is conducting an enumerator training for the Human Security Survey in Torit (Eastern Equatoria State, March 2021)

take sides".

The general trust in the police was confirmed by two-thirds (**67%**) of respondents agreeing that *"police take community reports seriously and are helpful in resolving them"*, with **28%** disagreeing. Slightly more than half (**52%**) of enumerators claimed that men and women are treated equally by police when they report cases, with a **43%** disagreeing with this statement. However, **79%** of respondents thought that there should be more women serving in the police to help address security issues affecting women better, and even **90%** would support women from their own families to apply for a position in the police force.

In addition to informal law enforcement actors playing an important role in security provision, a clear majority

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

Actor	Good	Just OK	Bad
Paramilitary forces	5%	5%	91%
National army (SSPDF)	40%	40%	18%
Local government	49%	47%	0%
Local armed youth	76%	18%	6%
Police	57%	34%	8%
Local leaders	69%	27%	4%

■ Good ■ Just OK ■ Bad

For more information, please visit protectionofcivilians.org or the interactive dashboards of HSS South Sudan and HSS Iraq

of **87%** 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 just **11%** of respondents. Over three-quarters (**79%**) of respondents argued that more women should serve in the local court system in support of women's access to justice, with **17%** disagreeing to this proposition.

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, local leaders (chiefs) and the police scored consistently high in all three cases (see the graph below).

When asked how the three security actors most visibly present across Magwi County (local leaders/chiefs, police, and armed youth) could improve their performance, respondents indicated that local chiefs should be better trained (**79%** of respondents who indicated their presence in the community), that they need more presence of chiefs (**57%**), that they should be more responsive towards civilians (**42%**), that they should be better visible through patrolling and that
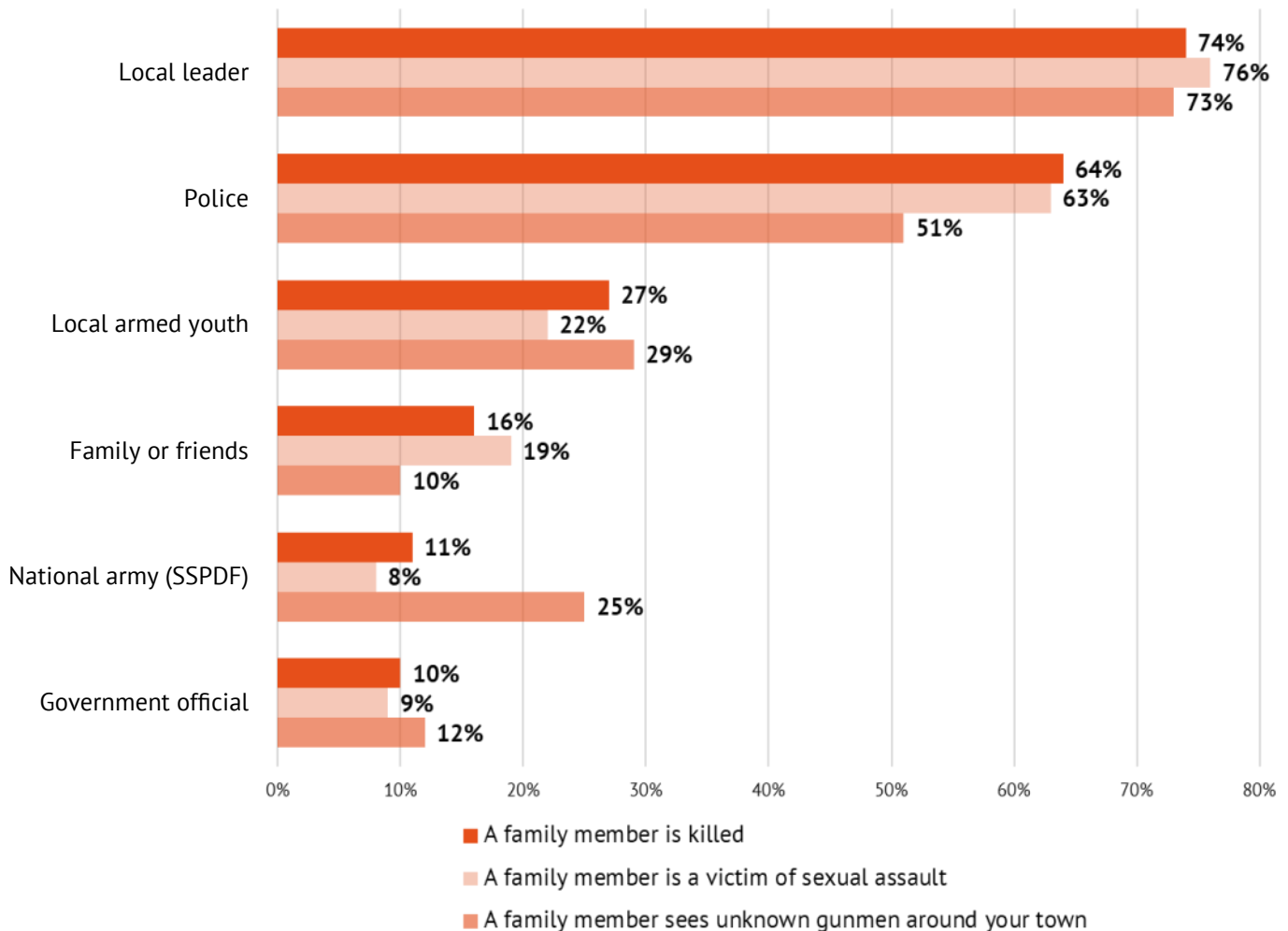
74%

"In my payam the authorities do not have a clear system to track and recover cattle that is lost or stolen"
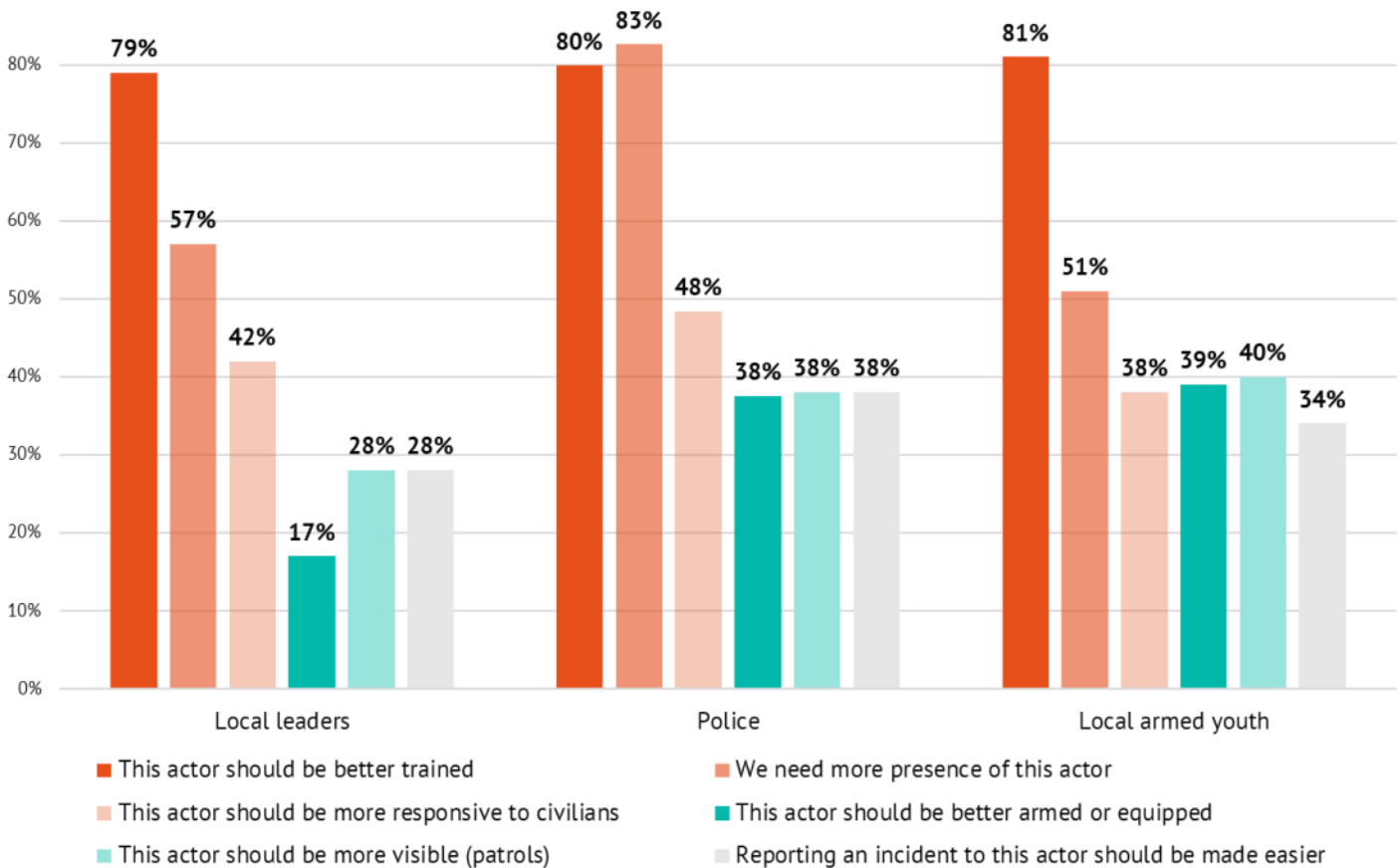
reporting an incident with them should be made easier for community members (both scoring **28%**).[19] During the data validation session in Torit, chiefs themselves admitted that they need more formal training in order to perform their tasks better: *"training the newly elected chiefs on the Local Government Act is needed for their good functioning. We are working based on experience, but we also lack skills."*

Concerning the police, respondents thought that more police presence was needed (**83%**), that they should be better trained (**80%**), that they should be more responsive to civilians (**48%**), and they should be better armed or equipped, more visible through patrolling and that reporting procedures for community members

WHO WOULD YOU CONTACT IF THE FOLLOWING HAPPENED? *(N = 393)*

Contact	A family member is killed	A family member is a victim of sexual assault	A family member sees unknown gunmen around your town
Local leader	74%	76%	73%
Police	64%	63%	51%
Local armed youth	27%	22%	29%
Family or friends	16%	19%	10%
National army (SSPDF)	11%	8%	25%
Government official	10%	9%	12%

WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE ACTORS?

Legend:
- This actor should be better trained
- We need more presence of this actor
- This actor should be more responsive to civilians
- This actor should be better armed or equipped
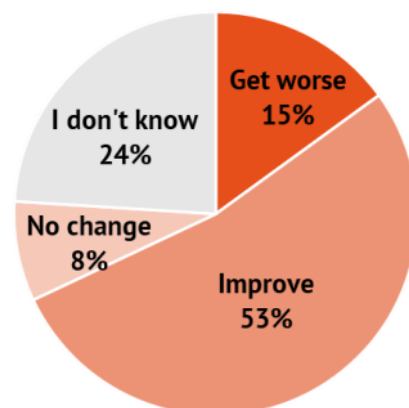- This actor should be more visible (patrols)
- Reporting an incident to this actor should be made easier

needed to be made easier (all three accounted for **38%** of respondent views). Local armed youth on the other hand, were in need of better training according to **81%** of respondents indicating their presence, **51%** of respondents thought more presence of armed youth was needed in the community, **40%** thought they should be more visible through patrolling, **39%** thought they should be better armed or equipped, **38%** said they needed to be more responsive towards civilians, while **34%** said their reporting procedures needed to be made easier (see the figure above).[20]
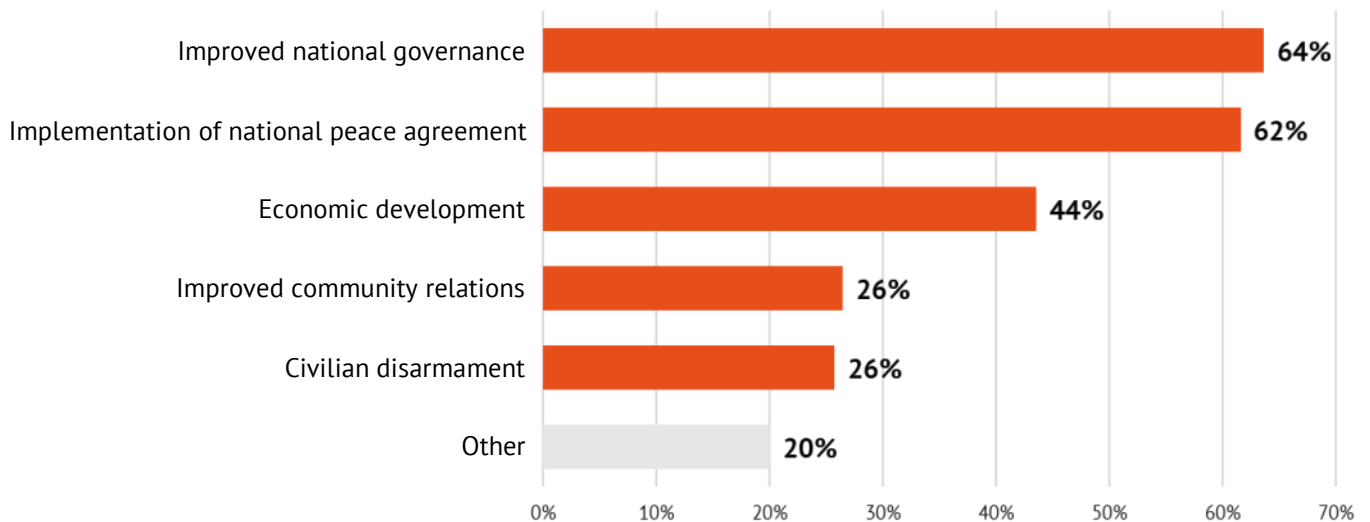
Governance issues and how to address local insecurity

When looking towards the future, over half of respondents (**53%**) expected either little or big improvements of the security situation, compared to **15%** expecting the situation to become a little or much worse (see graph to the right). In addition, two-thirds of all respondents (**67%**) indicated that *"poor governance at the national level"* is the most likely factor to cause future conflicts in Magwi County, followed by *"tribalism or discrimination between ethnic groups"* (**50%**), *"competition over resources"* (**44%**) and *"poverty or lack of livelihood opportunities"* (**42%**), among other less mentioned reasons receiving less than **20%** of respondent views.[21]

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 two-thirds of the respondents (**64%**) answered that *"Improved governance at the national level"* was needed, followed by *"implementation of the national peace agreement"*[22] (**62%**), *"economic development"* (**44%**), *"improved community relations"* (**26%**), and *"civilian disarmament"* (**26%**), and other responses receiving less than **20%** of responses, see the figure on the next page.[23]

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WILL HAPPEN WITH SECURITY IN THE NEXT YEAR? *(N = 393)*

Pie chart:
- Get worse 15%
- Improve 53%
- No change 8%
- I don't know 24%

For more information, please visit protectionofcivilians.org *or the interactive dashboards of* HSS South Sudan *and* HSS Iraq

WHAT CHANGES ARE NEEDED TO BRING LASTING PEACE TO SOUTH SUDAN? *(N = 393)*

Change	Percentage
Improved national governance	64%
Implementation of national peace agreement	62%
Economic development	44%
Improved community relations	26%
Civilian disarmament	26%
Other	20%

However, general legitimacy rates of national government authorities in Juba among respondents in Magwi also showed a different face in responses to a number of statements. On the impact of local elites who are based in the capital (Juba), on the security situation in Magwi, **62%** of all respondents agreed that *"Local politicians and community leaders from Magwi who live in Juba are helpful in preventing or resolving community conflicts"*, whereas **26%** 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"*. More than half of respondents (**56%**) agreed that the national government in Juba *"is taking effective steps to reduce violence in our community"*, while **33%** disagreed with this statement.

Participants to the data validation in Torit brought up the subject of security sector reform as a potential solution for addressing the area's insecurity. They claimed large-scale desertions from the army by members of certain ethnic groups have led to *"a monopoly of security forces by one tribe"*, further undermining the legitimacy of the army. Creating opportunities for *"the sons and daughters of Magwi to join the army"* as part of general capacity building and job opportunities for youth was suggested. However, the participants were also aware of the current setbacks in this process: unified forces do not yet graduate, causing capacity issues and lack of deployments, while many soldiers remain untrained and undisciplined, creating security incidents.

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"* (**80%** of respondents), by *"organizing meetings with specific groups in society, like women, youth, or chiefs"* (**54%**), or sharing the results through local radio (**41%**), or via social media (**14%**), among other less mentioned options.

Participants to the data validation workshop and "Security is Everyone's Business" community dialogue. Attendees included local government officials, security sector officials (police), community leaders and civil society representatives from media, church, women's and youth groups (August 2021, Torit)

Next steps for Magwi County and the Human Security Survey

Participants to the three-day data validation and community security dialogue in Torit jointly identified **five main security priorities** most in need of addressing based on the survey data and subsequent discussions: **1)** Presence of arms in the hands of civilians; **2)** Cattle and IDP issues **3)** Land grabbing and land disputes; **4)** Empowerment of local government/local authorities and **5)** Enforcement of law and order. Common understanding of threats and priorities helps to focus local peacebuilding efforts in the upcoming year, and the follow-up activities initiated by the newly established 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 Magwi County and its neighboring counties.

85% Respondents finding it important for civilians to meet with local government and organized forces to advocate for better protection in their community

Notes

[1] Lower Prior to the formal launch of the Human Security Survey project in 2016, a pilot survey was conducted in Torit, Ikotos and Budi counties in 2015, testing the early methodology. In 2016, after the outbreak of violence in Juba in July, the insecurity spread to Eastern Equatoria State, making it practically impossible to return for data collection.

[2] 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.

[3] For more details on the survey methodology, please visit https://protectionofcivilians.org/report/human-security-survey-methodology-south-sudan/

[4] This slight imbalance in the coverage between Acholi and Madi populated areas was partly caused by logistical challenges among the enumerators covering the Madi corridor. As a result, not as many surveys were collected among Madi as intended, so that this ethnic group is underrepresented in this year's HSS data.

[5] 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.

[6] Half of respondents said that their own livelihood comprised the main livelihood of their household, 30% said it did not and 20% claimed their household did not have access to any source of income at all.

[7] Asked only to respondents who claimed their security situation improved during the last 12 months in April 2020-March 2021.

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

[9] Idem.

[10] Idem.

[11] Idem.

[12] Of the remaining respondents who did not seek external assistance, 36% said they did not do so because they *"did not believe anyone could help me resolve the issue"*, and another 36% *"feared more harm against them or their family."*

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

[14] Idem.

[15] Idem.

[16] Idem.

[17] Idem.

[18] Idem.

[19] Idem.

[20] Idem.

[21] Idem.

[22] 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).

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Peace. Are you in?

PAX