



Human Security Survey 2022 Annual Summary Report Payinjiar County (Unity), South Sudan

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protectionofcivilians.org

Main recommendations to local authorities and UNMISS

Continued support for the local peace agreement with Greater Yirol |

The 2018 peace agreement between the Nuer of Payinjiar and the Dinka of Yirol has been sustainable and, while hiccups did occur, lead to observable improvements in physical security and increased freedom of movement for the Payinjiar community. To sustain the relevance of the agreement to the whole community, and continue the upward trend in security, peace dividends should continue to deliver in terms of access to basic needs (roads, schools, clinics) and improved livelihoods (job creation, agriculture, markets). **Therefore, local state and county governments, as well as UNMISS and NGOs/CSOs should develop concrete and realistic plans for gradual economic and infrastructure development in the area to sustain the current stability;**



Flood management and prevention |

During the last rainy seasons, flooding has increased and lead to destruction of already meagre livelihoods, forced seasonal migration and increased competition over scarce resources. Since this also endangers the progress made by the local peace agreement (see previous point), **PAX calls on local government authorities (Governor, Commissioner) to plan and execute the (re)construction of dykes, and for UNMISS and NGOs/CSOs to provide humanitarian assistance to current displaced communities, and to design programs to teach communities alternative livelihood opportunities** to build resilience and adaptability in the face of changing climatic patterns;



Investing in a social contract | Previously high levels of communal violence have started to decrease, but formal law enforcement in Payinjiar is still dispersed and weak, while communities and cattle keepers remain well armed. To strengthen improving security levels, **local authorities and NGOs should start lobby for, and design, programs aimed at establishing a social contract between communities and local authorities, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of traditional chiefs and police.**



HUMAN SECURITY SURVEY: INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY



About us & contact

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 (inter)national 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. For more information, please visit <https://protectionofcivilians.org/topics/human-security-survey/> or contact Anton Quist (quist@paxforpeace.nl).



Facts & figures

In May 2022, 14 local enumerators were trained and deployed to the field, where they collected 588 surveys across Payinjiar County (Greater Ganyliel and Greater Nyal) in Unity State. This report summarizes the community perceptions and security dynamics observed during the 4th round of data collection in the area since 2017. This survey therefore reflects on the security situation in 2021-2022 until May. The sample consisted of 99% Nuer population, while more than two-thirds (70%) of respondents were women and 86% of respondents were between the ages of 16-45.



MAIN SECURITY DYNAMICS OBSERVED

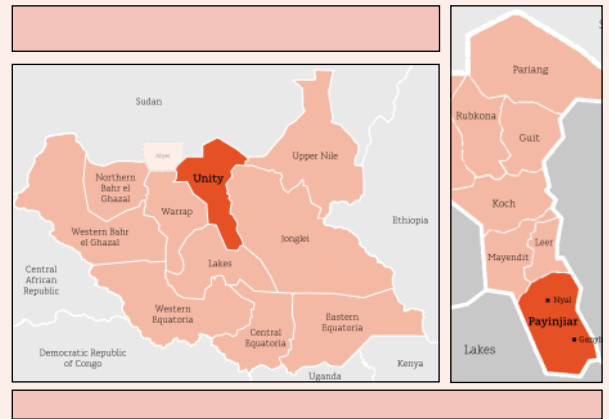
83% of respondents report that the security situation over the past year 2021-2022 has improved, while 10% claimed it hasn't changed and only 6% report a deteriorated security situation. Relative security levels have improved most in Greater Nyal (89%). 70% of respondents claim to generally feel safe in their own community. This can mainly be attributed to the local peace process between Payinjiar and the neighboring Dinka communities of Greater Yirol in Lakes, which is in



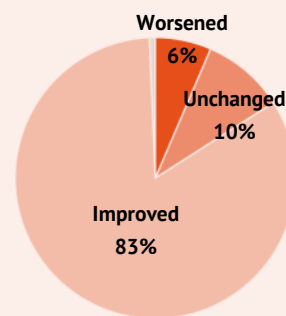
effect since 2018 and led to increasing levels of trust and freedom of movement for both communities and their cattle. Indeed 72% of respondents indicate that they can travel easier now between their community and neighboring areas, and 41% of respondents declare that they themselves participated in peacebuilding initiatives. Two-thirds felt less exposed to violence, crime or harassment.



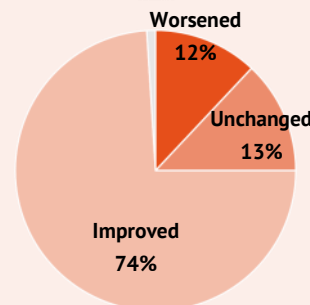
Left: Map of South Sudan. Right: Map of Payinjiar County, highlighting the areas surveyed in 2022. Disclaimer: These maps are intended for illustrative purposes only and do not warrant accuracy or completeness, nor do they imply the expression of any opinion by PAX.



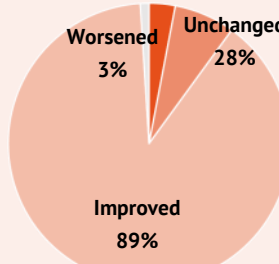
HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR?



Payinjiar County
(N = 588)



Greater Ganyliel
(N = 363)



Greater Nyal
(N = 225)



The only security threat that seemed to have increased heavily over the last year was the occurrence of annual floods. Also during 2021-22, Payinjiar as other areas of Unity, Lakes and Jonglei straddling the White Nile, was affected by widespread flooding and 96% of respondents indicated that floods were getting more serious over the last years.



Flooding has led to direct humanitarian impact on civilians, such as an outbreak of infectious diseases (92% of respondents reported this) and a rise in snake bite cases. The floods also lead to food insecurity, according to 79% of respondents: "In recent years, the rains started late. This year rain started in April, many communities started to plant crops and when they germinated the drought came again and the crops were burned and destroyed by drought and when the second planting was made, the flood came and destroyed it, so we are here now without food." In addition, many cattle (on which many communities rely) have died and both pastures and agricultural land was submerged, leading to communal land conflicts (73% of respondents) and increased migration (68%). Local authorities mainly responded by encouraging dyke construction (amid accusations pregnant women were forced or pressured into working) and chiefs helped to settle and reconcile



54%

Households reported at least one security threat in the previous year

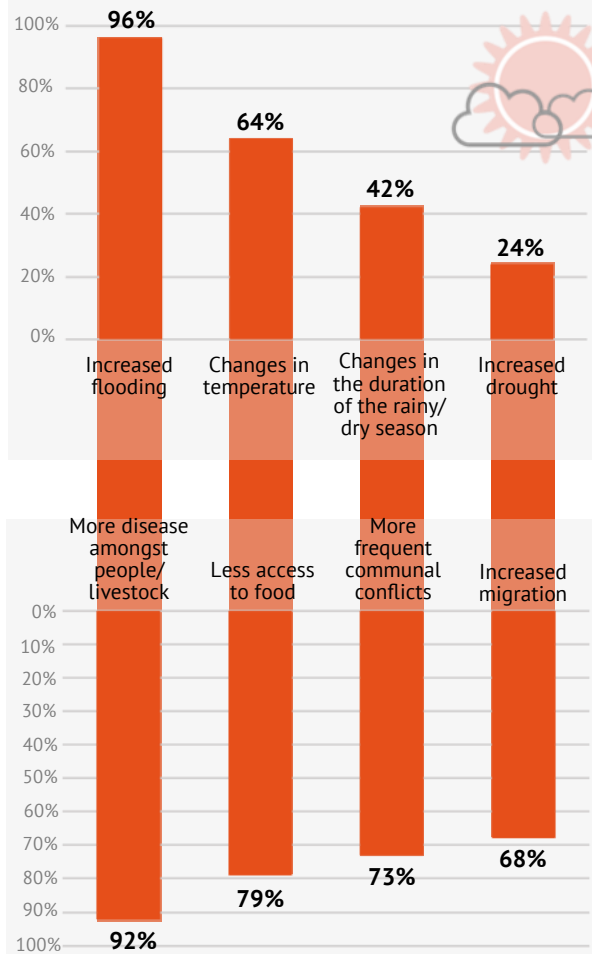
MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED INCIDENTS
(percentage of all incidents in Payinjiar County)

20%	Robbery	
18%	Forced recruitment	
17%	Forced marriage	
16%	Killing	
16%	Cattle raiding	

displaced communities. NGOs provided funds to organize youth (re)constructing dykes. 89% of respondents called on NGOs to introduce community projects dealing with environmental changes, and 83% hope that NGOs could teach them new practices or livelihood alternatives to deal with environmental



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES HAVE YOU OBSERVED?



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES?

challenges. Lesser amounts of respondents (71%) called on the local authorities to address the root causes of flooding and on community members themselves to share their resources with neighbors in times of shortages.



More than half (54%) of respondents reported at least one security incident happening to them or a household member. Among the most frequently reported security incidents in Payinjiar were robberies (20% of respondents), forced recruitment (18%), forced marriages (17%), cattle raids and murders (both 16%), beatings (15%), rapes or sexual assaults (13%) and unlawful imprisonment (12%), etc. Especially the rates of murders and cattle raids have decreased significantly over the last 4-5 years. Most of these incidents were blamed on criminal gangs (30%) and local armed youth (19%), among others.



60% of the respondents indicated that they reported the security incidents they experienced to an outside actor. The primary actor who was reported to most often by respondents, proved to be the traditional chiefs (62% of reporting respondents), the police (50%) and local government officials (33%), among others. 80% of the respondents reporting their cases were satisfied with its resolution by these actors.



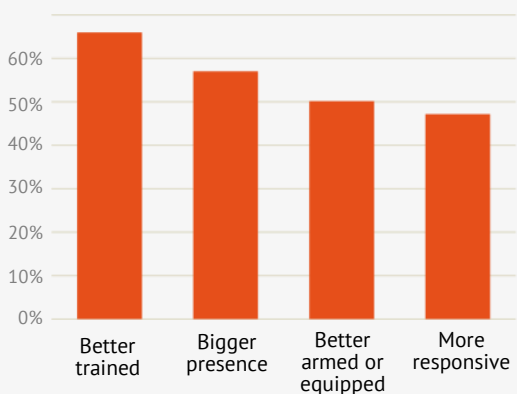
Almost half (45%) of respondents think that men and boys are most likely to be exposed to violence in Payinjiar. Alternatively, 39% is of the opinion that all community members, irrespective of gender, are equally vulnerable to become victims of violence. 15% think that women and girls are most likely exposed to violence.



The most accessible security actors across Payinjiar are police (81%), communal chiefs (66%) and local government officials (“the Commissioner”; 53%), followed by local armed youth and the SPLA-IO (both 43%). All five of these main local security actors are considered to be performing well according to 94% of respondents (police), 97% (chiefs), 97% (local government), 71% (local armed youth) and 93% (SPLA-IO) of respondents respectively. Concerning the most accessible security actor, the police, community members think that they should receive (more) training (67% of respondents saying the police are present in their community), they should be more present in the community (57%) or better armed or equipped to be able to serve communities better (50%), as the most prominent recommendations. More women are requested to join the police force (87%). 85% of respondents think dispute resolution is best handled by local chiefs. The national government in Juba was credited for taking effective steps to reduce communal violence (50%), with 38% disagreeing, a number that was significantly higher before.



WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE POLICE?



Perceptions regarding cattle raiding are shifting, with 85% of respondents disagreeing with the statement that “a young man who raids cattle from a neighboring community is to be respected.” However, the increased prices of dowries (bride prices) in the area is considered an element in the persistence of the practice of cattle raiding, according to more than half (56%) of respondents. More than three-quarters (76%) of respondents claim that the authorities in their payam have a clear system to track and recover cattle that is lost or stolen. Similarly, 87% of respondents is of the opinion that a family should not force their daughter to marry someone she does not want to, because this violates her rights, showing waning acceptance for the practice of forced marriage.



Overall, support for communal disarmament increased (82%). In line with this, 88% think it is important for civilians to meet with members of local government and the organized forces (security actors) to advocate for better protection in their community.



The proposed main change to prevent future conflict is the implementation of the peace agreement (71%). Sequentially, this is followed by: improved community relations through local reconciliation and dialogue (54%), improved governance at the national level (50%) and economic development (37%), among other less mentioned factors. Two-thirds (66%) of respondents expects the security situation to improve in the next year (80% of Greater Ganyliel respondents, and 44% in Nyal).



Conversely, the main factor that may cause continued conflict was identified as poverty or lack of livelihood opportunities (70%). This is followed by tribalism or discrimination between ethnic groups (52%), poor governance at the national level (49%) and the lack of well-trained or well-equipped security forces (35%), among other less mentioned factors.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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