



Human Security Survey 2022 Annual Summary Report


Juba & Terekeka Counties (Central Equatoria State), South Sudan


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protectionofcivilians.org

Main recommendations to local authorities, UNMISS, and NGOs/CSOs

 **More attention for the issue of land grabbing** | Because of its vicinity to the national capital Juba, many areas of Juba County experience a huge demand for land from individuals and communities from all over the country. This pressure on land leads to many cases of illegal and even forceful (mis)appropriation of land, often referred to as land grabbing. Due to the political, economic and security interests involved, the issue has received attention, but not much practical resolution. **Therefore, national, state and county government institutions in Juba County and Central Equatoria, should review, develop and implement concrete land registration laws and regulations to support the land registration authorities by preventing legal and extra-judicial undermining of existing regulations, thereby preventing and managing land conflicts and potential outbreak of (communal) violence as a result of land conflicts.**

 **Early warning and prevention of intercommunal farmer-pastoralist violence** | Last year saw serious outbreaks of intercommunal violence between armed cattle keepers, pushed from Jonglei due to severe floods, and agricultural communities in parts of Juba County, leading to loss of life and destruction of properties. Since flooding is a recurring annual environmental hazard during and immediately after the rainy season, there is widespread concern for a repeat of last year's violence. **The national and state governments of Central Equatoria and Jonglei, supported by county authorities, UNMISS and NGOs/CSOs, should develop plans and policies to forecast environmental action plans to prevent and manage flooding. In conjunction, they should make agreements and coordinate contingency planning involving community leaders and local law enforcement, to prevent undesirable migration patterns, communal tensions and a potential outbreak of violence between migrating cattle keepers and farming communities.**

 **Investment in building a bottom-up social contract** | Even though police representatives reported more patrols and lower crime rates, problems with crimes perpetrated by youth gangs remain, especially in Juba County. By contrast, more rural areas in Juba and Terekeka counties witness a relatively inadequate numbers of police forces, which leaves rural communities reliant on armed youth militia(s) and other self-protection outfits, which lack trained capacities and general accountability mechanisms. **To improve security levels, local authorities and NGOs should start to lobby for, and design, training and assistance programs aimed at establishing a stronger social contract between communities and local authorities, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of customary chiefs and police in community-based security provision and law enforcement.**



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 December 2022, **15** local enumerators were trained and deployed to the field, where they collected **579** surveys across the **Juba** and **Terekeka** counties of Central Equatoria State. This report summarizes the community perceptions and security dynamics observed during the 5th round of data collection in the area since 2017. Therefore, it highlights and reflects upon the security situation for the period starting from December 2021 until December 2022. The sample resembled the multiethnic population in this area, with **27.8%** Bari population, followed by **13.1%** Mundari, **11.4%** Nuer, **9.67%** Dinka and **5.87%** Acholi, as well as **15** other ethnic groups that were mentioned, who had less than **5%** distribution among the sample. More than half (**59.2%**) of respondents were women and the most frequently mentioned livelihood was petty trading/small business (**20.9%**). Almost half of respondents (**44%**) were between 16-30 years of age, and **84%** between the ages of 16-45.



MAIN SECURITY DYNAMICS OBSERVED



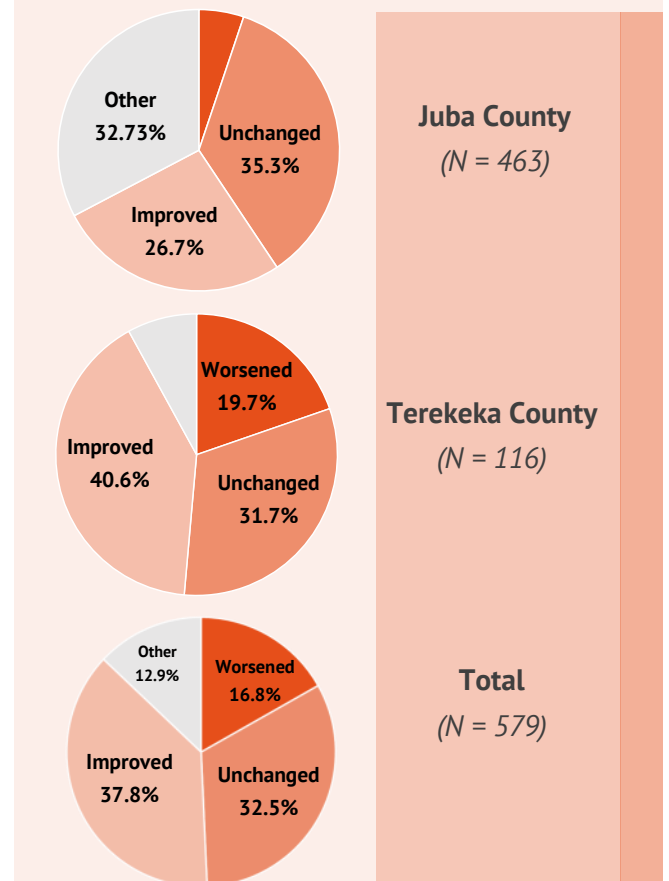
Perceived security developments across Juba and Terekeka counties show a very clear picture. Almost **2/3** of respondents (**64.3%**) consider their environment to be 'very safe' or 'somewhat safe'. However, there is significant variation when analysing the data per county: **87%** for Juba County, and **58.5%** in Terekeka County.



Map of Juba and Terekeka counties, 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?



The rest of the respondents, namely **32.8%** consider their environment 'somewhat unsafe' or 'very unsafe'. In this case, there is a substantial difference between counties with **39.1%** in Juba County and **7.76%** in Terekeka County. In addition, more than a third (**37.8%**) of respondents reported that the security situation over the past year 2021-2022 improved, **32.5%** reported that security had not changed and **16.8%** (**19.7%** in Juba, **5.2%** in Terekeka) said security deteriorated. The results of the previous year 2021, showed that **40%** of respondents thought that security in the previous year (2020-21) had improved and **42%** indicated that security had not changed in Juba County (Terekeka County was not yet surveyed at the time). In addition, **29.2%** of respondents indicated that they generally feel safe in their own community, while **62.9%** said they do not.



Communities across Juba and Terekeka counties observed certain changes in weather conditions and their local environment. Most notably, these changes include: changes in the duration of the rainy/dry season (**27.9%**), changing temperatures (**25.1%**), less predictable rainfall (**18.3%**), increased drought (**11.2%**), and increased flooding (**9.8%**), among other less mentioned environmental changes. Only **6%** of the respondents said they did not experience any of the said changes.



According to survey results, the aforementioned environmental and climatic changes lead to a number of consequences. These include: more competition over scarce resources (**22.8%** of respondents), less access to food (**17.7%** of respondents), more communal conflicts (**17.2%**), more diseases (**16.6%**) and a worsening security situation (**12.2%**), and increased migration (**10%**), among others.



55% Households reported *at least one security threat* in the previous year [622 total incidents]

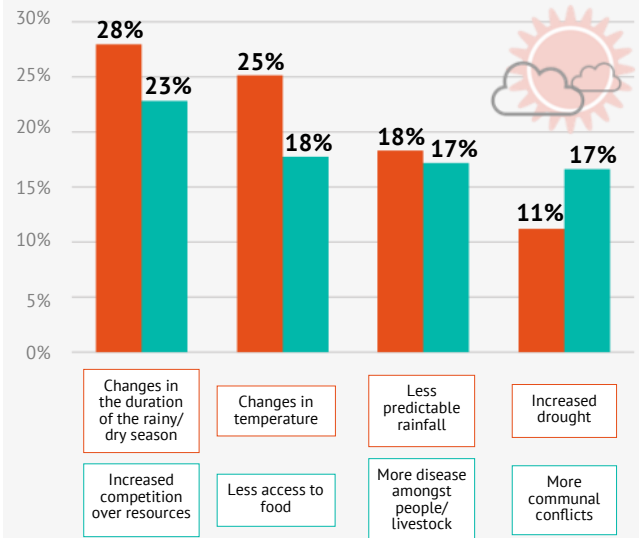
MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED INCIDENTS

(percentage of respondents reporting an incident in Greater Yirol)

24.3%	Robbery	
19.5%	Physical assault	
13.8%	Killing	
13.7%	Cattle raiding	
7.7%	Unlawful imprisonment	



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES HAVE YOU OBSERVED?



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES?

During the validation process, community members confirmed this and explained why environmental challenges could lead to communal violence and insecurity: *“flooding creates displacement of people and these displaced caused conflict with host communities, for example the armed Bor Dinka cattle herders who were pushed out of Jonglei by flooding, have caused insecurity among agricultural communities in Central and Eastern Equatoria, including Terekeka and Juba counties.”* A shortage of food cultivation is feared to result in food insecurity next year in Terekeka: *“In Terekeka we have not planted anything, and I’m worried there will be hunger next year, meaning there will also be conflict over little resources.”* Almost a quarter of respondents (**24.6%**) hope that NGOs can teach them new practices or livelihood alternatives to deal with environmental challenges, while **23.9%** hope that international actors can provide small funds for community projects to deal with environmental changes (e.g. building dykes), **20.1%** of respondents want these environmental changes to be addressed by the local authorities, **14.8%** state that their families and community leaders should agree to share their resources with neighboring communities in times of shortages, while **12.5%** think that families should move elsewhere where conditions are better during part of the year.



More than half (55%) of all surveyed households reported at least one security incident affecting them during 2021-2022. The five most frequently reported security incidents were robberies (**24.3%** of respondents reported this incident), physical assaults (**19.5%**), murders and cattle raids (both around **14%**), and unlawful imprisonment (**7.7%**), among other incidents.

The percentage of households reporting incidents has not changed since the previous survey round in 2021 (55%), however the total number of incidents reported has decreased by 16.4% (122 less incidents). Among the reported security incidents, most of them affected adult men (according to 44.6% of the respondents) and were largely blamed on criminals (50.4%), people from within the community (14.6%), local armed youth (8.1%), the army (SSPDF; 6.5%, but 23.1% in Juba County) and other less mentioned actors (11.4% of enumerators didn't know who the perpetrators were).



68.4% of the respondents indicated that they reported at least one of the security incidents they experienced to an outside actor, which most often proved out to be the police (29.7%), local community leaders or chiefs (28.6%), and local government officials (9.2%), among others. More than three quarters (76.0%) of the respondents reporting their cases were not satisfied with the resolution by these actors, because the perpetrators of the incidents were not caught (31.8%), no compensation for losses was offered (13.0%), stolen goods, cattle or abducted people were not returned (9.0%), among other less mentioned reasons.



During the data validation session which included community representatives, an additional security threat was mentioned - the cases of forceful land grabbing. These cases were particularly prevalent to this part of Central Equatoria State, mainly due to its proximity to the national capital of Juba. Especially in areas like Rejaf, situated on the outskirts of Juba, land grabbing is usually attributed to other communities than the Bari who traditionally view this area as their ancestral home and therefore, consider the land on which the capital is built as their communal land. However, with the development of Juba as national capital, the city is expanding in all directions and attracting communities from all over the country in search of a place to stay. A traditional chief from Terekeka (who's not a Bari) said to his Bari customary colleagues: *"We, the chiefs, need not to incite the public, and we need not to be like politicians, because we are not. We don't have issues of land grabbing because Terekeka is not a capital city. You, the Bari people, I request you not to complain too much because of land grabbing, because we have accepted Juba as the capital city. So many people with different backgrounds came to look for better services in the capital but they need places as houses to stay in."* In response to this issue, the Juba County Commissioner reported that he has demarcated lands to be allocated to people who live in Juba.



Another notable security issue plaguing Juba and the immediate surroundings is the insecurity related to criminal youth gangs. These gangs are responsible for many cases of robberies and assaults, and cause a

general feeling of insecurity among community members in the outskirts of Juba, especially. The Community Security Committee or COMSECCOM set up by PAX have carried out follow-up meetings to engage gang members and the local authorities with the purpose of mitigating the former's impact within the community. In addition, the police indicated during the data validation session that they had done more patrolling over the past year and arrested many criminals.



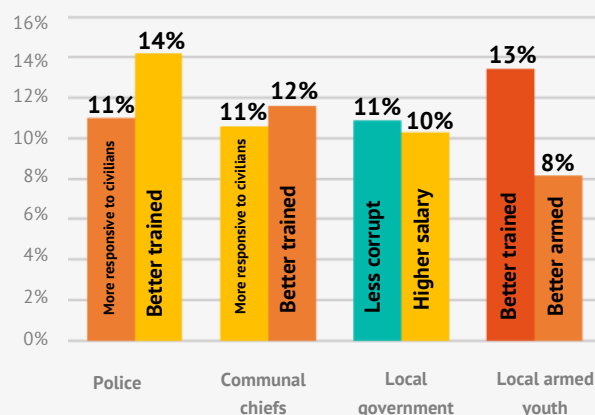
The most accessible security actors across Juba and Terekeka counties were reported to be as follows: the police (scoring 30.4% on presence and 25.4% on trust), followed by community leaders or chiefs (22.3% on presence, 24.1% on trust), the national army or SSPDF (18.5% on presence, 9.3% on trust), local armed youth (9.1% on presence and trust), UNMISS peacekeeping mission (8.5% on presence, 14.6% on trust), and local government officials or Commissioners (6.5% on presence, 9.4% on trust), among other less mentioned actors. The most trusted security actors scored very good when it comes to their performance in the following order: 53.3% for police, 75.6% for communal chiefs, 26% for SSPDF with 32.5% reporting that they performed either 'not good' or 'very bad', 70.4% for local armed youth, 86.6% for UNMISS, and 72.2% for local government officials.



When asked about what is needed to improve performances of the most accessible security actors, community members thought that the police should be better trained (14.2% of respondents), be more responsive towards civilians (11.0%), be less corrupt (9.7%), and they should be more present (9.7%). When communal chiefs are concerned, community members request that they receive further training (11.6%), that they should be more responsive towards civilians (10.6%) and that they receive more in-kind support



WHAT IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS ACTOR (TOP TWO RECOMENDATIONS)



(10.5%), as the most prominent recommendations. Only 38.3% of respondents (28.3% in Juba County, yet 78.4% in Terekeka County, where 51% think contrary) indicate that the police takes reports from community members seriously and are helpful in resolving them. 42.7% of respondents agree that men and women in this community receive equal treatment when reporting a security incident to the police, yet 38.5% of them disagree. Lastly, 80% of respondents think that there should be more women serving in the police to help with security issues facing women.



Support for communal disarmament (phrased in the survey as whether “disarmament of civilians is needed for security”) is preferred by just over half of the respondents 53% (specifically 62.9% of respondents in Juba County) over self-protection (“people need arms to provide their own security”) as indicated by 33.5%. Moreover, 65.1% 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. On the statement “in my payam we trust local armed youth for our security more than any security actors from outside”, almost half (45.4%) disagreed, while 37.3% agreed, thereby slightly favoring external security actors. Similarly, more than half (55.8%) of respondents think that security in their community relies on police presence, while 28.3% of respondents think security provision relies on local armed youth. On the other hand, 44.2% of respondents agreed that “it is best when security forces are recruited from within our own community, because they know us”, while 36.8% prefer security forces to be recruited from outside their own community.



WHICH SECURITY ACTORS DO YOU TRUST THE MOST?

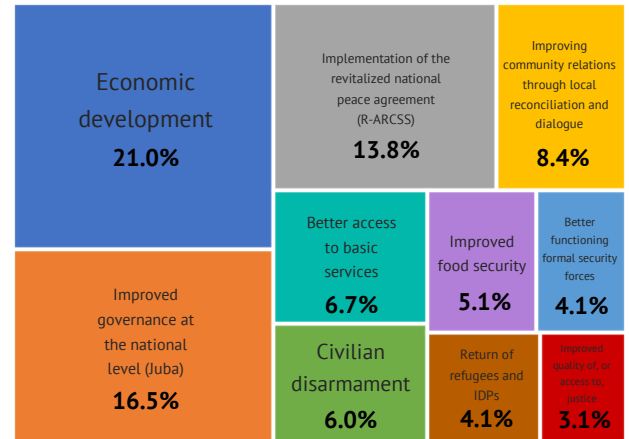


According to community members, the main change needed to prevent future violent conflict is economic development (21%). This is followed by improved governance at the national level (16.5%), implementation of the revitalized national peace agreement (13.8%), improved community relations (8%), better access to basic services (6.7%), civilian

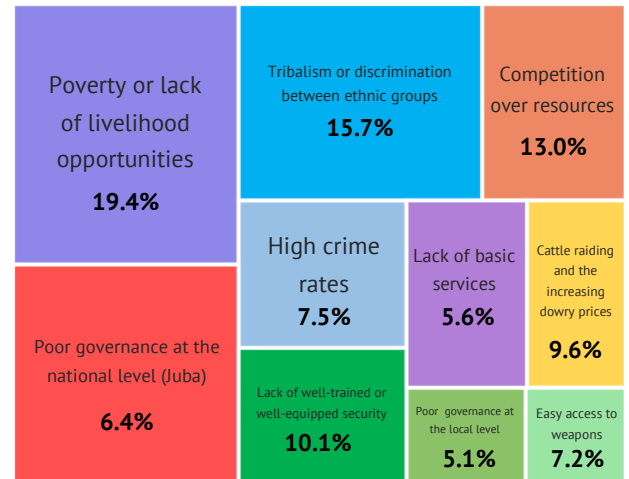
disarmament (6%), and improved food security (5.1%), as the most important changes mentioned by our respondents. Conversely, the main factors which may cause prolonged conflict, were poverty or lack of livelihood opportunities (19.4%), poor governance at the national level (16.2%), tribalism or discrimination between ethnic groups (15.7%), competition over resources (9.3%), high crime rates (8.1%), lack of basic services (7.4%), lack of well-trained or well-equipped security forces (7.4%), cattle raiding and increasing dowry prices (6.1%), among other less mentioned factors.



[10] Changes needed for lasting peace:



[10] Factors that may cause further conflict:



Peace. Are you in?



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