




Human Security Survey 2023 Annual Summary Report


Jonglei State — South Sudan


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protectionofcivilians.org

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

 **Revitalizing the Pieri Action Plan** | PAX calls on national and local government officials, chiefs and local civil society to revitalize the Pieri Action Plan and to bring rivalling communities from across Jonglei State together in a comprehensive peace process that seeks to address the current high levels of communal violence. Focus should be placed on de-escalation and prevention with sufficient follow-up and contingency planning to withstand potential stalling and spoiler groups;

 **Supporting local security arrangements** | PAX calls on national and local government officials to embark on a round of comprehensive planning related to local security arrangements on the state and county levels together with UNPOL, UNDP, INGOs and CSOs. This exercise should cover training, equipping, and improving the deployment strategies and community responsiveness of law enforcement agencies. The training and deployment of the Unified Forces provides an important first opportunity in taking up this responsibility;

 **Improving civilian disarmament exercises** | PAX calls on national and local government officials, as well as the organized forces not to engage in (forceful) civilian disarmament exercises, before certain preconditions are met, such as (1) ensuring that communities are informed and sensitized to plans for the upcoming disarmament, (2) confirming that communities will not experience increased short-term or long-term vulnerability as a result of disarmament, (3) making certain that sufficient police forces are trained and equipped so as to ensure a community's security and protection prior to disarmament, 4) guaranteeing that the forces executing the disarmament will be disciplined and will avoid using force, and 5) taking measures to prevent the spilling of arms back into the communities, among other necessary actions.



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 and consultants 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 2023, **14** local enumerators were trained and deployed to the field, where they collected **504** surveys across two counties making up 'Greater Bor' (**Bor South, Twic East**) in Jonglei State. Duk County could not be surveyed in May 2023 due to extraordinarily high levels of communal violence and road insecurity around this time, hampering the return of Duk-based enumerators after being trained in Bor. This report therefore summarizes the community perceptions and security dynamics observed in **Bor South** and **Twic East** during the 6th round of data collection in the area since 2016. This survey reflects on the security situation from May 2022 until April 2023. Almost two-thirds of respondents (**65%**) were women and **79%** were between the ages of 16-45.



MAIN SECURITY DYNAMICS OBSERVED

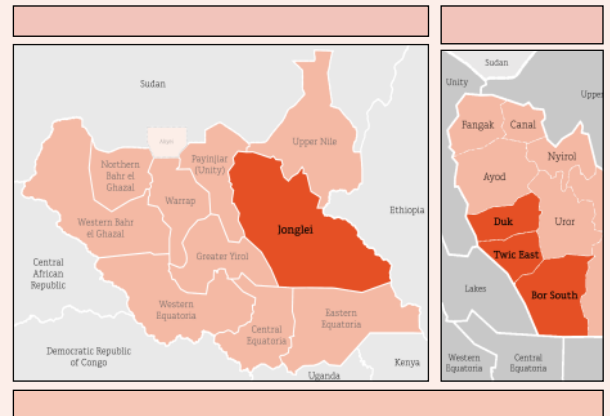


The majority of respondents reported a **worsening or overall negative perception of security within their communities**. **62.1%** of all respondents considered their own payam either somewhat or very unsafe, but in Twic East County this number reached a staggering **91%** of

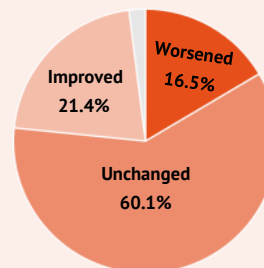
respondents. On the County level, we saw a similar trend with **64.2%** of all respondents in Twic East and Bor South considering their county to be somewhat/very unsafe, but in Twic East this accounted for **92%** of respondents. Despite this, the general impression was that in the previous year (2022) security levels had not significantly changed, according to **60.1%**, while **21.4%** thought that security had improved (only **1%** of



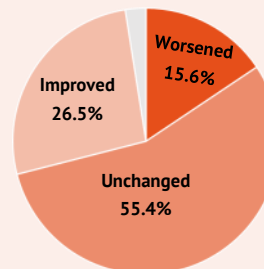
Left: Map of South Sudan. Right: Map of Duk, Twic East, and Bor South counties, highlighting the areas surveyed in 2023. Disclaimer: These maps are intended for illustrative purposes only and do not warrant accuracy or completeness, nor do they imply the expression of any opinion by PAX.



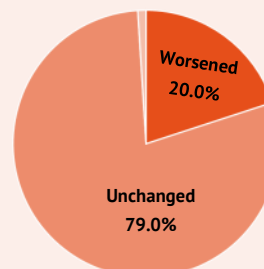
HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR?



Jonglei State
(N = 504)



Bor South County
(N = 404)



Twic East County
(N = 100)

respondents in Twic East reported improvements!) and **16.5%** of all respondents claimed that security had worsened. **81.9%** of all respondents (and **100%** of Twic East respondents) disagreed with the statement “I generally feel safe from violence and crime in my community”;



Responses indicate that **20.2%** of Bor South and Twic East respondents have migrated during the last five years (Specifically **34%** of respondents in Twic East). Half of respondents (**52.9%**) reported migrating once, with over a third (**37.3%**) doing it twice and **8.8%** reporting three or more migrations from one payam to another. Most people were forced to migrate due to physical insecurity (**37.2%**), and environmental disasters like flooding or drought (**36.7%**), but others migrated to access better education opportunities (**9.4%**) or basic services like food or healthcare (**5.6%**);

44% Households reported *at least one* security threat in the previous year [389 total incidents]

MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED INCIDENTS

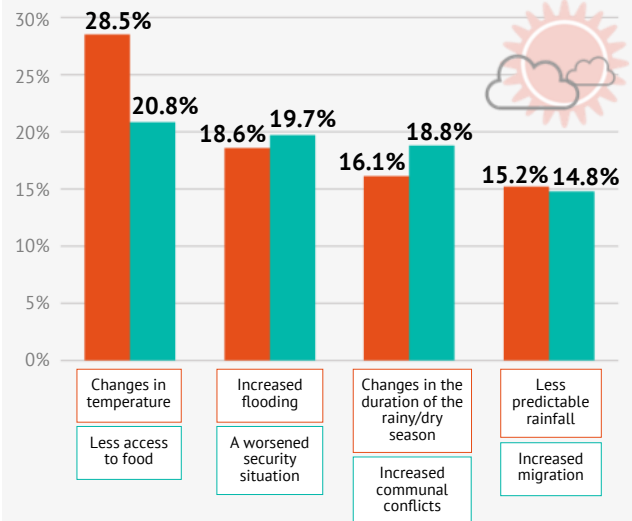
(Distribution of incidents reported in Jonglei State)

23%	Murder	
19%	Cattle raiding	
15%	Robbery	
14%	Kidnapping	
11%	Forced marriage	
5%	Imprisonment	
4%	Alcohol/drug abuse	
3%	Assault/beating	
2%	Explosives	
2%	Suicide	
2%	Forced recruitment	
1%	Sexual assault	

*Please note that values in this chart have been rounded.



WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES HAVE YOU OBSERVED?



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES?

Communities across the Bor South and Twic East counties have observed certain changes in local weather and environmental conditions. The most notable include: changes in temperature (**28.5%** of all respondents, but **40.6%** in Twic East), increased flooding (**18.6%** overall, but **52.1%** in Twic East), changes in the duration of dry and rainy seasons (**16.1%**), less predictable rainfall (**15.2%**), increased drought (**9.9%**) and an increase in pests/insects (**8.2%**);



A number of consequences were identified following these observed environmental changes. These include: worsened access to food (**20.8%** of respondents), a worsened security situation (**19.7%** overall, but **34.7%** in Twic East), an increase in communal conflicts (**18.8%** overall, but **33.0%** in Twic East), more migration (**14.8%**), increased competition over resources like water or pastures (**13.0%**) and more disease among people and livestock (**10.9%**). As a way of counteracting these consequences, the most popular solution proposed is the building of suitable infrastructure, like dykes, roads and bridges, as indicated by **42.4%** of the overall respondents, but notably **99.0%** of Twic East respondents. In line with this, NGOs/UNMISS are considered the most responsible actor in addressing these challenges according to **40.0%** of all respondents (but **100.0%** of respondents in Twic East);



Almost half of all surveyed households (**44.2%**) reported at least one security incident happening to a household member in the period of 2022-23. A total of 389 incidents were reported. The most frequently

reported security incidents include murder (23% of incidents), cattle raiding (19.3%), robbery (14.9%), kidnapping (14.4%) and forced marriage (11.3%), among others less mentioned incidents. The overall quantity of incidents reported saw a decrease since the previous data collection in 2022 (covering 2019-20). Almost half of incidents (45.3%) involved adult men as victims, and criminals were supposedly the biggest perpetrator (43.6% of reported incidents).



More than a third of all respondents (39.4%) contacted an outside actor to report or help resolve at least one of the aforementioned security incidents they experienced.

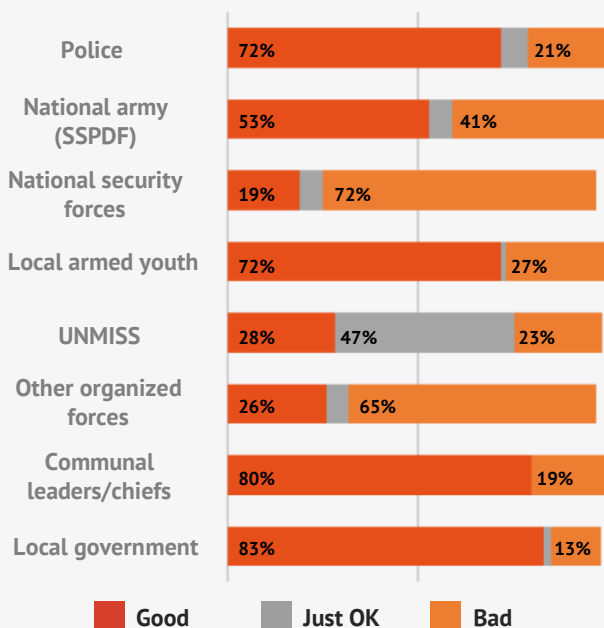
The actors most commonly reported to include: the police (37.1% of incidents) and local armed youth (31.8%). In almost two-thirds of cases (62% of incidents), respondents were not satisfied with the (lack of) resolution provided by the outside actors (the most reported reason was because the alleged perpetrators were not caught). Looking towards the remaining two-thirds of respondents who did not report their security incident to any outside actors, over half of them (51.4%) said that they were unable to contact anyone for help.



Respondents report that they perceive the elderly and children to be the most vulnerable societal groups [most exposed to violence] (both at 17.4%), Other vulnerable societal groups include young men/boys and young women/girls (both at 15.4%), people with a physical or mental disability (8.2%), people from specific ethnic groups (7.8%), and cattle keepers (6.6%),



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



**Please note that values in this chart have been rounded and summarized.*

among other less mentioned groups. In another question, 70.9% of respondents also indicated that men/boys and women/girls are equally likely to be exposed to violence rather than one particular gender being more vulnerable than the other.



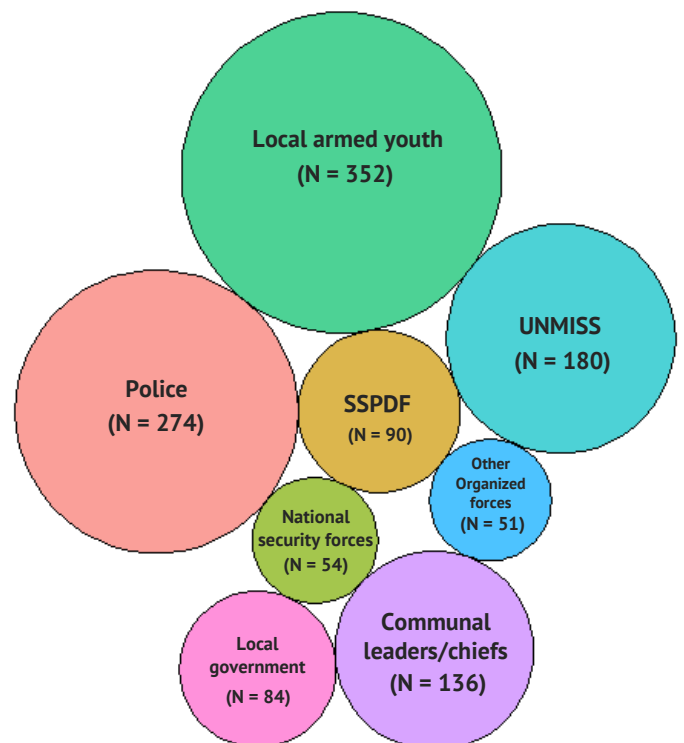
The most present security actor across Bor South and Twic East counties is the local armed youth, with 28.7% of respondents claiming that they are present in their community. In terms of presence, the local armed youth are then followed by the police (22.4%), UNMISS (14.7%), communal leaders or chiefs (11.1%), national army or SSPDF (7.4%), local government officials or a Commissioner (6.9%), national security forces (4.4%), and other organized forces [wildlife brigade, prison service, fire brigade, etc.] (4.2%).



Respondent perceptions of the performance of the local armed youth in providing security is (very) good (71.6%), with only 1.4% reporting their performance as not good or very bad. Similarly, the performance rate for the police has been (very) good according to 71.9% of respondents, just OK by 21.2% and not good/very bad by 6.6%. However, only 51% (11% in Twic East) agree that “the police take reports from community members seriously and are helpful in resolving them”, while 44.6% (89% in Twic East) do not agree. 80.2% think that there should be more women serving in the police to help with security issues facing women. Finally, UNMISS’ performance is rated as (very) good by 28.3%, just OK by 47.2% and not good/very bad by 23.3% of



Is this security actor present in your community?



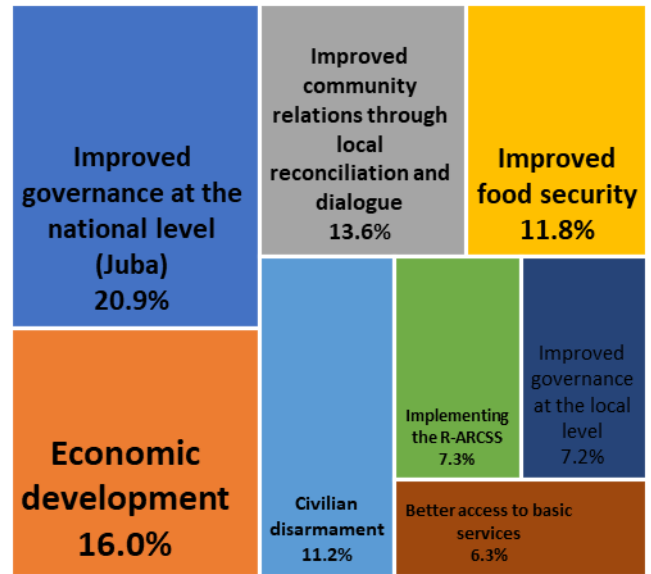
respondents. **44.8%** of respondents (**72%** in Twic East) agrees that “UNMISS is actively assisting the government to protect people in this community”, while **48.4%** do not agree with this statement.

78.2% of respondents (**98%** in Twic East) agree with the statement: “In my payam we trust local armed youth for our security more than any security actors from outside”. **28.6%** of respondents think that the national government in Juba is taking effective steps to reduce violence in their community, while **59.9%** disagree with this statement (**98%** in Twic East). **55%** of all respondents (**97%** in Twic East) think that local politicians and community leaders from the Greater Bor area who live in Juba are often creating/inciting community conflicts in their home area, or making them worse, rather than contributing to their prevention or resolution. More than two-thirds (**68.1%**) of respondents (**93%** in Twic East) agreed that the increased prices of dowry lead to more cases of forced marriage and elopement. Adding to that, **31.2%** (**82%** in Twic East) think that a girl who refuses to participate in a forced marriage is selfish for depriving her family of her dowry, while **68.1%** (**80.4%** in Bor South) say that women and girls should be able to make their own decisions about marriage and not be compelled by their families. **24.4%** think that a young man who raids lots of cattle from a neighboring community is to be respected, **67.9%** disagree. On the need for either self-protection or disarmament, the Greater Bor community seemed utterly divided: **49.8%** (**79%** in Twic East) agreed that people need arms to provide their own security in their villages, while **49.4%** thought that disarmament of civilians is needed for (better) security.

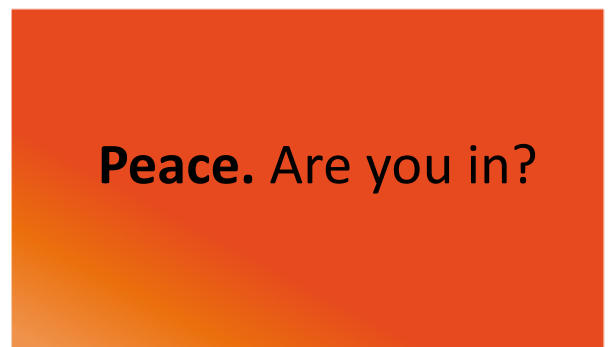
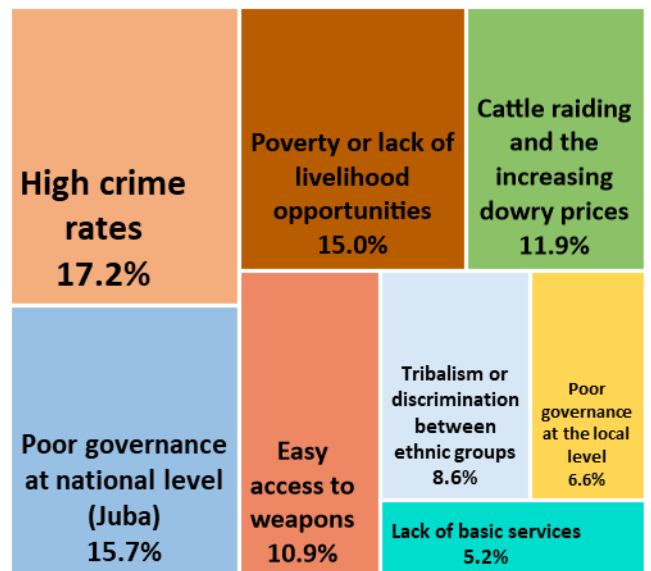
The main factor that is most likely to cause further conflict in Greater Bor in the coming year is **high crime rates (17.2% of respondents)**. Other factors include poor governance/corruption at the national level (**15.7%**), poverty/lack of livelihood opportunities (**15.0%**), cattle raiding (**11.9%**), Tribalism/discrimination between ethnic groups (**8.6%**), poor governance/corruption at the local level (**6.6%**), and competition over resources (**4.4%**), etc. Alternatively, the most significant changes that need to happen in order to bring lasting peace to South Sudan, according to Greater Bor respondents, are improved governance at the national level (**20.9%**), economic development (**16.0%**), improved community relations (**13.6%**), improved food security (**11.8%**), civilian disarmament (**11.2%**), the implementation of the revitalized national peace agreement (R-ARCSS; **7.3%**), improved governance at the local level (**7.2%**), and better access to basic services (**6.3%**).



Eight changes needed for lasting peace:



Eight factors that may cause further conflict:



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