

WHITE NILE CAMPS MULTISECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Location: Refugee Camps in White Nile
State: White Nile.
Localities: AL Jabalain and Elsalam

Norwegian Refugee Council, Al
Nile Tower, Khartoum, Sudan
www.nrc.no

Published August 2022

Cover photo by: Rawan Kara/NRC

Acknowledgements

This assessment report is a collaborative product, based upon a multisector needs and protection analysis, which was released after an extensive assessment mission to White Nile Camps by three Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) teams and NRC-led enumerators. We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who contributed to this important work.

The data collection process was carried out from 24 May 2022 to 2 June 2022 and was conducted by the NRC Emergency team (Omer Fathelrhman - ER Team Leader and Khalda Mohamed - ER Assistant), the NRC WASH and Shelter technical team (Marwa Jubara - Wash/Shelter Officer, Mohamed Ali - Wash/Shelter Assistant, Musa Elhadi - Wash/Shelter Assistant) and the NRC Education team (Motasim Mohamed Ahmed - Education Officer, Mutaz Ibrahim-Education Coordinator, Mohamed Madani - Education Assistant) who led a team of enumerators named Noon Rahma, Ahmed Mohammeden Ahmed, Ekhlal Abdulrahman, Azam Ahmed Abdelbagi, Mohieelden Gaber, Abdulwahid Adm Nugta, Safa Jameelallah, Ebtisam Alsiddeg Abaker, Saad Alaa Eldien Ibrahim, Mohanna Eissa, Amira Mohamed, Safa Mohamed Ahmed, Bintamina Al-Naeem Ahmed and Yousif Mamoun Atia. The NGO Additional for Disaster assistance and Development (ADD) also contributed to the data collection process, which was supported by the Commission Of Refugees (COR) field staff. Its members include camp managers Mohamed Abdulla, Said Hamid, Ahmed Eissa, Motwalli Rahama, Ibrahim Abusinn, Ahmed Almardi, Anwar Abo Shoorar, Mohammed Fadol, Bannaga Omer, as well as Alaa Eldin Musa, Protection Unit; Saeed Ali Mokhtar, community officer; Omar Hassan, protection officer; and the community leaders of the respective camps: Al Jameya Camp - Bash Foul, Al Kashafa camp - Peter Badow, Al Redais 1 Camp - Reiad Alwa, Al Redais 2 Camp - Julia Ding Ashweel, Dabat Bosin Camp - Eliza Gon Gok, Jorry Camp - Malka Wall, Khor Alwral Camp - Ezikia Fiter, Um Sangur Camp - Tomas Dos, Al Agaya - Charles Josef.

The data processing, analysis and reporting was conducted by the NRC Technical Country team of specialists and Project Development Managers (PDMs), as well as the Monitoring and Evaluation (MNE) and Advocacy departments represented by Grace Oonge, ICLA Specialist, Isabel Skrine - CCCM PDM, Jecinta Benadate Mwongeli - WASH and Shelter PDM, Silindile Baudi, Education Specialist, Carolina Cinerari, Livelihood and Food Security (LFS) Specialist, Penelope Caswell - Digital PDM, Jason Andrews, Cash and Market's Specialist, Hiba Yaghmour, MNE Manager, Deena Majeed and Samah Ahmed - MNE Officers, Mathilde Vu - Advocacy Manager and Rawan Kara - Media Assistant.

The final review and consolidation was conducted by Eirini Kakavoulia, NRC Central Area Manager, Elelta Beyene, NRC Head of Programs and William Carter, NRC Country Director.

We would similarly like to express our appreciation to all the NRC support staff who contributed to organizing the logistics for the assessment: Abdala Sallah, NRC Kosti Field Office Coordinator, Mohamed Madibo, HR & Admin Assistant, Mohammed Alkhidir, Logistics Assistant, Mubarak Abdelgader, HSS Assistant, Umnia Ahmed, Logistics Assistant, and Walid Fathi and Jarelnbi Ahmed - drivers.

We would also like to thank the relevant offices from UNHCR - White Nile for their assistance and cooperation.

Last and most importantly, we would like to express our great appreciation to the state authorities: the Commission of Refugees (COR) represented by Mr Emad Mustafa, and the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) Office represented by Mr Salah Elsier, as well as the localities of AL Jabalain and Al Salam for ensuring access to our teams and for their generous cooperation.

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Place: Gooli locality in White Nile state
Photo credit: Ahmed Omer/NRC

1. Executive Summary

Background

NRC conducted a multi - sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) in the White Nile camps from May to June 2022 to gather evidence-based information and raise awareness on the situation of South Sudanese refugees in the nine camps of White Nile. The assessment followed a three-layered methodology of a) key Informant Interviews (KIIs), b) technical observations, and c) focus group discussions (FGDs) to capture both quantitative and qualitative data. In total, NRC conducted 424 KIIs, ten technical observations and 32 focus group discussions (FGDs), across the nine camps. This included the population of Al Ghana camp which is currently integrated into the camps and peri-urban areas in the east bank of White Nile on a temporary basis. Among the respondents to the KIIs, 73 per cent were women and 27 per cent men. The areas of focus during the MSNA were a) demographics and returns intentions b) market analysis and income sources, c) digital access d) accountability to the affected population (AAP) and community representation and e) sectoral information on needs and gaps.

The main findings are presented here while all detailed information can be found throughout this report.

Main Findings

- White Nile states host close to 274,000 South Sudanese refugees, spread across nine camps in AL Jabalain (two camps) and El Salam (seven camps), but also across the main cities of the state, like Kosti and Rabaq;
- The rainy season from June to September heavily affects access to White Nile camps, especially in the West Bank. This often causes assistance to be cut off and movements to be restricted for six months at a time;
- Refugees arrive through several entry points, including Alkuak/Umjala, Elmigeinis and Jodi, with the latter being currently the most active, along with other entrances along the river and the border. COR reports about 60 people arriving daily in Jodi on average.

Market and cash

- Only five per cent of the surveyed households could meet all of their needs with the income they earned;
- The first source of income for refugee comes from selling humanitarian aid, followed by other petty trade activities (e.g. as a tea seller, running small kiosks and selling handicrafts) and casual labour related to agricultural activities;
- The barriers to income for the refugee population emerge from the lack of livelihood opportunities (51 per cent) in and around the camps. This was followed by the lack of knowledge about income opportunities (14 per cent) and the lack of adequate employable skills (13 per cent).

Livelihood and Food Security

- Seventy-six per cent of the refugees have poor (45 per cent) or borderline (31 per cent) levels of food consumption, while only 24 per cent of them have an acceptable food consumption score;
- Adult refugees (18+ years old) report an average of 1.8 meals per day. That is the same as children and adolescents between six and 18 years old, while children younger than five have two meals a day. Such patterns have an extreme impact, especially in the most at risk categories of young children;
- Families are likely to immediately sell part of their in-kind food assistance to meet other basic needs, and then re-purchase the same commodities at higher prices later on in the month in local markets, with 73 per cent of the surveyed households declaring that they did not have enough money to afford food in the last seven days.

Education and Technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

- According to UNHCR, 45 per cent of refugee children living in camps are enrolled, while 55 per cent are out the school;
- The NRC assessment also highlights an important gap in access to learning for out-of-school children and youth, with respondents indicating that only one per cent of them have access to vocational skills training and limited non-formal learning;

- Only 25 per cent of schools have access to both safe water and gender-segregated latrines. Most of the schools have neither latrines nor hand washing facilities;
- Ninety per cent of teachers cited delays in payment of salaries and non-payment of incentives, such as transportation allowances, etc. Seventy per cent of schools reported a lack of trained teachers and of in-service training opportunities.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

- Eighty-five per cent of the shelters occupied by the South Sudanese in the White Nile camps were made from local materials, and another five per cent were made from plastic sheeting/plastic. Four per cent live in tents; Thirty-two per cent of the shelters were reported as slightly damaged, while another 24 per cent were moderately damaged. The main material needed is plastic sheeting;
- The community reported that the last distribution of shelter materials took place in 2017 and requested for plastic sheeting to protect themselves during the rainy season;
- Respondents also indicated that only half of the population owns blankets (51 per cent) although 39 per cent of them say their quality is poor. Forty per cent of the population say they do not have access to blankets at all.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- The estimated consumption of water per person among the White Nile population is only 20 liters of water per week. This is 80.95 per cent below the minimum SPHERE standards (a minimum of 15 litres per person per day);
- Seventy-one per cent of respondents stated that water coverage is inconsistent, i.e. not enough. Fifty-two per cent of the Kis reported that running water is only available between two and five hours a day on average, while 35 per cent said it was available for less than two hours a day;
- Eighty-two per cent of respondents reported that water collection is done by adult women. Forty-nine per cent of the respondents have experienced or heard of security incidents during the water collection process, with 44 per cent consisting of physical and sexual harassment;
- Twenty-six per cent of the population engages in open defecation because of the lack of available sanitation facilities or because they must share the same latrine with more than seven people, (18 per cent);
- Fifty-four per cent of the female population indicated that they do not have access to sanitary products, while another 17 per cent said that access is inconsistent.



"Crowded water and substandard water point at Jory camp"
Photo credit: NRC



Nabitu, South Sudanese Refugee
Photo credit: Rawan Kara / NRC

Health

- Health facilities are available in the camps, although, as reported, they a) lack medication (92 per cent), b) lack sufficient medical or trained medical personnel (38 per cent), c) are unable to conduct laboratory tests (34 per cent), d) charge high prices for medical consultations (23 per cent), e) lack adequate specialised facilities (17 per cent), f) unavailable or non-functioning facilities for sexual reproductive health (SRH) (15 per cent).

Protection

- The most common risks that refugees face in the camps are harassment and abuse during water or wood collection, an activity undertaken by women, (42 per cent), early pregnancy (24 per cent), child marriage (14 per cent) and gender-based violence (GBV) (11 per cent). Risks that apply to the overall population are abuse of drugs and other substances (24 per cent) and discrimination (20 per cent).
- Observations in the camps and consultation with authorities and the community reveal that there is a large and growing number of Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in White Nile camps. The main reasons are a) parents died (89 per cent) mostly in South Sudan and b) children were lost during displacement events (45 per cent), when the family crossed to Sudan.

Access to Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA)

- Some refugees have been in the camps for years, but only 58 per cent reported having the refugee registration card, only eight per cent have birth certificates, and only two per cent have marriage certificates, a reality that restricts refugees' access and right to full assistance packages;
- Digital access in the camps is limited with only 30 per cent of the community reporting that they have access to mobile phones at all times. Lack of electricity inside the camps increases the challenges in accessing electric or electronic devices;
- Seventy-five per cent of the South Sudanese refugees wish to return to their place of origin if security there is stabilized. As an interim solution and until return is possible, 72 per cent of them prefer to remain in White Nile camps.

2. Introduction

A neglected crisis

Despite hosting the second-largest refugee population in the country, White Nile still represents one of the most underserved and neglected humanitarian responses in Sudan. Close to 274,000 refugees are living in the state, all of them South Sudanese. Often misperceived as simply a protracted refugee crisis, White Nile has since 2013 seen a continuous flow of asylum seekers. In 2021, 49,300 South Sudanese refugees crossed the border. These record numbers made White Nile the largest refugee emergency that year. Today, the population of refugees continues to grow, with more than 10,500 new arrivals between January and May 2022. The level of food insecurity is increasing in the state, rising from 15 per cent in 2021 to 23 per cent in 2022. Despite growing vulnerabilities, however, only four international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and six UN agencies are present in White Nile.

Yearly flooding

During the rainy season from June to September, tens of thousands of people in White Nile are displaced as dwellings, villages, camps and roads are submerged by heavy floods. Out of the nine established camps, seven are routinely cut off from road access during the rainy season. Following the large influx in 2021, about 36,000 newly arrived refugees were placed in the new settlement of Al Ghana. But, during the rainy season of 2021, the camp was completely submerged. Al Ghana's refugees were dispatched to overcrowded camps nearby, while others went on living in makeshift shelters within the host community. Eleven months after the destruction of the camp, Al Ghana's refugees are yet to be relocated to a safe and appropriate location.

Basic services in jeopardy amid decreasing funds

Eighty per cent of the refugee population of White Nile lives in camps, whose size varies between 11,500 and 38,600 individuals per camp. Filled to their maximum capacity and not meeting the minimum humanitarian standards by far, they are chronically underserved and are greatly affected by the decrease in funding. Most of the camps have access to water for only two to five hours a day and open defecation is a common practice. The rainy season, overcrowding and dilapidated infrastructure are all risk factors for a surge of water-borne diseases. Since June 2022, refugees who arrived in Sudan more than two years ago also saw their food ration cut in half because of the decrease in funding. At a time of high food insecurity levels among refugees and rapid inflation, the cut in assistance is likely to cause a new shock for already highly vulnerable families.

Potential for durable solutions?

Despite its growing severity, the crisis in White Nile does offer some untapped opportunities for durable solutions and development. Compared with other highly vulnerable states, it offers a relatively stable environment, with very little intercommunal tension or conflict and relatively strong social cohesion in the relationship between refugees and host communities. In adopting an encampment policy, authorities have also demonstrated willingness to facilitate the movement of refugees outside of the camps, including for livelihood opportunities, such as agriculture. In the longer term, authorities, host communities, development and humanitarian partners and the refugees themselves could find large benefits in working towards the economic inclusion of refugees at the local level. This is especially true as the policy base for this already exists in the "Four Freedom Agreement", initially negotiated in 2012 between Sudan and South Sudan but yet to be implemented.



Nabitu, South Sudanese Refugee
Photo credit: Rawan Kara\ NRC

3. Methodology

3.1. Tools and Assessment design

For the White Nile Camps multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA), a three-layered methodology was used, comprised by:

- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs),
- Technical Observations, and
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

The three different tools were drafted and contextualised by the NRC country team of specialists and Project Development Managers (PDMs). The data collection team, comprised of 15 enumerators and eight NRC staff who took the lead in each respective tool, received two days of training on the Kobo Toolbox deployed tools. The data collection started on 24 May 2022 and lasted for ten days until 2 June 2022, including the two days of training.

Each tool collected data in each individual camp, but this assessment report provides a general overview of the situation in all the camps. The data collected was intended to be used at a later stage to form individual camp profiles.

3.2. Data Protection and Confidentiality

NRC enumerators received training on ethical standards of interviewing, confidentiality principles and unconscious bias. All have signed the NRC Code of Conduct (COC) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies. The smartphones and paper forms were collected at the end of each day. The data is uploaded and stored in secure servers for NRC use only. Enumerators are trained on how to obtain informed consent before beginning the survey, and respondents have the right to end the survey at any time.

3.3. Sample Frame of KIIs

The initial list from UNHCR that was used to define the sample size contained a total of 41,726 households that are currently living in the nine White Nile camps as presented in the table 1:

Sampling Calculation - White Nile

Camp	Total number of households	Displacement Status	Percentage of total population	Household Sample (Sample TBS: 95% CL; 5% ME) (considering the population of the camp as a single group)	Male Sample Size (45%)	Female Sample Size (55%)
JOURIE	3,177	refugee	8%	29	13	16
ALKASHAFA	3,105	refugee	7%	28	13	16
ALAGAYA	5,838	refugee	14%	53	24	29
DABAT BOSIN	1,643	refugee	4%	15	7	8
ALREDAIS1	2,908	refugee	7%	27	12	15
ALREDAIS2	6,396	refugee	15%	58	26	32
UM SANGOUR	7,589	refugee	18%	69	31	38
KHOR ALWAREL	8,576	refugee	21%	78	35	43
ALJAMEYA	2,494	refugee	6%	23	10	13
TOTAL	41,726		100%	381	171	210

Initial population
(Total number of HHs) 41,726

Sample TBS: 95% CL; 5% ME 381

Table 1

Based on the table's population data, the sample size was defined based on a confidence level of 95 per cent with an error of margin of five per cent. An additional 43 KIIs were conducted to cover the population of Al Ghana camp which was evacuated on September 2021 after being flooded. The community of the camp was estimated at 28,672 people and, during the data collection, was located across Dabat Bosin and Alagaya camps, as well as across the host community of Al Ghana village. In total, NRC conducted 424 KIIs, of which 311 were answered by female and 113 by male respondents. Most of these respondents were about 20 to 35 years old and have been in the White Nile camps for more than three years.

How long have you stayed in this location?

Indicate length of stay in years

- 3 - 6 months
- 6 - 12 months
- 1 - 3 years
- over 3 years

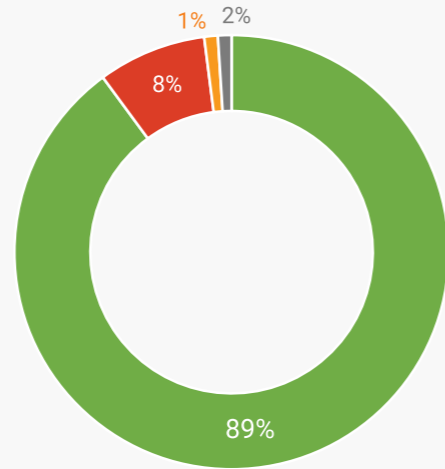


Table 2

Age of the respondent

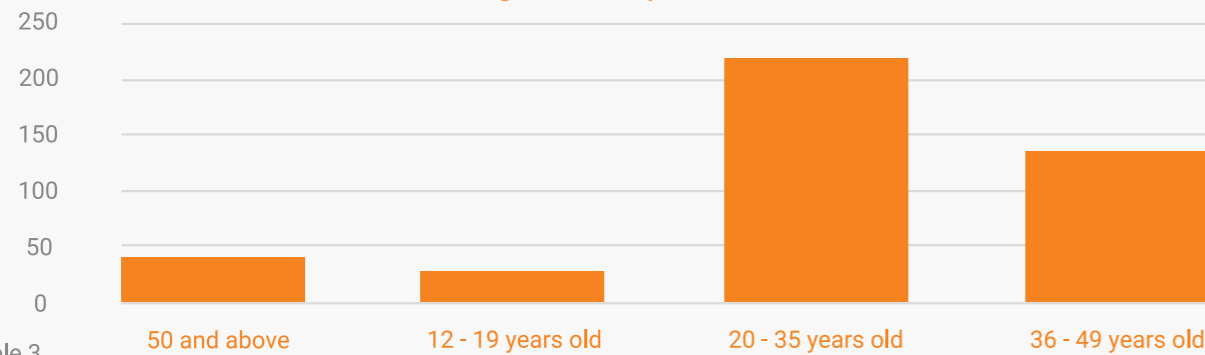


Table 3

3.4. Technical Observations

The Technical Observation tool was performed by NRC WASH and Shelter staff and was designed to capture the infrastructure needs and gaps from a technical angle. The main categories evaluated were a) site planning and site maintenance b) water supply c) sanitation d) hygiene promotion and vector control. The data collection was done on paper forms with guided questions related to these four categories and was performed during an observatory walk around the camp while consulting with the camp community leadership and the COR staff. The data collected was both qualitative and quantitative. A sample of the questions is presented below:

- Sample question 1: Number and name the water sources in the camp?
- Sample question 2: Status of water quality / does the water require disinfection?
- Sample question 3: Average number of the served population using the existing water source?

The data collected was inserted in Excel where it was cleaned and analysed by the NRC monitoring and evaluation (MNE) teams. The technical observation data analysis was used to compliment the data collected during the KIIs and allow a coherent analysis of the infrastructure and hygiene conditions in the camps. It also enabled the development of recommendations based on local expertise and community knowledge.

3.5. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

The focus group discussions were developed to compliment the KIIs tool. They were intended as a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the education sector in the White Nile camps. The FGDs aimed to obtain data from five groups a) children of primary school age b) children of elementary school age c) children of secondary school age (all segregated by gender) d) teachers of primary school e) teachers of secondary school. Because of inconsistencies in school infrastructure and learning systems (e.g there is no elementary level in certain camps; the teachers do not differentiate between primary and secondary education etc), the sample of FGDs is inconsistent. In total, four FGDs per camp were collected resulting in the 32 FGDs (excluding the Khora Al Wora camp and Al Ghana population). The number of children who participated in the focus group discussions is indicated in table 4, segregated by age and gender. Out-of-school children were included in the FGDs as well as children with disabilities.

	Girls	Boys	total
Primary	26	27	53
Elementary	43	84	127
Secondary	42	39	81
total	111	150	261

Table 4

During the data collection the exams for primary education were taking place, which caused delays in the assessment process. The analysis of the qualitative data was taken into consideration, however, in the narrative report of the education section of this MSNA report.



Photo credit: NRC

4. Demographics

Camp	Establishment date	Total number of households (UNHCR data)	Individuals (multiplied by average number of HH – 7 individuals)	Nile bank	Locality
JOURIE	2015	3,177	22,239	West	El Salam
ALKASHAFA	2014	3,105	21,735	West	El Salam
ALAGAYA	2014	5,838	40,866	East	Al Jabalain
DABAT BOSIN	2013	1,643	11,501	East	Al Jabalain
ALREDAIS1	2014	2,908	20,356	West	El Salam
ALREDAIS2	2014	6,396	44,772	West	El Salam
UM SANGOUR	2015	7,589	53,123	West	El Salam
KHOR ALWAREL	2014	8,576	60,032	West	El Salam
ALJAMEYA	2019	2,494	17,458	West	El Salam
Al Ghana	2021	4,096	28,672	East	Al Jabalain

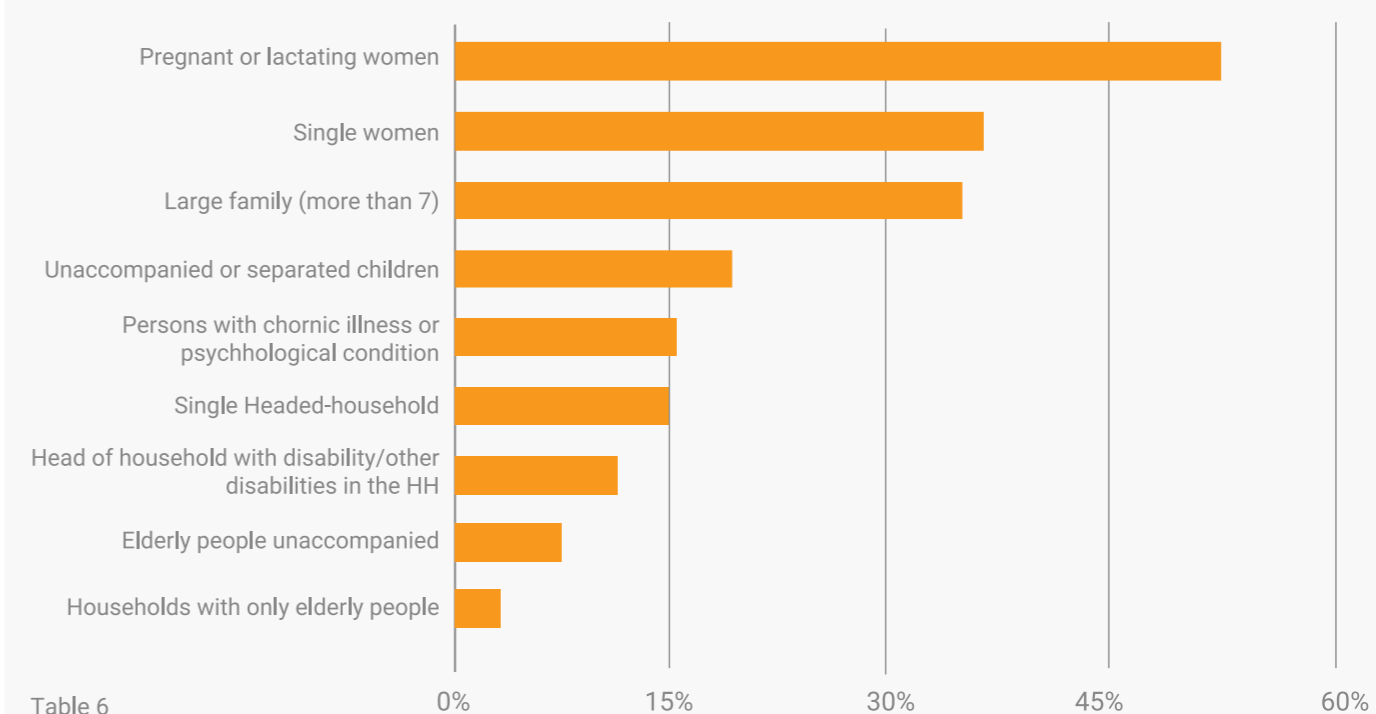
Table 5

As per Table 5, there are 45,822 households in the White Nile camps, all of which consist of South Sudanese refugees. As reported by COR, however, there is a substantial gap between the registered and non-registered population. This is related to the suspension of registration from 2019 onwards, with only the first level of registration ongoing.

The total population in Table 5 is based on the average household size of seven individuals. As documented in the reports of COR camp managers, however, there are fewer individuals in each camp, while the Al Ghana population is split among the host community (3,810 people), the Dabat Boshin camp (15,121 people) and the Al Agaya camp (9,741 people). The average household, according to respondents, is comprised mainly of children between five and 17 years of age, followed by people between 18 and 60 years of age. The percentage of elderly people is quite low in comparison to that of young children under five.

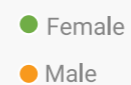
The main vulnerabilities for the majority of households involve pregnant and lactating women (53 per cent) and single women (36 per cent). Thirty-six per cent of respondents also said their household was bigger than the average size of seven individuals. Families with unaccompanied and or separated children represent a lower percentage of vulnerability (19 per cent), followed by individuals with chronic medical conditions (16 per cent) and other disabilities (11 per cent). Fifteen per cent of families are headed by a single person, while families consisting of only elderly people make up only two per cent of households.

Per cent of vulnerabilities within the HH

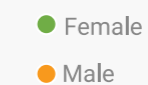


Seventy-three per cent of respondents were women and 27 per cent men. These reported that 57 per cent of household heads are females and 43 per cent males.

Sex of the respondent



Sex of the household head



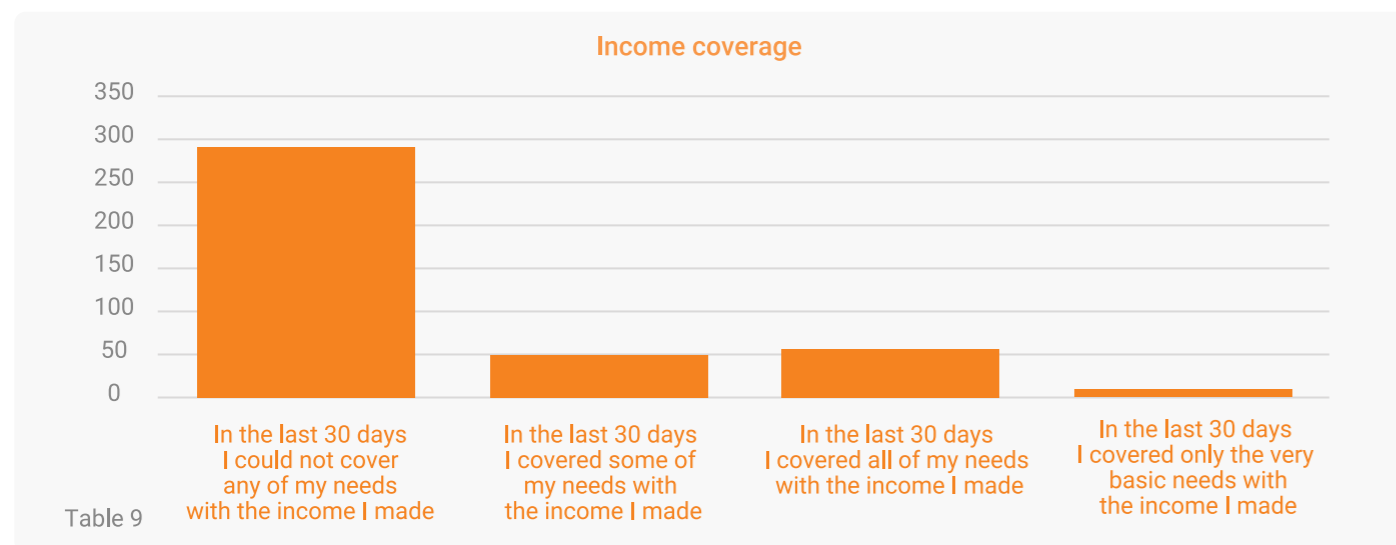
5. Findings

Market analysis, Cash Feasibility, Livelihood and Food Security.

5.1. Income sources

The economic profile of the surveyed households in the White Nile camps shows a) severe limitations in access to sustainable and stable livelihood options, b) an inability to cover households' basic needs and c) high dependency on humanitarian aid (especially in-kind aid).

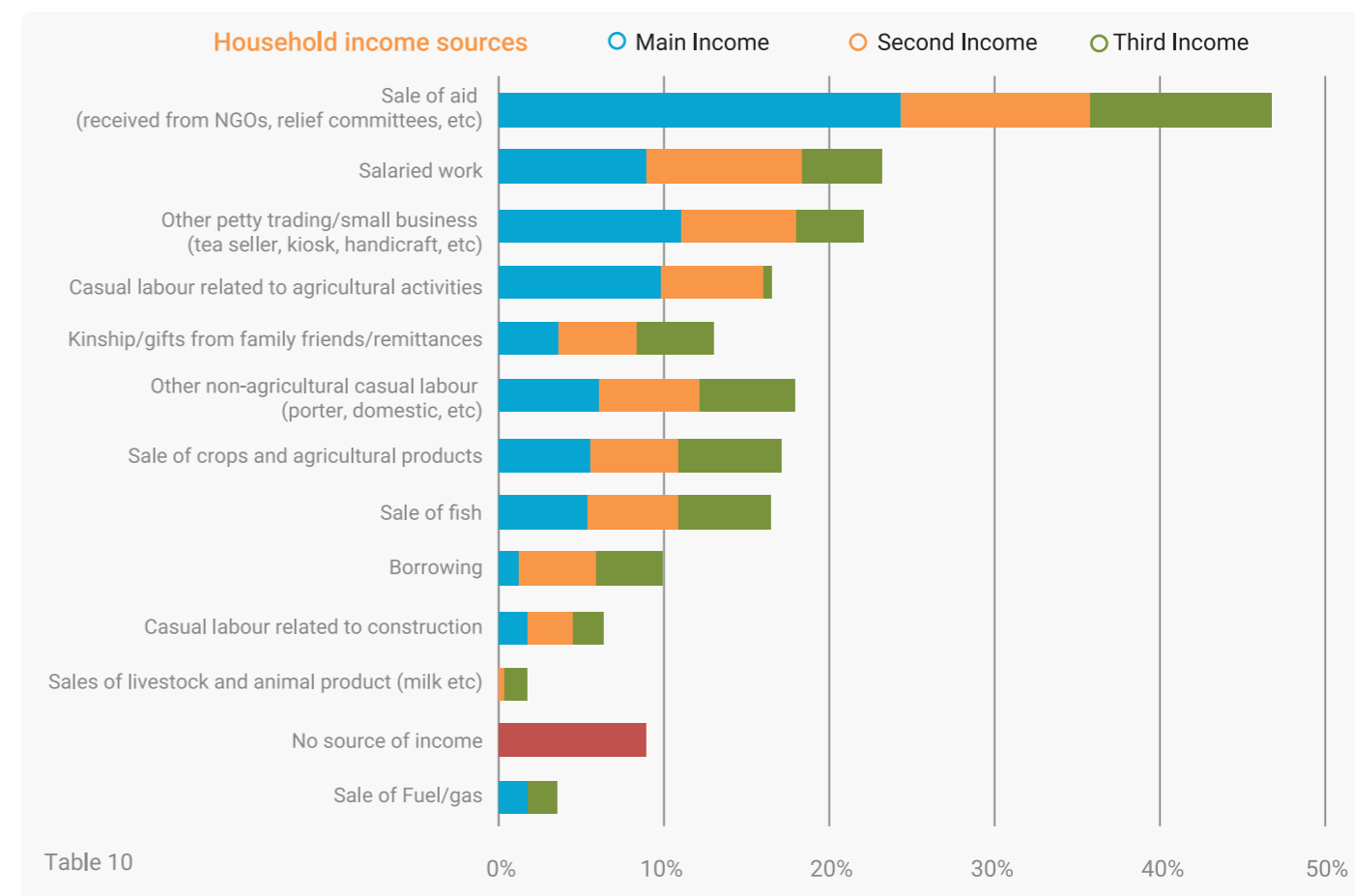
Only five per cent of the surveyed households could meet all of their needs with the income they earned, while 81 per cent said that they were not able to meet any of their basic needs with their income (68 per cent) or only their very basic needs (13 per cent).



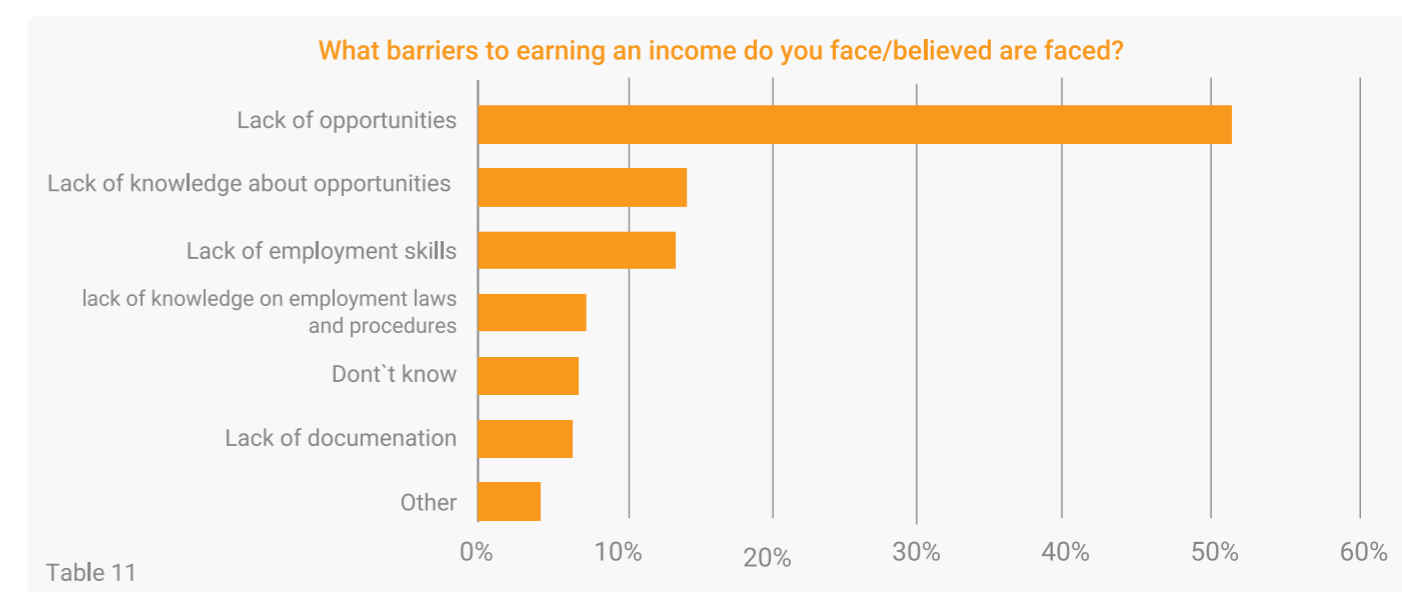
To develop an in-depth understanding of the livelihood opportunities available in the surveyed communities and their different income strategies, the MSNA included questions related to the identification of the first, second and third sources of income of the targeted households. The data analysis, as well as the assessment team's direct observation, showed that the first source of income for refugee comes from selling humanitarian aid, followed by other petty trade activities (e.g. as a tea seller, running small kiosks and selling handicrafts) and casual labour related to agricultural activities. Notably about ten per cent of the respondents reported as their first source of income borrowing or no income at all, while about four per cent rely on remittances or gifts from family and friends.

Other significant alternative sources of income are a) salaried work, which represents the second largest share of secondary source income after the selling of humanitarian aid (9 per cent), b) casual labour not related to agricultural activities c) the sale of crops and fish, d) the sale of fuel and gas, e) the sale of animal products and (vi) casual labour related to construction.

Table 10 represents the different sources of income and their percentage as first, second or third sources of income.



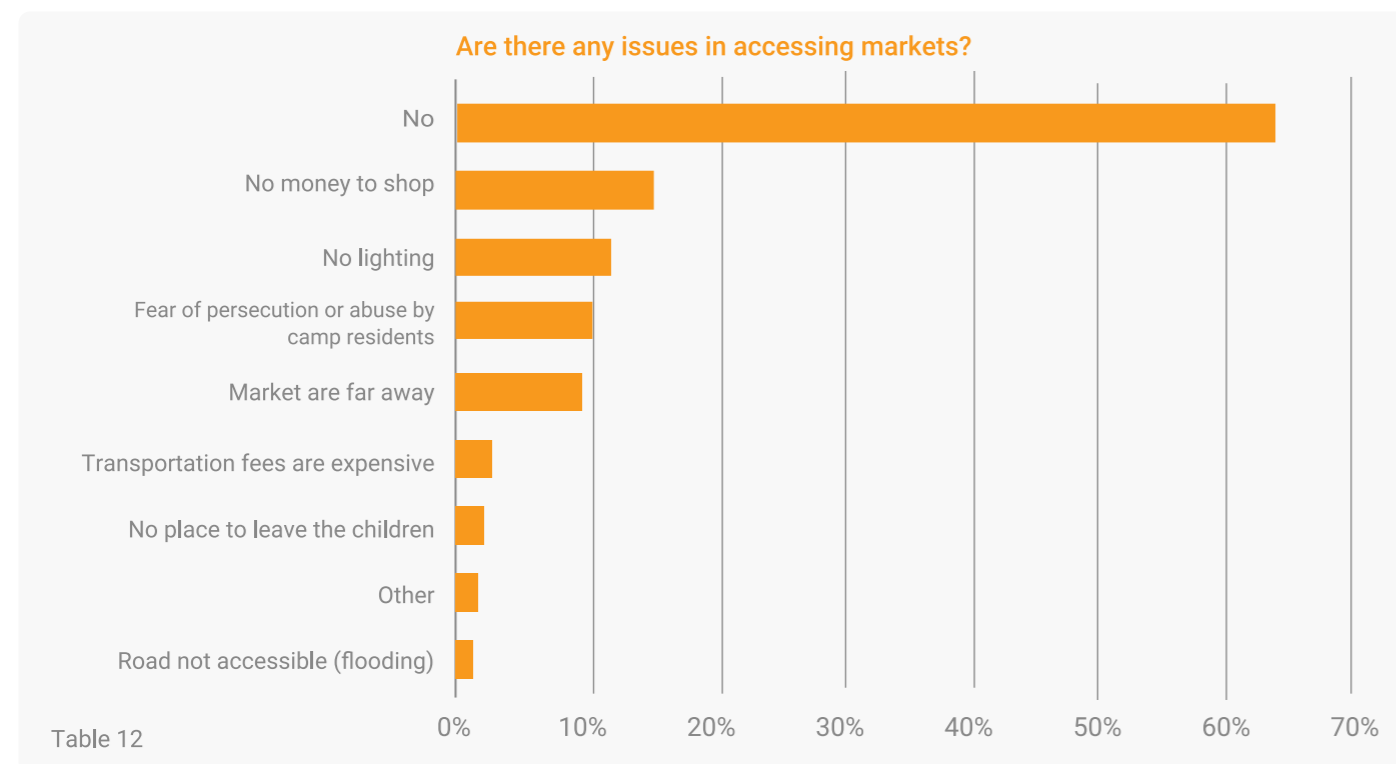
The data collected through the MSNA highlights the significant barriers that South Sudanese face to access income. Table 11 clearly shows that the primary barrier is the general lack of livelihood opportunities (51 per cent) for refugees in and around the camps, followed by the lack of knowledge about income opportunities (14 per cent) and the lack of adequate employable skills (13 per cent). A smaller percentage also identified as barriers the lack of knowledge about employment laws and procedures (ten per cent) and lack of documentation (eight per cent).



5.2. Market Functionality and Access

The majority of refugee families source their food commodities from nearby markets. Eighty-nine per cent of respondents said there are available markets within walking distance from their shelters (either within or outside the camps). Most of the food is available at the local markets.

Sixty-four per cent of the interviewed households did NOT identify any barrier in accessing the markets. Major barriers in accessing the market are shown in Table 12 which highlights issues related to fear of abuse and prosecution from other camp residents in ten per cent of the cases; lack of income with which to shop, representing 15 per cent; and the high price of transportation and excessive distances to the main market (nine per cent) in the case of city markets, such as Kosti or Rabaq.

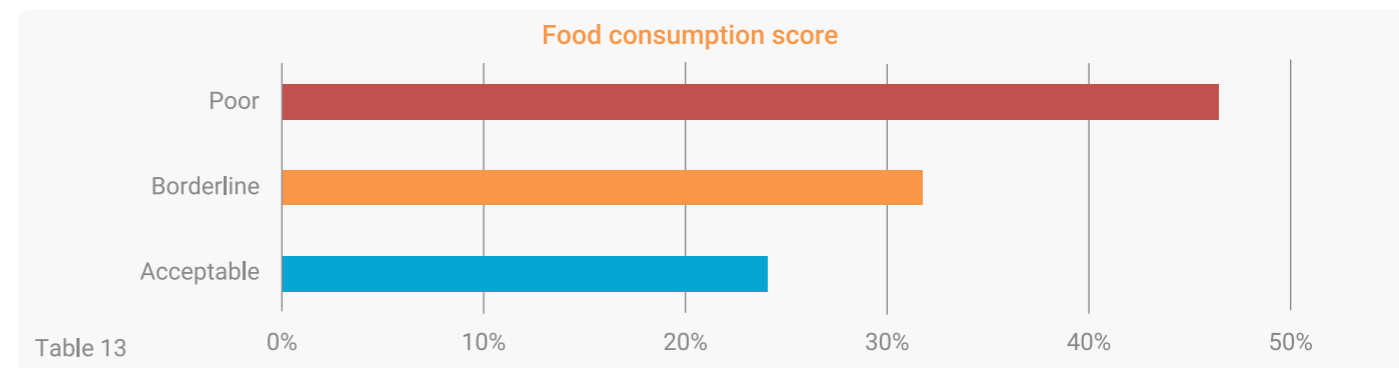


Cash is a modality that in feedback from dedicated cash feasibility assessments is acceptable among the refugee population in White Nile. No significant protection concerns have been raised. Cash was not cited as a priority need by refugees during the survey. One of the working assumptions is that refugees are not familiar or aware that this kind of assistance exist. Indeed, there has been only limited cash and livelihood interventions targeting White Nile camps. There has also been a growing dependency on in-kind humanitarian assistance over the years, and refugees have developed the coping mechanism of selling less-needed aid items for cash to meet their basic and essential needs.

5.3. Food consumption patterns

The MSNA was designed to capture (i) food consumption patterns through the Food Consumption Score (FCS), (ii) The major coping strategies refugees use to ensure adequate access to food for their households (through the Coping Strategy Index).

The analysis of the data from the FCS reveals an extremely worrisome situation in the surveyed camps, with just 24 per cent of the refugees having an acceptable food consumption score, and the remaining 76 per cent having a poor (45 per cent) or borderline (31 per cent) level of food consumption. It is also important to note that, as the MSNA data collection was conducted in May, these patterns of consumption are likely to worsen in the coming months as the rainy season approaches.



The rainy season, or hunger gap, in Sudan usually lasts from June to September. It is normally accompanied by an increase in the prices of food and a relative scarcity of food staples. There are also worse Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) projections for the majority of Sudan's states. These would bring the White Nile state into IPC phase 3, a crisis, during the months from June to September. During this period of the year, households increase their reliance on humanitarian aid (especially for staples and oils) and are more prone to bad coping strategies to meet their basic food needs.

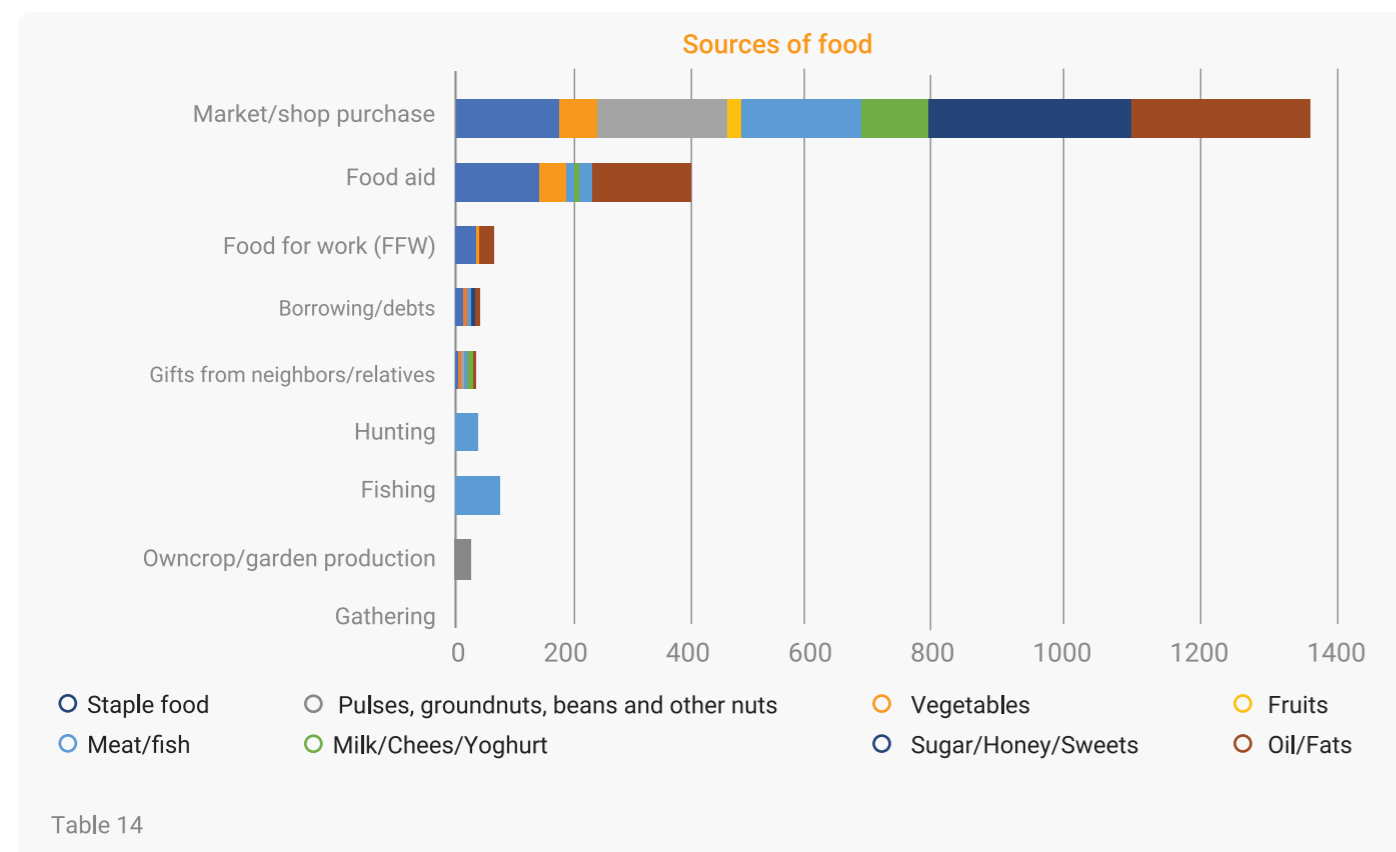
The hunger gap this year for White Nile refugees will be increasingly difficult to manage because of the extraordinarily difficult economic situation that Sudan is facing, with a progressive devaluation of the national currency, raging inflation and the resulting impact on food prices. The last year had a below average harvest season because of dry spells and the unaffordability of agricultural inputs. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on global food prices and the food supply chain also contributes to a scarcity of staples on the market (i.e. wheat) and creates challenges in delivering food aid assistance. WFP, which has the largest and only humanitarian in-kind supply chain active in the country, communicated at the beginning of May that it would be necessary to halve the food ration for refugees in order to meet the increased number of people in need of food assistance in Sudan. All these factors will put at risk the ability of South Sudanese refugees in White Nile to meet their basic food needs in the coming months.

Particularly worrisome is the reported number of meals eaten each day by refugees in the surveyed camps. Adult refugees (18 years old+) report eating an average of 1.8 meals a day, the same as children and adolescents between six and 18, while children under five eat two meals a day. Such patterns have an extremely large impact on all children, but especially on the most at risk categories of young children (below five years of age). Certain patterns of consumption are required to ensure adequate development and avoid stunted growth, especially in very young children.

The analysis of the FCS also revealed a very low rate of dietary diversification and a high consumption of oil and sugar (four days a week), followed by staples (4.5 days a week). The intake of fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs and meat is still below an average of two days a week, with vegetables and fruit consumed once or, at most, twice a week. Such patterns of consumption affect the intake of micronutrients and vitamins, which might worsen the condition of the most vulnerable section of the population, including children, pregnant and lactating women, young girls and the elderly.

5.4. Coping Strategies

In terms of resourcing food commodities, the assessment highlights that refugee populations rely mainly on markets and food aid. Almost all the food commodity categories have been reported to be available in the nearby markets, while food aid is reported to be the primary source for staples, oil and pulses, in line with the package offered by the WFP's General Food Distribution (GFD). As shown in Table 14, despite the fact that the majority of the refugee population is covered by WFP's GFD for receiving staples, oils and pulses, the tendency displayed is to rely equally (or even more) on local markets to procure such food commodities. This pattern is in line with the data reported in the "source of income" section, where the primary source of income for the refugee households is represented by the selling of humanitarian aid. The data and the field observations indicate that families are likely to immediately sell part of their in-kind food assistance to meet other basic needs, and then re-purchase the same commodities at higher prices later on in the month in local markets, with 73 per cent of the surveyed households declaring that they did not have enough money to afford food in the last seven days.



In line with the dire food security outlook of the refugee communities in the White Nile camps, a very high Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was reported, an average of 41.5. Fifty-four per cent of surveyed families rely on coping mechanisms more than four days a week on average. The CSI has been measured taking in consideration the five universal food-related coping behaviours (i) rely on less expensive, less preferred food, (ii) reduce the size of the portion at meal time, (iii) reduce the amount eaten in a day, (iv) reduce the portion for adults for the benefit of children, (v) send family members to eat elsewhere. The selling of assets has been added to the list of coping behaviours to capture the long-term impact on the households' economy.

5.5. Cash and Market and Livelihood and Food Security Recommendations

- Design tailored cash assistance to complement the in-kind food distributions, increasing the adaptability and diversification of households' economy;

- Mobilize resources for multi-purpose, cash-based assistance for particularly vulnerable families with specific protection concerns;
- Promote cooperation among different sectors and agencies in the design and delivery of integrated programming;
- Invest in referral pathways and the enhancement of linkages to services provided in the camps (e.g. food assistance and health and nutrition services);
- Invest in programming to build refugees' self-reliance by encouraging livelihood opportunities and graduation schemes;
- Invest in the identification of viable livelihood activities tailored to sustain the in-camp economy and enhance / sustain existing infrastructure and services (e.g. short-term employment opportunities);
- Invest in the identification of viable livelihood solutions to foster integration among refugees and host communities, increasing access to durable solutions.



"Crowded water and substandard water point at Jory camp"
Photo credit: NRC

6. Education

6.1. Access to education

The macro-political and economic environment in Sudan has affected all social services, and the education sector has been affected the most. Education is a fundamental right for all children and youth, but more than 8.1 million students in Sudan, from pre-primary to higher education levels, have experienced learning disruptions (UNICEF Sudan, 2022). Despite ongoing efforts by different actors to improve access to quality education in the country, continued disruptions because of conflict and crisis, exacerbated by poor educational environments, have negatively affected scholastic retention and outcomes. According to the 2018 National Learning Assessment, Sudan had poor results for learning, with primary level children demonstrating below grade level literacy and numeracy skills.

According to UNHCR sub-office in Kosti, 45 per cent of refugee children living in camps are enrolled in school in-camp, while 55 per cent are out the school.

In addition, the NRC MSNA highlights important gaps in access to learning for out-of-school children and youth, with respondents indicating that only one per cent of them have access to vocational skills training and limited non-formal learning.

White Nile In-Camps Refugee Education Statistics June 2022 / UNHCR		
School age population		
Gender		
M	F	Total
52,231	43,000	95,231

Enrolment								
Primary			Secondary			Total		
M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
19,914	20,036	39,950	1,724	1,506	3,230	21,638	21,542	43,180

Out of school Children		
M	F	Total
30,593	21,458	52,051

School age population	95,231
Net Enrolment Rate	43,180 - 45%
Out of School	52,051 - 55%

Table 15

Source : UNHCR Kosti sub-office

All respondents indicated that their school is a safe place, but 25 per cent of focus group respondents cited a risk of physical and verbal abuse when walking to and from school.

Children (6-17) walking 30 minutes on average to reach school

- No
- Yes

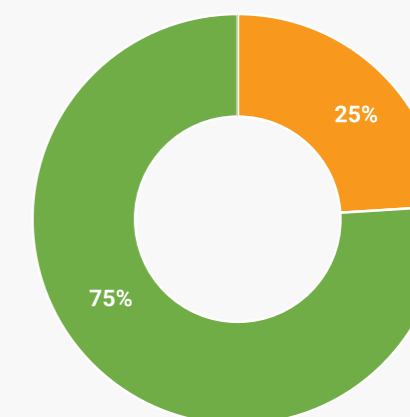


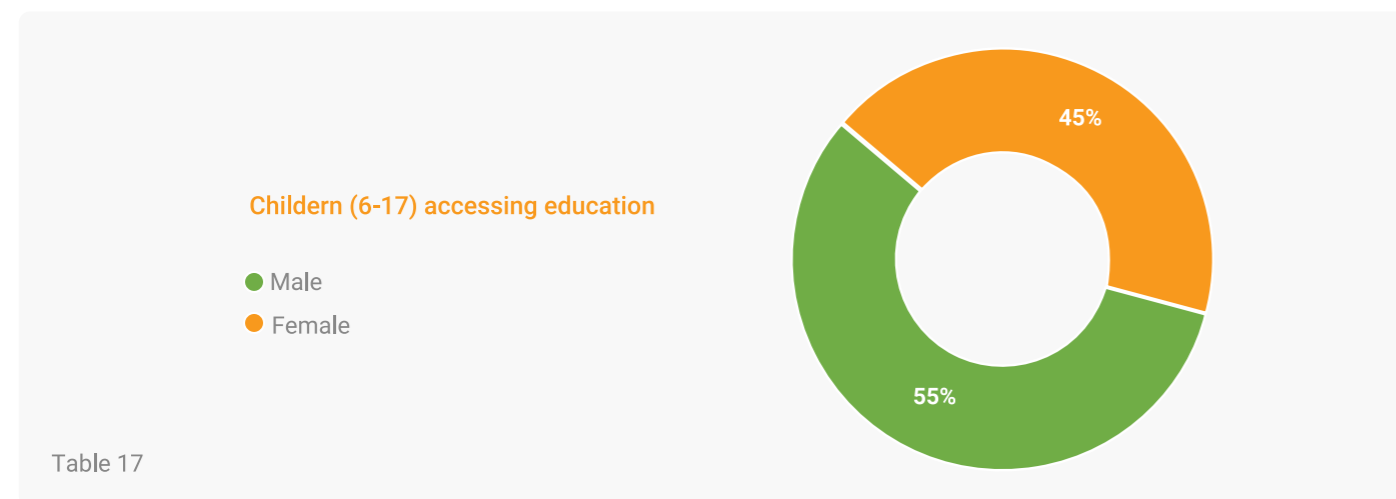
Table 16



School in Dabat Bosin Camp
Photo credit: NRC

6.2. Gender Restrictions in Education

Of students of primary and secondary school age, 45 per cent are female and 55 per cent are male. This reflects the existence of more educational barriers for girls and young women, as highlighted by participants in focus group discussions. The Protection Section of this MSNA shows that the main threats identified in the camps include early pregnancy (24 per cent) and child marriage (14 per cent), which could also be reasons that girls are forced out of schools.



6.3. Learning environment

Both students and teachers in focus group discussions highlighted inadequate Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, with some schools reporting no WASH facilities at all. In the eight camps where focus group discussions were conducted, only 25 per cent of schools have both safe water and gender-segregated latrines. Most of the schools have neither handwashing facilities, nor latrines. Even in some schools with latrines, these are filled up, with no access to clean water. Open defecation is practiced, exposing both teachers and students to the high risk of disease. The lack of water and handwashing facilities also impedes COVID-19 prevention and control. All schools were reported to be lacking disability friendly environments, creating an educational barrier for learners with disabilities. Fifty respondents, mainly teachers, indicated that classrooms are overcrowded. The need to build and rehabilitate more classrooms was also highlighted during focus group discussions.

6.4. Curriculum

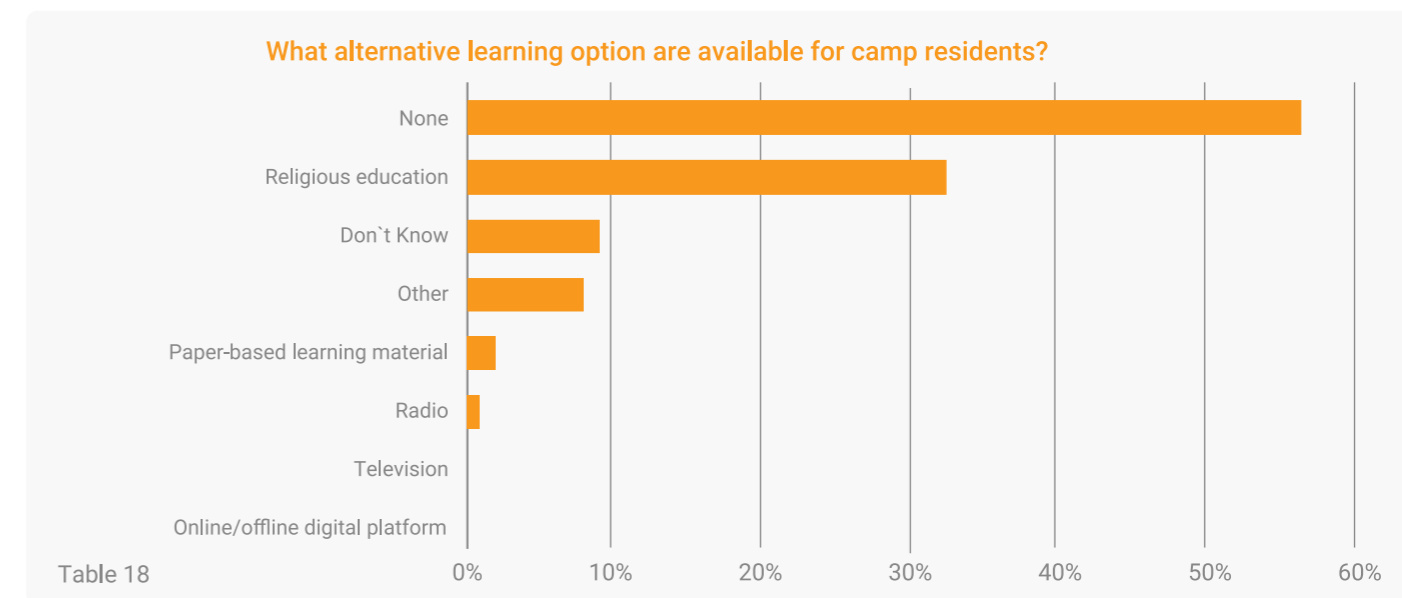
Interviewed children acknowledged the importance of education, but some were not convinced about the role of education in helping to create a better future. This may be because of the absence of a clear school-to-work pathway amid the prevailing socio-economic crisis. The new curriculum, which inserts intermediate schools into formal education, has not been implemented in all camps because of a lack of resources. Some of the camps still lack classrooms for intermediate education.

6.5. Teachers

Of the interviewed teachers, 90 per cent cited delays and non-payment of incentives. Incentives were also said to be minimal and inadequate to meet basic necessities. Teachers said they were in school to teach children (90 per cent). Cases of absenteeism among them were attributed to income generating activities, such as gathering and selling firewood. There is little investment in teacher training, with more than 70 per cent of schools reporting a lack of trained teachers and in-service training opportunities to increase teaching capacities. The majority of teachers interviewed also cited a lack of teaching materials as affecting the educational process and learning outcomes. The lack of female teachers affects the retention of female students.

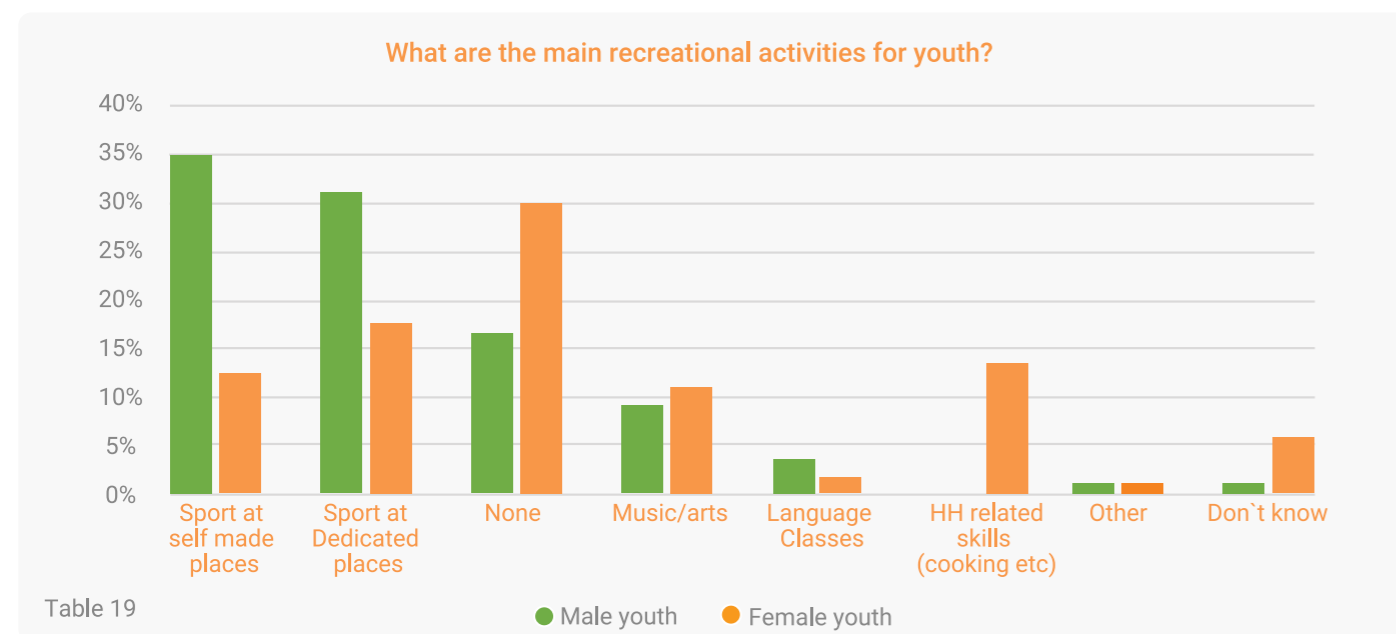
6.6. Distance learning

Because of the ongoing conflict and crisis, children in Sudan experience recurring learning disruptions. The assessment sought to establish the availability of alternative options in White Nile. The findings show that the only form of study available in some areas is religious education (33 per cent of the respondents). There is no access to any form of digital or television learning (0%) and very little opportunity for study through the radio. This means that in the event of school closures both the provision of and access to distance learning are minimal in White Nile, with limited access to technology creating a barrier to home-based remote learning.



6.7. Youth

Table 19 indicates the limited recreational activities available to refugees. According to 30 per cent of the respondents, there are no available recreational activities for young girls and 18 per cent referred to household activities/chores as recreational. For young boys, 35 per cent of the respondents stated that they practised sports in self-made places, such as non-fenced yards, against 13 per cent of the young girls. The gender divide is smaller when it comes to sports being practised in dedicated places.



6.8. Other barriers to education

There is general access to education in White Nile. Government policy stipulates that primary education be free, but the cost of study materials and uniforms is a barrier for learners. Absenteeism and lack of access to education were also attributed to the need for children to assist with work/household chores. Some children (25 per cent) cited distance as a barrier, saying they had to walk for 30 minutes to get to the nearest school. Poor infrastructure is another barrier, including the lack of WASH facilities, such as gender-segregated WASH facilities, and recreational ones. The lack of a "school feeding service" was cited as affecting learning, as 90 per cent of children reported going to school on an empty stomach.

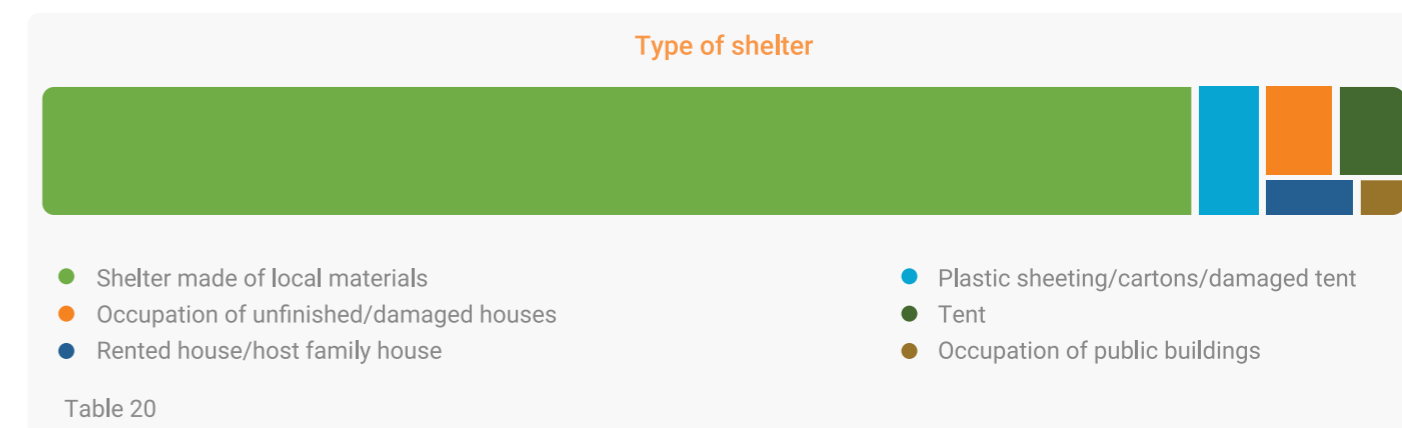
6.9. Recommendations for Education

- Construct and rehabilitate schools, including classrooms and WASH facilities. Provide teaching and learning materials;
- Engage in hygiene promotion, including support for COVID-19 prevention and control and personal health and hygiene education (PHHE). This should include the provision of sanitary kits for adolescent girls;
- Invest in teacher training, including in-service capacity building, ensuring that female teachers are prioritized;
- Invest in psychosocial support for teachers and students, with the provision of specialized training of teachers and the creation of recreational facilities in schools;
- Adopt best education practices in programming, such as engaging with parents through parent-teacher associations (PTAs) and mothers' groups, and ensuring that interventions have clearly defined sustainability/exit strategies;
- Engage in non-formal education and in market-relevant vocational skills training for out-of-school children and youth;
- Test and develop innovative digital learning platforms for target communities to allow them continued access to education during disruptions.

7. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

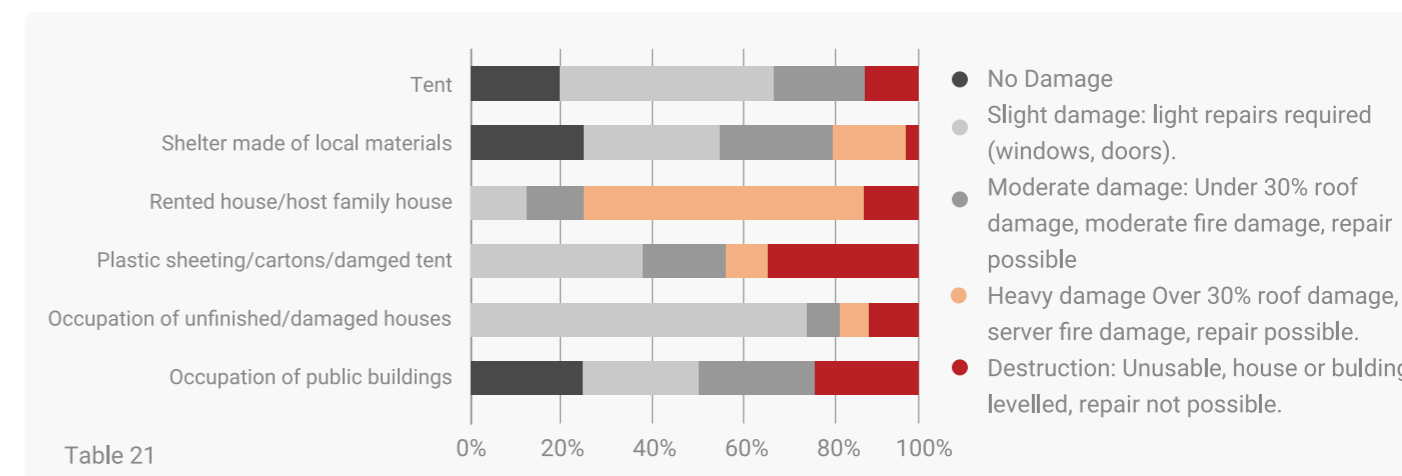
7.1 Types of Shelter and Condition

The survey indicated that 85 per cent of the shelters occupied by South Sudanese in White Nile camps were made from local materials. Among the respondents, five per cent said they stayed in very poor condition, in shelters made of plastic sheeting or cardboard. Four per cent said they lived in tents. This is mainly true for refugees who used to live in Al Ghana camp and had to relocate to Dabat Boshin and Alagaya camps after the floodings of September 2021. Tents are often prepositioned in camp warehouses and used to cover urgent needs, but only a small number is available. Another four per cent said they lived unfinished/damaged houses, two per cent lived in rented houses, and one per cent live in public buildings. The last two categories of respondents are also refugees who fled Al Ghana camp flooding and had to be relocated among the host communities in Al Ghana village.



Respondents reported that 32 per cent of the shelters were slightly damaged and another 24 per cent had suffered moderate damage. The community reported that the last distribution of shelter materials took place in 2017 and said they urgently need support to receive or purchase plastic sheeting to protect their households during the rainy season.

Some households that have the appropriate knowledge have tried to reinforce their shelters using mud from open fields near the camps in an effort to transition to semi-permanent handmade structures. This might offer a more dignified solution in terms of shelter for the refugee population. The fact that the camps are temporary, and the land belongs to host communities under service agreements, however, has caused the host communities to reject this type of shelter, a position supported by local authorities.



The shelter pattern in White Nile camps is based family patterns. Extended families live together, in different shelters, but within the same fenced area. They also usually eat from the same pots. Within each shelter, the number of individuals varies. Fifty per cent of the respondents said their shelter accommodated an average of three to four people. Another 20 per cent had an average of five to six people and 13 per cent an average of seven to eight people. Only 7 per cent of the respondents stated that their shelter hosted more than eight people. Ten per cent said that their shelter hosted one to two people on average. .

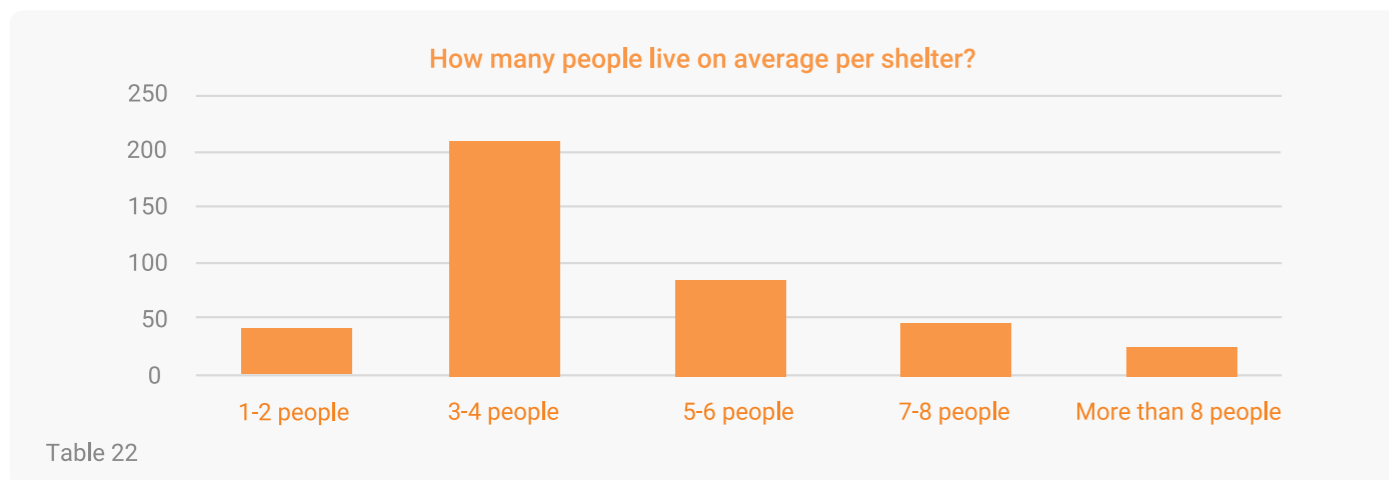


Table 22

The survey findings indicate that 89 per cent of respondents do not have access to electricity. Only 9 per cent of them can access it, while another 2 per cent indicated that the electricity was inconsistent. Among those who had electricity access, household solar lamps accounted for it in 94 per cent of cases, and solar power from the street in six per cent of cases. Observations revealed that although solar street lights have been installed, the majority of the batteries have been stolen and, as a result, the lights are not functioning.

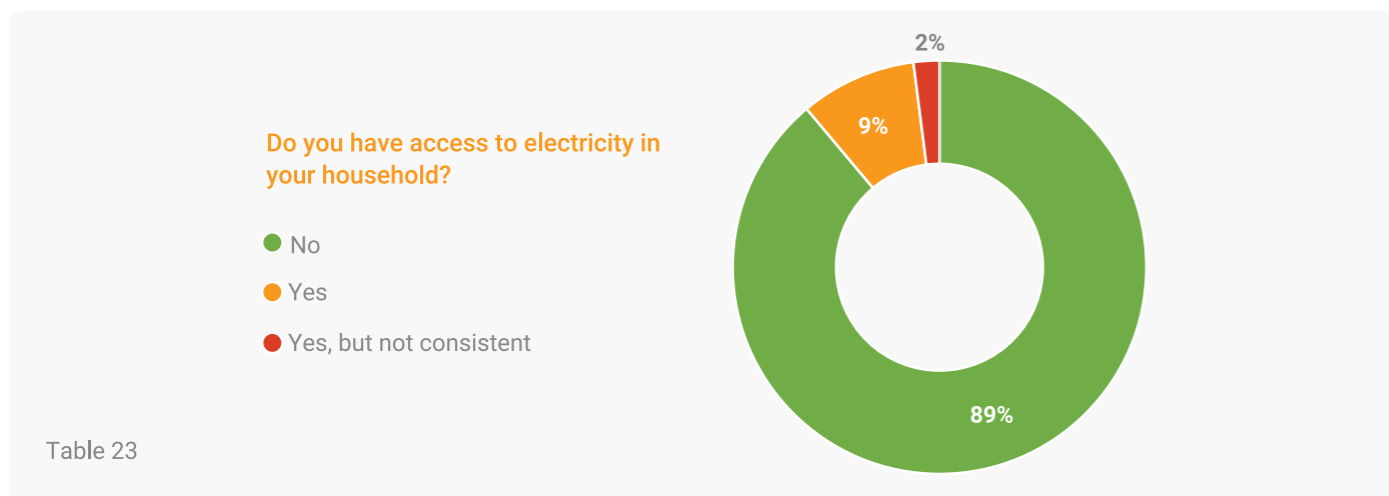


Table 23

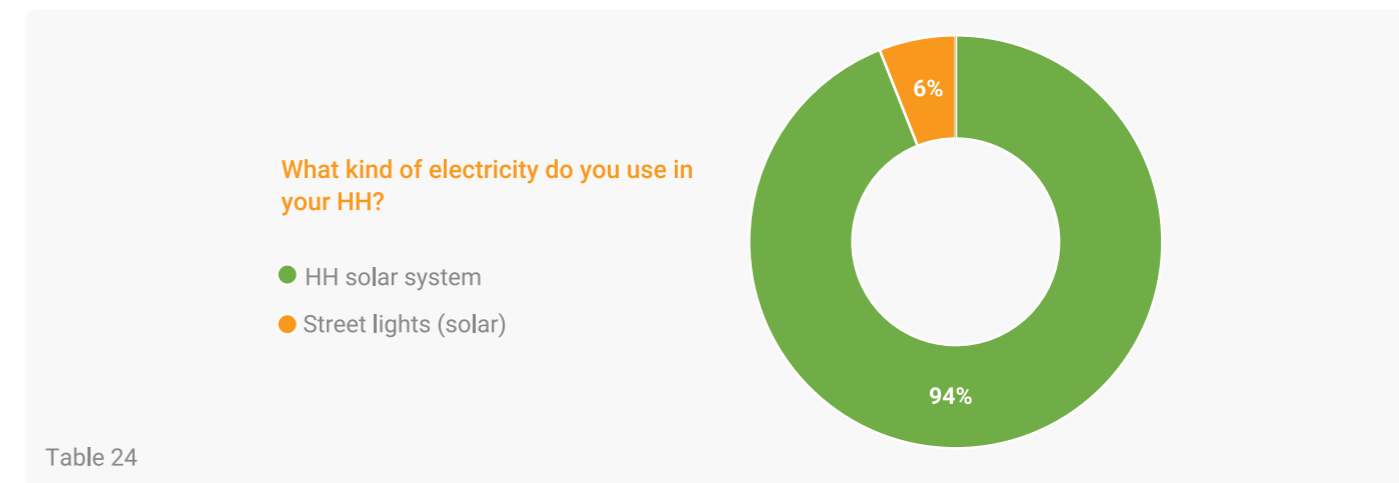


Table 24

7.2. Non-Food Items (NFIs)

The KIs and observations reveal a lack of essential NFIs. Respondents were asked to evaluate the quantity and quality of certain NFIs they obtain. Among a set of electrical appliances that we listed, only a few were available for households, confirming that such appliances in the camp are either nonexistent or limited, and highlighting the lack of electricity within the camp. Seventy-two per cent of respondents said they had a basic phone, while only 14 per cent had a smartphone. The rest of the appliances are not used or used by less than one per cent of the population. Refugees either charge their phones in dedicated places inside the camp that offer this service at a cost, or use batteries and household solar chargers.

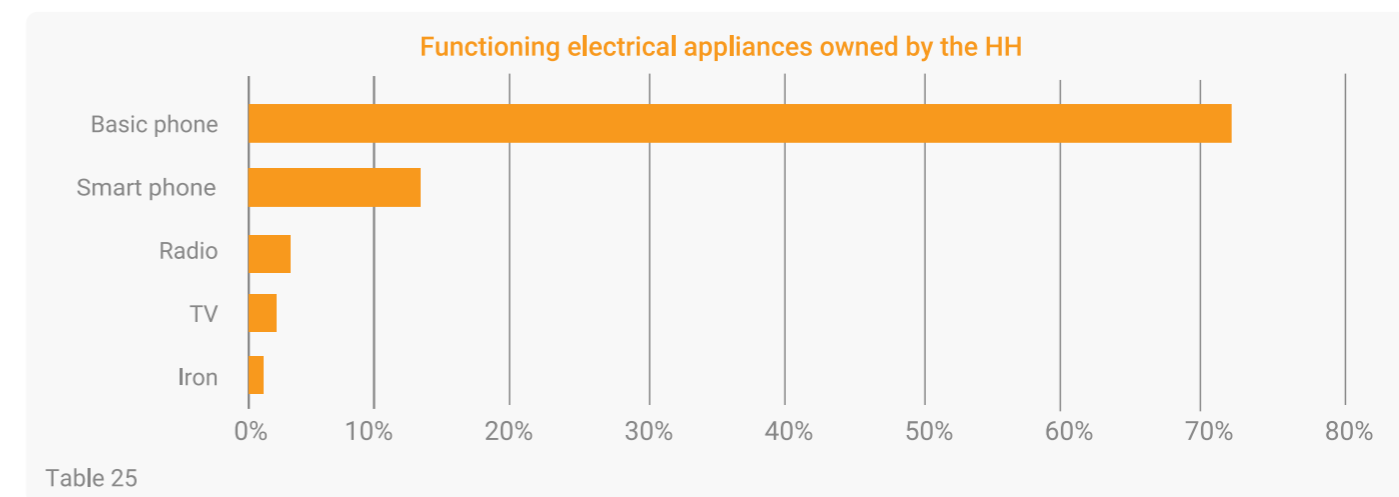


Table 25

Respondents also indicated that only half of the population owns blankets (51 per cent) although 39 per cent of them say their quality is poor. Forty per cent of the population say they do not have access to blankets at all, while only nine per cent say they have enough of them.

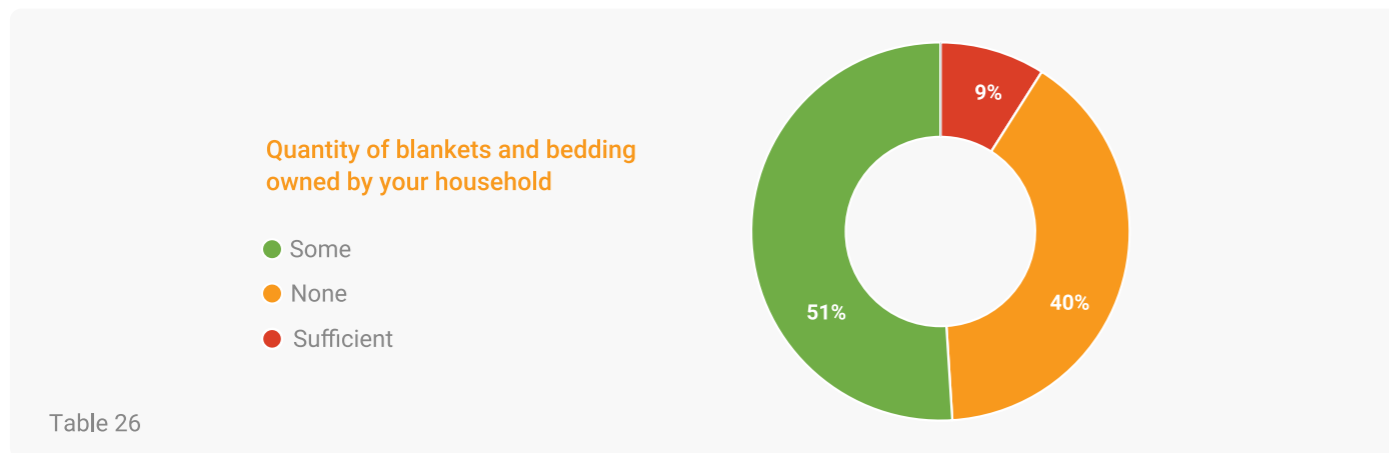


Table 26

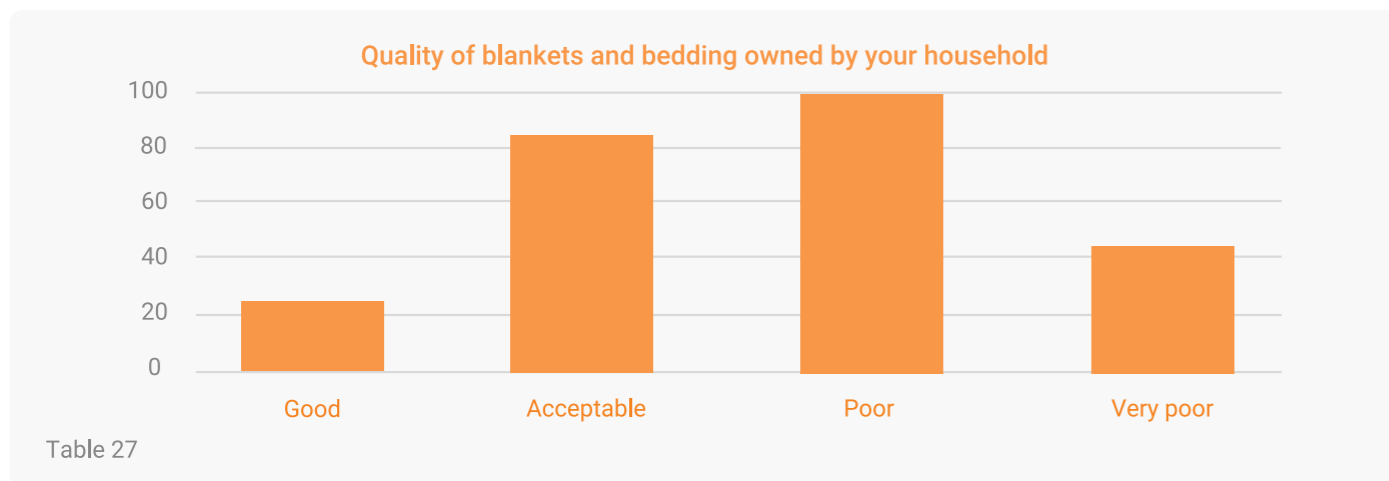


Table 27

Among the respondents, 63 per cent reported having some access to cooking utensils while 18 per cent had sufficient access to them. The quality was rated to be acceptable by 156 of the respondents. Nineteen per cent of respondents, however, have limited or no access to any cooking item.

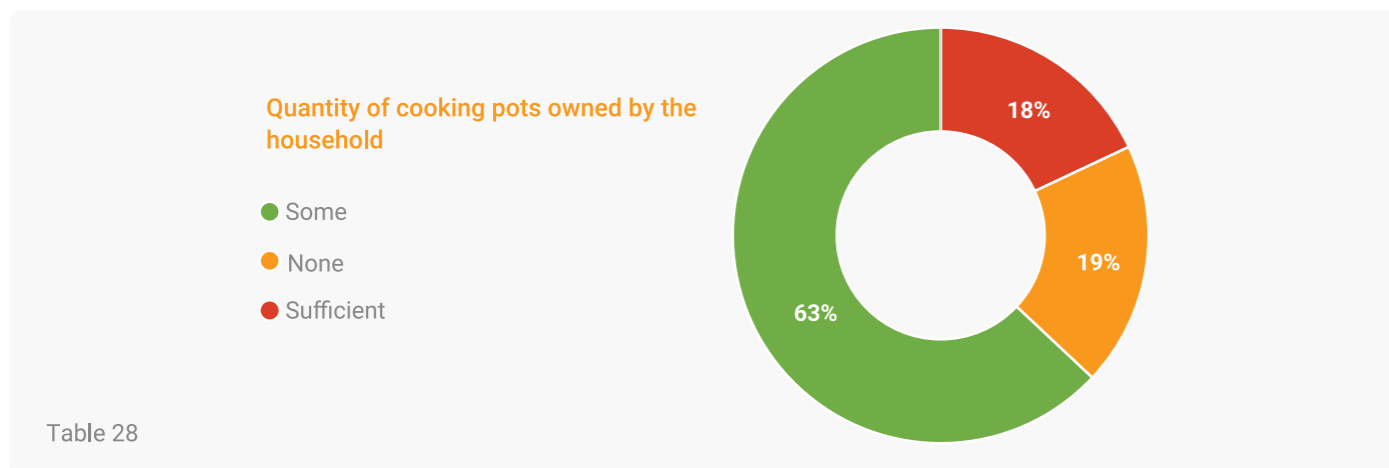


Table 28

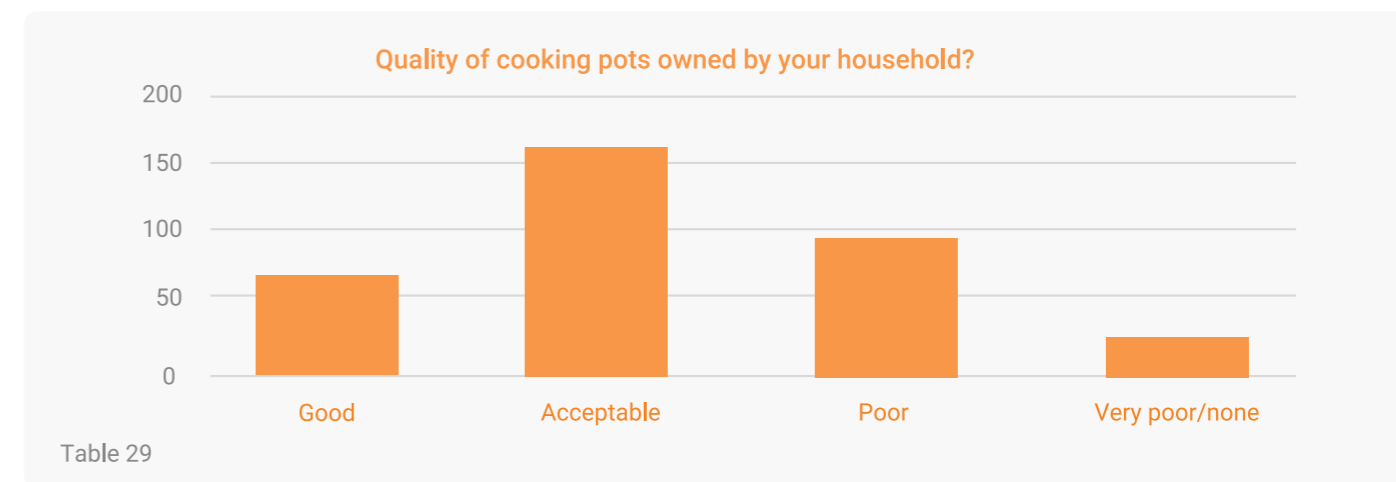


Table 29

7.3. Recommendations on Shelter and Non-Food Items

- The majority of the shelters are made from local materials. Because of temporary service agreements with host communities for the land, it is difficult to establish a permanent shelter. Authorities, technical experts and service providers should work in consultation with the host and other affected communities to design impermanent but more sustainable shelter models;
- Include solar lighting in shelter kits while consulting with the communities on how to mitigate theft of solar-powered street lights;
- Include rehabilitation in shelter intervention, including the regular replacement of plastic sheeting and ensuring that more NFI distribution is done based on needs;
- Distribute emergency shelter kits to people living in shelters that are heavily damaged and irreparable.

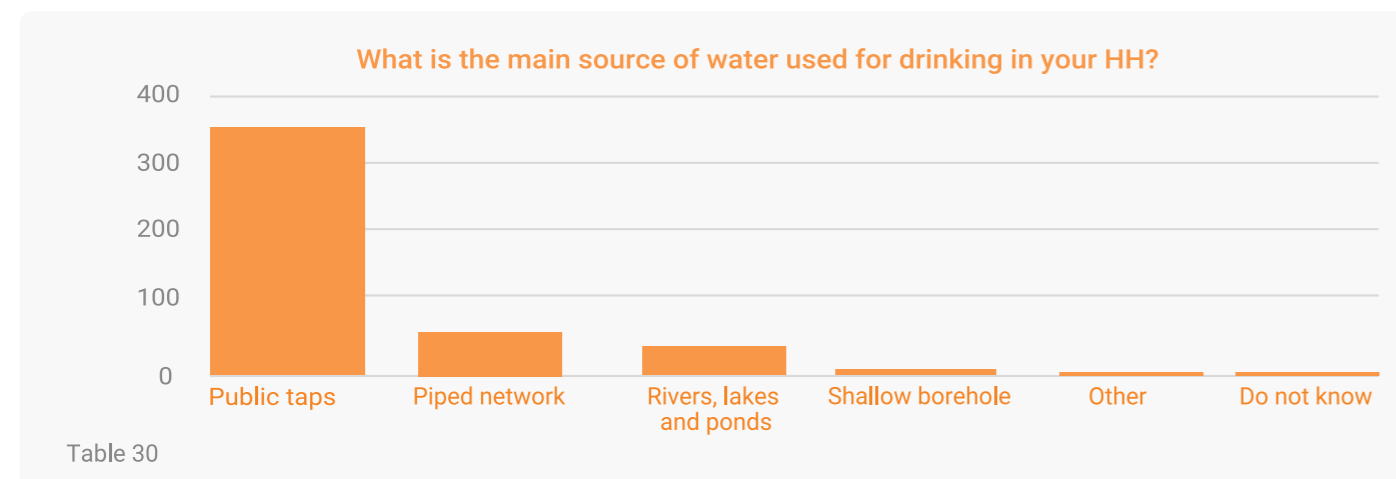


Photo credit: NRC

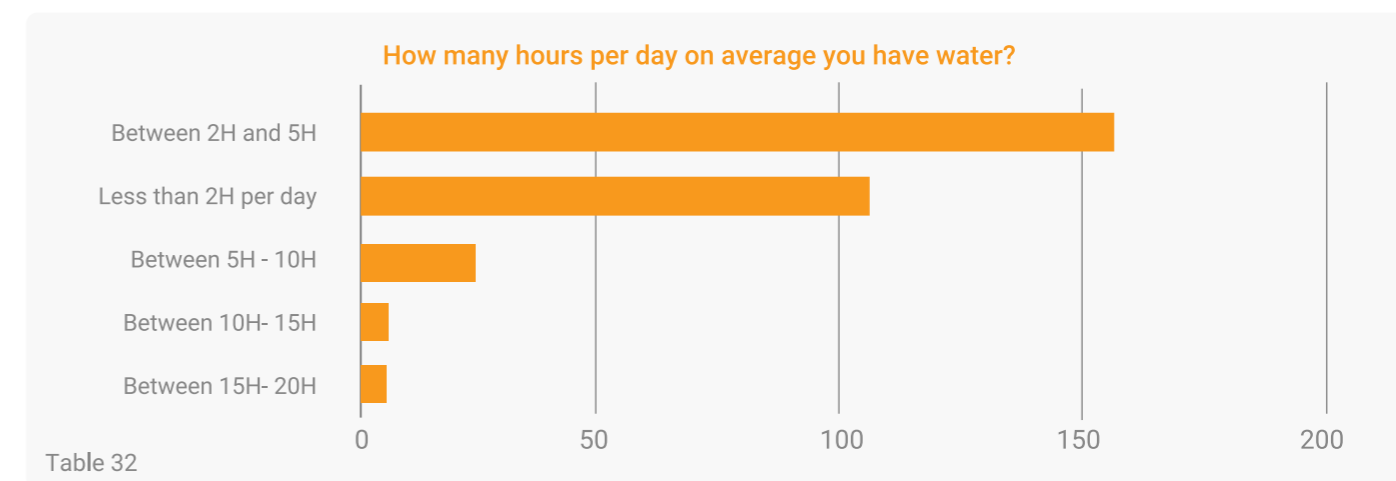
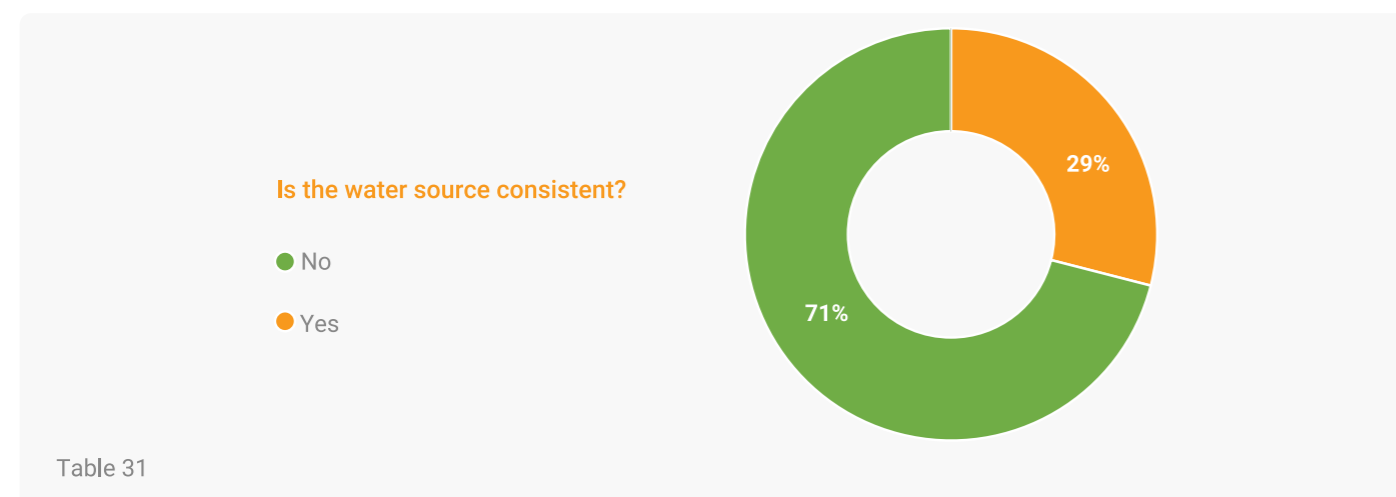
8. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

8.1. Water Sources availability

According to the survey, the majority of the population in White Nile Camps (83,91 per cent) use the camps' public tap stands as their main source of water. Only eight per cent of respondents reported getting their water from piped networks. Another five per cent got it from open water sources including the White Nile river. Although the water is treated by the water treatment plants in the camps and the surrounding villages, NRC teams observed several instances where the water was contaminated with soil, which could be a sign of untreated water. Another 0.92 per cent and 0.46 per cent respectively got their water from purchased water bottles and shallow wells.



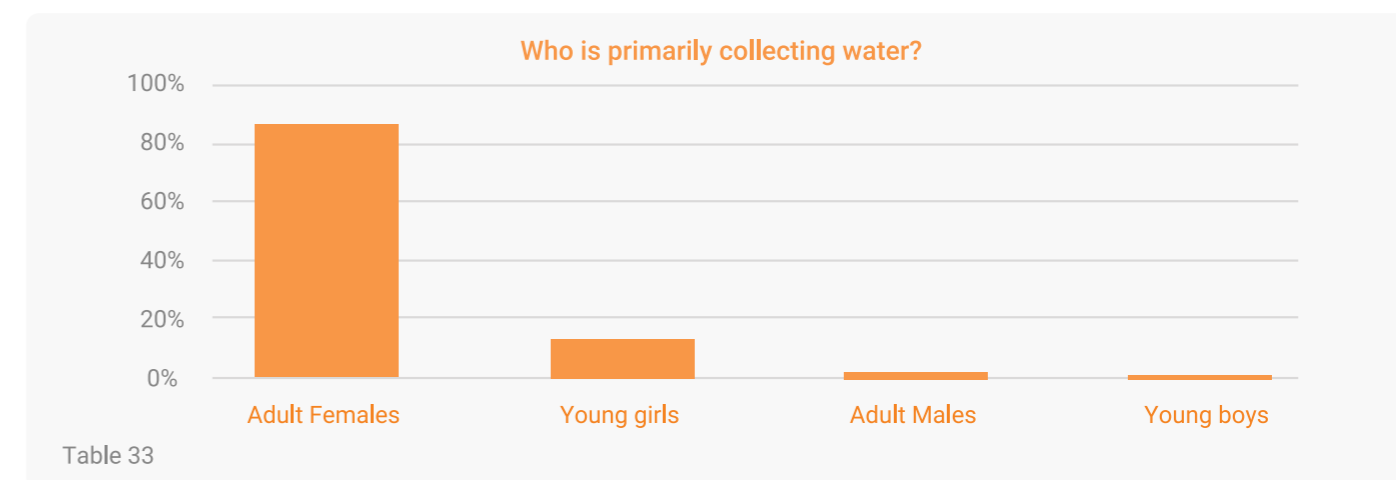
Seventy-one per cent of respondents stated that water coverage is inconsistent, i.e. not enough. Fifty-two per cent of the KIs reported that running water is only available between two and five hours a day on average, while 35 per cent said it was available for less than two hours a day. Water availability differs among the camps. In all cases, it is insufficient, especially as the population continues to grow. The community faces major challenges during the summer season when water usage, but not water availability, increases.



Observations reveal that water treatment plants exist, although they are fuel-powered and not functioning properly because of a lack of maintenance, fuel shortages and higher fuel prices. As a result, they have less pumping power and there are water shortages for both the refugee and host communities, both of which are served by the camps' water infrastructure. The situation is expected to deteriorate as the population increases. Improving the water supply must focus on storage and the possible upgrading of the water reticulation system. Maintenance should be prioritised to mitigate costs that may emerge from overusage.

8.2. Water collection practices

The survey findings indicate that 82.07 per cent of the respondents state that water collection is done by women and 14.71 per cent by young girls, highlighting the overwhelming role of females in securing water for the household. Only 2.3 per cent of the respondents stated that adult males were involved with the water collection and 0.92 per cent state that it was done by young boys.



Forty-nine per cent of respondents have experienced or heard of security incidents during water collection, while another 49.66 per cent indicate that they have never had or heard of any such occurrence. Where respondents say security incidents have occurred, the majority of those incidents are physical harassment, at 45 per cent; sexual harassment at 14 per cent; disputes with the host community at 12 per cent; robberies at 10 per cent; physical access challenges at 10 per cent; rape at 4 per cent, animal-related threats at 4 per cent, and others at less than one per cent. Since women are overwhelmingly tasked with the responsibility of water collection, it is assumed that they are more exposed to these threats and more vulnerable.

As reported by COR representatives during observatory walks, most of the incidents occur when refugees are collecting water from the White Nile river and come across members of host communities who collect river water to avoid the long queues in the camps. Protection issues need to be considered for women and girls at water points, and drainage issues addressed to mitigate difficulties associated with access.

Have you heard about any incident within your community (such as harassment) that the person who collects water has experienced?

- No
- Yes

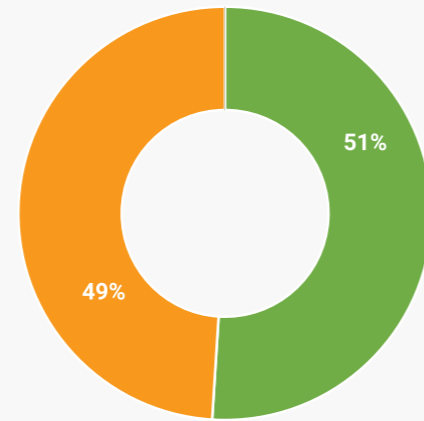


Table 34

The survey findings indicate that 32.64 per cent of the population collect water within 10 to 30 minutes, 23.22 percent within 30 minutes to an hour, 22.99 per cent in less than 10 minutes, and 21.15 per cent in more than an hour. This indicates that 77.71 per cent of the population take more than ten minutes to collect water, indicating potentially low pressures, few tap stands, congestion at tap stands or long distances to water points. People often place their water containers by the water taps to reserve a spot in the queue for when the water arrives. This increases the possibility for incidents to occur, often because the household water container disappears.

What may be the issues experienced when collecting water?

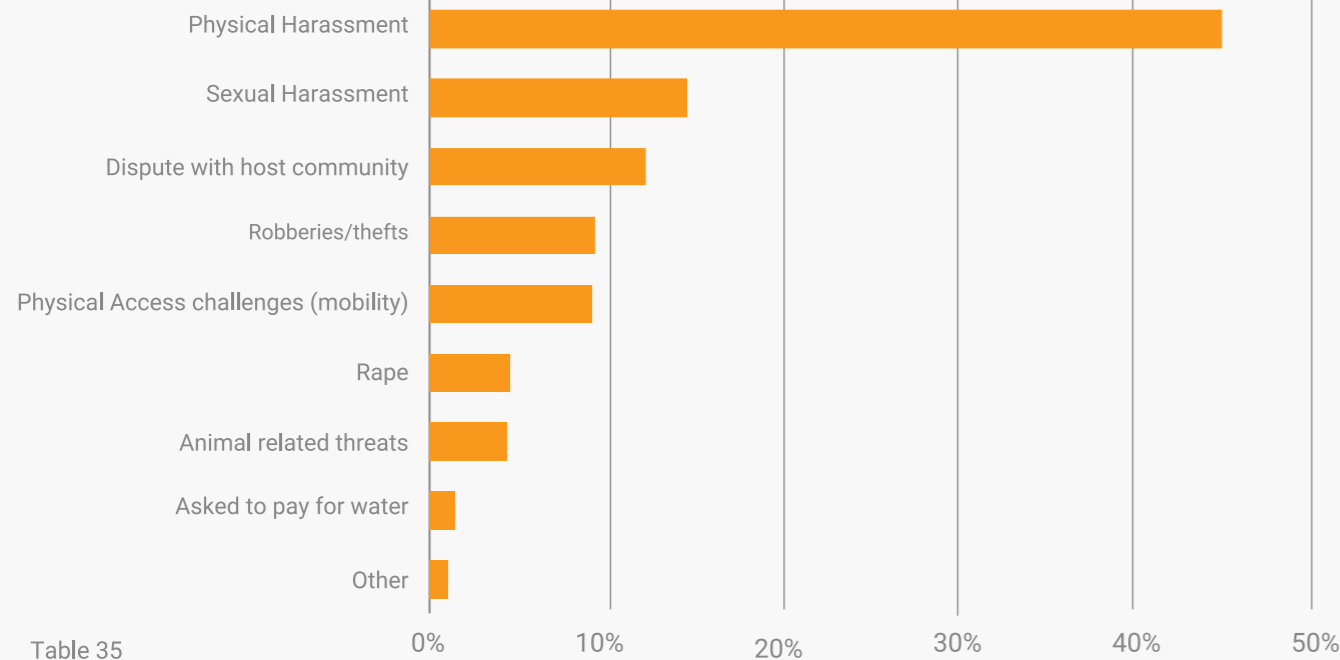


Table 35

What is the average time waiting in the queue to collect water?

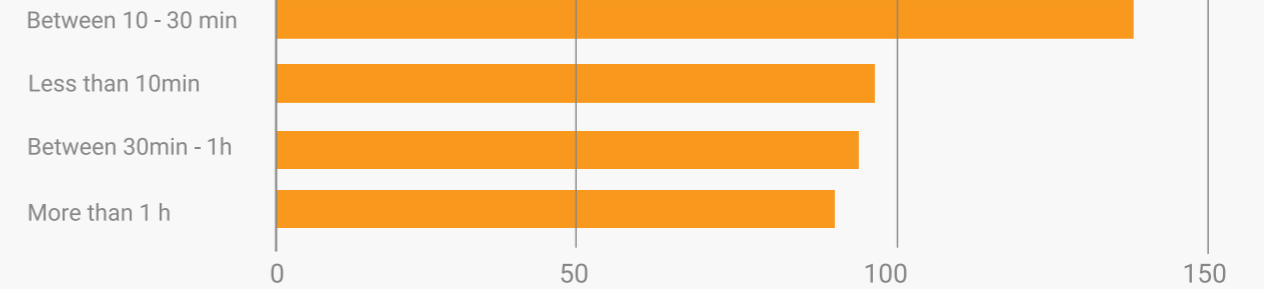


Table 36

Fifty-nine per cent of the KIIs' responses on the quality of water containers indicate that they are well maintained, but technical observations reveal that most of them need replacement, being broken from constant use. Water containers (jerry cans of 18 liters to 20 liters) appear to be the main storage option for refugees. Seventy-six per cent of them lack access to a household-level water tank or barrel.

Condition of the water container

- New
- No lid or cover
- Well maintained
- Needs replacement
- Dirty
- Broken but still usable

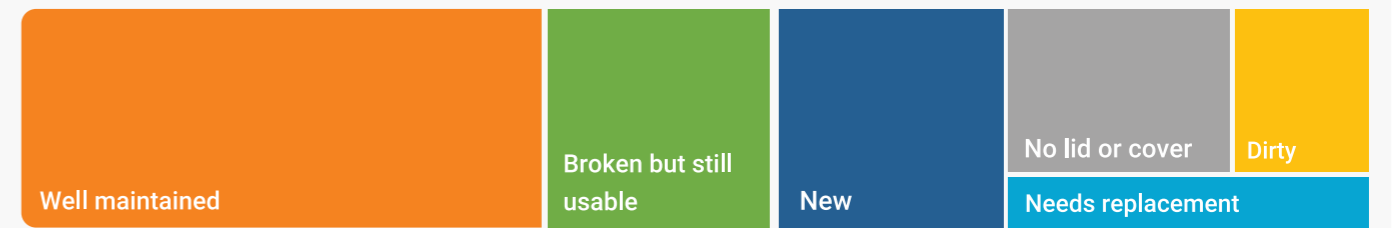


Table 37

Do you have a water tank/barrel?

- No
- Yes

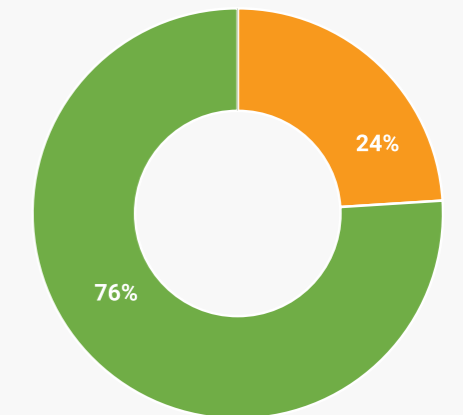
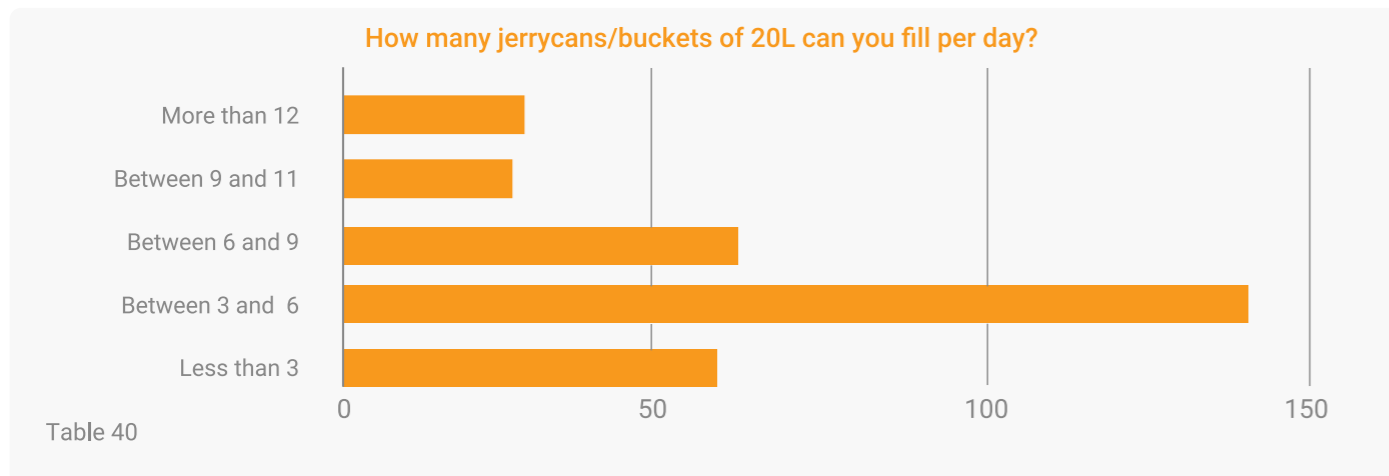
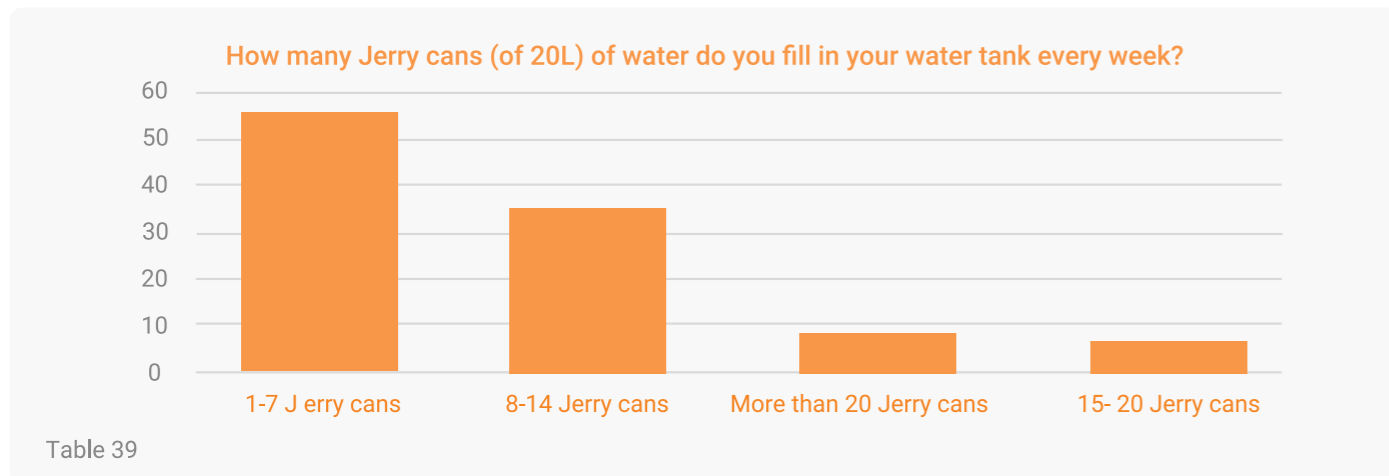


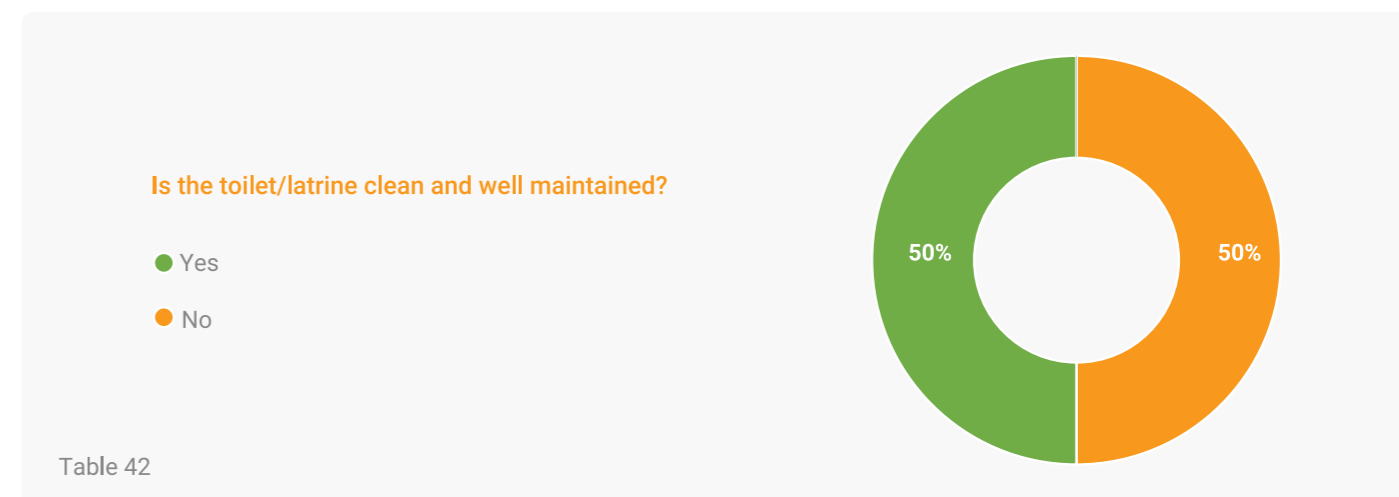
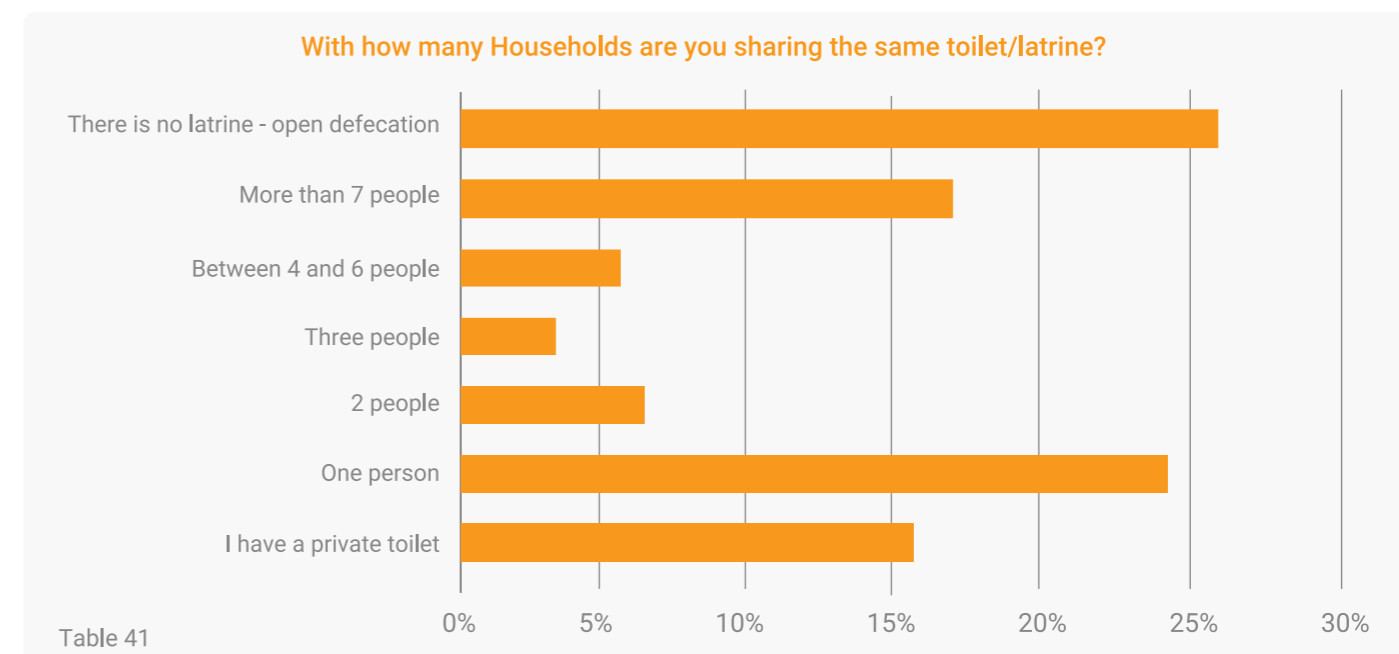
Table 38

The refugee population in the camps collects on average between three and six jerry cans of 20L of water (60L- 180L) per day, while during the week, they keep one to seven jerry cans (20L-140L) for their household use. This leads to the assumption that each individual in a household consumes about 20L of water for domestic use per week, which falls 80.95 per cent below the minimum SPHERE standards (a minimum of 15 litres per person per day).



8.3. Sanitation

As with infrastructure, sanitation facilities have a limited capacity to serve the current population. This is because the population's size has increased beyond that foreseen in the initial planning for the camps. Maintenance and repair interventions are also limited because of the government's and humanitarian community's lack of resources. The site planning of the camps differs, with some being made with communal infrastructure, such as the Khor Al Waral camp, and others, like the Al Jamaya camp, built with household-level facilities, at certain camp blocks. This justifies the different responses received during the survey regarding their sanitation arrangements and infrastructure. The survey findings indicate that 26 per cent of the population practice open defecation because of the lack of available sanitation facilities or because they must share the same latrine with more than seven people (18 per cent). Twenty-four per cent of respondents indicated they share a latrine with another person, or they own a private one (16 per cent). Household agreements within the community often result in a communal latrine being reserved for a few households who take care of its cleaning and lock it when they are not using it. Respondents split equally between those who think the latrines are clean and well maintained, and those who do not. As noted and confirmed by the observations of the NRC technical team, open defecation is a significant problem, which requires awareness and the prioritizing of infrastructure upgrades. This is especially the case given the flood-prone nature of the camps and the high risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases. Open defecation also increases the risks of faecal-oral disease transmission.



Sixty-five per cent of respondents said they felt safe using the latrines at night. It is worth noting that there was no difference in this feeling of safety between those who use private or household-level latrines and those who use the communal facilities. Among respondents who do not feel safe using the latrines at night (35 per cent), the main reasons were the lack of lighting (29 per cent) and the presence of animals and pests, such as snakes (21 per cent). There were also protection-related issues which limited access, such as possible harassment and abuse (17 per cent) and the fear of leaving the household alone (15 per cent), mainly because of the fear of theft. Finally, 11 per cent responded that the distance between the household and the WASH facilities creates impediments. Open defecation is mainly practiced by young children. The reasons range from a lack of potties for children under five years of age, the darkness of night, latrines which are not adapted to children's use, and the latrines being unsafe to use.

Do you feel safe using the toilet at night?

- Yes
- No

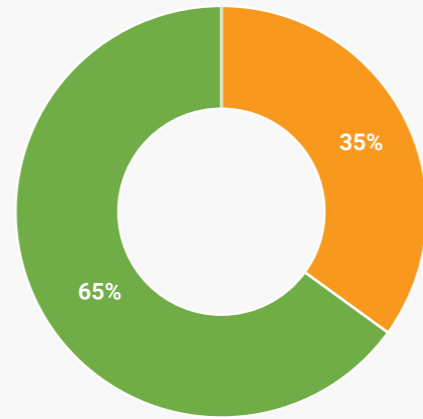


Table 43

Main reasons of not feeling safe to use the toilet at night

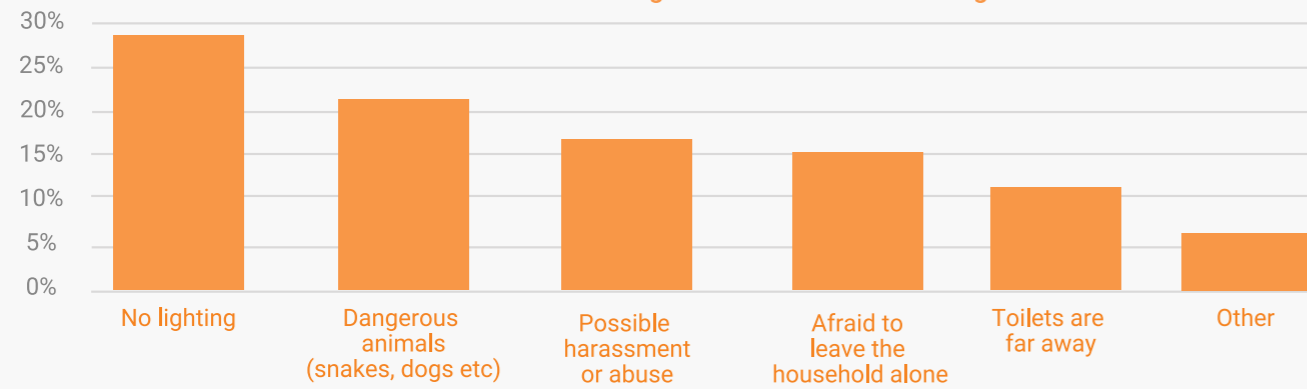


Table 44

8.4. Hygiene

The presence of vectors and pests is notable within the camps, especially inside the community’s shelters. NRC teams noted during interviews that in at least 192 shelters the food was not protected and there was a large presence of flies. Hygiene was described as poor in 194 shelters, and only 94 shelters appear to have good hygienic conditions, although, even in those, there was a significant lack of NFIs to help maintain adequate hygiene practices.

Is soap for hand washing available in your HH?

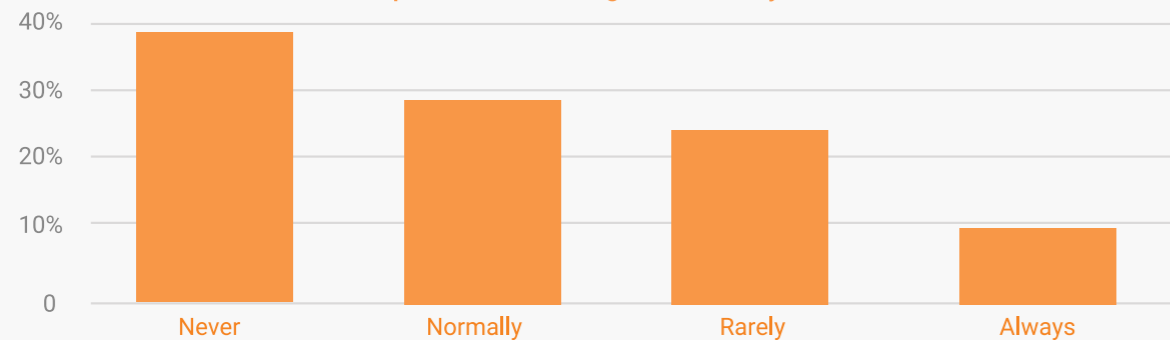


Table 45

A significant share of the population, or 39.54 per cent of the respondents, indicated they have no access to soap for handwashing, compared with 26.9 per cent that say they usually have such access. Those who rarely used soap for handwashing represent 23.91 per cent, and only 9.66 per cent reported that they always use soap. This indicates a great need to promote the use of soap within the community to improve hygiene and combat disease.

During the observatory walks, the NRC team observed a low level of hygiene awareness among the community. Apart from handwashing, very few camps have a solid waste disposal system available, and the solid waste situation is poor in the camps and their surroundings.

The poor hygienic conditions, in combination with the lack of water and limited access to sanitation facilities increase the communities' health risks. The survey reveals that almost half of the children under five years of age in the camps had diarrhoea (47 per cent) and fever (51 per cent) during the previous two weeks. There is an evident need for creating hygiene awareness. WASH and medical actors should also be aware of the possible utility of using oral rehydration salts among children under five years of age who are suffering from diarrhoea.

In the last 2 weeks, have any children under 5 had diarrhoea in this HH?

- Yes
- No

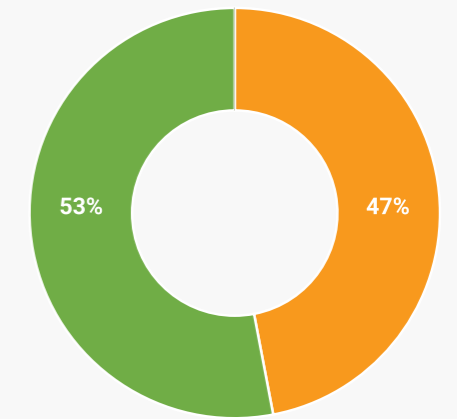


Table 46

In the last 2 weeks, have any children under 5 had high fever in this HH?

- Yes
- No

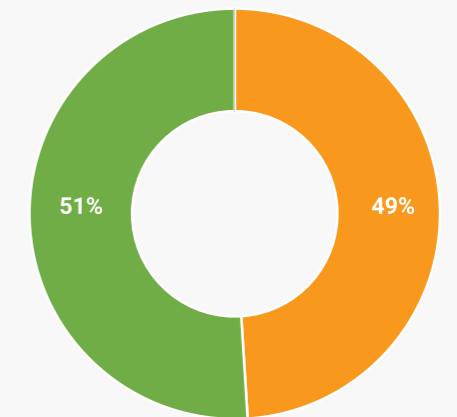


Table 47

8.5. Menstrual Hygiene

The majority (54 per cent) of the female population indicated that they do not have access to menstrual hygiene products, while another 17 per cent indicated that such access is inconsistent. Only 29 per cent of them said they have access to such products. Women and girls are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance in this area, with 55 per cent of them reporting that humanitarian aid is their main source of menstrual hygiene items and 32 per cent saying they buy them in the local market. Eleven per cent of the female respondents said that they use fabric from old clothes and less than five per cent were borrowing from neighbours.

Do you have access to female sanitary products?

- No
- Yes
- Yes, but not consistent

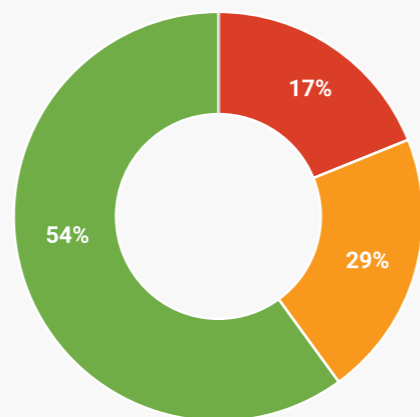


Table 48

How you obtain your female sanitary products?

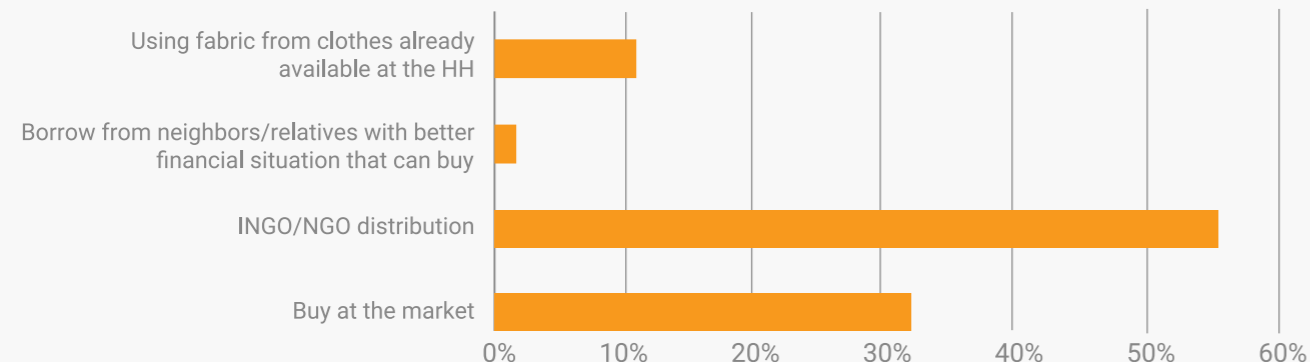


Table 49

8.6. Recommendations on WASH

- Increase the number of tap stands and extend the water supply pipeline;
- Improve water pressure, for example with elevated steel tanks. This should target locations where water pressure is low and where the population spends more than 30 minutes collecting water;
- Factor storage facilities into future planning around water supply. The dry season may have an adverse effect on the use of water for hygiene;
- Include maintenance of water treatment plants during project design so it is undertaken after the facilities are completed and handed over. Ensure that monitoring of water quality is performed on a regular basis;
- Carefully consider and include the needs of persons with disability whilst setting up WASH infrastructure;
- Ensure continuous latrine maintenance and distribution of cleaning kits to improve the use of existing latrines and ensure cost efficiency. In general, proper latrine maintenance should be prioritized in hygiene-promotion activities;
- Establish WASH committees in the community to facilitate the operation and maintenance of the WASH infrastructure at the community level;

- Increase community-led hygiene promotion and the dissemination of information. Provide education and communication (IEC) materials, including for new arrivals. These efforts should include an emphasis on a) proper handwashing, b) education around water issues (i.e. safe storage of water), c) awareness of diarrheal-disease prevention, and d) safe handling of faeces by people who cannot use latrines (the elderly, physically challenged, those with cognitive disabilities and babies) e) prevention of open defecation among children, both in and outside the school;
- Promote the use of appropriate handwashing technologies that can be used close to latrines and kitchens;
- Increase the distribution of menstrual hygiene and dignity kits among the reproductive female population.

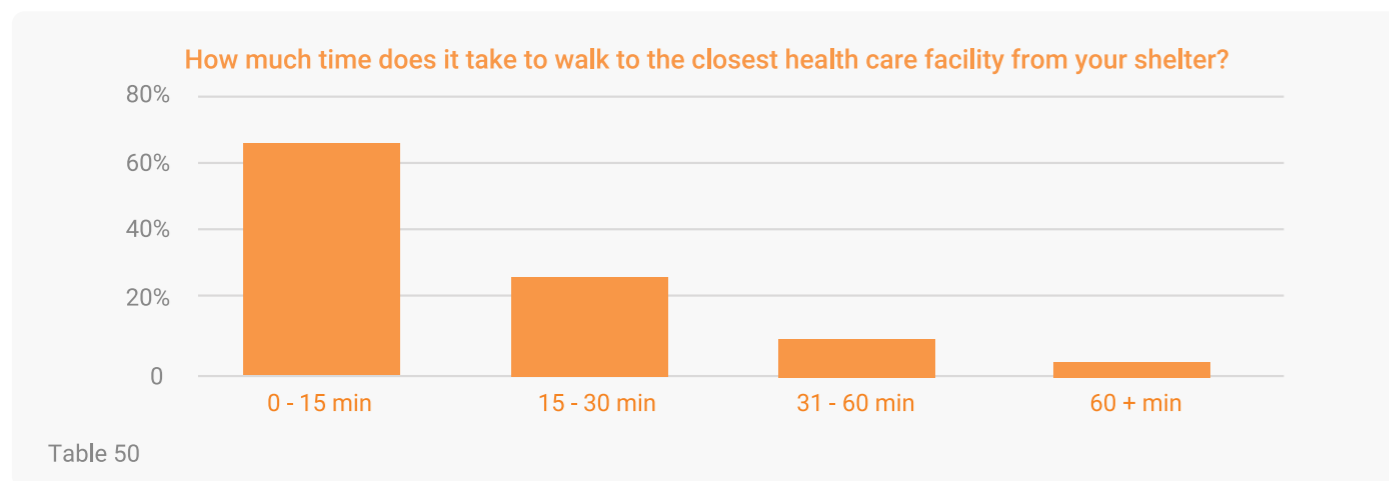


Place: Gooli locality in White Nile state
Photo credit: Ahmed Omer/NRC

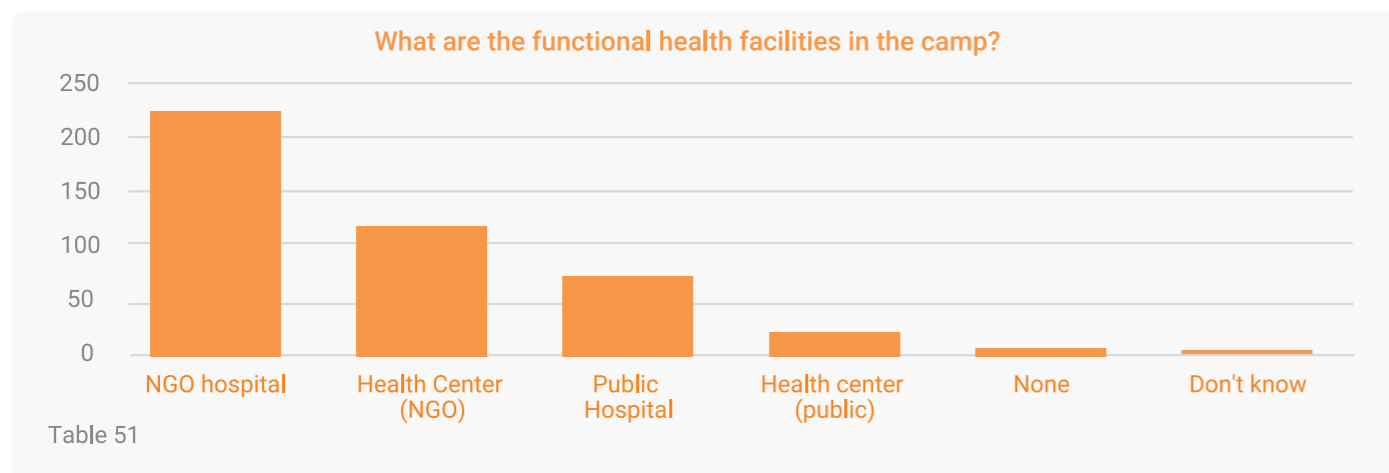
Health

8.7. Health services presence

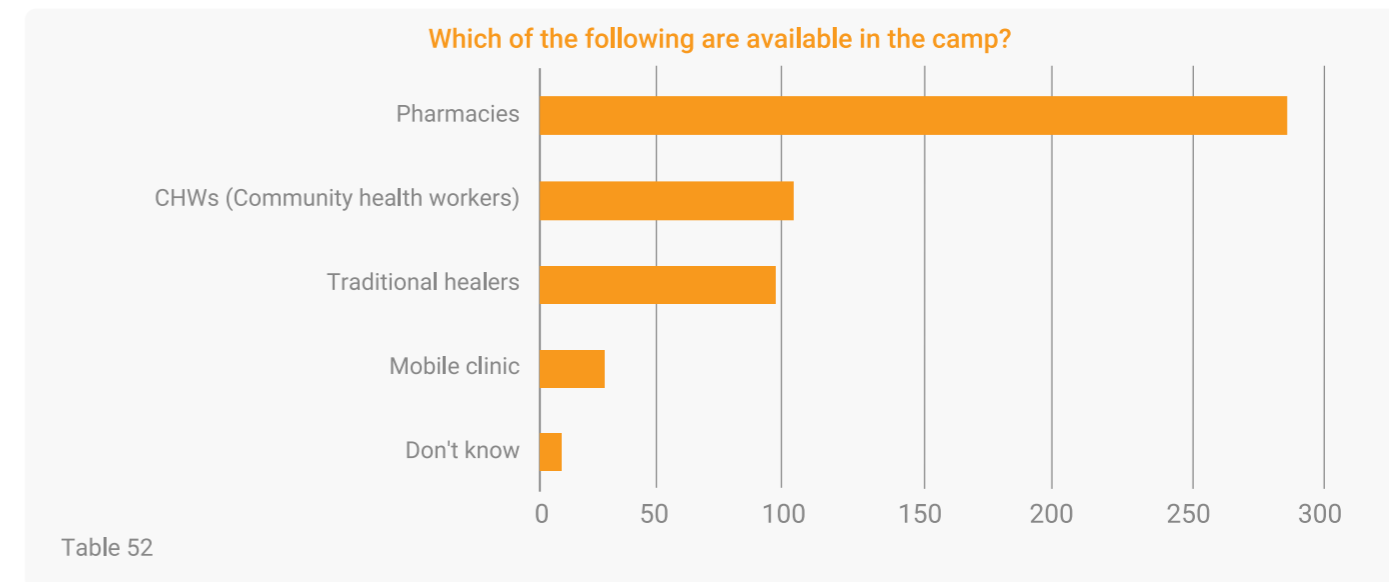
Ninety-four per cent of the KIs said that there is at least one health facility which functions within the camp boundaries. The access to the facilities appears to be satisfactory, with the majority of the KIs (67 per cent) reporting that they need less than 15 minutes to access health services and 22 per cent saying they need up to 30 minutes.



On average, health services appear to fall under the responsibility of humanitarian aid providers who either maintain primary or secondary health services in the camps (80 per cent in total). Some of the health facilities are currently managed by the Ministry of Health (e.i Khor Al Whoral, a former MSF hospital) which struggles to provide decent quality services because of the lack of health personnel, other staff and essential supplies (fuel for generators, ambulances etc).

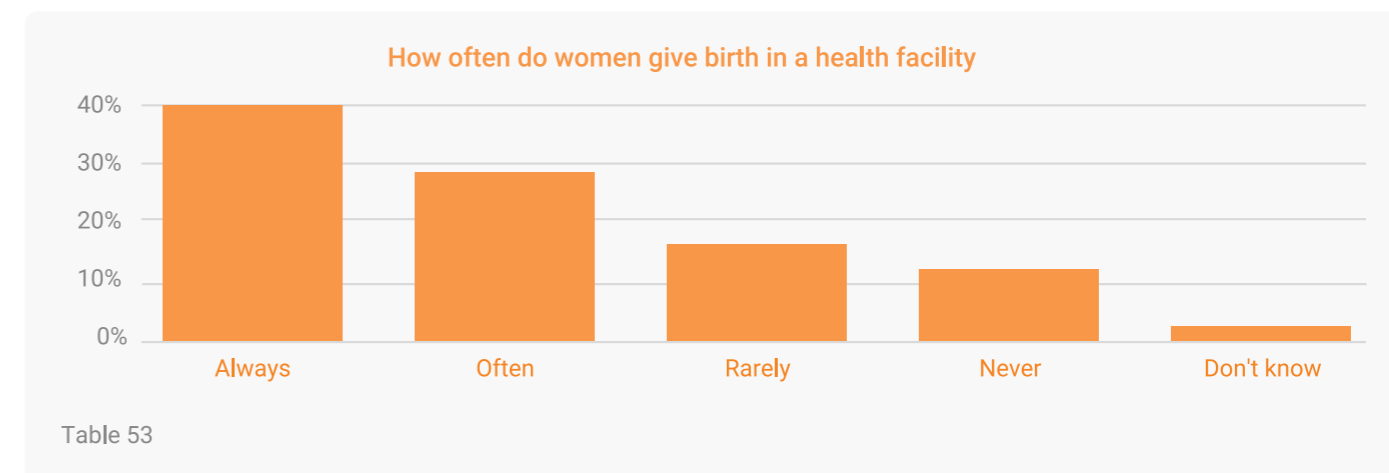


In addition to the health facilities, the survey showed that other health-related services can be found in the camps, such as pharmacies (66 per cent), and those provided by community health workers (24 per cent) and traditional healers (23 per cent).



The main problems that the community identifies in regard to current health facilities in the camps are a) lack of medication (92 per cent), b) insufficient or untrained medical personnel (38 per cent), c) an inability to conduct laboratory tests (34 per cent), d) expensive medical consultations (23 per cent), e) no adequate, specialised facilities for sexual reproductive health (SRH) (15 per cent). The female population specified that the main function of the SRH facilities, if existent, is limited to the provision of delivery services.

Forty per cent of the female population prefer to give birth at health facilities inside the camps or at the Kosti and Rabaq clinics, but there are occasions, as shown in table 53, when they give birth in their household with the support of other women who have skills in midwifery.



The community indicates that health facilities are available inside the camps, but the majority (85 per cent) of the population go elsewhere for health services. Thirty-nine per cent visits Kosti or another camp (34 per cent) with better health services. The most common response among the option "other" as indicated in Table 52 (17 per cent) refers to Al Jabalain village, one of the three main options that the community chooses to access health. Medical referrals become extremely difficult during the rainy season, when access is restricted, especially for the seven camps on the west bank of the White Nile river.

Do people have to leave the camp often to receive healthcare services?

- Yes
- No

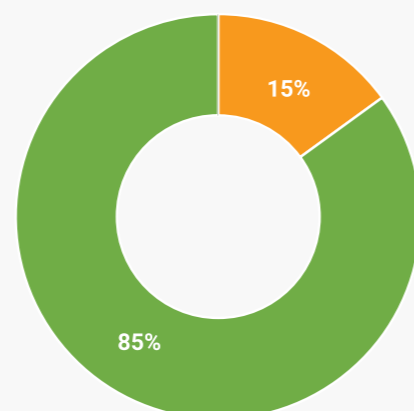


Table 54

Where do people usually go to receive health services?

- In Kosti city
- Another camp
- Others, i.e. Al Jabalain village
- In the nearest village
- In Khartoum
- At a private Doctor

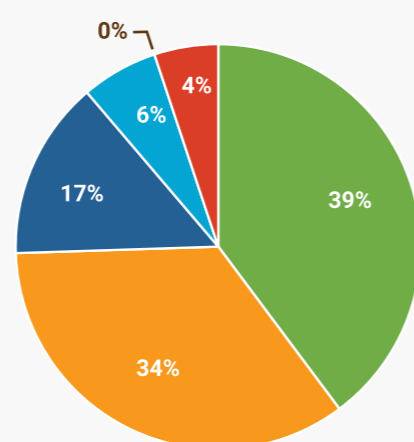


Table 55

8.8. Health situation among camp residents

The KIs indicated that the most common diseases in the camp were malaria (96 per cent), diarrhoea (83 per cent), cough (66 per cent), typhoid (31 per cent) and skin diseases (18 per cent). They also said that ten per cent of the population are in need of long-term medication for chronic diseases.

8.9. Recommendations

- Improve access from/to all camps during the rainy seasons through infrastructure upgrades and ferry maintenance to facilitate medical referrals and improve access to healthcare;
- Increase support to Ministry of Health, especially around medical supplies, access to lab tests and relevant technology;
- Increase the capacity of medical personnel through access to training opportunities and more medical staff, where that is insufficient;
- Support the community with transportation allowances when specialised health care outside the camps is required;
- Improve awareness among the community of key diseases and their prevention at the household level.

9. Protection

9.1. Main risks and threats

Protection of refugees in the White Nile camps is vital to ensuring a dignified response to the current crisis as the refugee population in the area increases. This MSNA focuses on the protection concerns of people with disabilities, but wider considerations around protection issues that affect the camp have also been reported.

There are substantial protection issues in the camps, and they have a particularly strong effect on the most vulnerable groups - particularly the female population. The KIs report that the most common risks for women are harassment and abuse during water or wood collection (42 per cent), early pregnancy (24 per cent), child marriage (14 per cent) and gender-based violence (GBV) (11 per cent). Risks faced by the population as a whole are the abuse of drugs and other substances like local alcohol (24 per cent) and discrimination (20 per cent). Nineteen per cent of the population does not identify any protection risk that affects camp residents.

Which of the following protection issues exist in the camp?

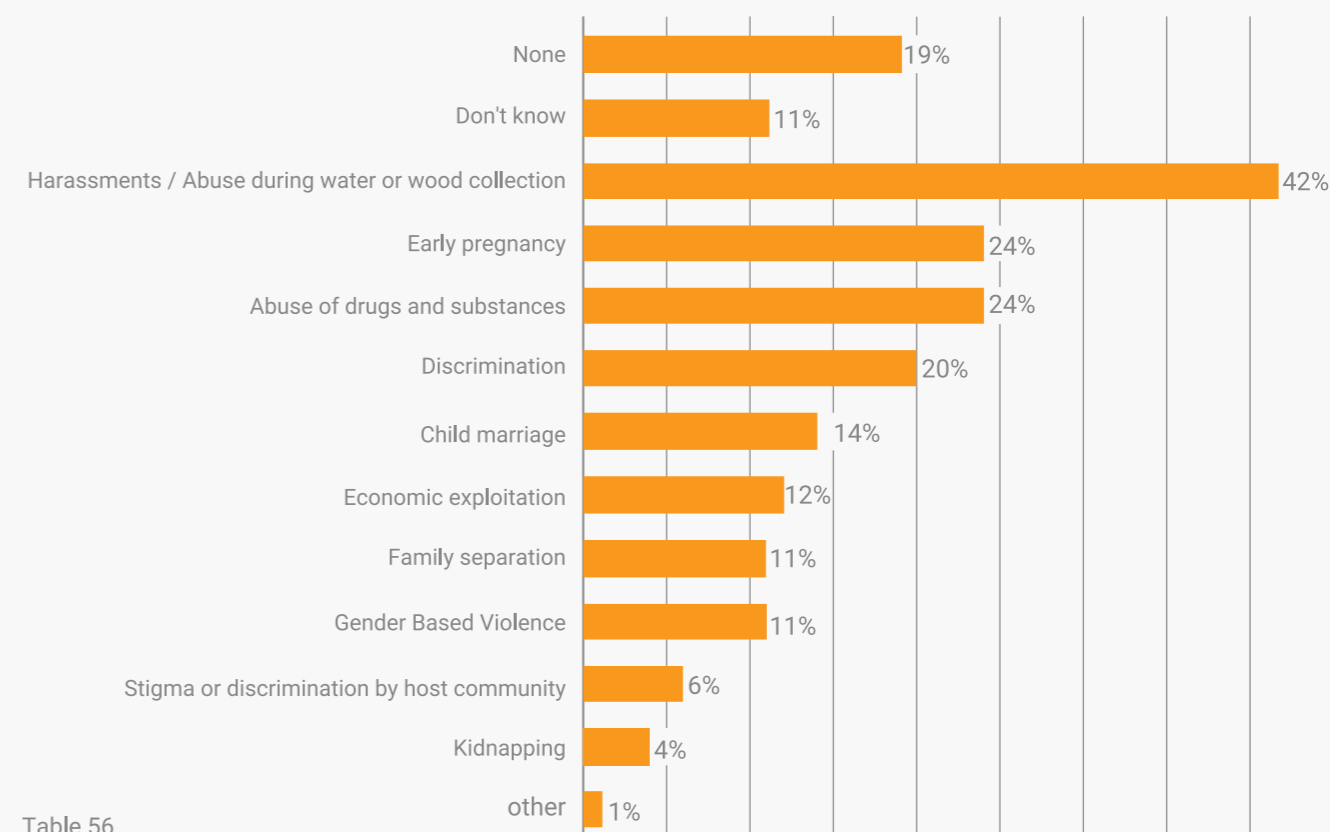


Table 56

Seventy-one per cent of respondents say that community members report all protection and security incidents to the police, which maintains dedicated stations in each of the camps with personnel available at all time. Community members that do not report protection issues to the police report them to community leaders (54 per cent), while 10 per cent of respondents said the population reports such problems to COR managers. It should be noted that the majority of police officers, community leaders and COR personnel are male, so female-specific cases might be underreported. Discussions with female groups suggest that incidents such as rape are "normalized" by the female population because of a lack of action from people with authority, and the lack of hope for a solution. Many times, cases go unreported for fear of a negative outcome. This study does not, at this point, provide the level of detail required to understand the level of reporting and confidence in the mechanisms that are in place. A further assessment would be required by dedicated specialised protection actors.

Do people in this camp know where to report protection issues or concerns?

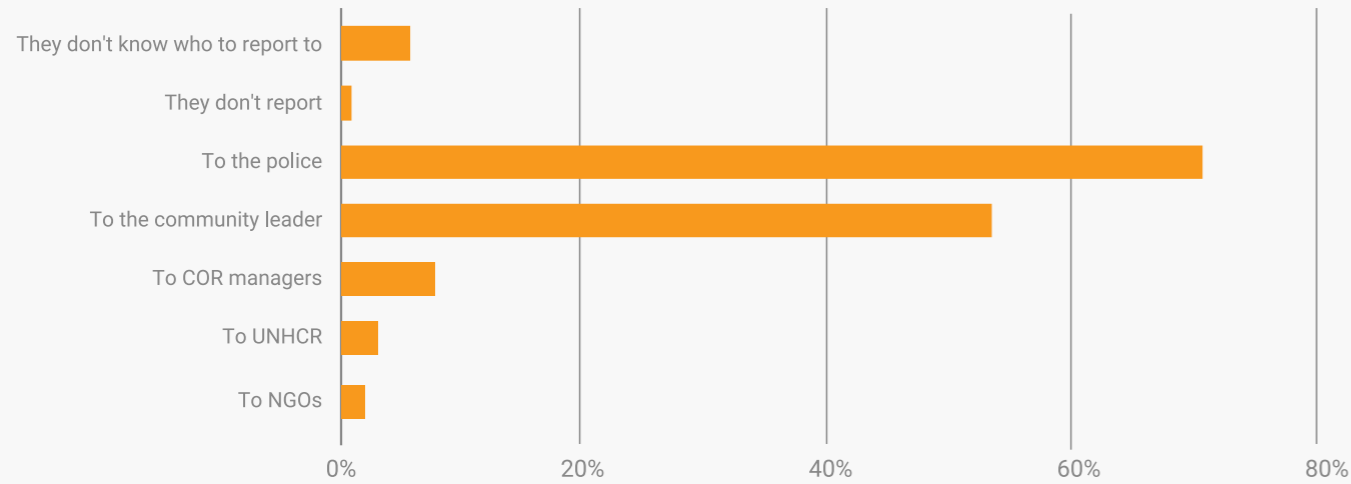


Table 57

Most of the incidents are reported to take place outside of the camp boundaries, but the MSNA attempts to evaluate if there are any areas within the camp where insecurity increases for both male and females. As shown in Table 56, the majority of the population do not identify any particular area as “more unsafe”. It is worth noting, however, that 24 per cent of the female population says that the latrines might be more unsafe than other locations. This may affect access to sanitation facilities. As previously noted (see WASH sections), the lack of lighting, distances, the presence of dangerous animals, and the risk of abuse and harassment are the key access issues when it comes to latrines.

What locations inside the camp do people tend to avoid?

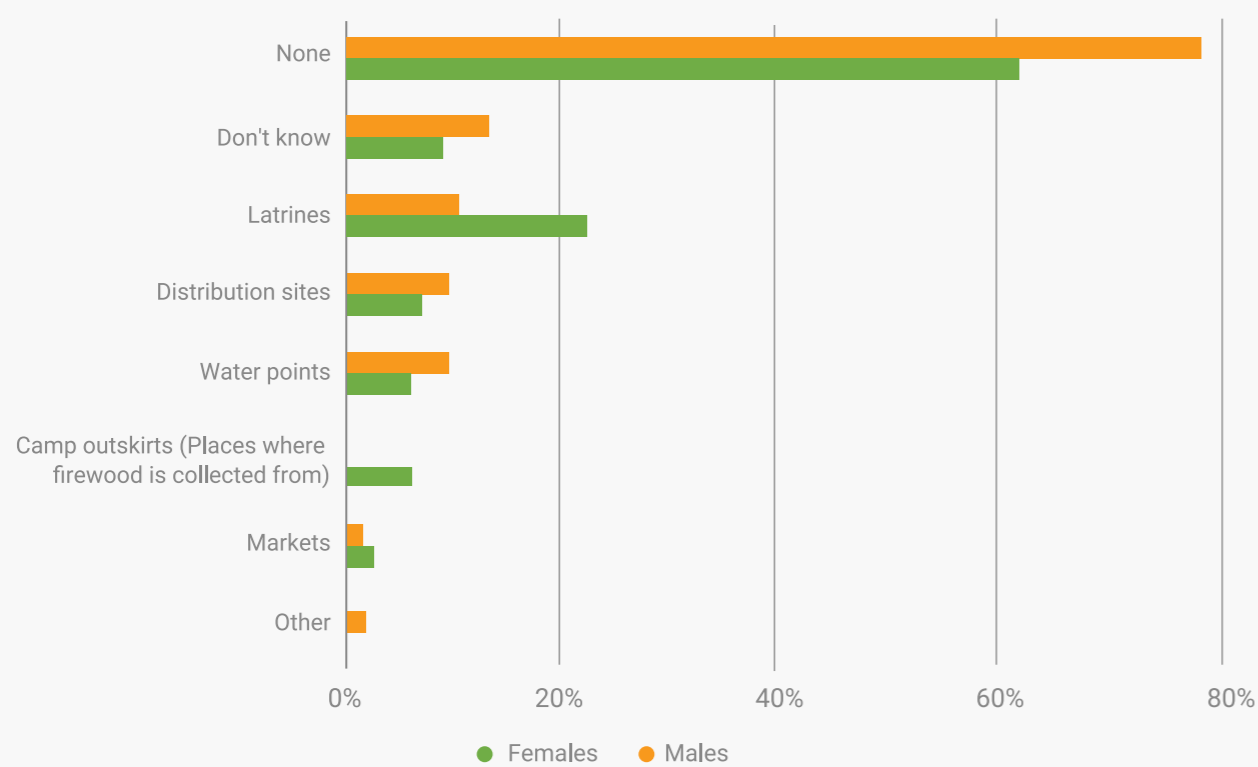


Table 58

9.2. Gender-related risks

In White Nile camps women and girls are more vulnerable than men and boys, although the majority of the respondents (52 per cent) do not see any distinction between the two genders in this regard. This may arise from the fear of reporting or raising attention to issues that may potentially lead other community members or individuals to harm members of the female population. Additional assessments will be needed after greater confidence between interviewers and respondents has been established. A small percentage of respondents, however, reported that the risks and threats usually faced by women are sexual violence and abuse (10 per cent), limited privacy in the household (9 per cent), violence outside the household (9 per cent) and limited access to services and resources (7 per cent).

Are there any specific security concerns affecting women and girls specifically?

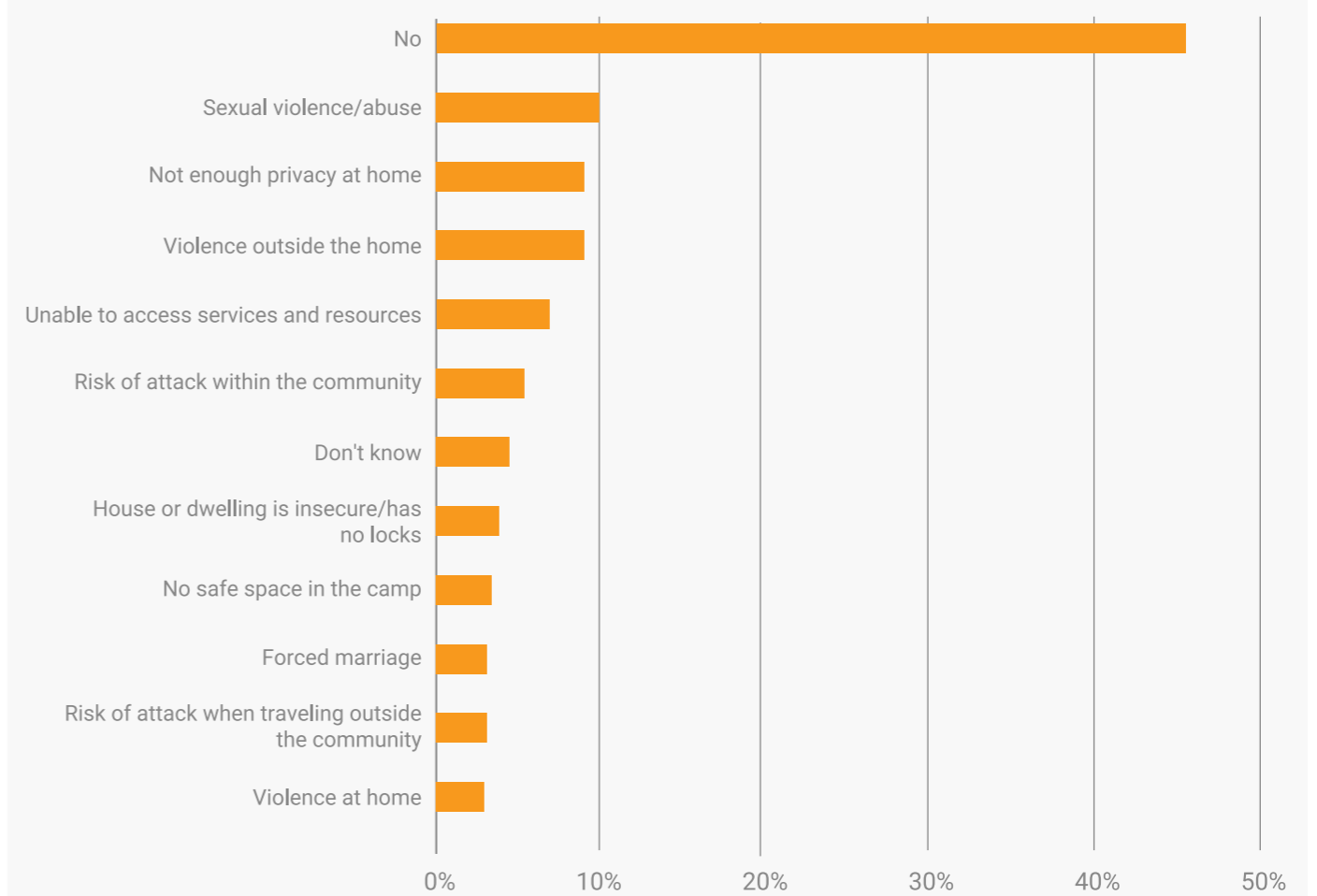


Table 59

9.3. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)

Observations in the camps and consultation with COR authorities and members of the community reveal that there is a large and growing number of UASC in White Nile camps. The main reasons, as indicated in the survey, are a) parents died (89 per cent) mostly in South Sudan and b) children were lost during displacement events (45 per cent), which mainly refers to the family crossing the border from South Sudan to Sudan. A significant percentage (27 per cent) of the population responded "don't know". It seems that there is lack of knowledge among the community around the issue and that the community has not been sensitized to it.

The community also seems to lack knowledge about possible foster care arrangements for the UASC. When respondents were asked, "where these children stay while in Sudan?" 25 per cent of them did not know of possible options. The majority of solutions seem to be community based, with families (43 per cent) - often neighbours or individuals assigned by community leaders - taking over the role of the caregiver. Relatives take care of the UASC when they are available (eight per cent), but many children stay on their own (eight per cent) or are hosted by families outside the camp (eight per cent). Twenty-two per cent of respondents reported that there are formal arrangements for the UASC inside the camps. This could not be verified, however, since the capacity and function of the available orphanages was not evaluated.

Where do the majority of unaccompanied or separated children live?

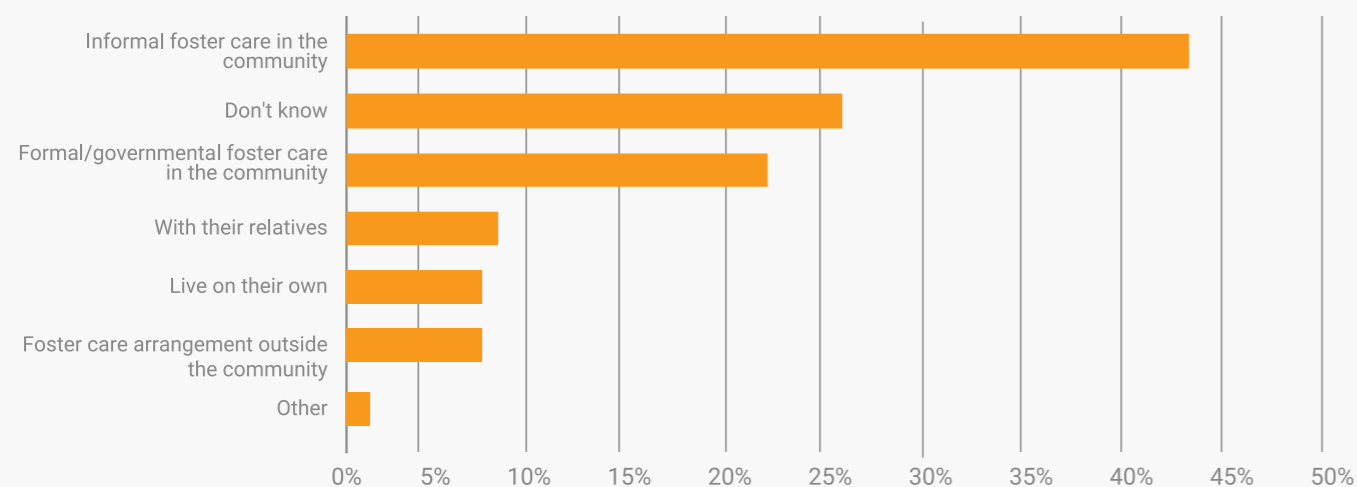


Table 60

Main reasons for unaccompanied or separated children in this camp

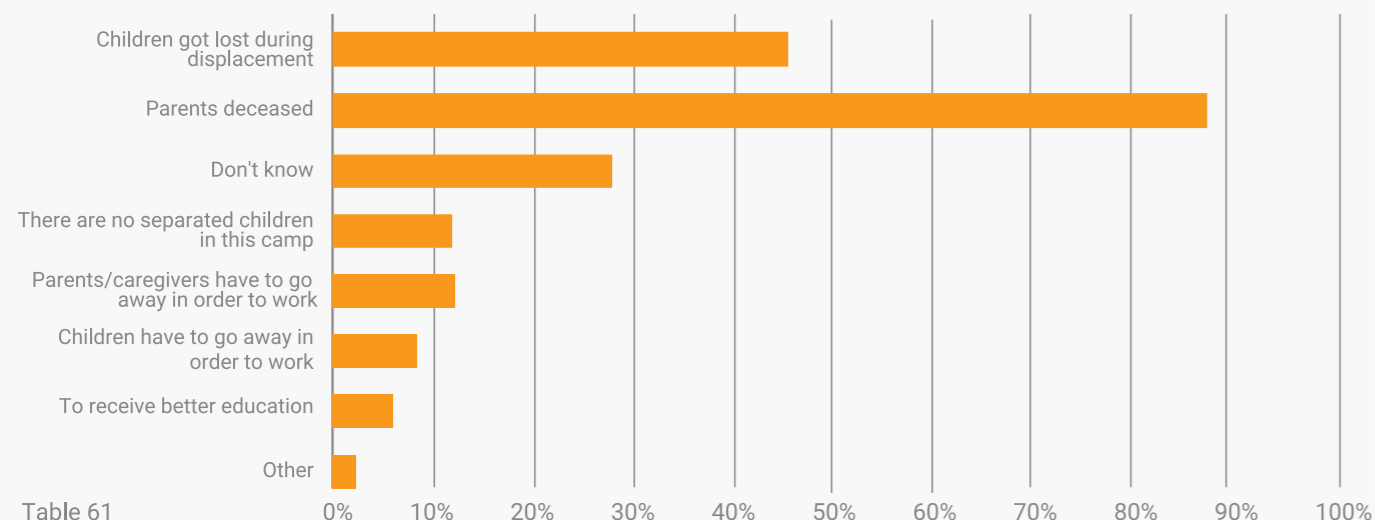


Table 61

9.4. People with Disability

The limited infrastructure (e.g latrines, water points etc) available, and even more limited dedicated infrastructure for people with disabilities, raises concerns about their protection and inclusion. In the Aljamaya camp, currently under construction, a dedicated block for people with disabilities has been created with appropriate facilities. It is unclear, however, who in the community will be prioritised and if the facilities will be available to accommodate all people in the target group. There are concerns around discrimination against individuals who planned to be included in this block, and the possibility that they will be excluded rather than integrated. Dedicated vulnerability assessments should be conducted by specialised protection agencies to identify the best possible solutions for people with disabilities.

9.5. Recommendations on Protection

- Conduct dedicated vulnerability and protection assessments (by specialised protection agencies);
- Increase women's engagement and empowerment to foster trust building. This may enable information sharing that permits a better understanding of the risks and gaps in the protection environment;
- Increase dedicated safe spaces for women and case management services to improve response;
- Improve infrastructure based on protection mainstreaming principles to increase meaningful access for vulnerable groups;
- Improve referral pathways and reporting mechanisms and ensure the community is both aware of them and has access to them;
- Ensure that child protection agencies lead the response around UASC;
- Train camp stakeholders to identify protection cases and engage in response, including accountability to affected populations (AAP) and confidentiality.



Place: Gooli locality in White Nile state
Photo credit: Ahmed Omer/NRC

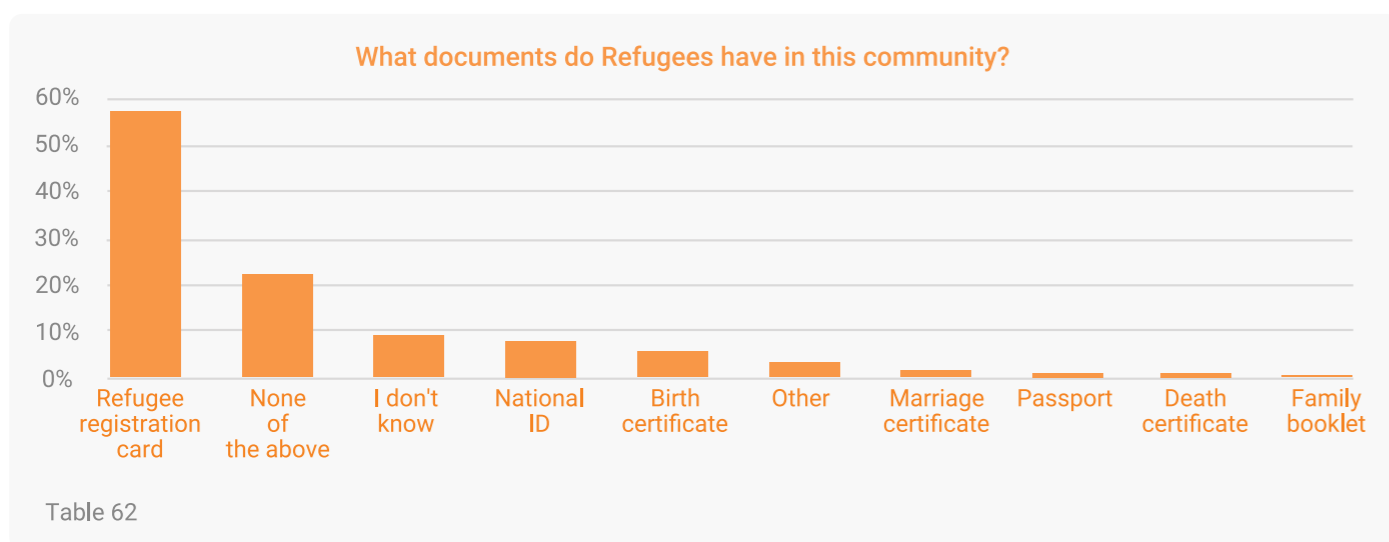
10. Information Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA)

10.1 Legal identity and civil documentation

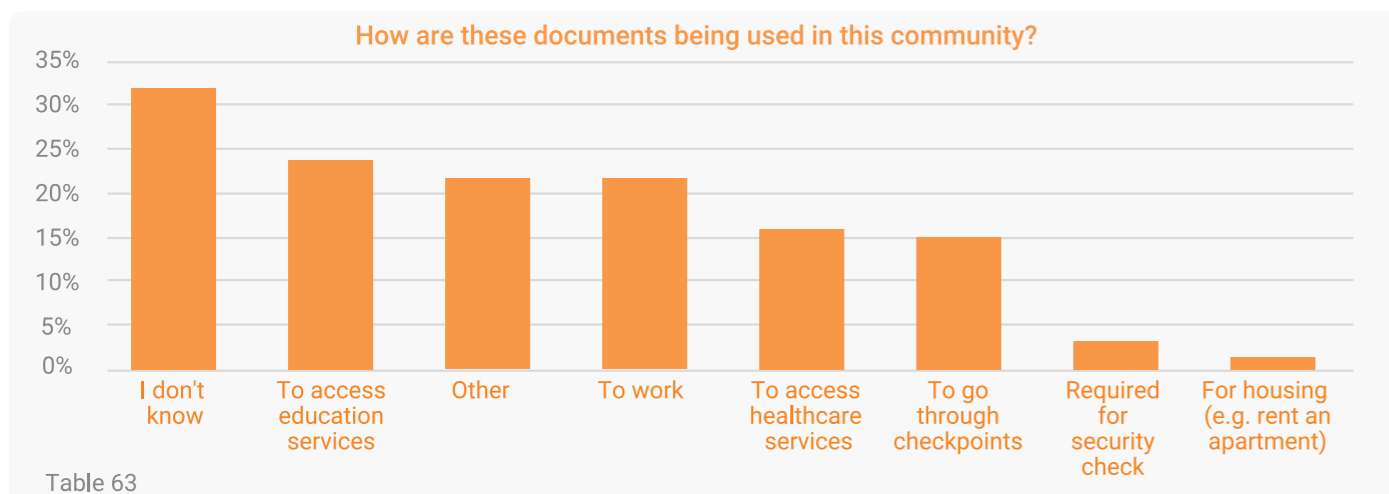
Survey respondents identified the refugee identity card, birth certificates and marriage certificates as the principal documents needed to obtain certain services and exercise rights, such as healthcare and the ability to pass through security checks. There is still a gap, however. Ten per cent of respondents did not know what type of documents they possessed while 33 per cent were unaware of the use and importance of the documents in the community. Costs (as reported by 56 per cent) and time (as reported by 57 per cent) are highlighted as the main barriers to obtaining the various documents. Other identified challenges include complex and time-consuming procedures for acquiring the various documents.

10.2. Type of documents held by the refugee population

The main documents refugees possess in Sudan are the refugee identity card, birth certificates and marriage certificates. Of the 424 respondents interviewed, 58 per cent reported having the refugee registration card; eight per cent, birth certificates; and only two percent, marriage certificates.



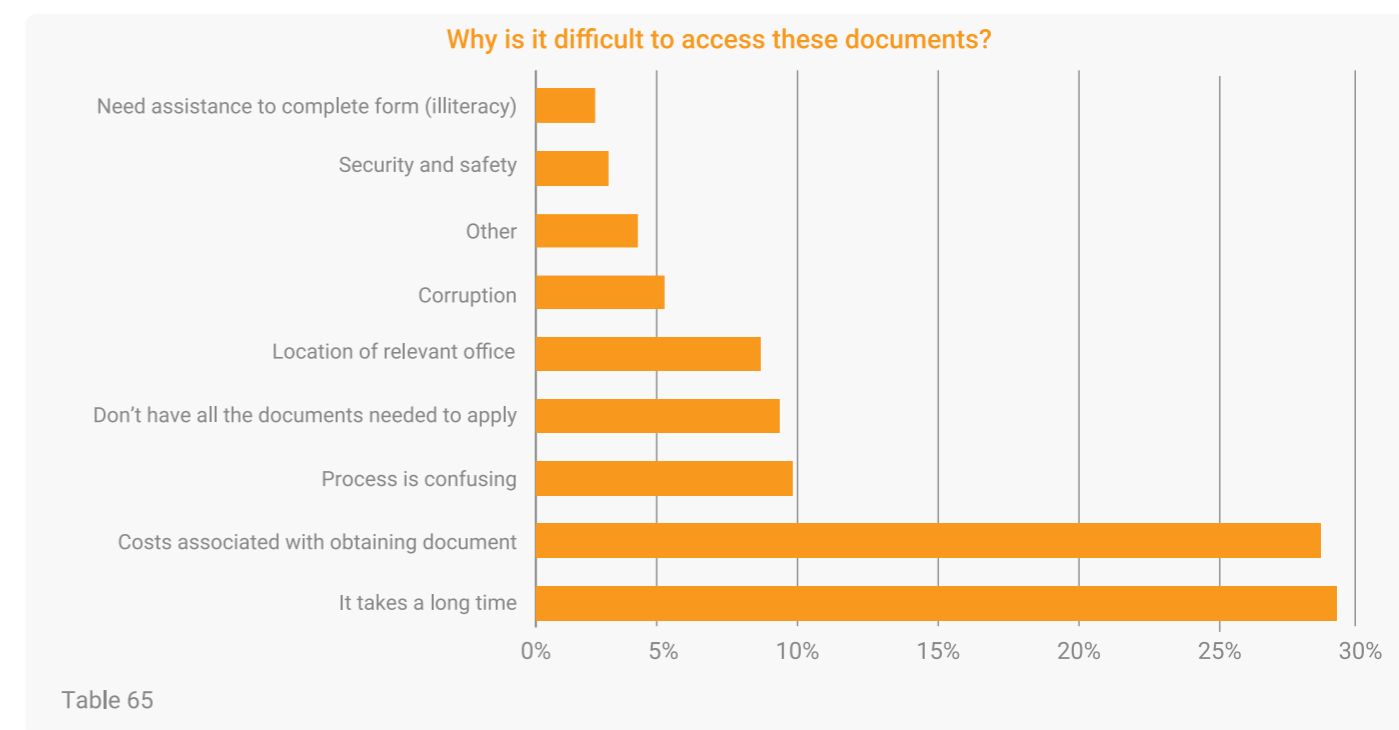
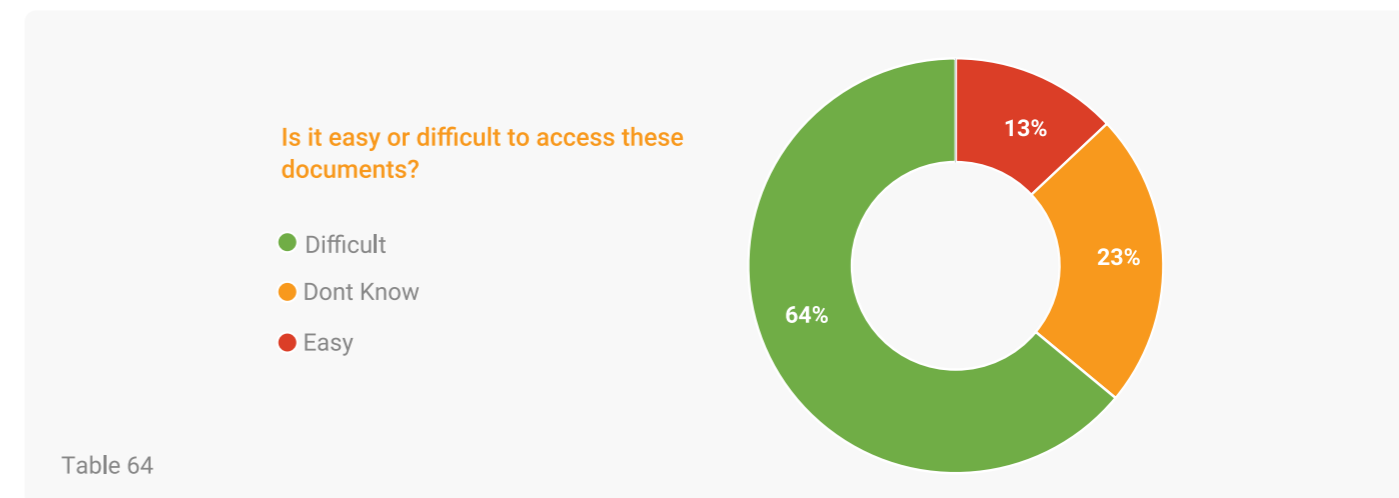
As noted, 33 per cent of respondents indicated a lack of awareness on the importance/use of the documents. Out of the remaining 67 per cent, 24 per cent indicated they use the documents to access education services, 21 per cent use them to get work/employment, 16 per cent to get healthcare, and about 18 per cent use them for security-related purposes. A very small percentage use them to access housing. Children in Sudan are not allowed to take their final school exams without presenting a valid birth certificate.



10.3. Access to documents

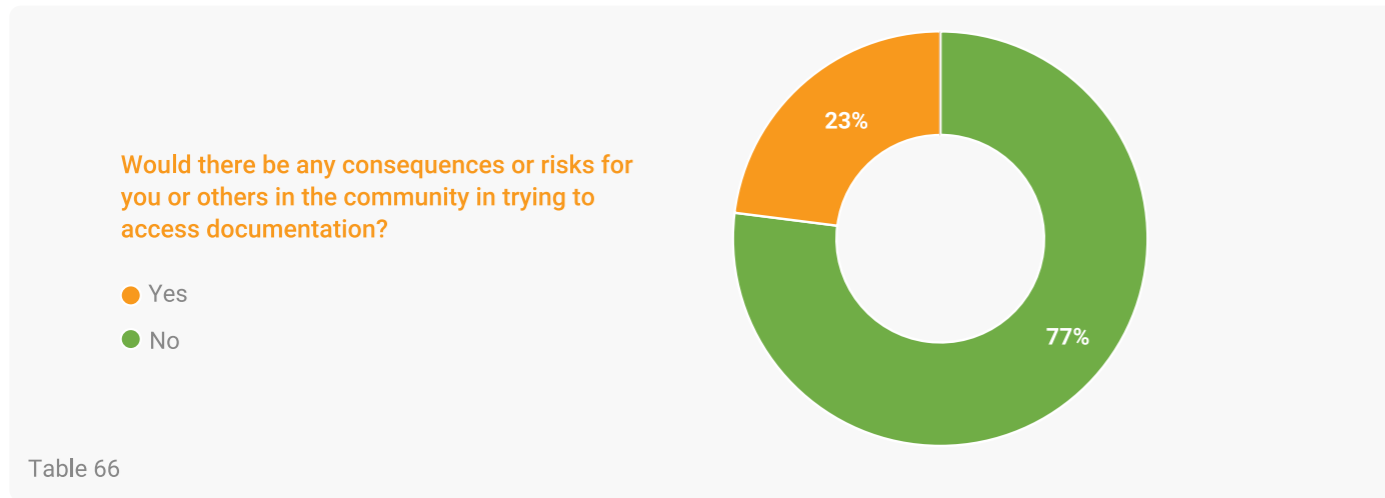
Sixty-four per cent of respondents reported that accessing legal identity (LID) and civil documents is difficult, 13 per cent said it was easy and 23 per cent did not know whether it was easy or difficult.

The difficulty in obtaining LID and civil documents is attributed to time (29 per cent) and high costs (29 per cent). Other barriers highlighted are corruption, confusing processes, lack of supporting documents, location of the centre, illiteracy and security and safety issues.

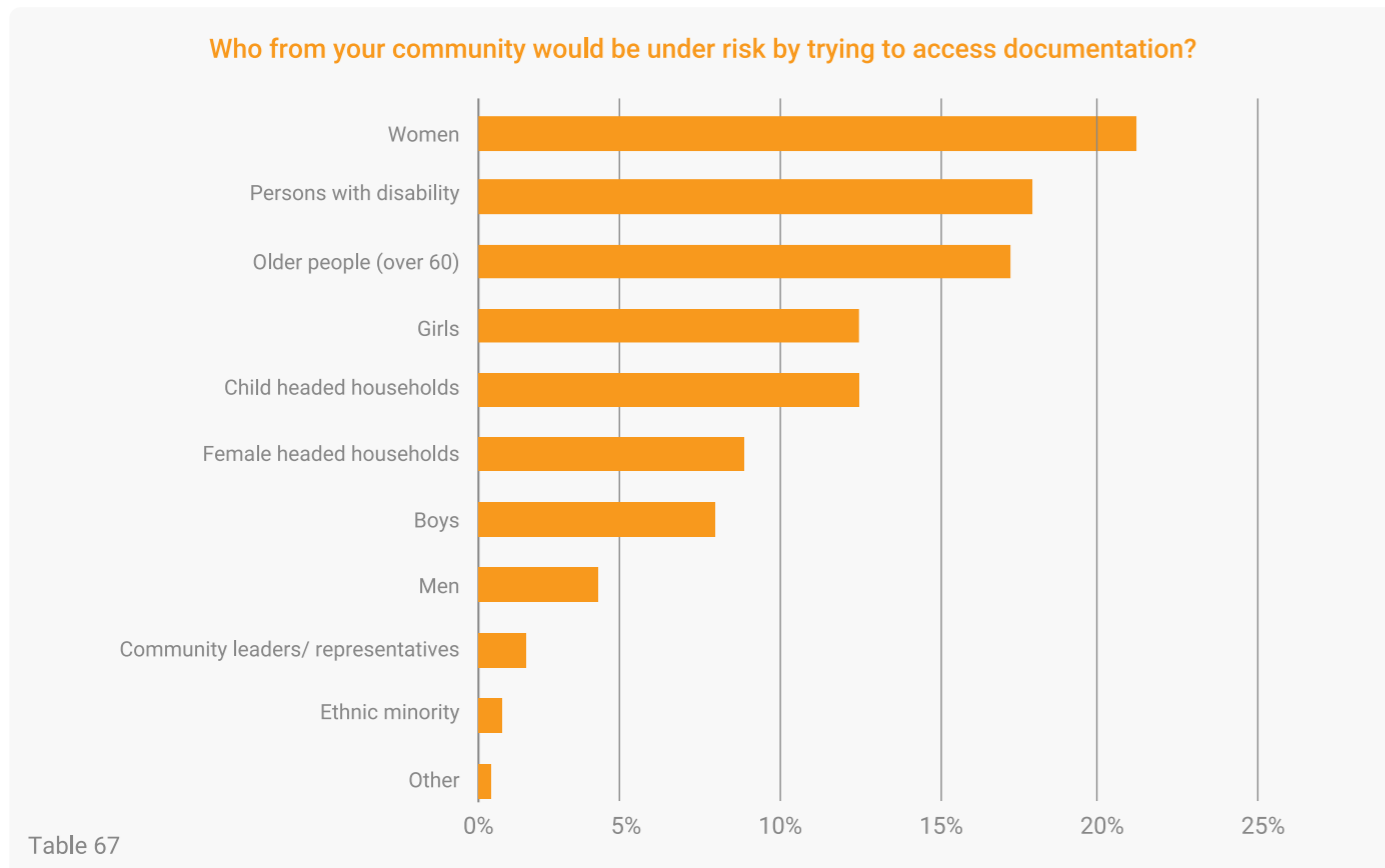


10.4. Risks associated with accessing documentation

Twenty-three per cent of respondents reported that there are risks or consequences in trying to access documentation. It is safe to assume that the population has limited knowledge of their legal rights and the importance of documentation. There is need for additional data, however, on the specific types of risk or consequences that refugees in White Nile confront in getting documentation.



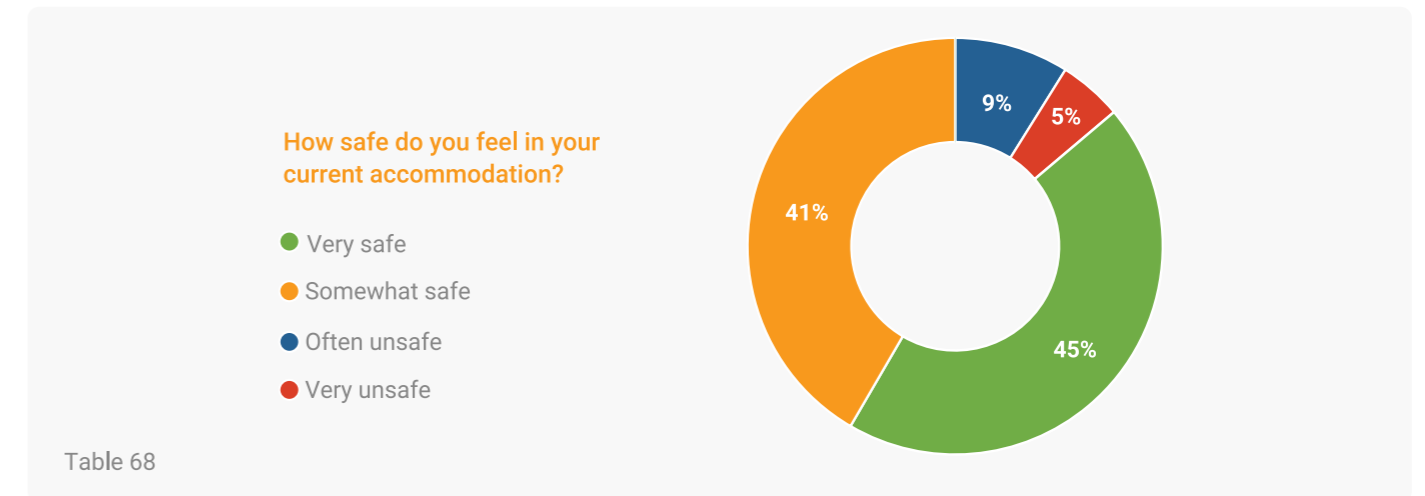
According to respondents, the following population groups are considered at risk when trying to access documentation: a) women (listed in 21 per cent of the responses), b) people with disabilities and c) people over 60 years old (both listed in 16 per cent of the responses). Twelve per cent of the respondents respectively cited that is also risky for young girls and e) children head of households.



10.5. Housing, land and property rights and collaborative dispute resolution

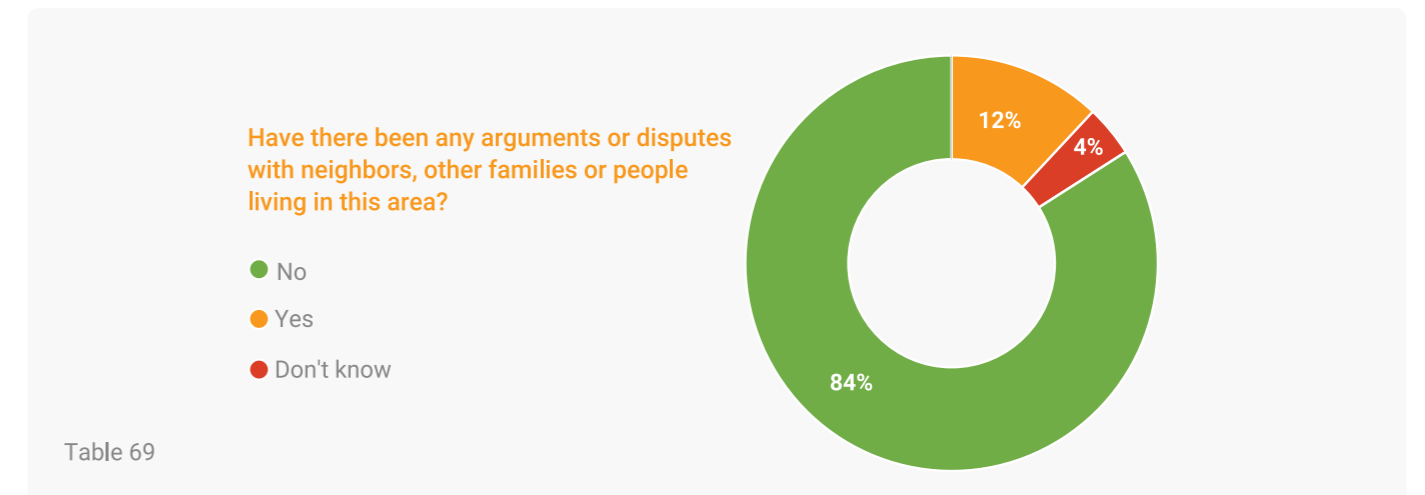
Refugees occupy land in camps that are managed by UNHCR and COR and under service agreements with host communities. The respondents, however, reported different arrangements for the lands they occupy. It is clear that the community lacks information about these arrangements. Fifty-six per cent of respondents say the land is being provided by UNHCR, while 30 per cent believe they have a written agreement with host communities and six per cent say they pay rent to third parties for the land. Four per cent are unsure of the land's status.

Women, followed by older people, young people and unaccompanied and separated children face the risk of being treated unfairly in terms of accessing housing. Forty-five per cent of respondents feel safe in their current location, but 41 per cent reported they did not feel very safe, attributing the main reasons to poor living conditions (54 per cent), fear of eviction (25 per cent) and harassment by neighbours (24 per cent).



Disputes occur and are mainly resolved by the *Mukhtar* (principal community leader) and other community leaders (e.g block leaders). Thirteen per cent of respondents, however, say that such dispute resolution structures are not equally available to everyone.

Eighty-four per cent of respondents reported that they have not had any arguments or disputes with neighbours, other families or people living in the area, while 12 per cent said they had had such disputes.

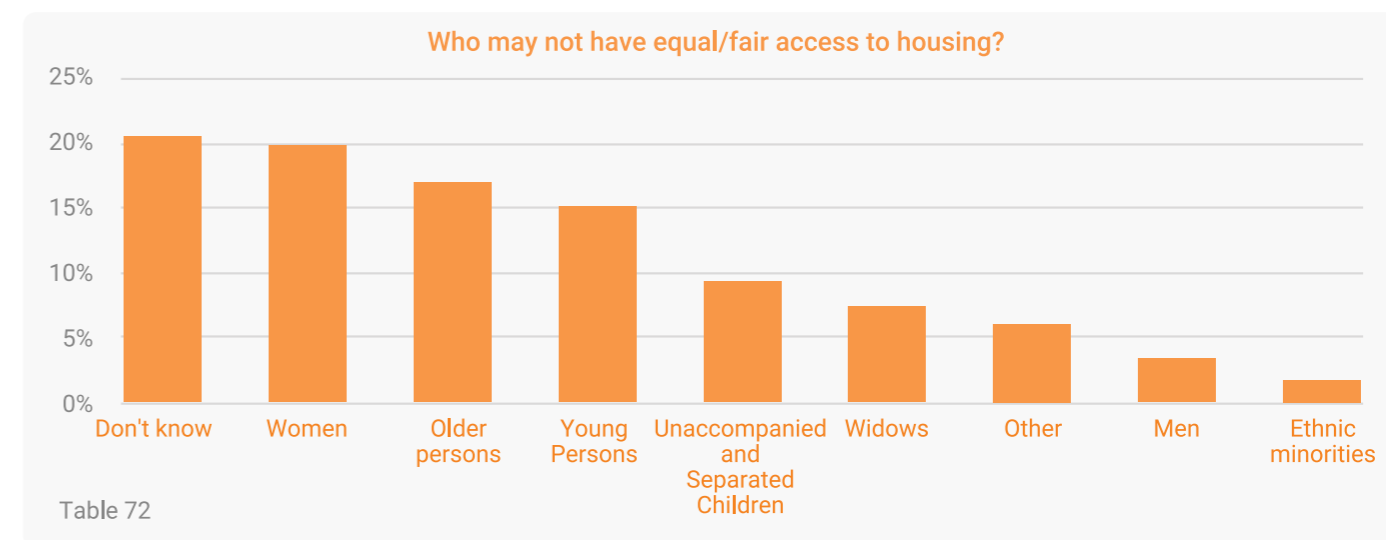


When disputes occur, 60 per cent of respondents reported that they talk to the Mukhtar, 27 per cent said they talked to other community leaders, six per cent talked to the camp manager (COR official) and others reported to the local council, INGO, government ministry or court.

Seventy-six per cent of respondents think that the formal and informal options are equally available to everyone while 13 per cent think they are not.

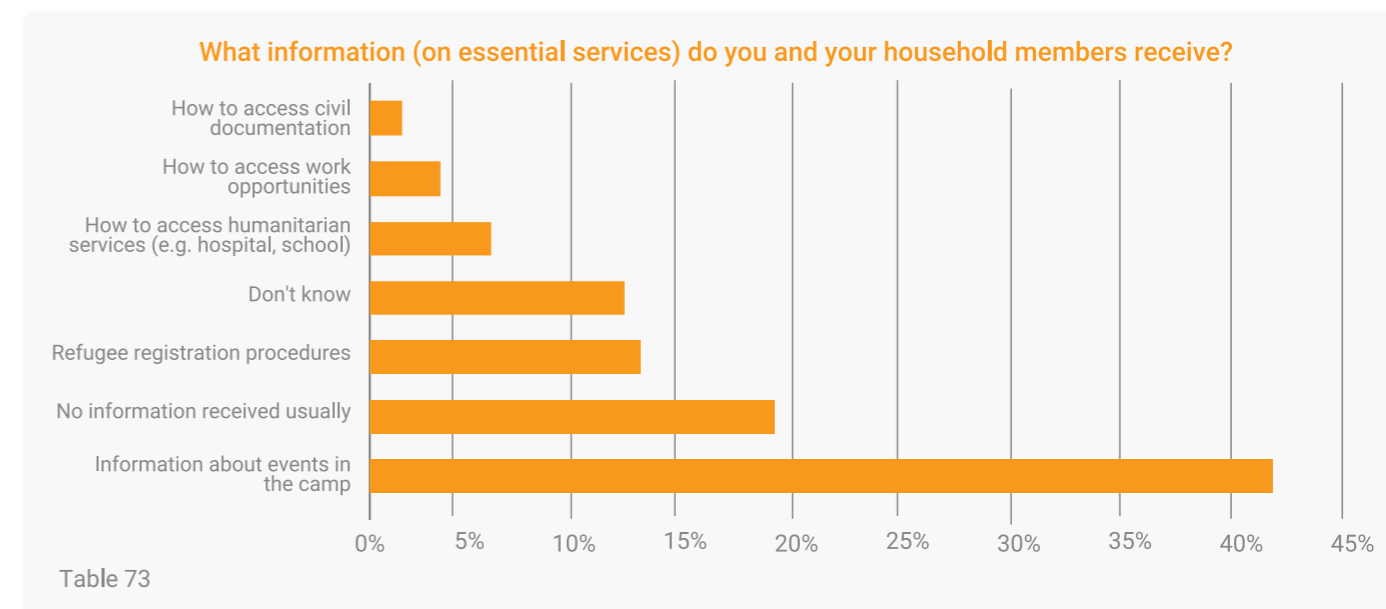
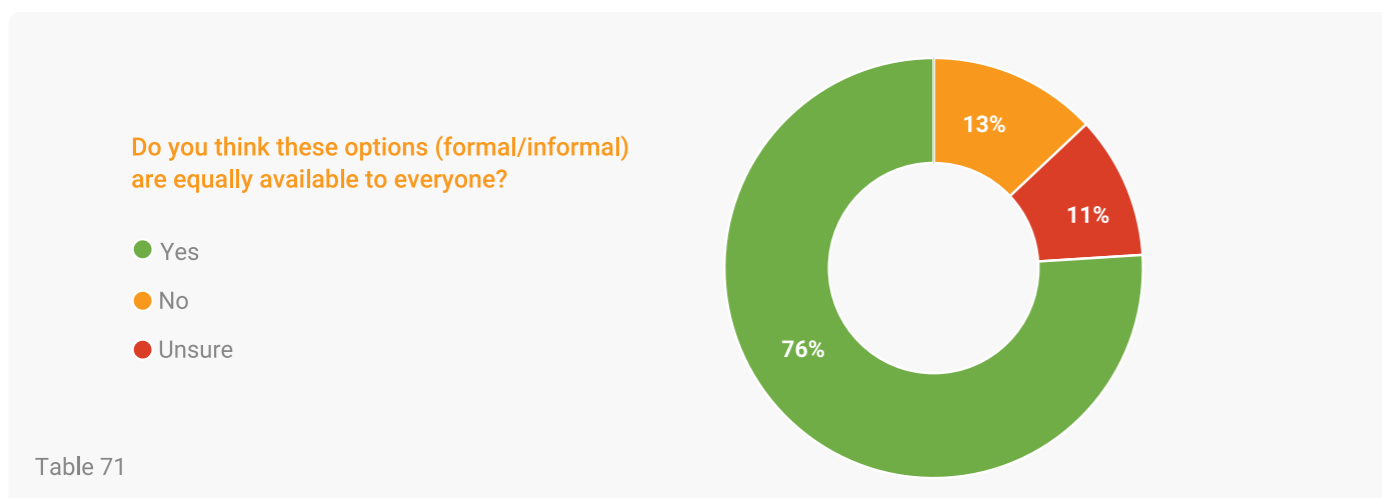


Twenty-one per cent said that women may not have equal/fair access to housing. The elderly, young people, widows and unaccompanied and separated children were also considered to not have equal/fair access to housing.

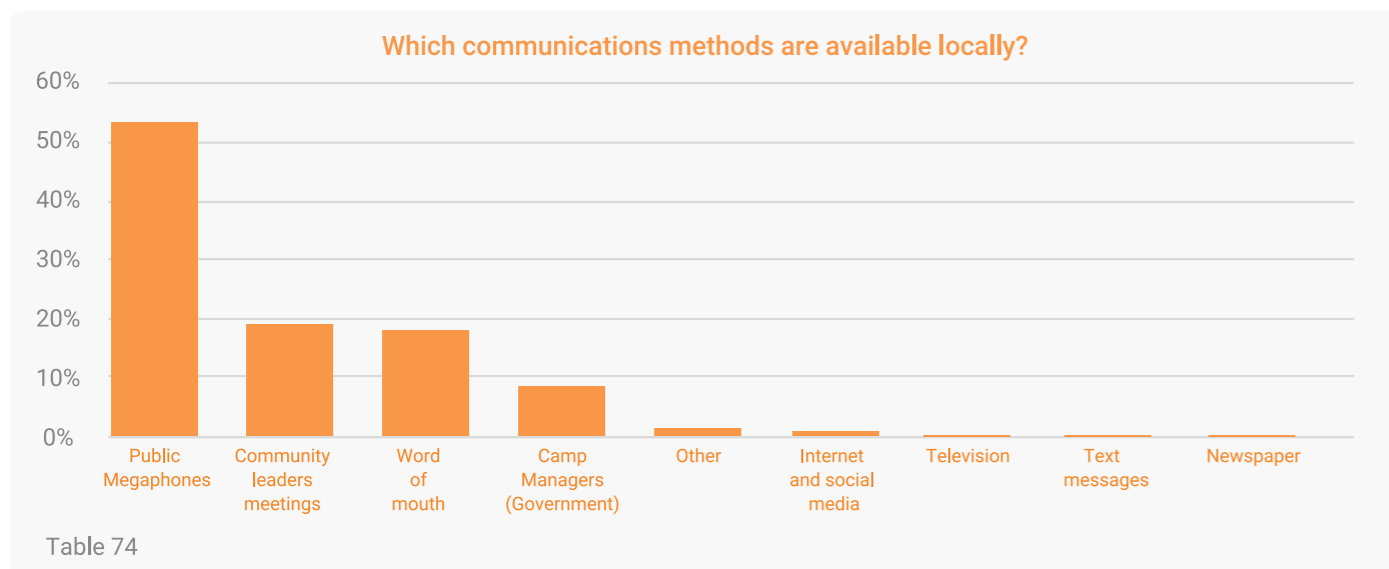


10.6. Information that the community receives

Forty-two per cent of respondents reported that the main information they received related to events in the camps. Twenty per cent reported they did not get any information, while 13 per cent said they got information on refugee registration procedures. Other information received included how to access humanitarian services (e.g. hospital, school) and how to access work opportunities and civil documentation. Information about housing, land and property is lacking while access to information on procedures to obtain legal identity and civil documentation is limited.

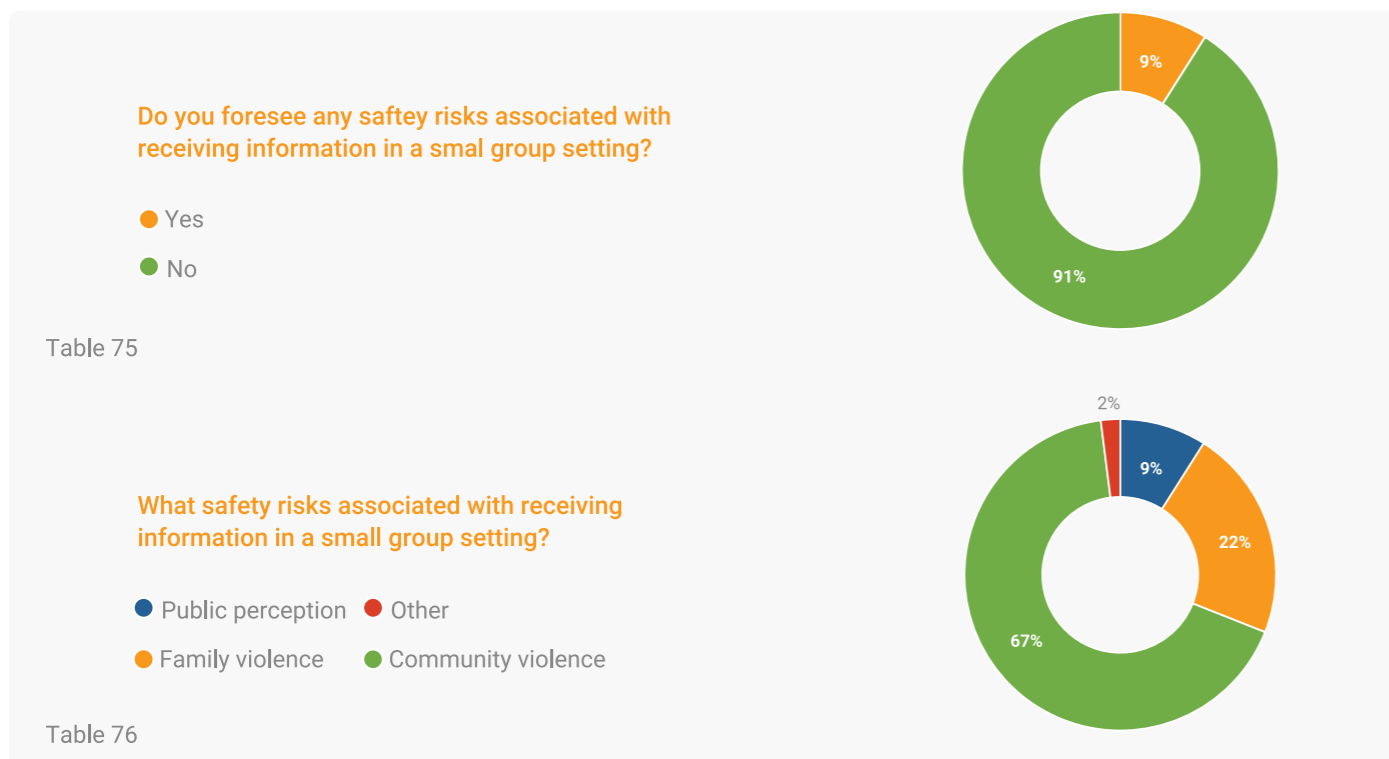


Fifty four per cent of respondents said public megaphones were the most common means of communication and information sharing. Meetings with community leaders (20 per cent) word of mouth (19 per cent) and camp managers (COR officials) (eight per cent) were reported to be the next available communication methods.



About 49 per cent of respondents identified community leaders as the main source of information. Other respondents indicated that they got information from religious leaders (18 per cent), UN/INGOs (nine per cent), local council (six per cent), camp managers (COR officials), community-based organizations (CBO)/civil society (five per cent).

Ninety-one per cent of respondents reported they do not foresee any risk associated with receiving information in small groups. Group information sessions on specific topics usually bring together about 20 to 25 people. Nine per cent of respondents, however, said they did foresee safety risks associated with the small groups and identified those as public perceptions and family and community violence.



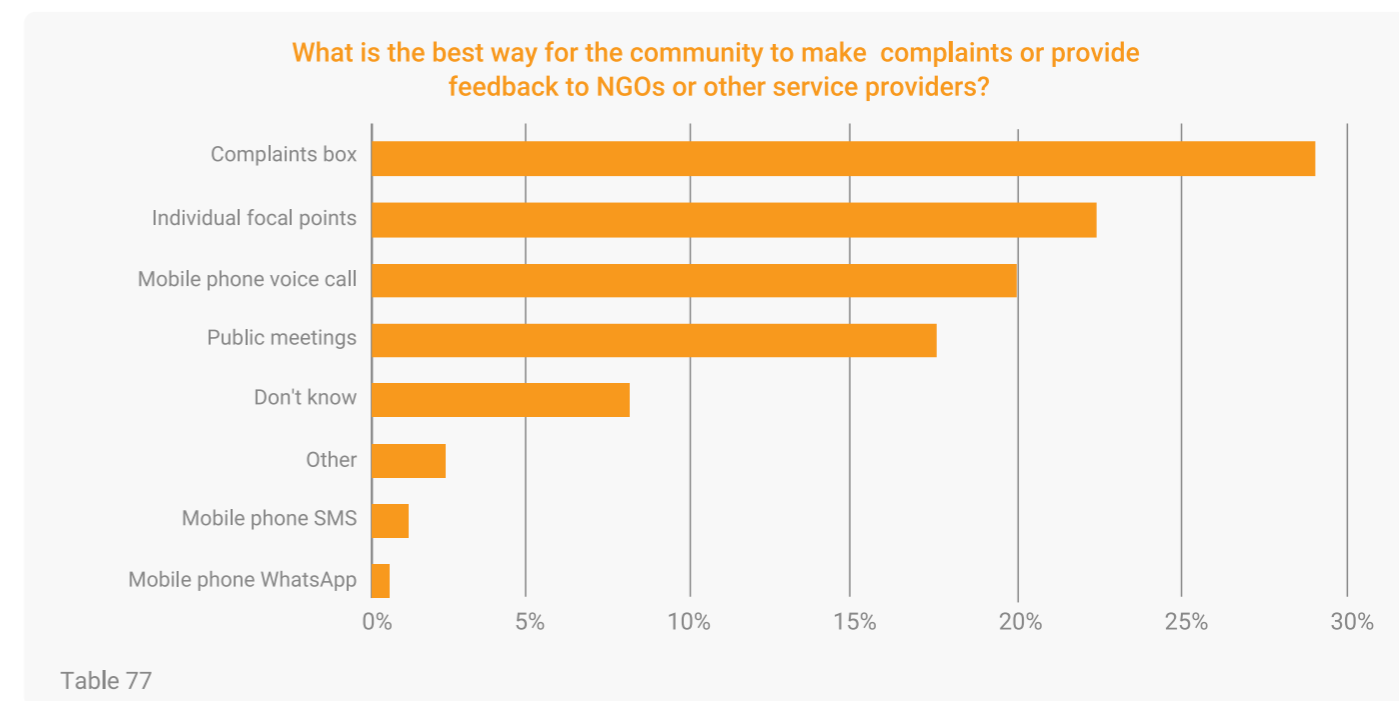
10.7. Recommendations for ICLA

- Increase access to information in local languages (Arabic, Shilouk and Nuer) on the importance of legal identity and civil documents and the procedures for obtaining them;
- Support access to legal identity and civil documentation through counselling and legal assistance, including financial assistance;
- Increase awareness of Complaints and Feedback Mechanism so beneficiaries have more knowledge/ awareness on how to contact service providers;
- Provide counselling and legal assistance to enable beneficiaries to overcome barriers that limit their access to work;
- Provide support to community structures for collaborative dispute resolution to increase their legitimacy within the camps. This, in turn, will increase their effectiveness in dispute resolution.

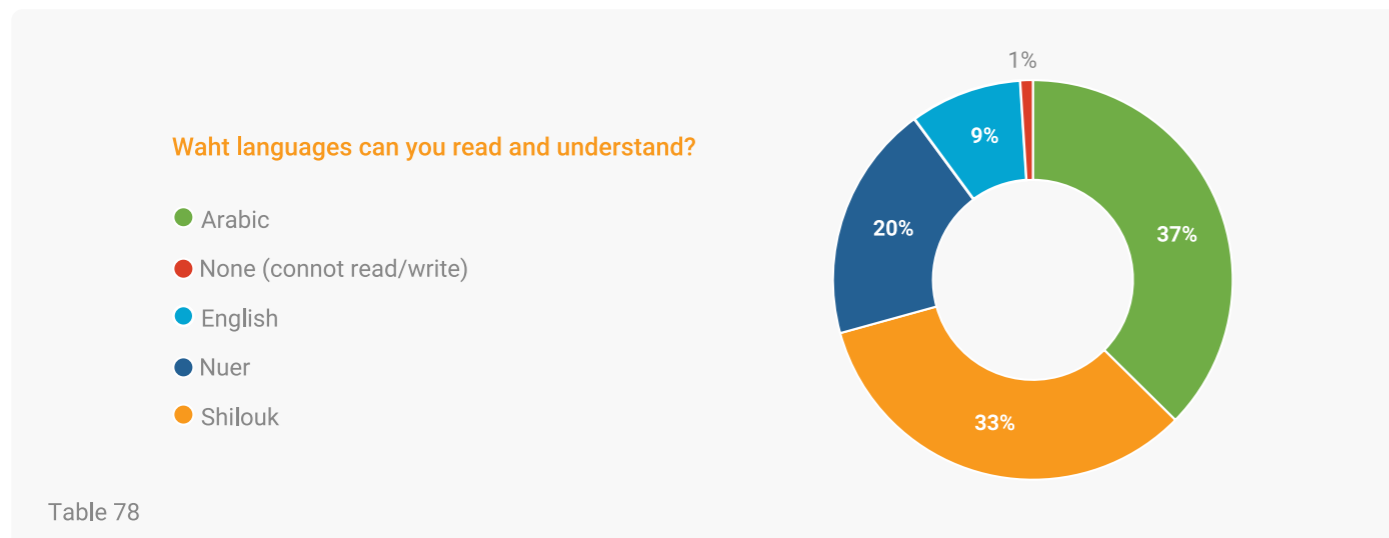
11. Accountability to affected population (AAP)

11.1. Preferred complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFMs)

Twenty-nine per cent of the population identifies the complaint boxes as the most efficient way to raise complaints and provide feedback (CFM), followed by individuals that could work as focal points or liaisons with NGOs (22 per cent). The community's preferred ways for CFMs are mobile phone voice calls (20 per cent) and public meetings (17 per cent). Other recognised channels are mobile phone WhatsApp and mobile phone SMS, although these are preferred by a smaller percentage of respondents.



Thirty-seven per cent of respondents said Arabic was the language they could read and understand, followed by Shilouk (33 per cent), Nuer (20 per cent) and English (9 per cent). One per cent of respondents said they can neither read nor write.



11.2. Digital Access

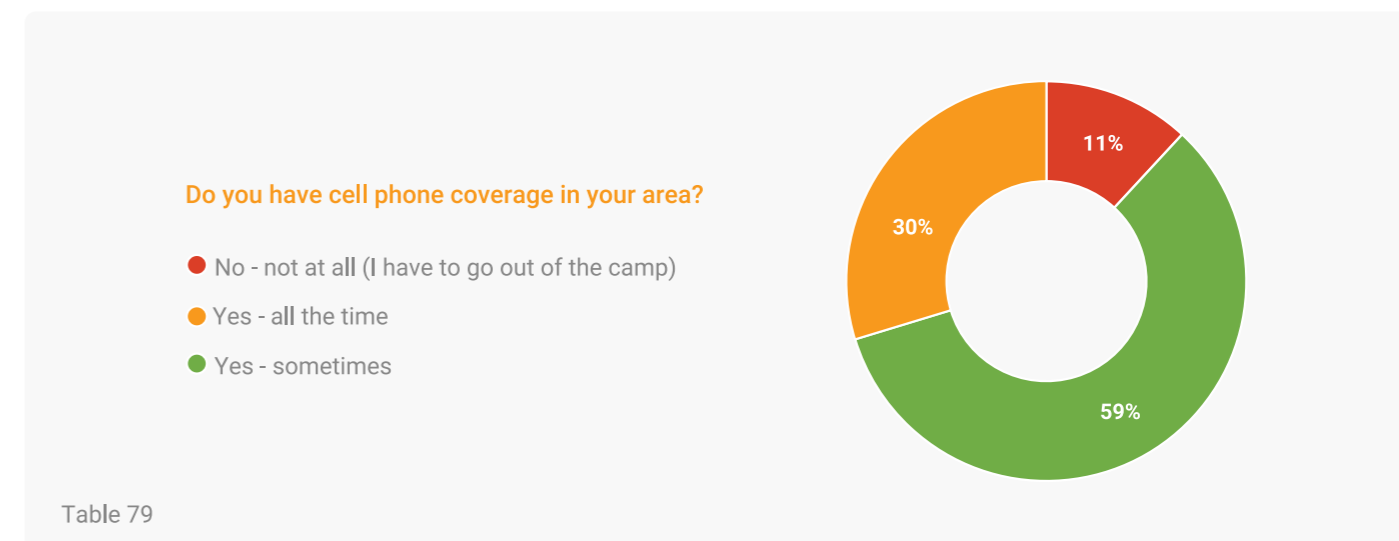
NRC conducted a Connectivity Needs and Usage Assessment (CoNUA) in White Nile in collaboration with GSMA and Impact Initiatives. Some of the findings are used in this section. The main objective of the assessment was to understand mobile phone use, digital literacy and barriers to digital access and inclusion among refugees and host communities. A total of 1662 surveys were conducted in the Al Alagaya refugee camp, Alagaya village, the Al Redis II refugee camp, Redis Madrasa village, the Khor Alwarel refugee camp and Debeba village.

The findings indicate that access to phones is high in both refugee and host communities. Ninety-one per cent of respondents reported their household owns at least one phone. Personal phone ownership is also high: 81 per cent of refugee and 60 per cent of host community respondents reported owning one. This figure does, however, hide some important discrepancies. Refugees, for example, are more likely to own an internet enabled phone, and women, people with disabilities and older people are less likely to have access. The most prevalent barriers to phone ownership were linked to cost and affordability. Eighty-one per cent of refugees and 70 per cent of host-community members who do not own a phone said the cost of buying one was too high.

Access to a phone is only one component of accessing digital services and being digitally included. The digital literacy and knowledge that people possess and the ways they use specific services is also crucial. Fewer than one per cent of respondents said they did not know how to turn a phone on and off and nine in ten knew how to charge a phone. Less than 20 per cent in each group knew how to use any service which required internet access. Awareness and use of mobile internet was low in both communities, with just 56 per cent of refugee respondents and 66 per cent of host-community members having heard of it. The assessment found that issues with digital literacy and the availability of networks and charging were the biggest barriers to increasing the use of mobile internet.

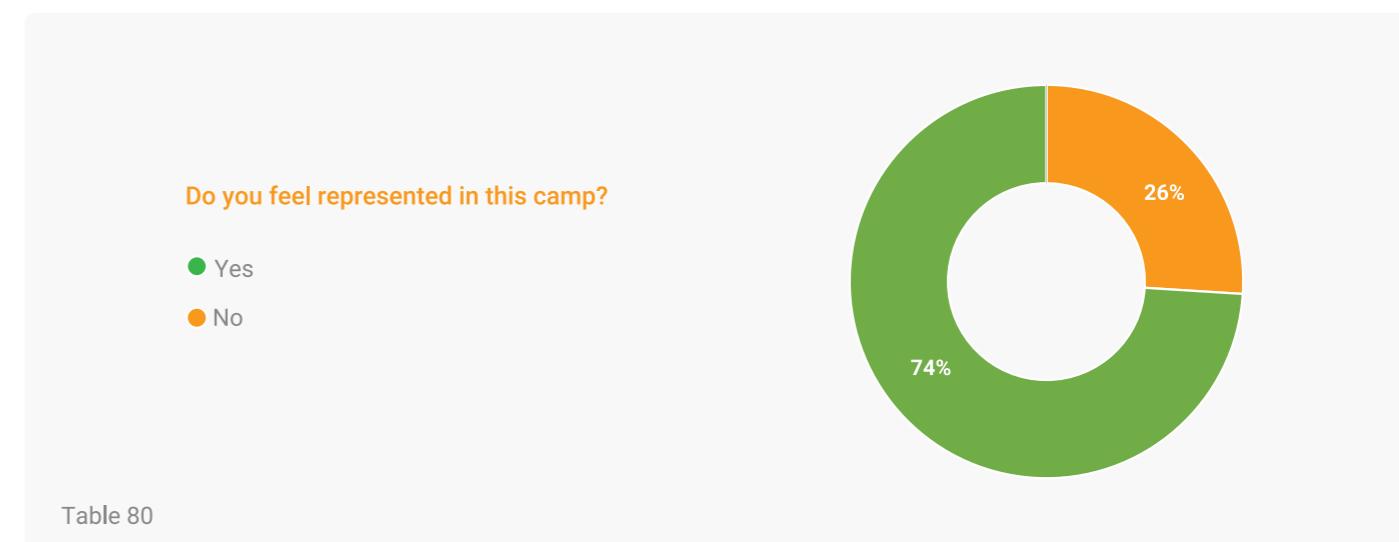
11.3. Digital Access in White Nile Camps

Only 30 per cent of respondents reported having access to mobile phones all the time. Eleven per cent said they had no access and had to go out of the camp to get it. The majority of respondents (59 per cent) reported that they sometimes have access. In the west bank and specifically in the Al Ridaish 1 and 2 camps, the network coverage appears to be better than in other camps because of an antenna installed by the local telecommunications company.



12. Community representation

Seventy-four per cent of respondents reported that they feel represented in the camp where they reside while 26 per cent feel unrepresented.



There are various leadership structures within the camps, but the main pattern appears to consist of elected community committees in which men and women participate. The elections are supported by COR camp managers. During the MSNA, elections were taking place in some of the camps and the community appeared to be participating actively. Eighty-four per cent of the KIs said they trusted their current community leaders; eight per cent said they did not trust them, and another eight per cent said they did not always trust them. The main reasons for lack of trust, in the view of some respondents, included the failure of leaders to represent female issues properly; their bias towards close contacts and relationships, and their failure to engage with all members of the community. Other reasons included community leaders' lack of education and capacity for the role, their harassment of certain households, and the fact that they receive money for their assistance in putting people on beneficiary lists.

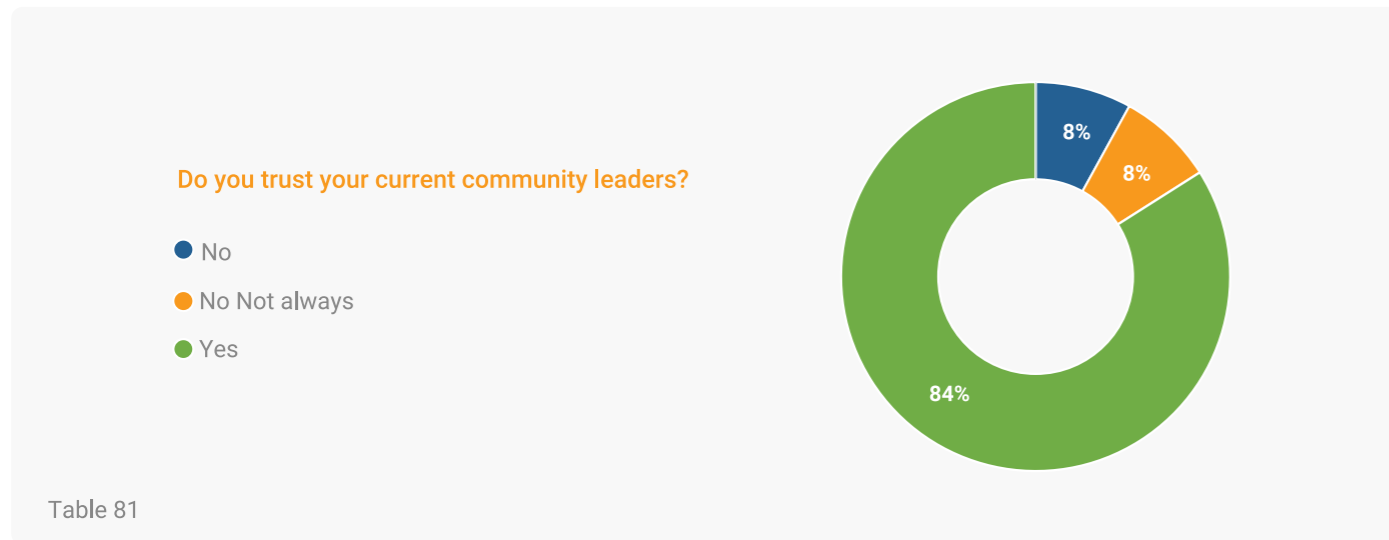


Table 81

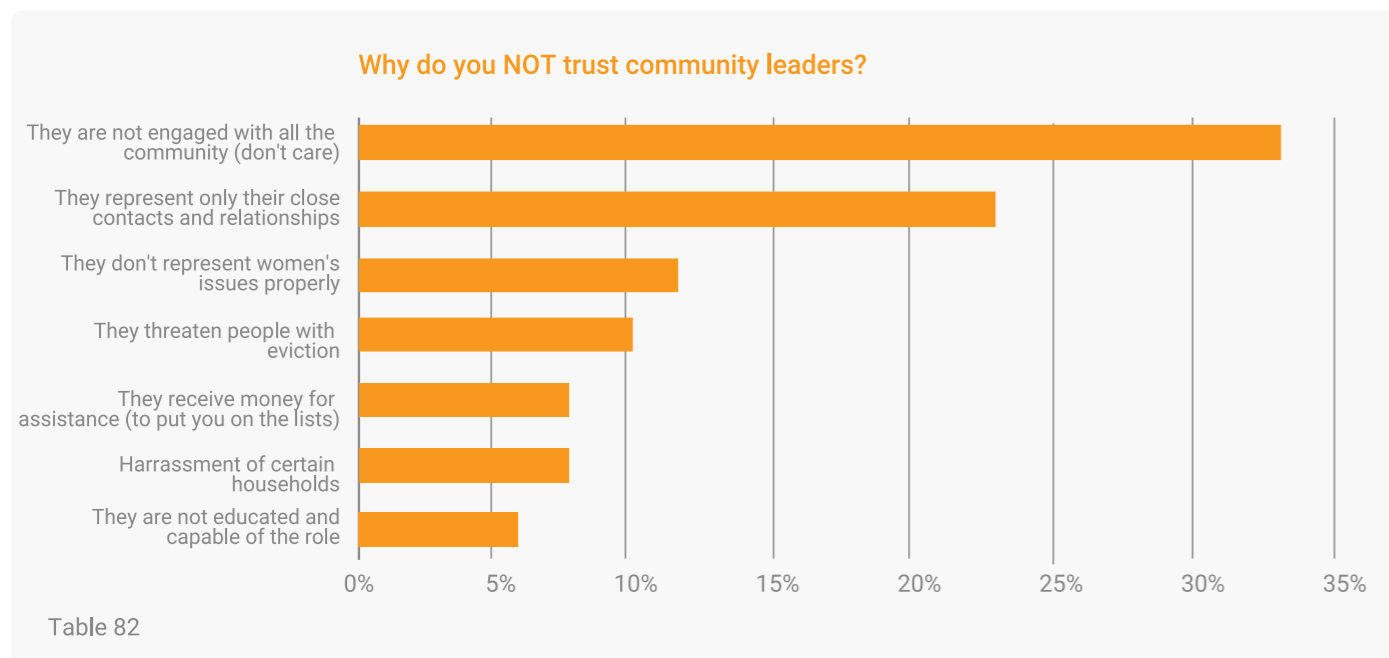


Table 82

13. Conclusion and way forward

The MSNA highlighted immense humanitarian needs, with yearly shocks (i.e. floodings, new arrivals) that regularly propel suffering to emergency levels. For refugees in White Nile, however, the protracted nature of their exile has meant a long, deep and steady fall off the radars. The humanitarian response has remained minimal, far below international standards.

The intention survey among refugees indicates that the overwhelming majority of refugees in White Nile have no choice but to remain where they are. Among respondents, 23 per cent had no intention of returning to their place of origin. Seventy-five per cent of them do intend to return, but 46 per cent found it impossible to do so because of the security situation. In both cases, insecurity was listed as the most important barrier. With no return perspective, 72 per cent intend to stay in the camps, despite substandard and undignified conditions.

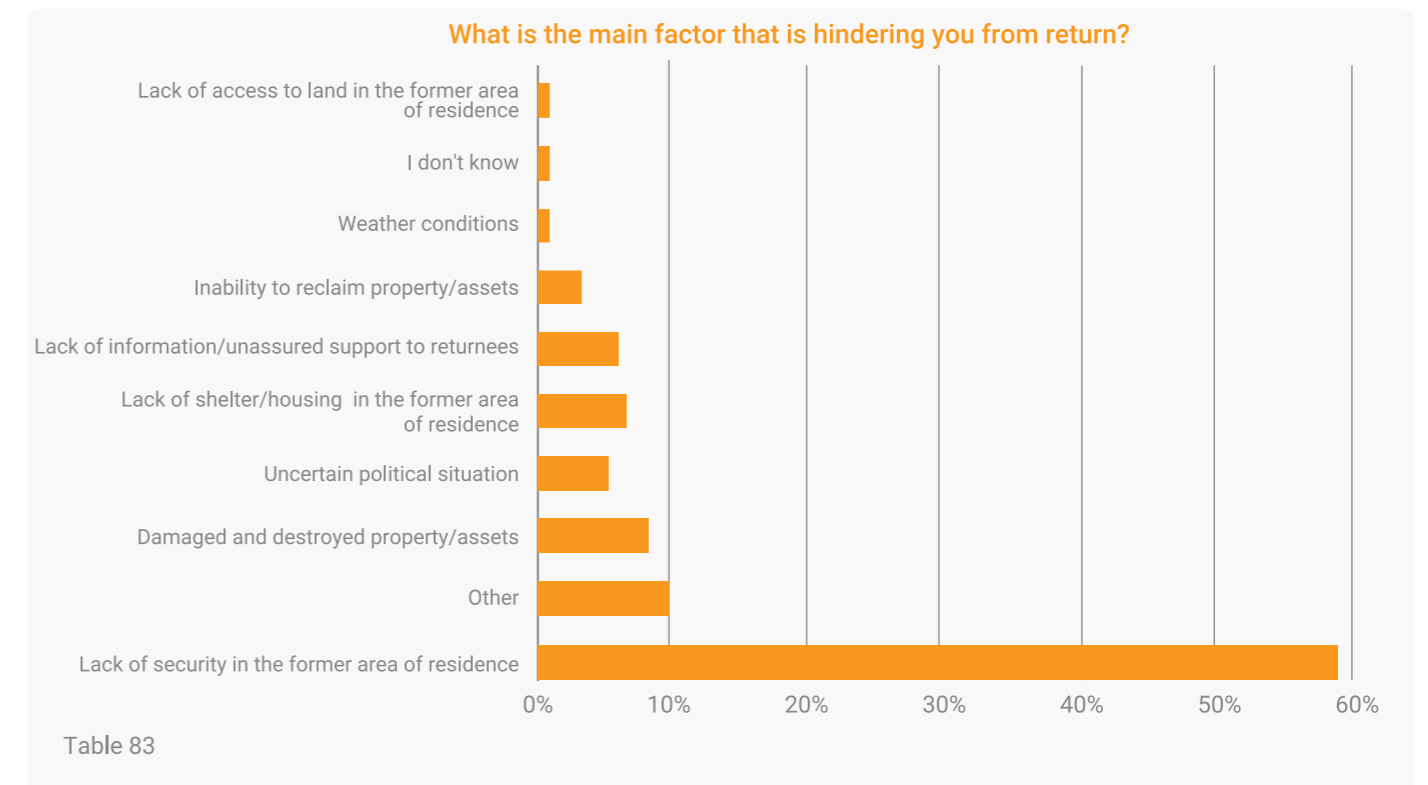


Table 83

What does this mean for the foreseeable future? There are continuous needs that the humanitarian community should address. There also has to be a more strategic approach to refugee response, one that builds on refugees' resilience and skills to improve their self-reliance, alleviate pressure on the host community, reduce aid dependency and foster social cohesion. With its relatively stable environment, White Nile offers opportunities to test out models for refugees' economic inclusion that benefit both refugees and host communities. This would not only elevate refugees' rights and living conditions, but also equip them for the durable solutions they choose. On the other hand, if the status quo prevails, White Nile's population in need is likely to face further adversity, driven by the spiralling crisis that Sudan is living today.

Recommendations

- Immediately prioritize White Nile’s refugee response with multi-year and flexible funding that will address both emergency response (floods and new arrivals) and resilience building. This should also include resources to improve the coordination and the production of timely information and evidence to feed the response;
- Engage at the policy level to encourage more flexible encampment policies, including the possibility of turning camps into settlements;
- Accelerate the adoption of a Durable Solutions Strategy for refugees, including the implementation of South Sudanese refugees’ rights to work, as committed in the “Four Freedom” document;
- Develop contextualized and comprehensive self-reliance models for White Nile’s refugee population that include linkages with host communities, the private sector, local authorities and humanitarian and development actors.



Place: locality in White Nile state
Photo credit: NRC