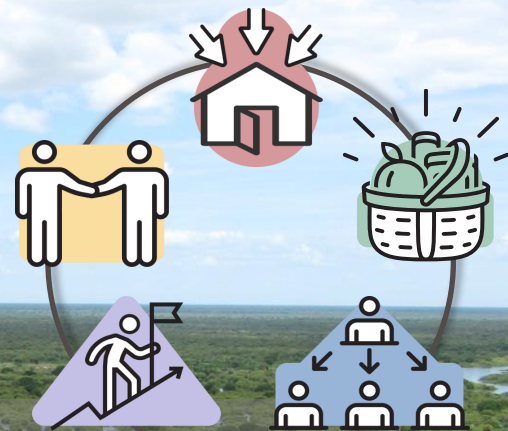




USAID  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# SOUTH SUDAN MESP RESILIENCE BASELINE SURVEY

Summary of Findings

December 14, 2021

Source: Flickr picture from By Onier Colon, CC, October 2, 2012

# AGENDA

---

Purpose

---

Key Takeaways

---

Methods

---

Findings

---

Discussion

---





# PURPOSE

- Obtain baseline data in the target areas for the indicators included in the Mission's PMP. (*Household Survey SOW, March 2021*)
- Conduct additional analyses to help provide a deeper, expanded understanding of the survey results (*Expanded Household Survey Exploratory Analysis, Sep 2021*)

# Household Survey Expanded Analysis

- Create additional indicators relating to resilience capacities
- Examine variation across county, locality, head of household sex
- Examine correlations between measures of resilience capacities and contextual outcomes such as shocks, conflict, or well-being
- Model relationship between resilience capacity and a) perceived ability to recover from shocks, and b) food security

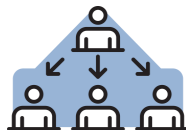
*key themes:*



☐ **Food Security**



☐ **Agency**



☐ **Social Cohesion**



☐ **Shocks and Stresses**



☐ **Social Norms**

# KEY TAKEAWAYS



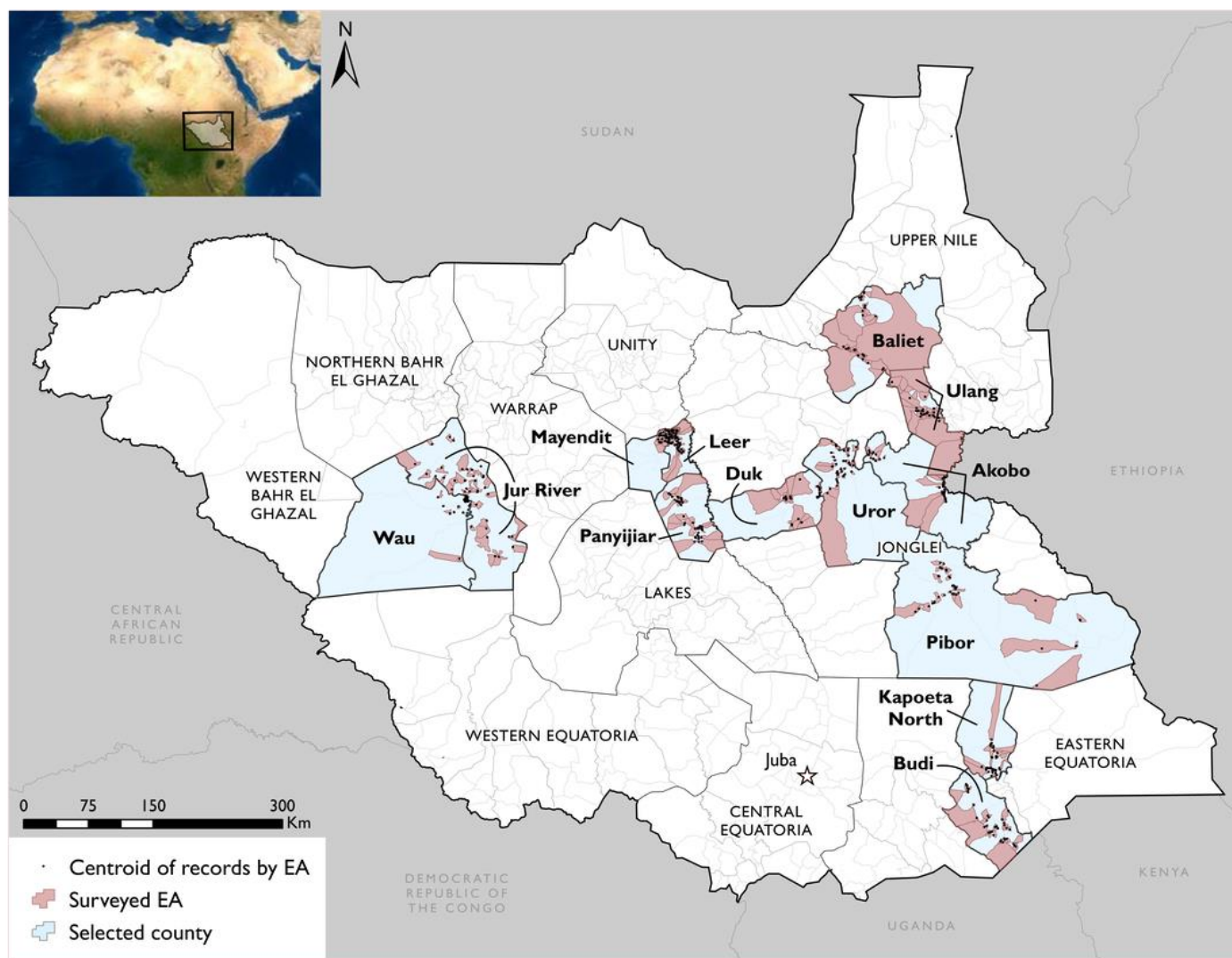
Source: field of sorghum, which fed his family, is under water  
[Adrienne Surprenant/AP Photo] Aljazeera report December of 2021.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ❑ Resilience model is validated – increases in resilience capacity associated with improvements in well-being outcomes (ability to recover from shocks, food insecurity)
- ❑ Incorporate food security as a PMP indicator as a better outcome measure than dietary diversity
- ❑ Incorporate coping strategies into future data collection
- ❑ Resilience capacities (agency, cohesion, informal safety nets) could be considered a form of coping strategy
- ❑ Future studies could explore variation across county, disparities in bonding and bridging social capital, coping strategies, alternative dispute resolution
- ❑ Ongoing and future USAID programming efforts could include education, social norms, informal safety nets

# METHODS

- ❑ Sampling design and data collection
- ❑ Limitations



# SAMPLE

- 13 counties
- 476 EAs
- 7,872 Total Number of Household Surveys
- 96% Overall Response Rate



# DATA COLLECTION

- ❑ Translation into 16 languages
- ❑ **249** enumerators in the field
- ❑ Two phases of data collection in 2021
  - Phase 1 – 6 counties (April)
  - Phase 2 – an additional 7 counties (November)
- ❑ **33** supervisors in the field

## Steps in Field Data Collection Prep:



## Field Data Collection

### *GETTING TO HOUSEHOLDS*

- **Cars/boats** and other modes of transport
- **Rough terrain/washed out roads**
- **Empty EAs**
- **Security** – escorts, sheltering in place, travel at night, SAT phones, SRMA
- **Locating EA boundaries** – overlaid maps with satellite imagery, geofencing on tablets
- **Syncing of data** – paused data collection, leveraged IP support



# LIMITATIONS



- Sampling in USAID's 13 priority counties NOT representative of country, state, or region
- Data are representative of each county, but values will be lower relative to national level
- Sampling error is low, but measurement error always remains
  - Acquiescence bias
  - Comprehension bias
  - Recall/recency bias
  - Avoidance bias

# OVERALL INDICATOR SUMMARY

## SHOCKS AND STRESSES

- ☐ Shock incidence, types, exposure
- ☐ Conflict incidence, types



## SOCIAL NORMS

- ☐ Perception of SGBV
- ☐ Acceptance of Cattle Raiding
- ☐ Opinions of Educating Girls
- ☐ Early Marriage



## FOOD SECURITY

- ☐ Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- ☐ Household Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS)



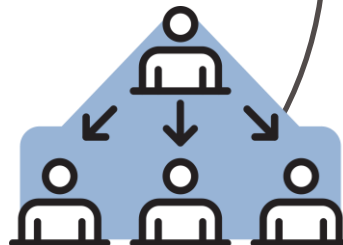
## PERSONAL AGENCY

- ☐ Aspirations
- ☐ Locus of Control



## SOCIAL COHESION

- ☐ Bonding Social Capital
- ☐ Bridging Social Capital





# FOOD SECURITY

- ❑ Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
- ❑ Household Dietary Diversity Scale (HDDS)

**7.6**

FIES  
(0-8 scale)

**6.4**

HDDS  
(0-12 scale)

## Key Takeaways

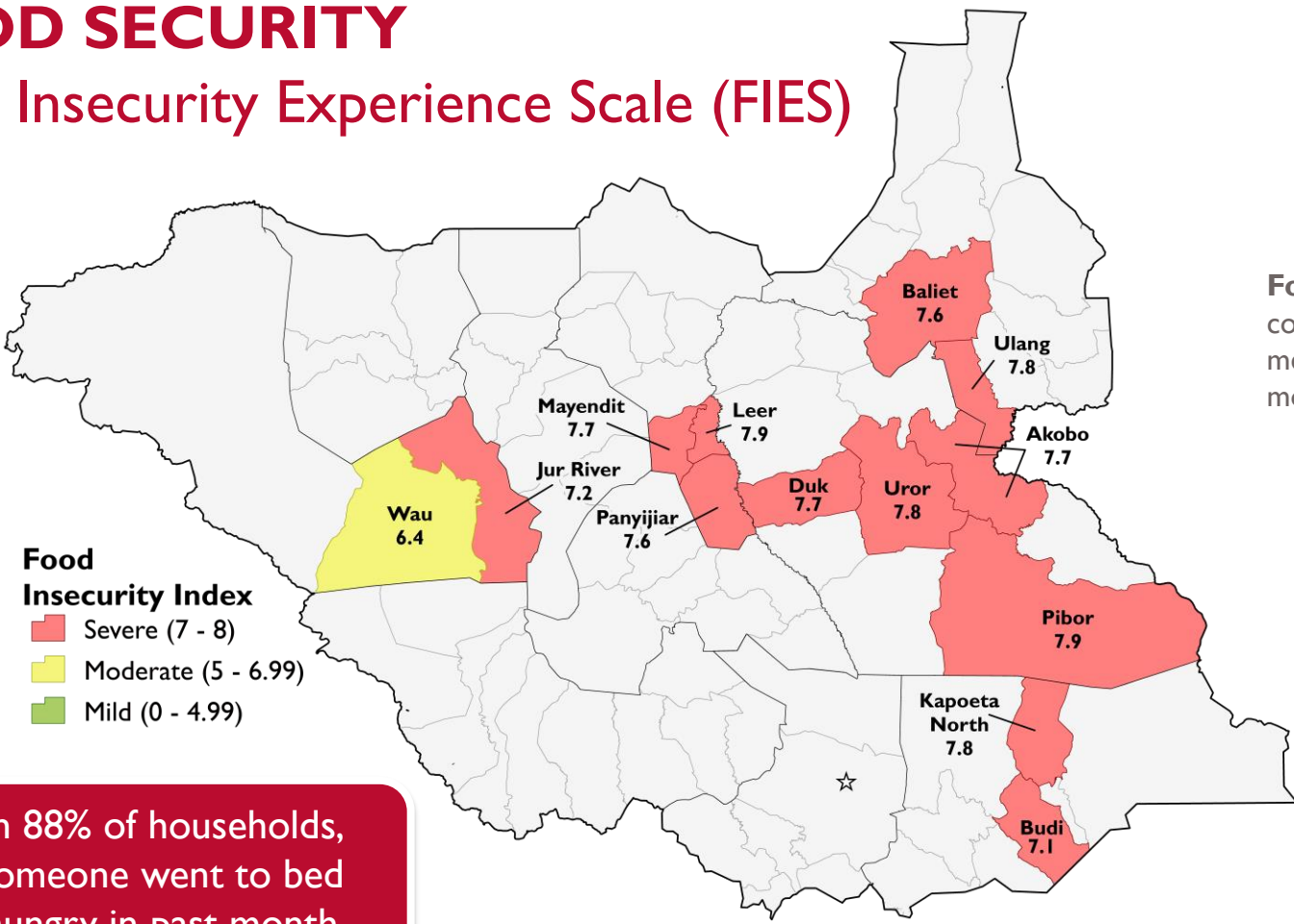
- Food insecurity is **SEVERE** in 12 of 13 counties sampled
- Most households eat cereals and some leafy greens
- Meat consumption the best indicator for identifying a household with diverse diet
- Dietary diversity indicates quality of diet, but does not address sufficiency of diet

# FOOD SECURITY

## Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)



**Food Insecurity map** – study counties are colored by their mean FIES index score as mild, moderate, or severe.



- Food Insecurity Index**
- Severe (7 - 8)
  - Moderate (5 - 6.99)
  - Mild (0 - 4.99)

**90.2% SEVERE**  
food insecure

In 88% of households, someone went to bed hungry in past month



# SHOCKS

- ❑ Incidence of shocks
- ❑ Types of shocks
- ❑ Shock exposure index

**9.4**  
Shocks

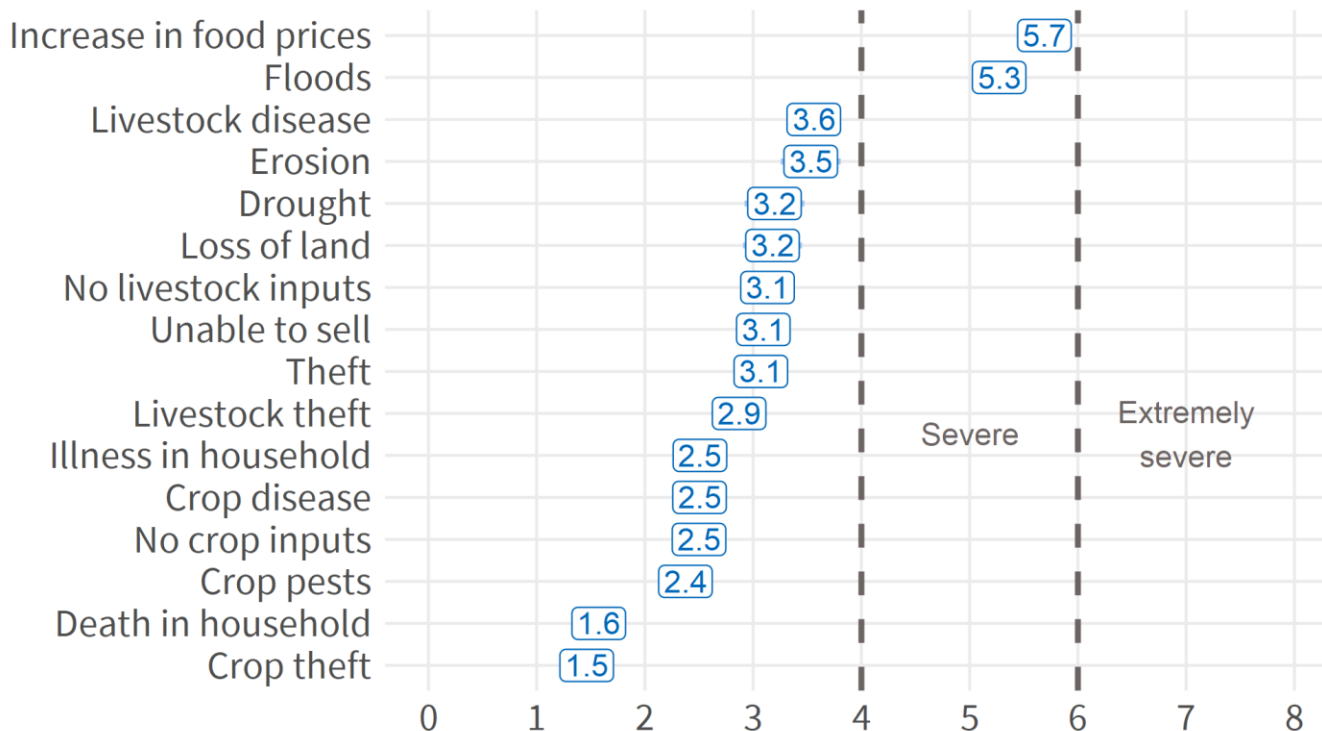
**49.2**  
(0-128)

## Key Takeaways

- Increase in **food prices** and **flooding** the most **severe shocks**
- Overall, incidence of shocks is high, but shock severity is moderate
- 1/4 of households report being vulnerable to shocks

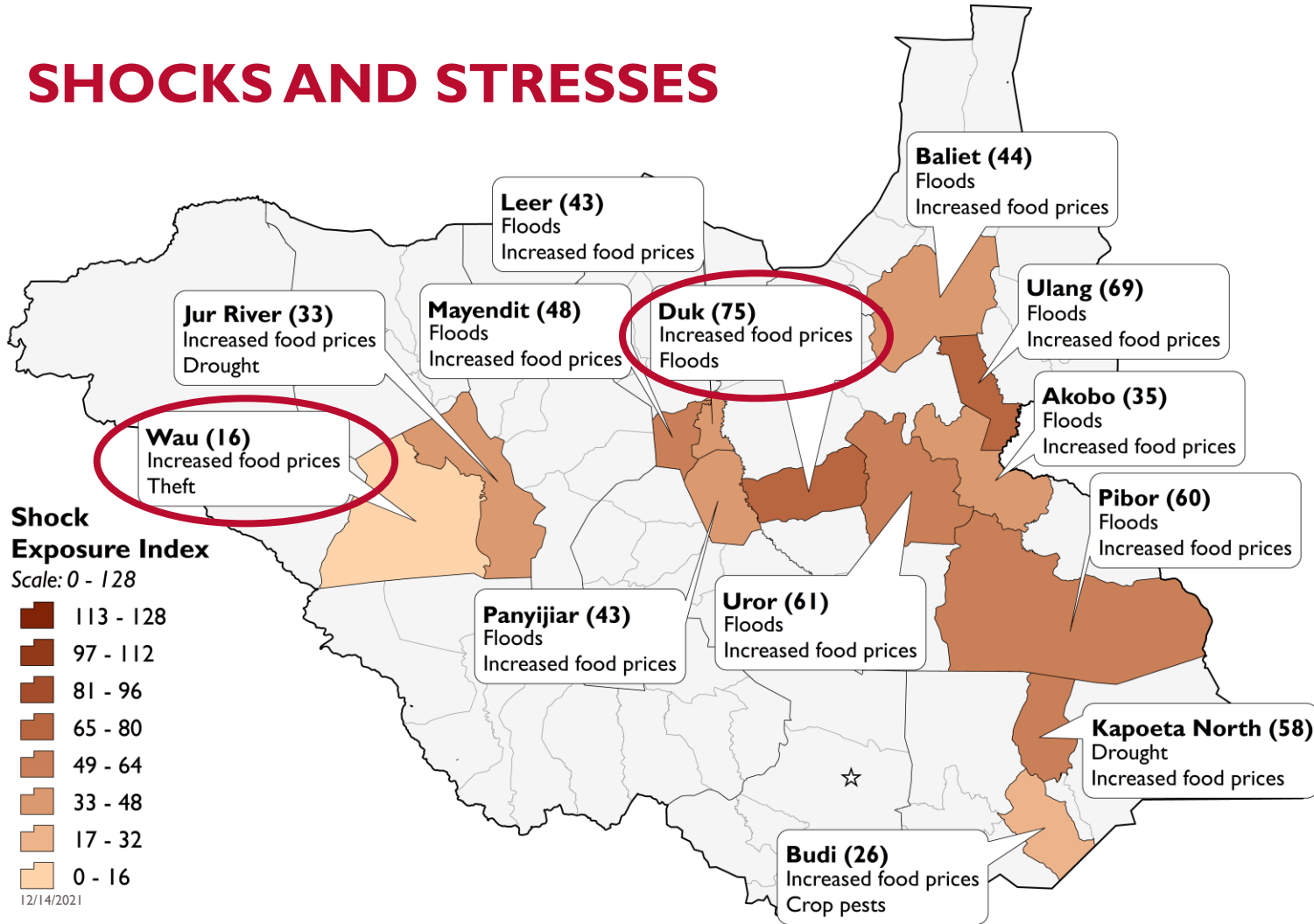
# SHOCKS AND STRESSES

## Shock severity (0-8)





# SHOCKS AND STRESSES



**Shock exposure index map** – study counties are colored by their mean value score with the top 2 shocks highlighted per county

# STRESSES (CONFLICT)



❑ Incidence of conflict

❑ Types of conflict

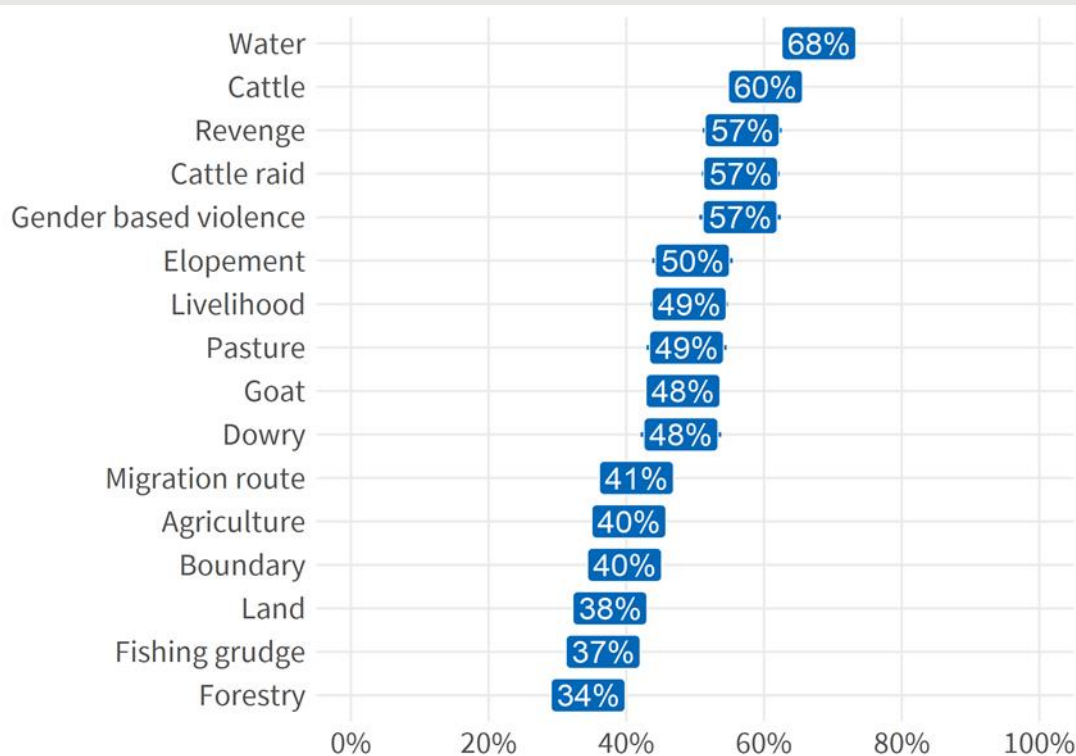
**38%**

In previous  
6 months

## Key Takeaways

- Water, cattle/revenge killing, and gender-based violence the most common types of conflict
- Cattle raiding/revenge killing the most damaging conflicts
- Majority of disputes resolved by elders or through dialogue
- Disputants satisfied with elders' mediation in 1/3 of cases

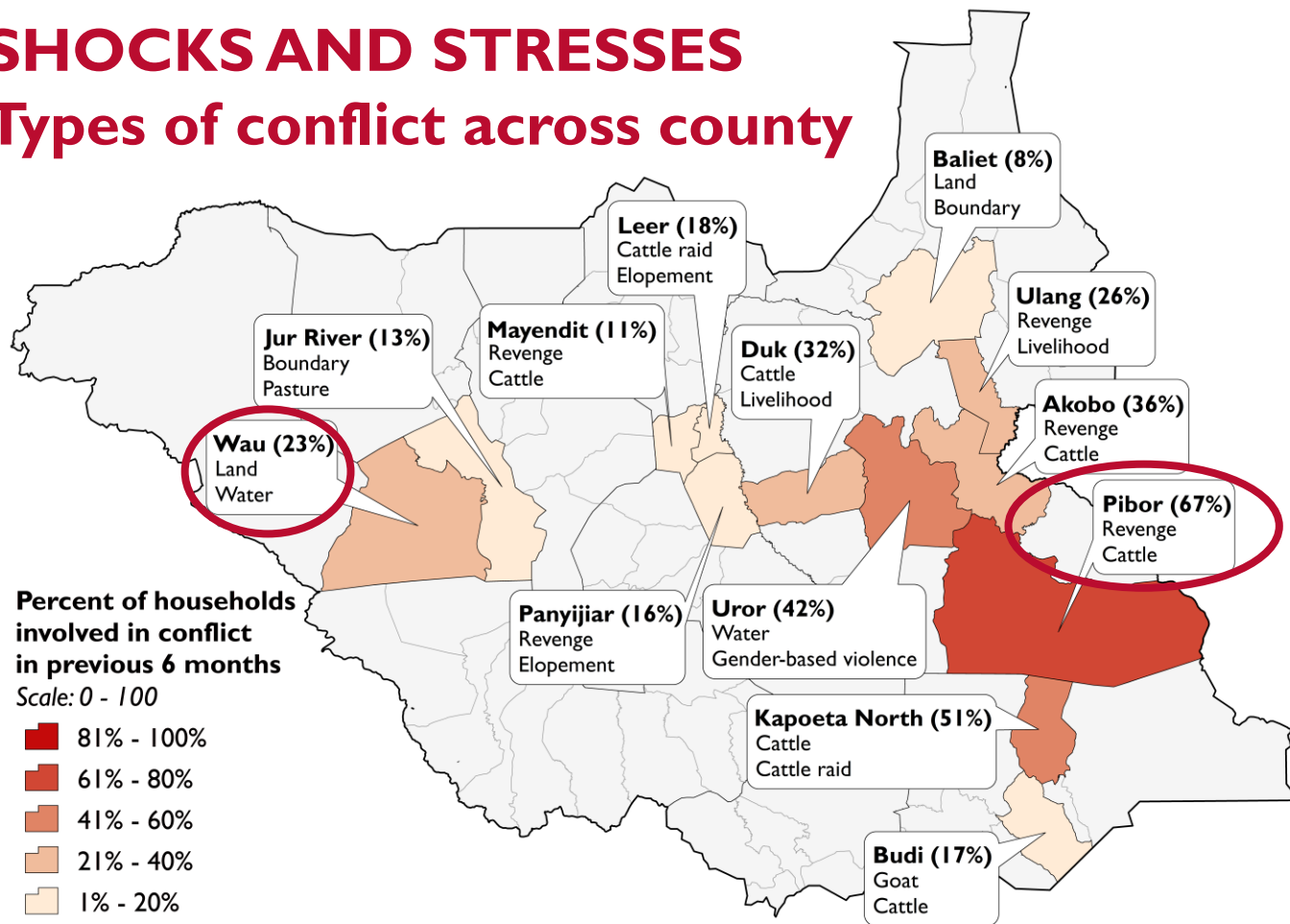
# STRESSES (CONFLICT)



- Water most common conflict
- Second tier of conflicts regard cattle, revenge, and gender-based violence
- Cattle-raiding and revenge were most damaging conflicts to households

# SHOCKS AND STRESSES

## Types of conflict across county



Overall reported conflict types:

- Water (68%)
- Cattle (60%)
- SGBV (57%)

Survey counties map – top 2 reported conflict types per county



“Two important elements of resilience that the Mission will focus on, as contextualized to South Sudan, are **agency** and **social cohesion**, both of which are linked to social inequities and typically have an inverse relationship to conflict and trauma.”

- Mission strategy

# SOCIAL COHESION

39

(0-100)

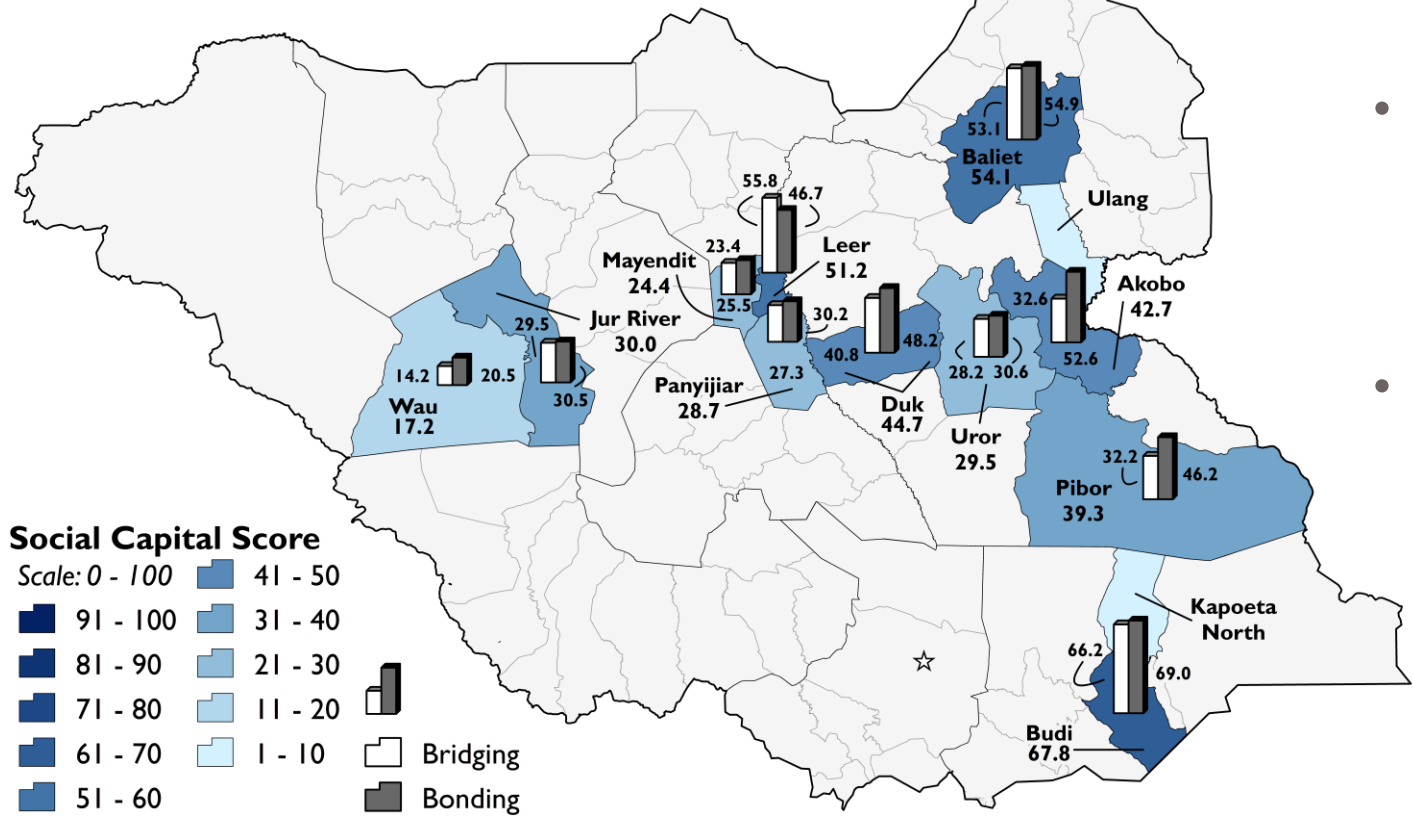
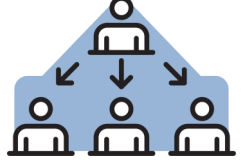
- ❑ Bonding Social Capital **43.3**
- ❑ Bridging Social Capital **34.6**

## Key Takeaways

- Achieving mutual-aid relationships with non-relatives within villages **more critical for cohesion** than achieving mutual-aid relationships with relatives across villages
- Bonding social capital easier to achieve than bridging social capital

# SOCIAL COHESION

## Bonding and Bridging Social Capital



- Leer only county where bridging social capital higher than bonding social capital
- Biggest disparities in Pibor and Akobo

“Aspirational thinking about one’s future is critical to stopping the negative coping mechanisms to environmental and man-made shocks that foster aid-dependency.”  
-Mission PMP

# AGENCY

**74.1**

(0-100 scale)

❑ Aspirations

**76.6**

❑ Locus of Control

**71.4**

## Key Takeaways

- Households are generally optimistic in their future outlook
- Aspirations for future increases as exposure to shocks/conflict increases

# SOCIAL NORMS



- ☐ Perception of SGBV
- ☐ Acceptance of Cattle Raiding
- ☐ Opinions of Educating Girls
- ☐ Early Marriage

## Key Takeaways

- **91%** of households stated **support for girls' education**
- **75%** acceptance of **cattle raiding** justified as revenge
- **73%** acceptance of **early marriage** justified by economic pressure
- **61%** acceptance of **sexual and gender-based violence** justified by household conflicts
- Shocks and conflict associated with increased support for harmful practices, while education associated with reduced support



# RESILIENCE



## *COPING STRATEGIES*

**Shocks /  
Stresses**

**Resilience  
Capacities**

- Dietary Change
- Rationing Strategies
- Decrease Numbers of People
- Sale of productive assets

**RESILIENCE  
OUTCOMES**  
(Ability to recover,  
food insecurity)

# RESILIENCE

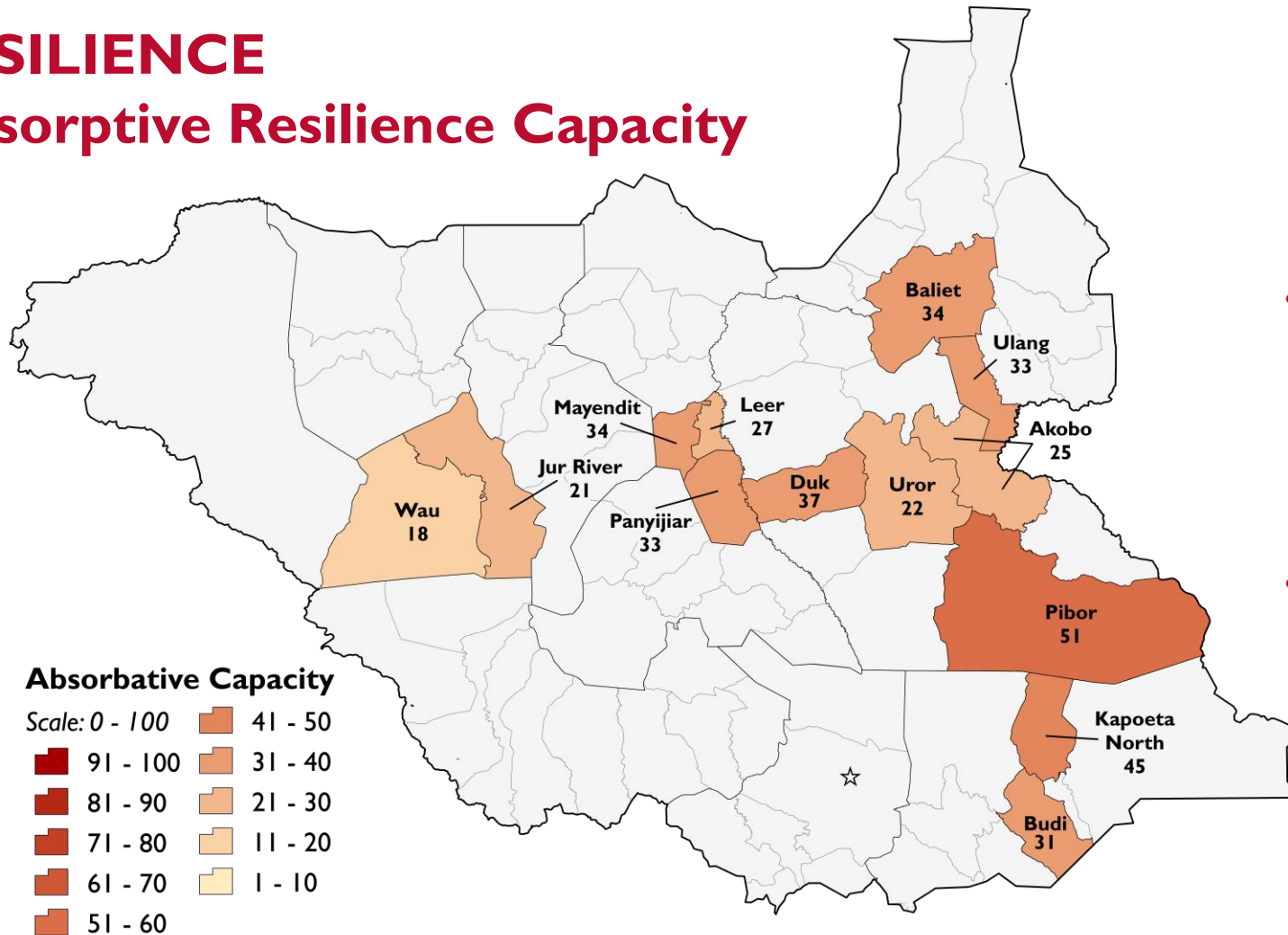
## Absorptive resilience capacity



Absorptive	Survey item(s)	Value
Availability of informal safety nets	Group membership	35.2
Bonding social capital	Mutual aid within community	43.3
Access to remittances	Income source	5.7%
Shock preparedness	Early warning systems	35.2
Shock preparedness	Emergency action plans	19.2
Access to humanitarian assistance	Aware of donor activity	44.3%
Overall absorptive capacity		32.5

# RESILIENCE

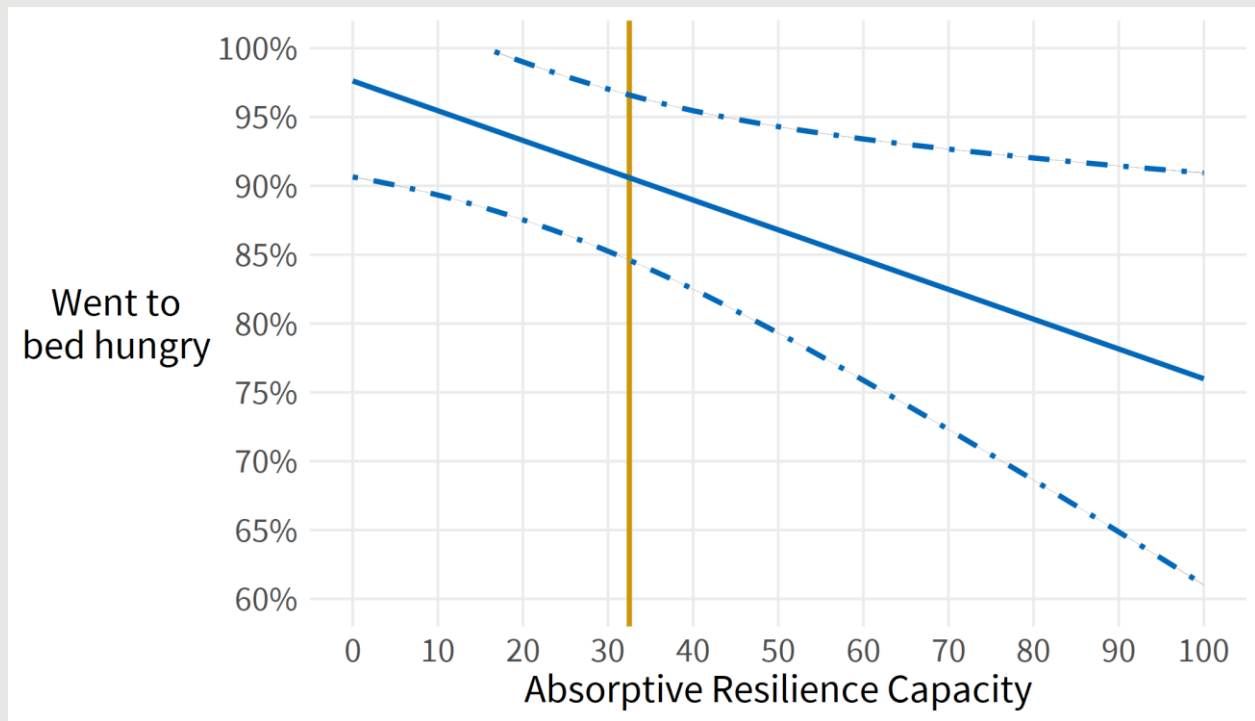
## Absorptive Resilience Capacity



- **HIGHEST:**
  - Pibor (51)
  - Kapoeta North (45)
- **LOWEST:**
  - Jur River (21)
  - Wau (18)

# RESILIENCE

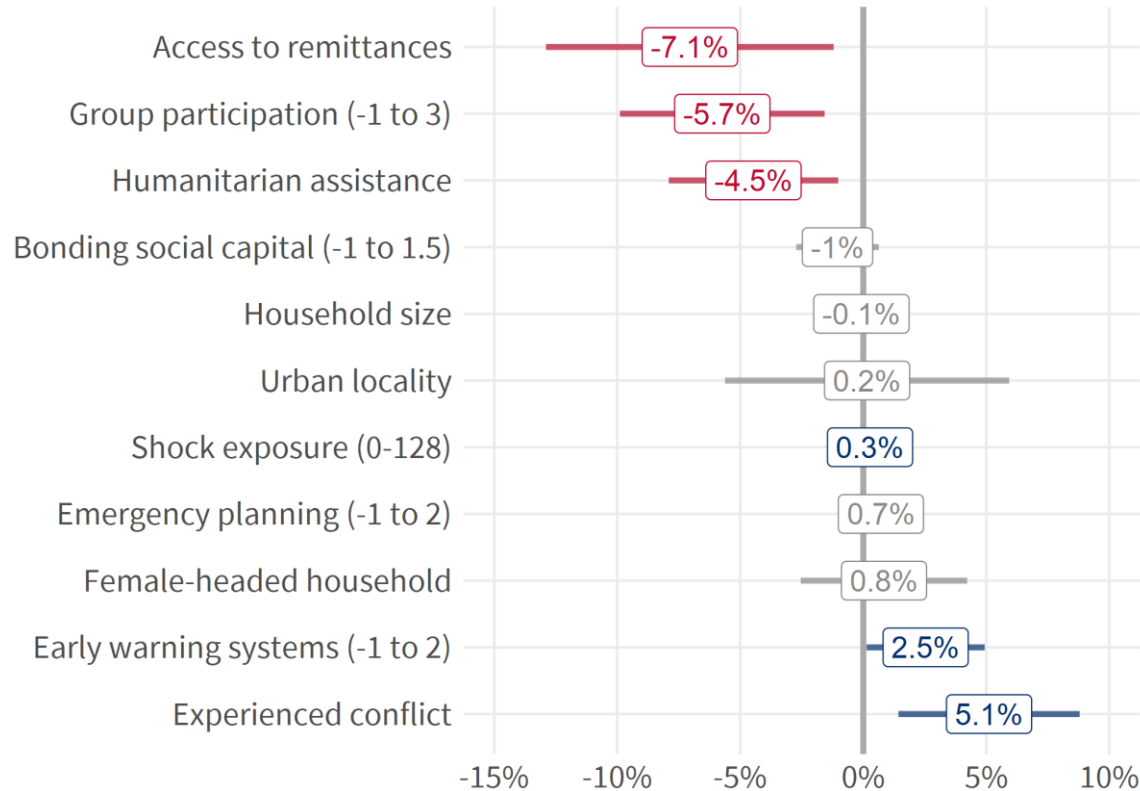
## Higher absorptive capacity reduces food insecurity



- 88% of household reported going to bed hungry in past 30 days
- Absorptive resilience capacity in priority counties is 32.5 on a 0-100 scale
- Improving absorptive capacity by 20 points is associated with a reduction in food insecurity by 5.8 percentage points

# RESILIENCE

## Disaggregates of absorptive capacity and food insecurity



- Donor activity in the community is associated with a 4.5 percentage point reduction in food insecurity
- Group participation associated with lower food insecurity, but may reflect a more permissive environment
- Early warning systems associated with an increase in food insecurity, but this may reflect the targeting of plans to areas of highest need

# DISCUSSION



## Summary of Findings/Conclusions

- ❑ USAID/South Sudan has a valid baseline to measure its 2020-2024 strategy
- ❑ USAID/South Sudan has additional baseline measures on resilience capacities
- ❑ Increases in resilience capacity were associated with improvements in well-being outcomes (ability to recover from shocks, food insecurity)
- ❑ Food security a better outcome measure of humanitarian assistance outcomes than dietary diversity
- ❑ Resilience capacity measures (agency, cohesion) tended to be higher in areas with higher incidence of shocks and conflict, and could therefore be considered a form of coping strategy

# Suggestions for consideration

- ❑ Conduct follow-up studies to examine relationships between resilience capacities, coping strategies, and subsequent well-being
  - disparities in bonding and bridging social capital
  - additional social norms information (i.e., education, household power distribution, food access, informal safety nets)
- ❑ Collect additional data on food security, coping strategies
  - ❑ Add food security as a PMP indicator if feasible
  - ❑ Incorporate outcome monitoring into beneficiary surveys

# Thank you!

For more information about this baseline, please contact the South Sudan MESP team.





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# STOP

—

# END PRESENTATION



# ADDITIONAL SLIDES

---

Supporting slides for the main slide deck.

# RESILIENCE

## Index construction



### Food for thought

- TANGO (2018) relies on index variables that are the sum of a set of survey items. An index that is the simple sum of its constituent items means that each item carries the same weight in its contribution to the index – a strong and often unwarranted assumption
- Factor analytic routines examine the correlation structure of a set of items and properly weight each item according to its unique information content.
- Index variables from factor analysis can be rescaled to a range from 0-100 to help with interpretability and reporting



# FOOD SECURITY –

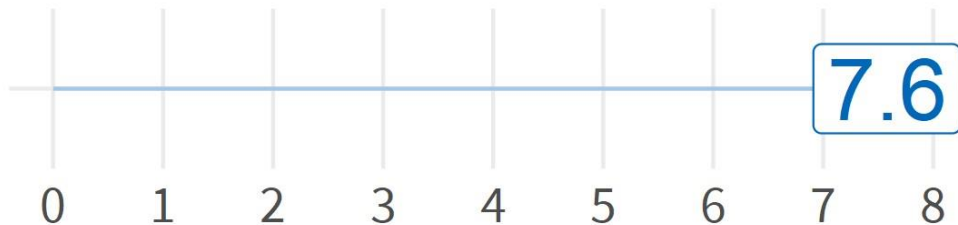
## Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)



90.2% of households report severe food insecurity

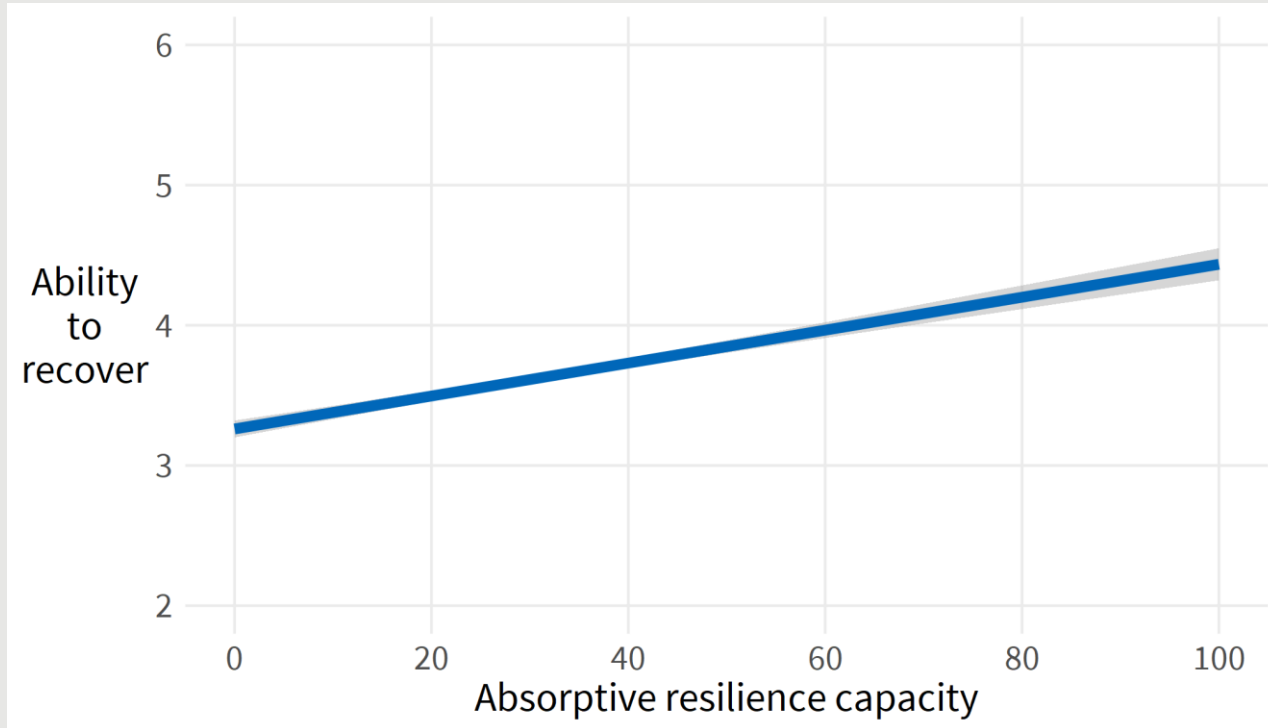
Mean scale value 7.6

Mild			Moderate			Severe	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worried about not enough to eat	Unable to eat healthy	Reduced dietary diversity	<b>Skipped a meal</b>	Ate less than needed	No food in household	<b>Did not eat</b>	Went a day without eating
94.7%	94.8%	94.9%	94.4%	95.2%	94.7%	94.7%	94%



# RESILIENCE

Higher absorptive capacity leads to greater ability to recover



# RESILIENCE

## What is it?



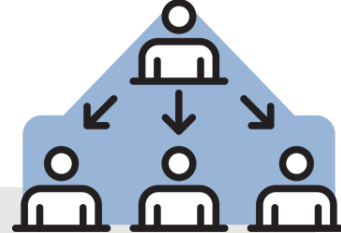
- Resilience is the ability to handle shocks
- Resilience is measured both as an outcome (food security, ability to recover from shocks), and as a capacity (absorptive, adaptive, transformative)

### Development Objective 2 Household Resilience Increased in Targeted Areas

“If USAID is intentional in layering and sequencing development assistance in 13 target counties intended to diversify diets, improve food security and nutrition, and address basic health and education outcomes, then household resilience will be increased, and these beneficiaries should need less humanitarian assistance in the future when encountered by shock.”

# SOCIAL COHESION

## Index

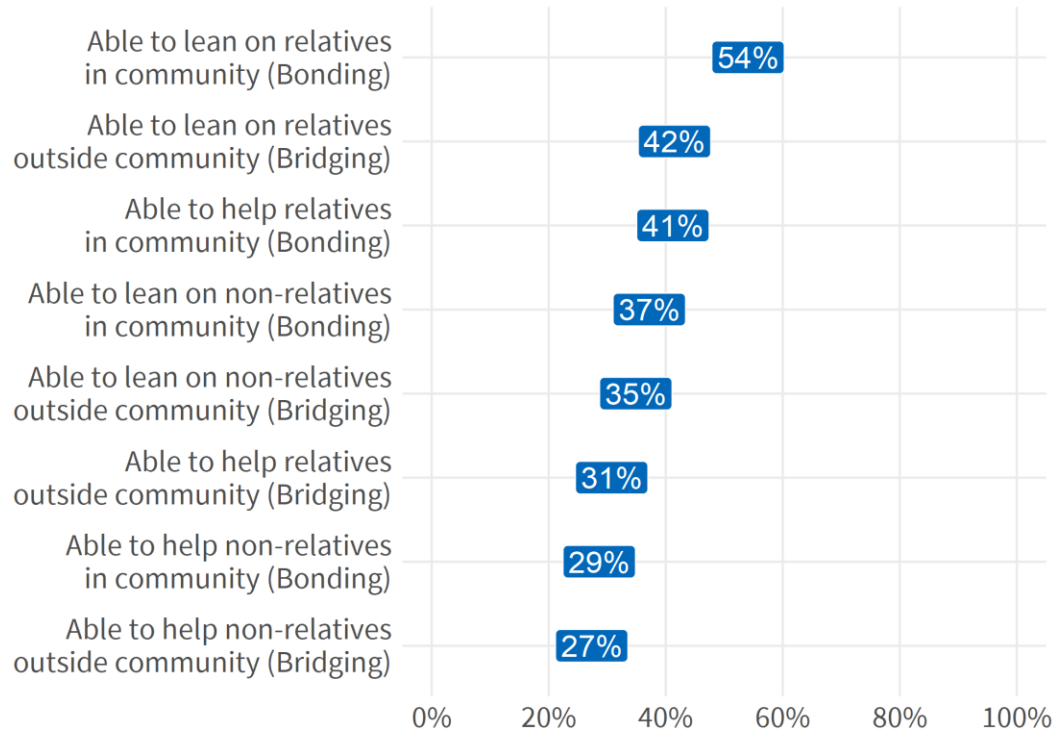
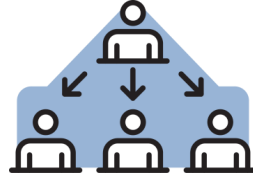


### Food for thought

- The current instrument measures social cohesion in terms of mutual aid across relatives / non-relatives, and within / across villages
- Additional measures for incorporation into social cohesion could be considered
  - Collective action within / between villages
  - Generalized trust across social or ethnic divides

# SOCIAL COHESION

## Bonding and Bridging Index items



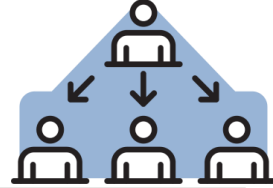
- **BONDING**

- Mutual support within communities
- Ability to lean on non-relatives in community has highest discrimination

- **BRIDGING**

- Mutual support across communities
- Ability to lean on relatives outside community has highest discrimination

# ASPIRATIONS Index



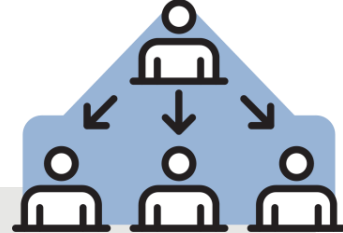
## Food for thought

- Following TANGO (2018), the resilience baseline includes a related index measuring the perceived locus of control. Given some internal / construct validity concerns about the aspirations index, incorporation of the locus of control index could improve data quality.
- Better understanding is needed of households' **aspirations window**, in which some future needs are perceived as reasonably attainable, while other future needs are not (Rao et al 2020; Ray 2006).



# SOCIAL COHESION

## Index

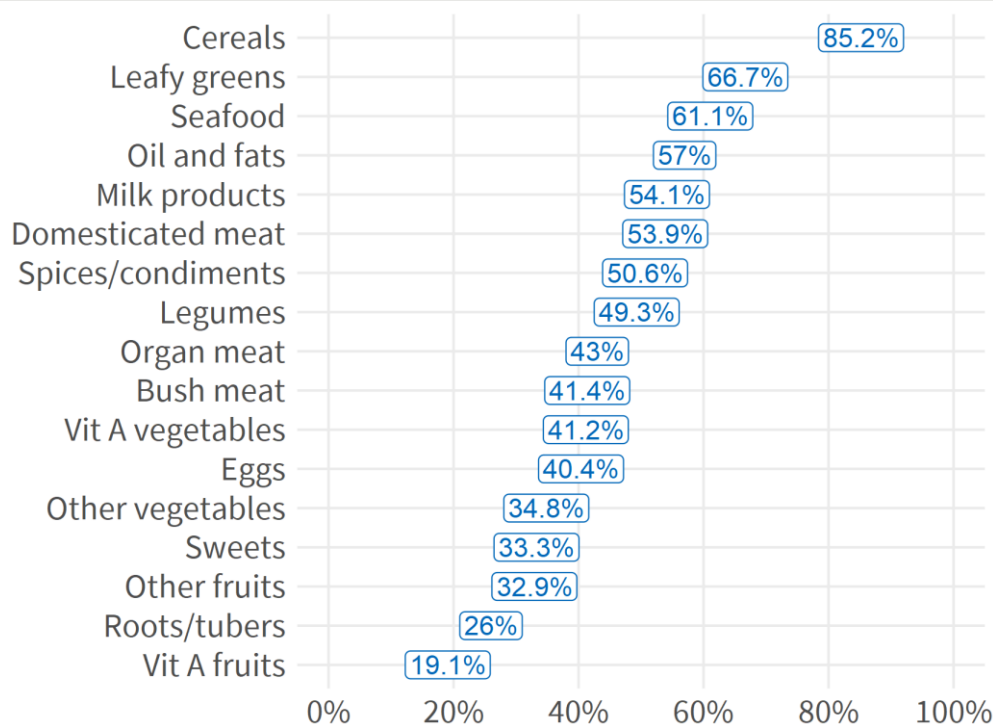


### Food for thought

- Surveying in the USAID priority counties provides the critical baseline measures of need
- Surveying only the most critical areas might make it more difficult to document change (see food security)
- Expanding data collection to an additional 4-6 counties may help provide crucial context against which to assess changes in USAID priority counties

# FOOD SECURITY

## Most common foods in household diet



- Consumption of any meat is the best indicator that the household also has a high overall dietary diversity

# Survey demographics

## Household income sources

