

# PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

## Perceptions Survey Data Overview

[View the full Survey Report](#)

### SURVEY OVERVIEW

This interactive data report presents the key findings from a survey conducted in South Sudan, by PeaceRep, Detcro, USIP and other partners, and allows users to explore and gain insights from this one-of-a-kind data source.

*The three-wave survey recorded the views of 8,843 people from 12 counties across 9 states and special administrative areas, covering urban, rural and IDP camp environments. Respondents were asked questions about their daily experiences of safety, based on indicators of 'everyday peace' developed through focus groups. They also shared their views on a wide range of related topics, including elections, governance arrangements, security arrangements, trust in public authorities, civic space, national identity, and social cohesion, among others.*

Wave Dates ● Aug-Sept 2021 ● Feb-Apr 2022 ● May - June 2022



3 12 8843

Waves Counties Total Respondents

[Go to Survey Sample Overview](#) →

### EXPLORE KEY FINDINGS PAGES ON...

[Go to Contents Page](#) →

Peace & Security



Public Authority



Governance



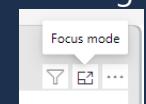
Elections



### TIPS ON USING DASHBOARD:

- Use the page at bottom to show list of pages or use the arrows to navigate to next page.
- Find links to all pages on the contents page (next page) or links to relevant pages at the bottom of 'Key Findings' pages.
- Use ctrl+ to select more than one value from a filter, or a visualization.
- When clicking a data point on a chart/visual, the rest of that page will highlight the relevant data for that selection. Hover over the highlighted areas for detail.
- To view a visual in full screen, use the 'Focus Mode' button, which is located at the top right of the visual when you hover.
- To return home (here), refresh browser, or click the PeaceRep logo at the top left corner.

[Find out more on the project](#) →



### Peace and Security

Perceptions of Peace & Security

Prospects of Peace

Everyday Safety Indicators Map

Currently at Peace?

Hope & Despair

At Peace & Everyday Security

Prospects & Everyday Security

Perceptions of Peace & Conflict

R-ARCSS Confidence

Perceptions of R-ARCSS

Perceptions of Conflict Levels

Conflict Levels (UCDP)

Perceptions of Conflict vs...

Sexual & Gender Related...

### Key Findings

Local Peace, Issues & Agreements

Awareness of Peace Processes

Community Peace

Local Issues

Peace Actors

Local Agreements in PA-X

### Public Authority

Authority & Peace

Care for Community

Authority & Peace Perceptions

Authority & Actors

### Key Findings

Dealing with Armed Groups

Authority & Safety

Dealing with Local Issues

Compliance with Authorities

### Governance

### Key Findings

Government Effectiveness

Government Reconciliation

Effective or Accountable?

Unification of Forces

What is most important?

Army Governance

Government Responses to Insecurity

Electoral System Preference

### Elections

### Key Findings

Perceptions of Elections

Voting Patterns & Influence

Should elections be held?

Political Parties Visions

Voting & Violence

Political Parties & Security Levels

### Other topics:

South Sudanese Identity

Defining own Identity

Tribes

### On a mobile phone?

View Everyday Safety levels →

View Political Parties visions →

**AUTHORS:** David Deng, Sophia Dawkins, Christopher Oiringa and Jan Pospisil

The authors would like to express their deep gratitude to the many people who made this study possible, particularly the thousands of South Sudanese from across the country who graciously made time to participate in the survey. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the African Affairs Bureau, Office of Sudan and South Sudan (AF/SSS), and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) for the financial support that made this study possible.

*The views in this report are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the views of Detcro, USIP, AF/SSS, or FCDO.*

### About the Authors:

#### David Deng

David Deng is a human rights lawyer who has been conducting research and advocacy in South Sudan since 2008. Deng's work has touched on a range of issues, including citizen perspectives on peace processes and transitional justice, land governance, and housing, land and property (HLP) rights, and local security and justice provision.

#### Sophia Dawkins

Sophia Dawkins is a doctoral candidate at Yale University researching peace processes, human rights and civilian protection issues. Sophia has worked in peacebuilding in South Sudan since 2010. She was a 2019-2020 US Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar, and her work appears in diverse outlets, including the Washington Post, Political Violence at a Glance, and peer-reviewed Journal of Peace Research and European Journal of International Law.

#### Christopher Oiringa

Christopher Oiringa is a lecturer at the Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies in the University of Juba. Since joining the University of Juba in 2013, his research has focused on peace and development, IDPs and refugees, and education in fragile contexts. He also studies how people, organizations and societies can better resolve their conflicts and innovate in response to complex problems. His work is highly interdisciplinary, drawing on social science, environmental studies, social psychology, philosophy and complex system theory.

#### Jan Pospisil

Jan Pospisil is Associate Professor at the Centre for Trust, Peace, and Social Relations at the University of Coventry. He is a co-investigator of PeaceRep, a FCDO-funded research program located at the University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on peace processes, political settlements, humanitarian negotiations, and resilience. Jan's most recent monograph on South Sudanese conflictscapes has been published with transcript in 2021. His previous monograph, "Peace in Political Unsettlement: Beyond Solving Conflict", has been published with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019.

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# PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

## Survey Sample

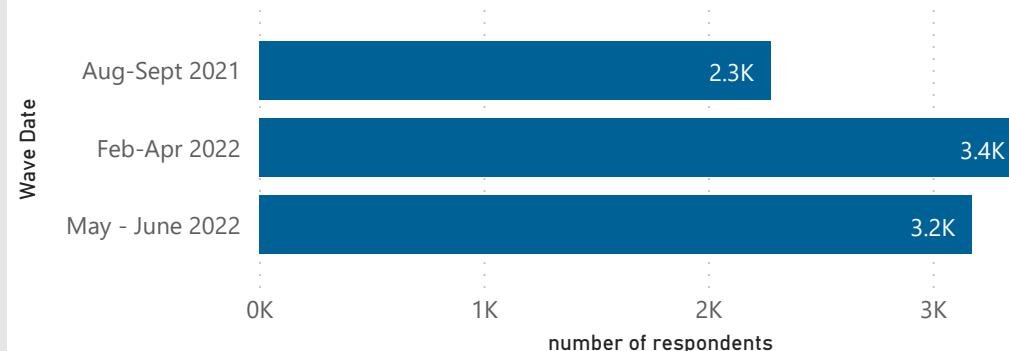


### SURVEY & SAMPLE OVERVIEW

3

Waves

#### Wave Dates and Number of Respondents



8843

Total Respondents

8

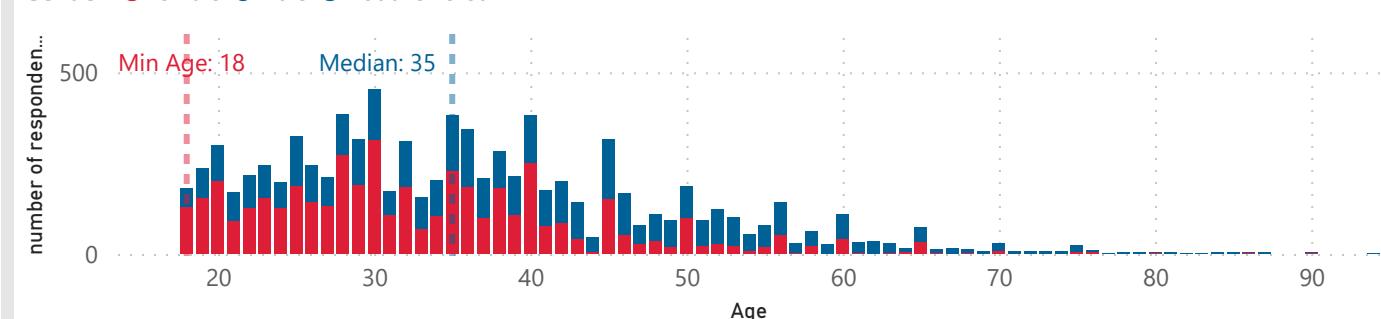
ADM1 States

12

ADM2 Areas

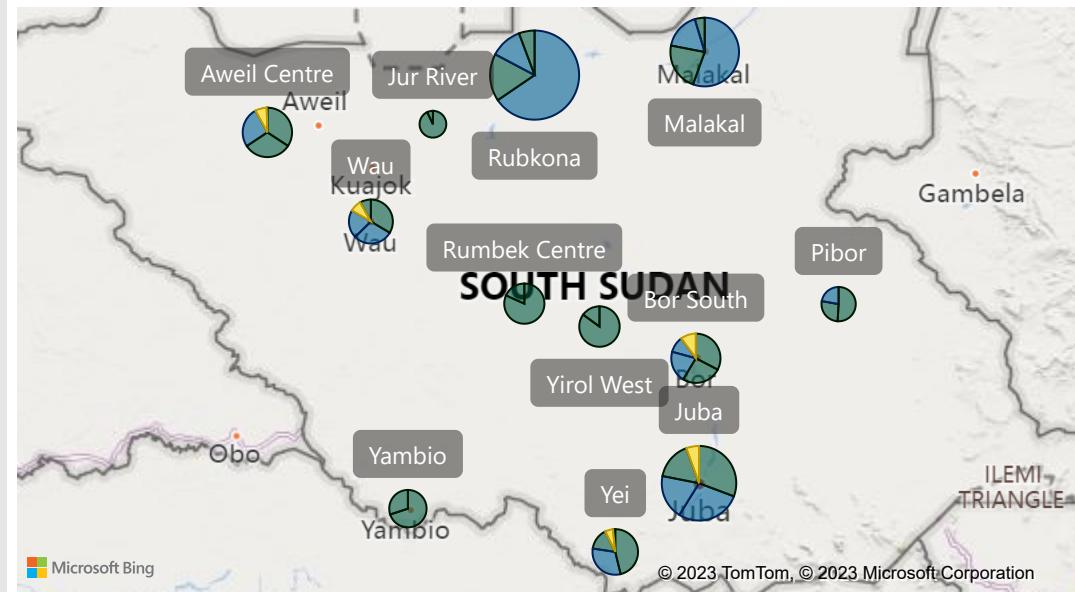
#### Gender and Age Distribution

Gender ● Female ● Male ● Not answered



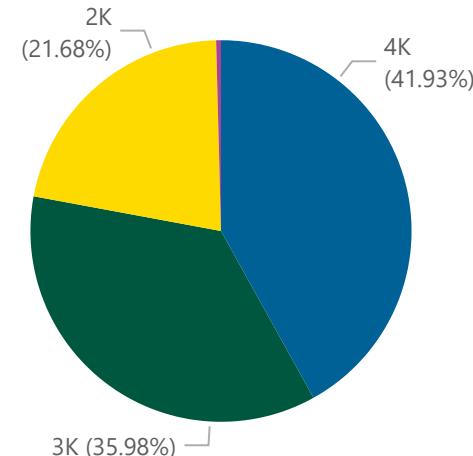
#### Respondents and Type of Environment by ADM2 Level

Environment ● IDP camp ● Rural ● Town ● Urban ● Village

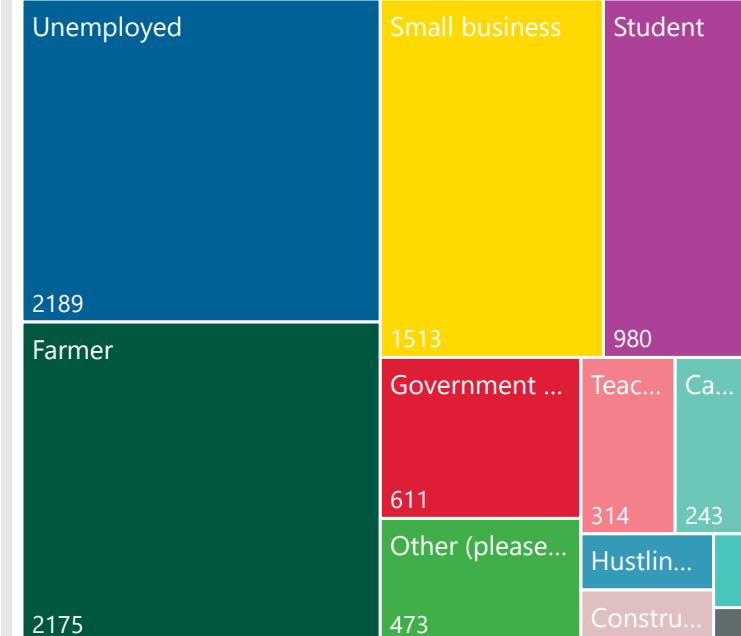


#### Displacement Status

● IDP ● Neither ● Returnee ● Not answered



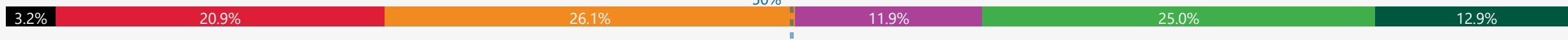
#### Occupation





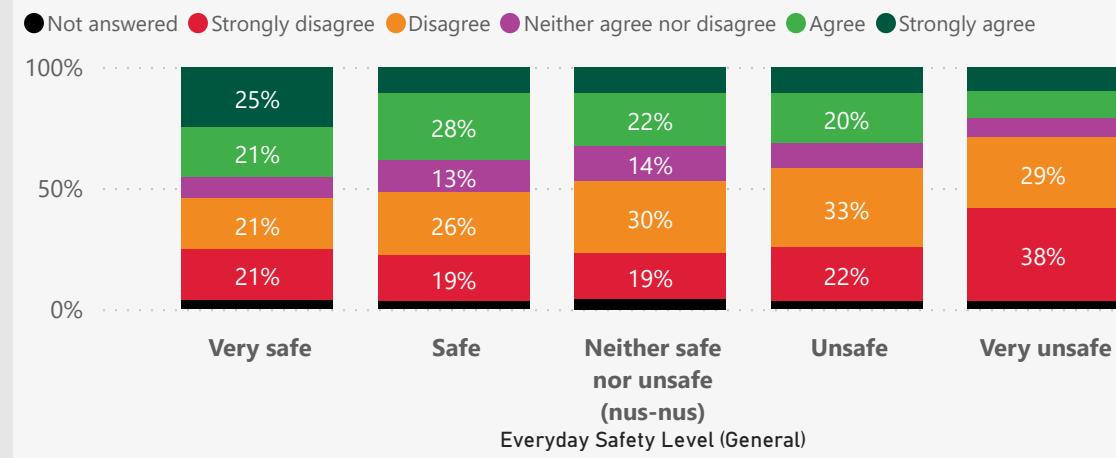
**1. More respondents **disagreed** (~47% strongly disagree/disagree) than agreed with the statement: "the national government cares about my community"**

● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree ● Strongly agree



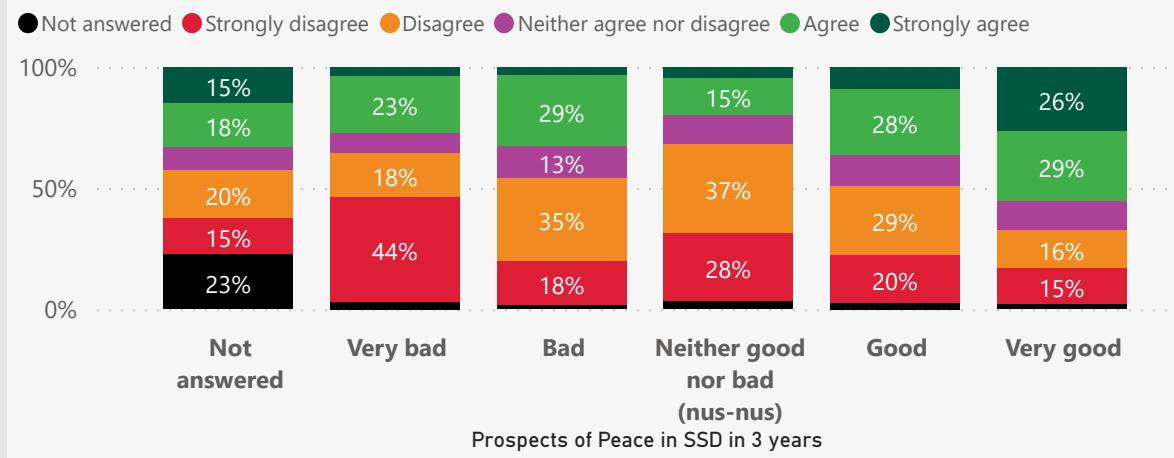
Respondents were more likely to **disagree** with the statement if their everyday security levels (across all indicators) feels '**unsafe**' or '**very unsafe**'.

Respondents by Everyday Safety Levels



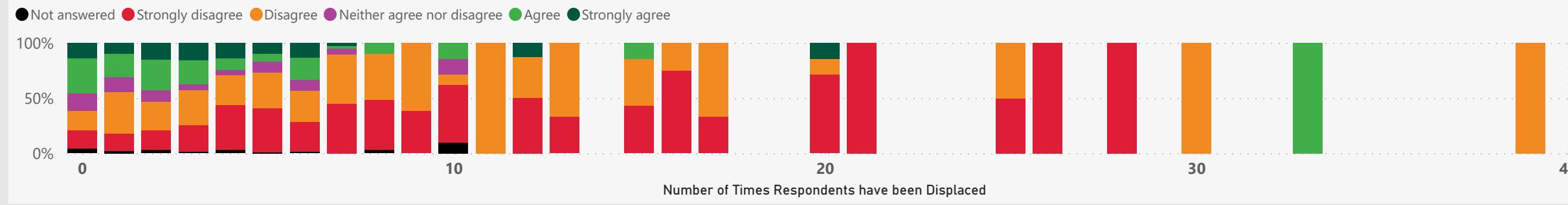
Respondents were more likely to **disagree** with the statement, if they were **pessimistic** about the prospects of peace in the next 3 years ('**very bad**' or '**bad**').

Respondents by opinion on Prospects of Peace in South Sudan (in next 3 years)



Respondents who have been **displaced more**, are more likely to **disagree** with the statement "**the national government cares about my community**".

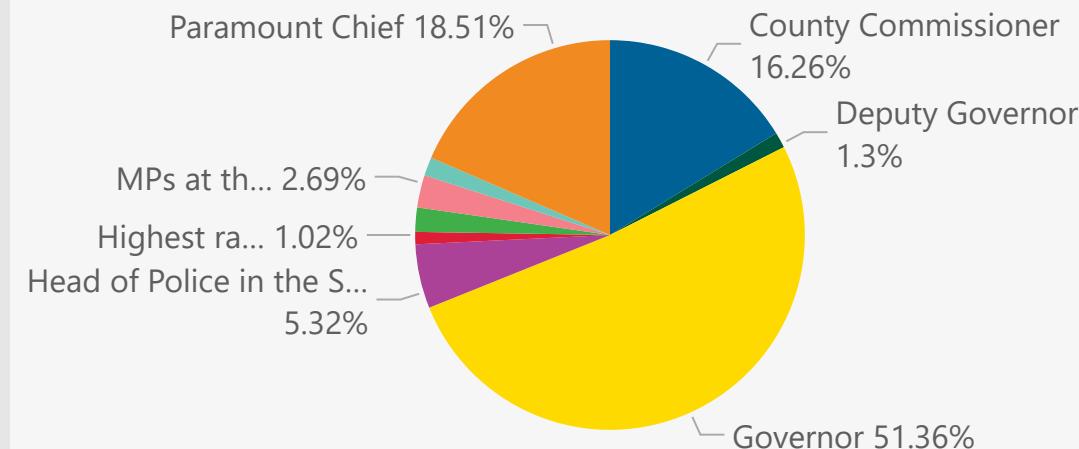
Respondents by Number of Times Displaced



**2. Responses to the question: "who is most influential in making decisions about the safety of your community?" showed that National Political Leaders have **limited influence** in decisions about safety at a local level. **Governors** and **County commissioners** are **most influential** in the majority of areas.**

However, this is not the case in outlier **Aweil**, as the **majority** (~55%) believe that the **Paramount Chief** holds the most influence in decisions about safety in Aweil (where a number of local agreements have been brokered by traditional authorities). By contrast, **only 2%** of respondents in **Rubkona** (where displacement levels are high) said the Paramount Chief was influential.

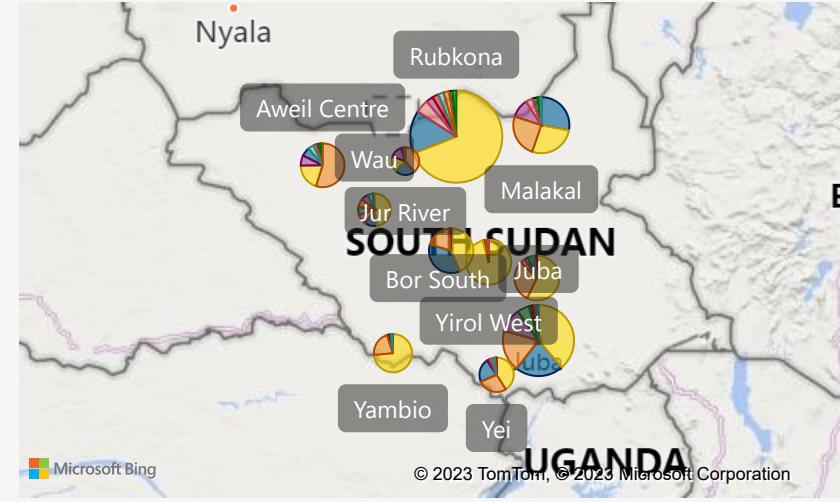
All Respondents



Respondents by ADM2

**Actors**

- County Commissioner
- Deputy Governor
- Governor
- Head of Police in the Sta...
- Highest ranking military ...
- Mayor
- MPs at the National Level
- MPs at the State Level
- Paramount Chief



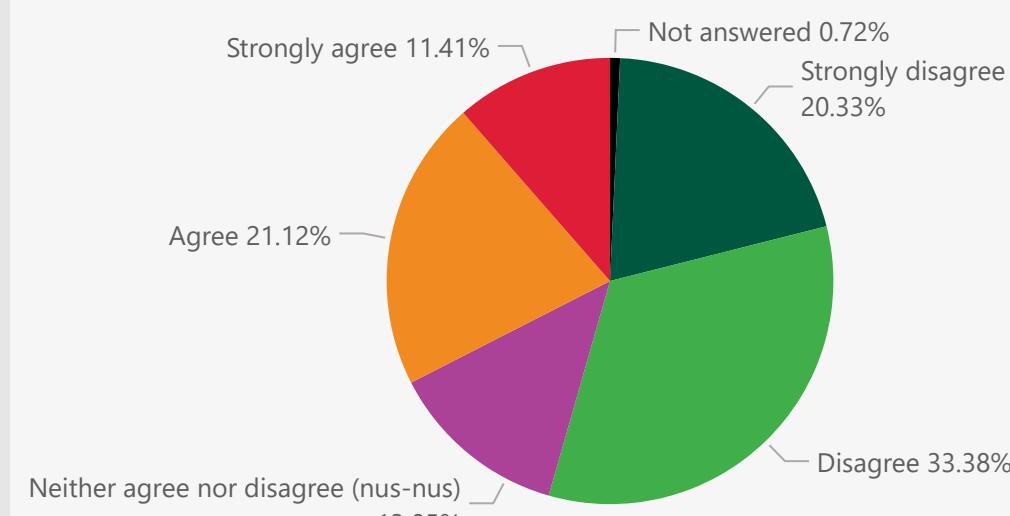
**3. Traditional Authorities are perceived to have power in motivating families to engage in armed struggle, with a **third of all respondents agreeing** with the statement:**

**"If Traditional Leaders in my community told my family that a member should join an armed group, we would comply."**

However, this varied by location; in **Yei, Yambio** and **Rumbek**, very **few** respondents agreed ('**agree**' or '**strongly agree**'). Whereas, in **Yirol West, Aweil, Bor South** and **Juba** **almost half** of the respondents felt that traditional authorities **could** encourage their family members to join armed groups ('**agree**' or '**strongly agree**').

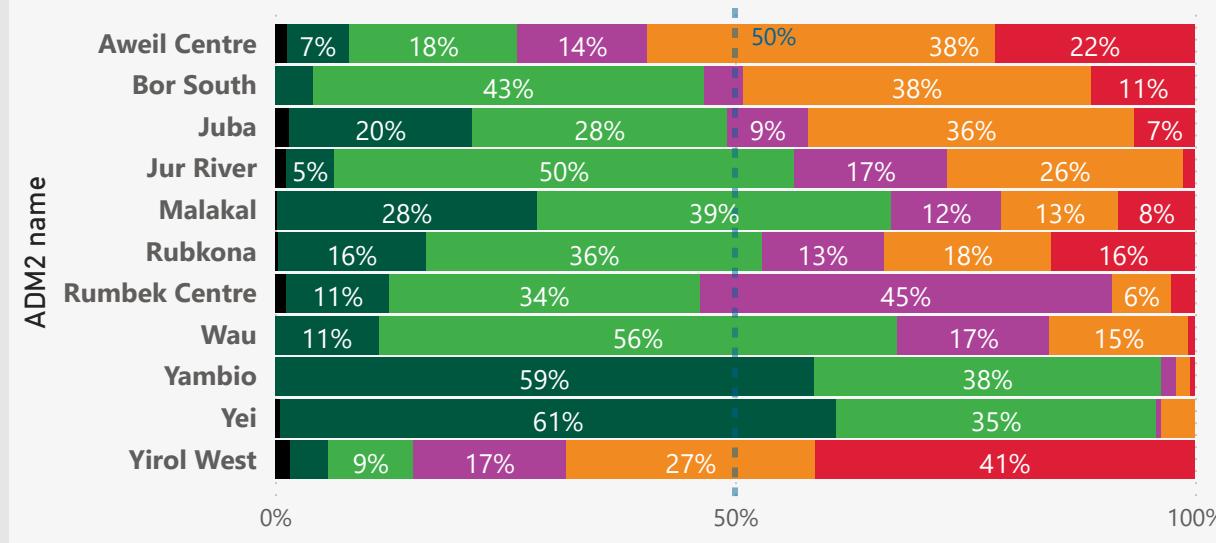
All Respondents

● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree (nus-nus) ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Respondents by ADM2

● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree (nus-nus) ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Although the majority disagreed with compliance to join armed groups, one third of all respondents agreeing ('**agree**' or '**strongly agree**') represents a high level of influence held by traditional leaders across the country.

These variations by location were **not** correlated with conflict exposure, displacement status or living environment. Thus, it seems that traditional authorities legitimacy is more strongly determined by social ties in every community.

**Conclusions:**

- National leaders face a legitimacy challenge; many citizens believe the national government neither cares about their community, nor has great influence to make decisions that effect their safety.
- The most unsafe, and displaced communities feel the weakest stake in national government - and these are the most difficult populations to reach through public consultations and service delivery. However, if they are continuously excluded, the national government will face difficulties in establishing a trusted and meaningful central state for all South Sudanese.
- National leaders should work through local leaders (formal and traditional) as they have high levels of trust among citizens, particularly traditional authorities, state governors and local governments.
- In contexts like Yirol and Aweil, policy makers may find traditional authorities to be an important partner in dissuading citizens to join armed groups.

Explore responses to questions related to **public authorities**, by location, environment, gender and other variables for the following topics..

Care for Community  
 LOCAL

Authority & Safety

Authority & Peace

Authority & Peace Perceptions

Authority & Actors

Dealing with Armed Groups

Compliance with Authorities

Dealing with Local Issues

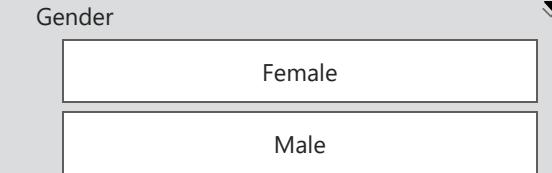
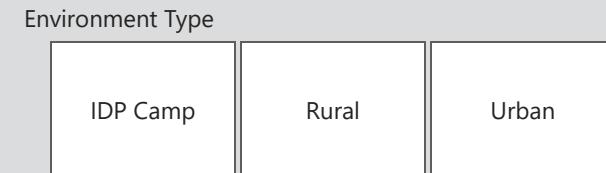
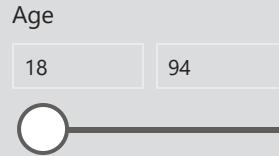
Q: "The National Government cares about my Community."

Wave 3

3173

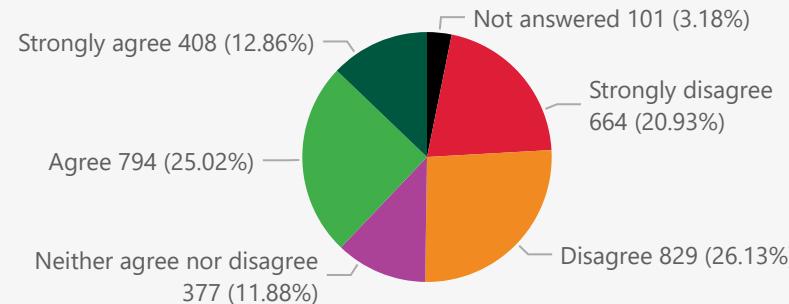
May - June 2022

Respondents



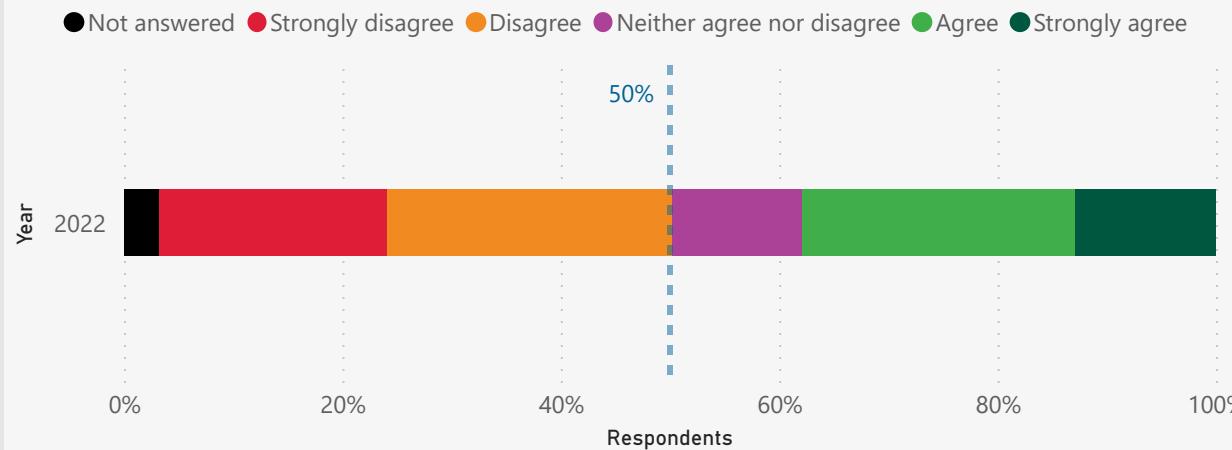
**Q: Do you agree with the statement: "The National Government cares about my community."**

Overall Respondents

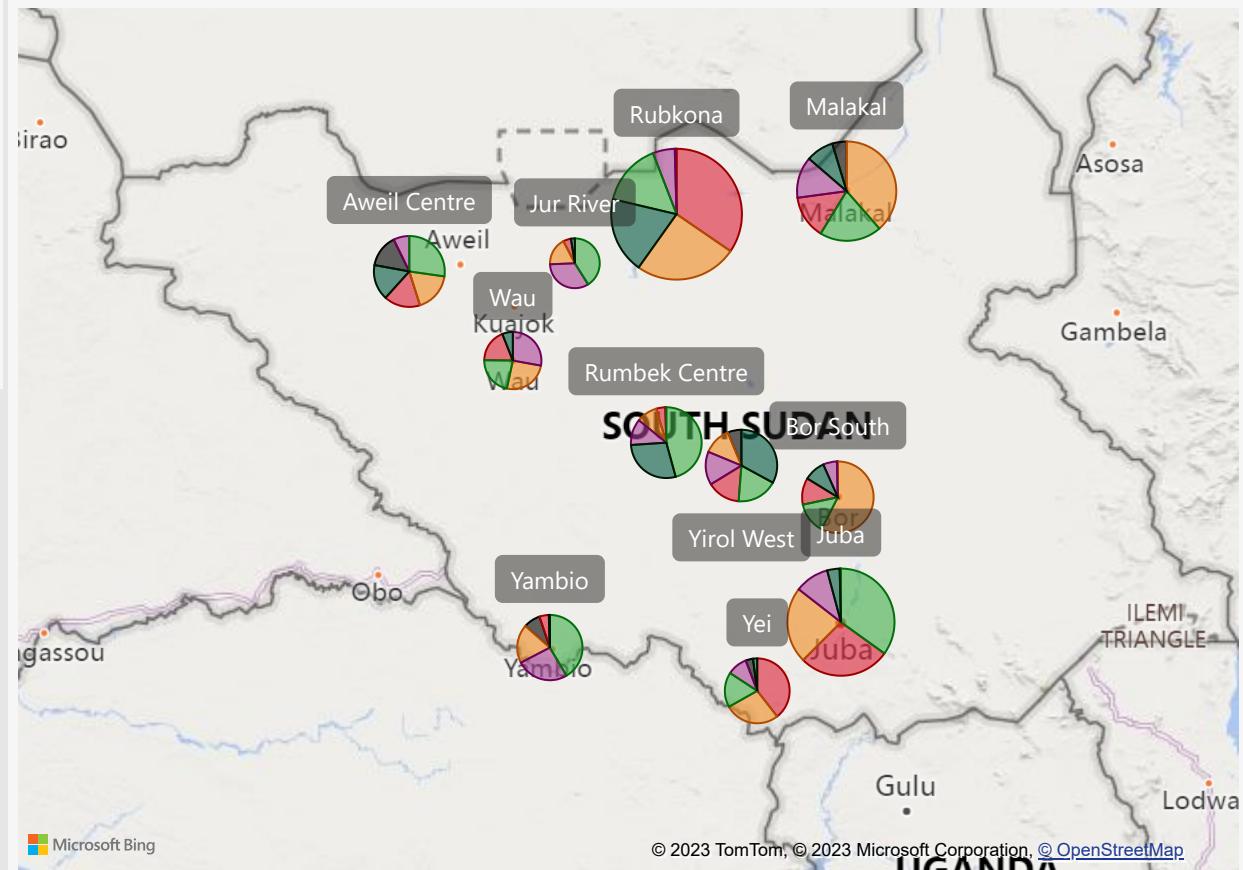


● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagr... ● Agree ● Strongly agree

Respondents by Year



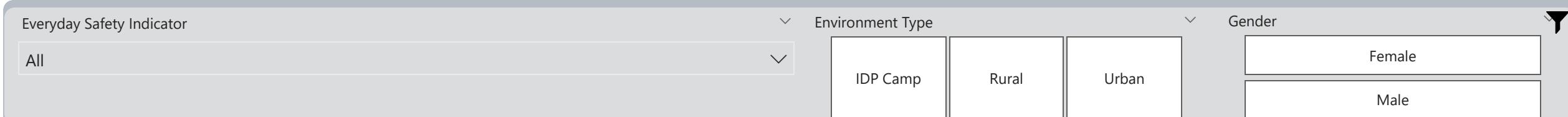
Respondents by Location



● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagr... ● Agree ● Strongly agree

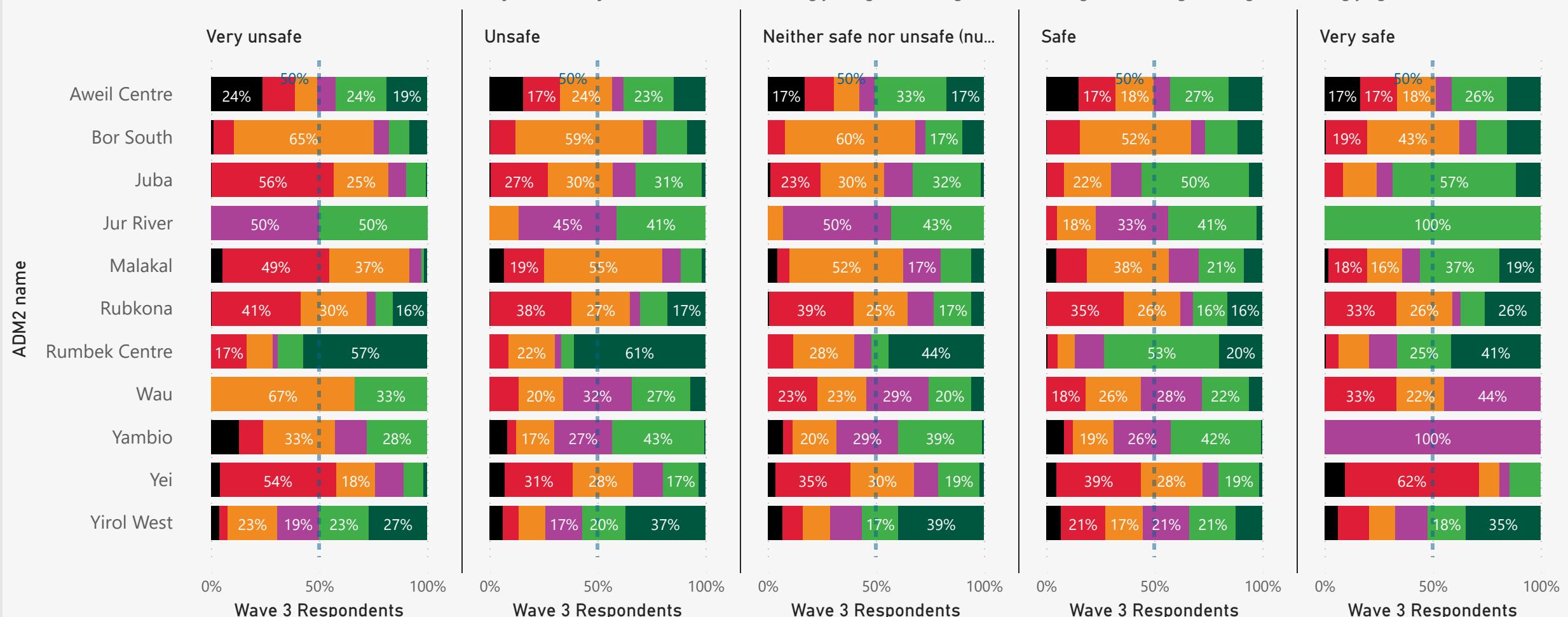
# PUBLIC AUTHORITY & Everyday Safety Levels

Q: "The National Government cares about my Community"

 Wave 3 3173  
 May - June 2022 Respondents


## Responses for the statement "The National Government cares about my community" & Everyday Security

"The National Government cares about my community" ● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Gender

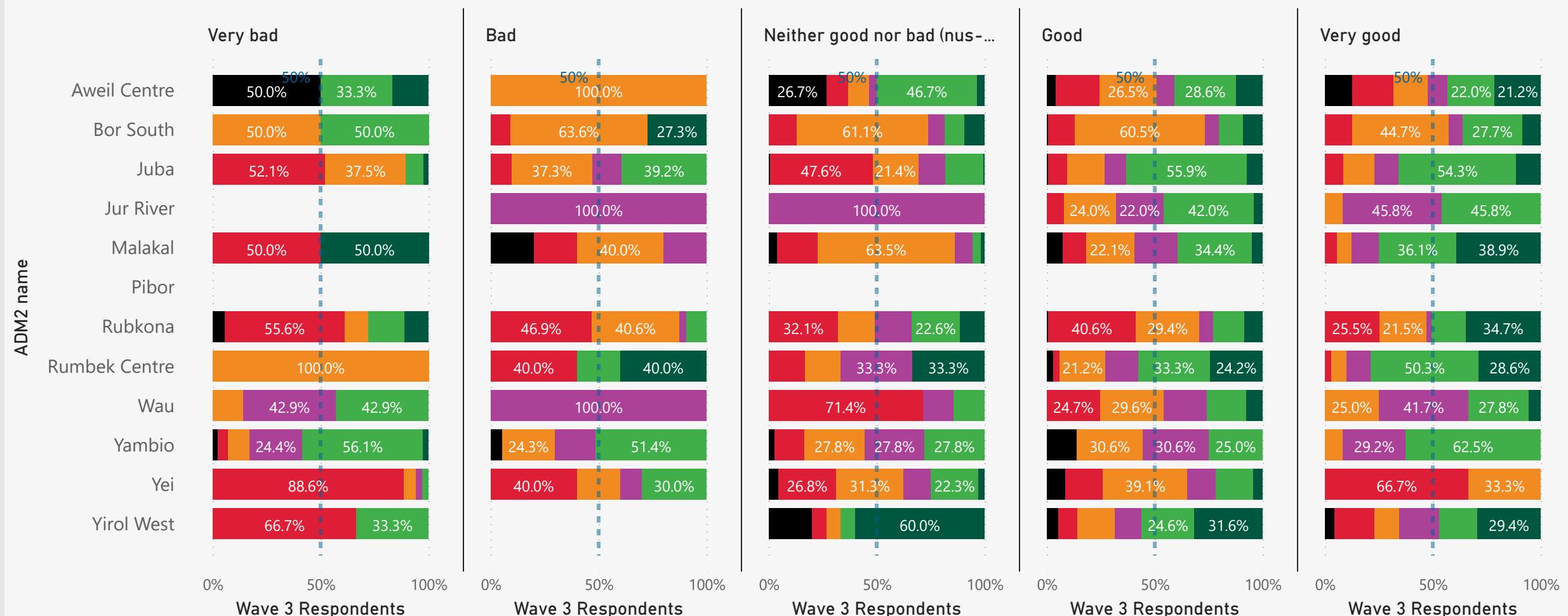
Female

Male



**Responses for: "The National Government cares about my community" & "In your opinion what are the prospects for peace in S. Sudan in the next 3 years?"**

"The National Government cares about my community" ● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Q: Do you agree with: "**The National Government cares about my Community**"  
 & Q: "**Is South Sudan currently at peace?**"



Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)

0      100



Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Gender

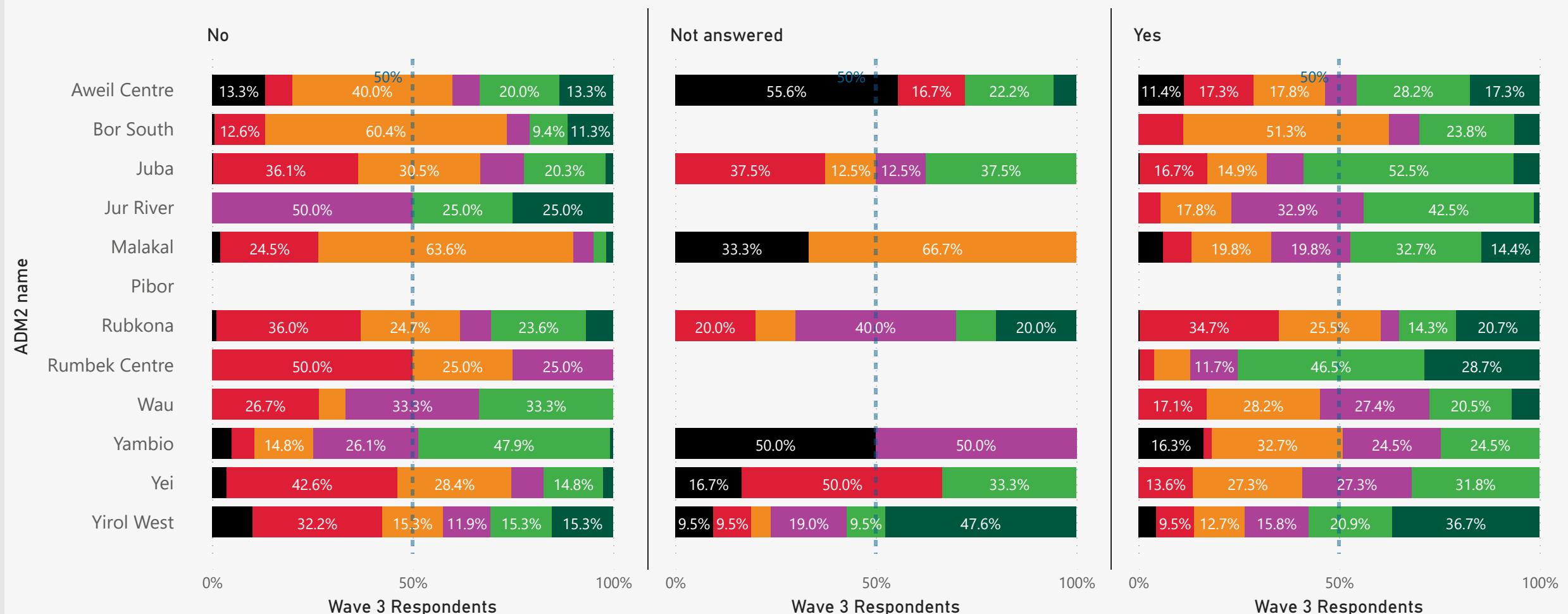
Female

Male



**Responses for: "The National Government cares about my community" & "Is South Sudan currently at peace?"**

"The National Government cares about my community" ● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree ● Agree ● Strongly agree





# COMMUNITY AND ACTORS

## Influential Actors within Community



Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)

0

100

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

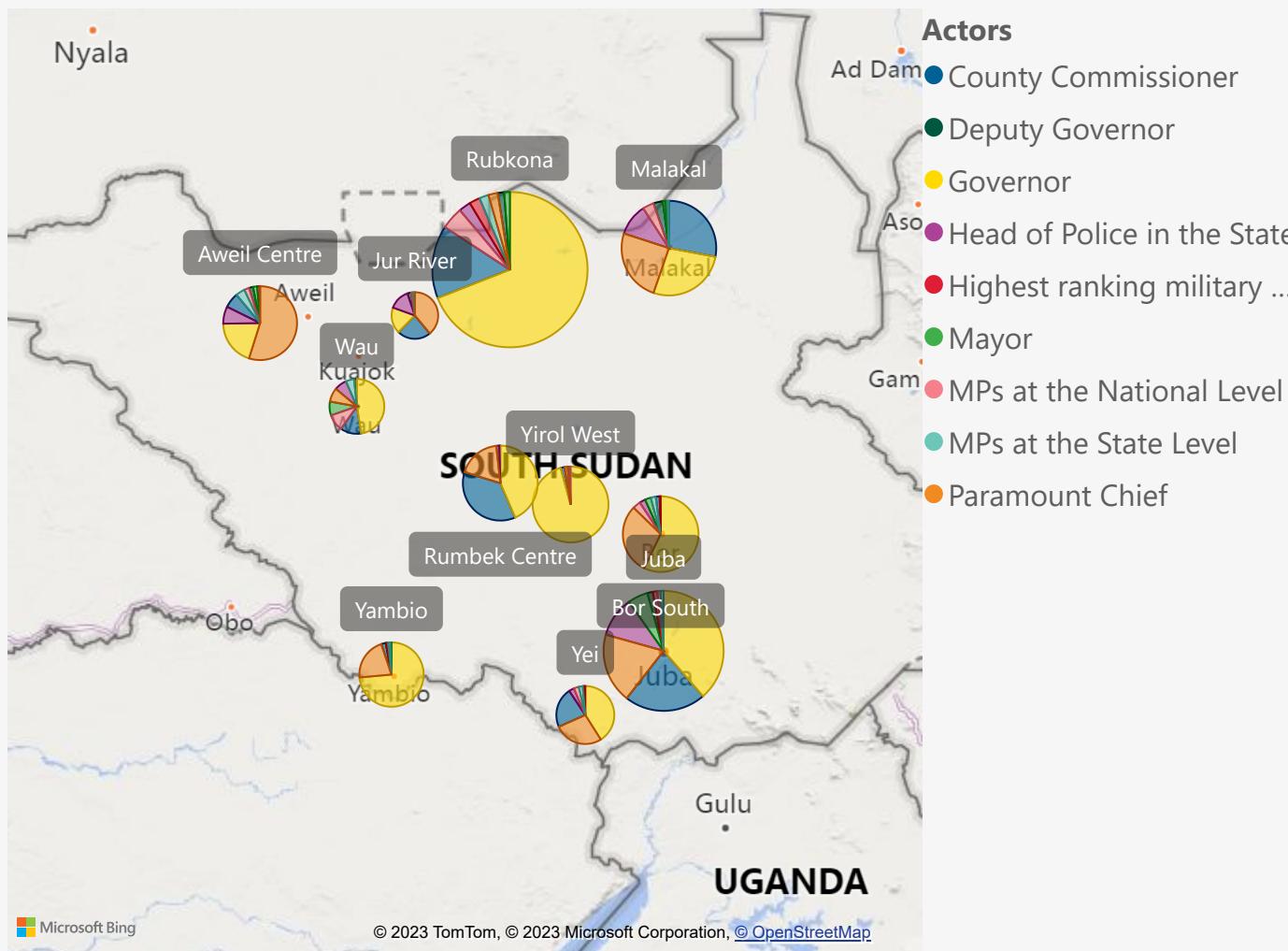
Gender

Female

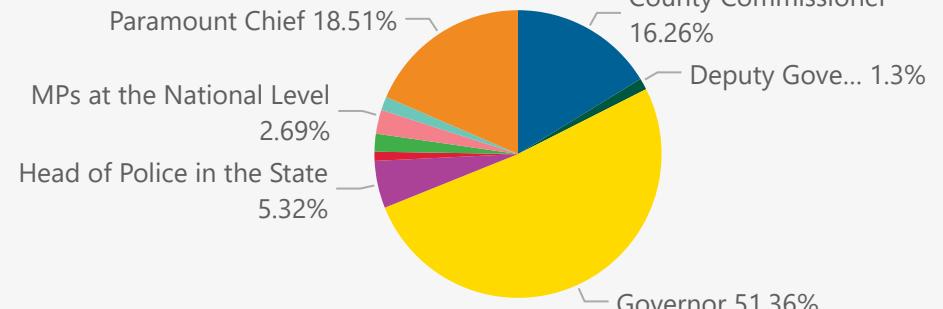
Male



### Q: "Who is most influential in making decisions about the safety of your community?"



#### All Respondents



#### Other (specified)

# COMMUNITY GRIEVANCES AND ACTORS

## Influential Actors and Comfort in Disagreements

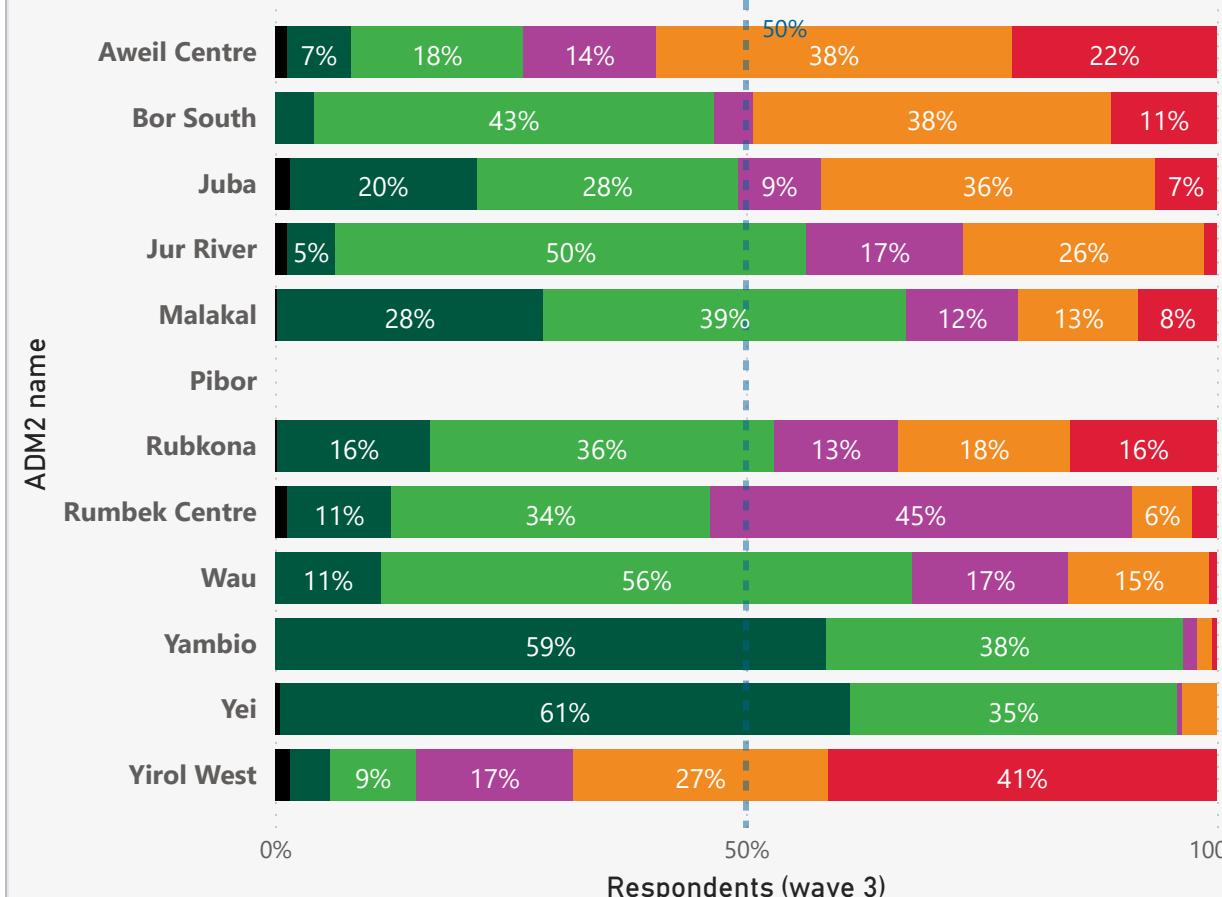


Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)




If traditional leaders in my community told my family that a member should join an armed group, we would comply.

● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree ... ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Environment Type

 IDP Camp

 Rural

 Urban

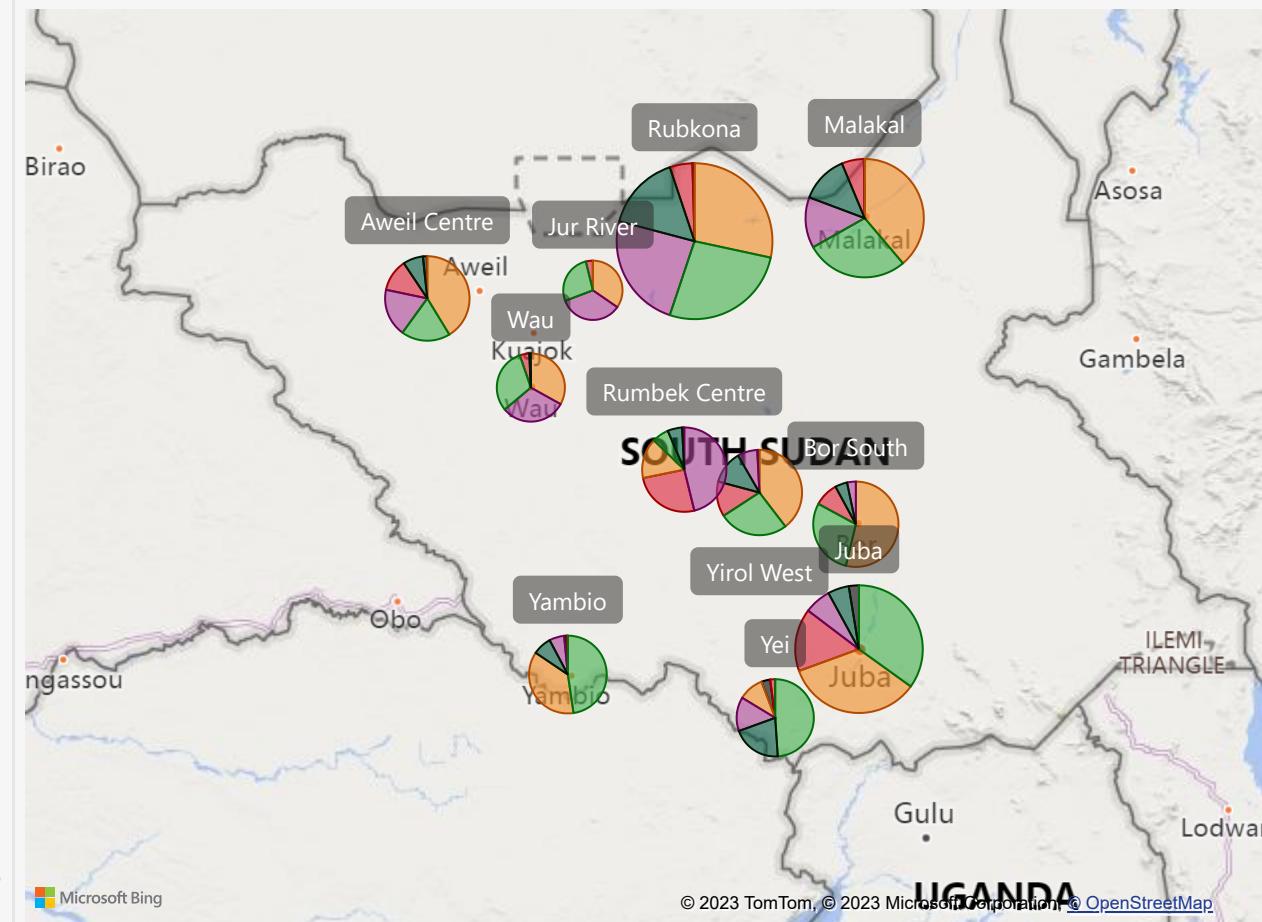
Gender

 Female

 Male


"I feel comfortable disagreeing about important issues with other members of the community."

● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree n... ● Agree ● Strongly agr...





# COMMUNITY GRIEVANCES AND ACTORS

## Influential Actors within Community - Armed Groups



Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)

0      100



Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Gender

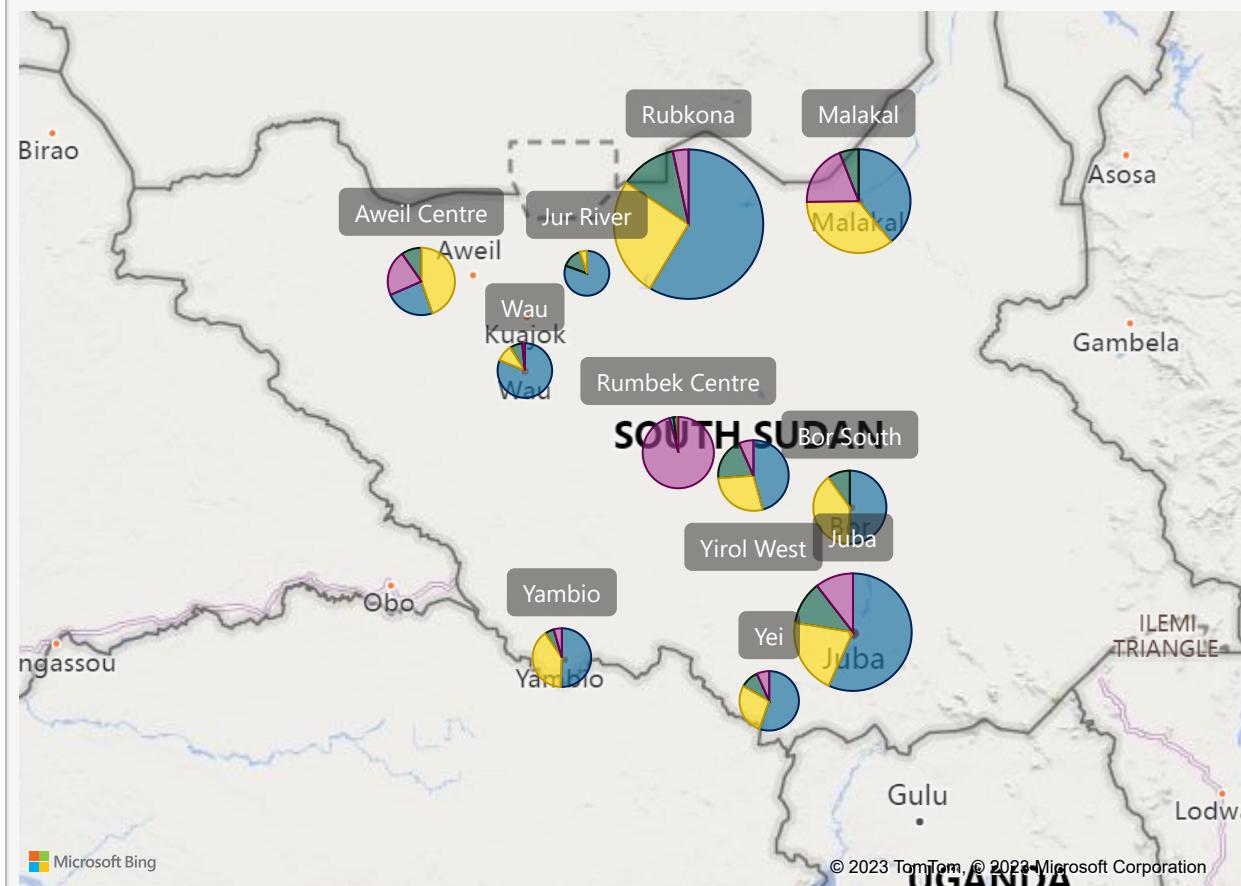
Female

Male

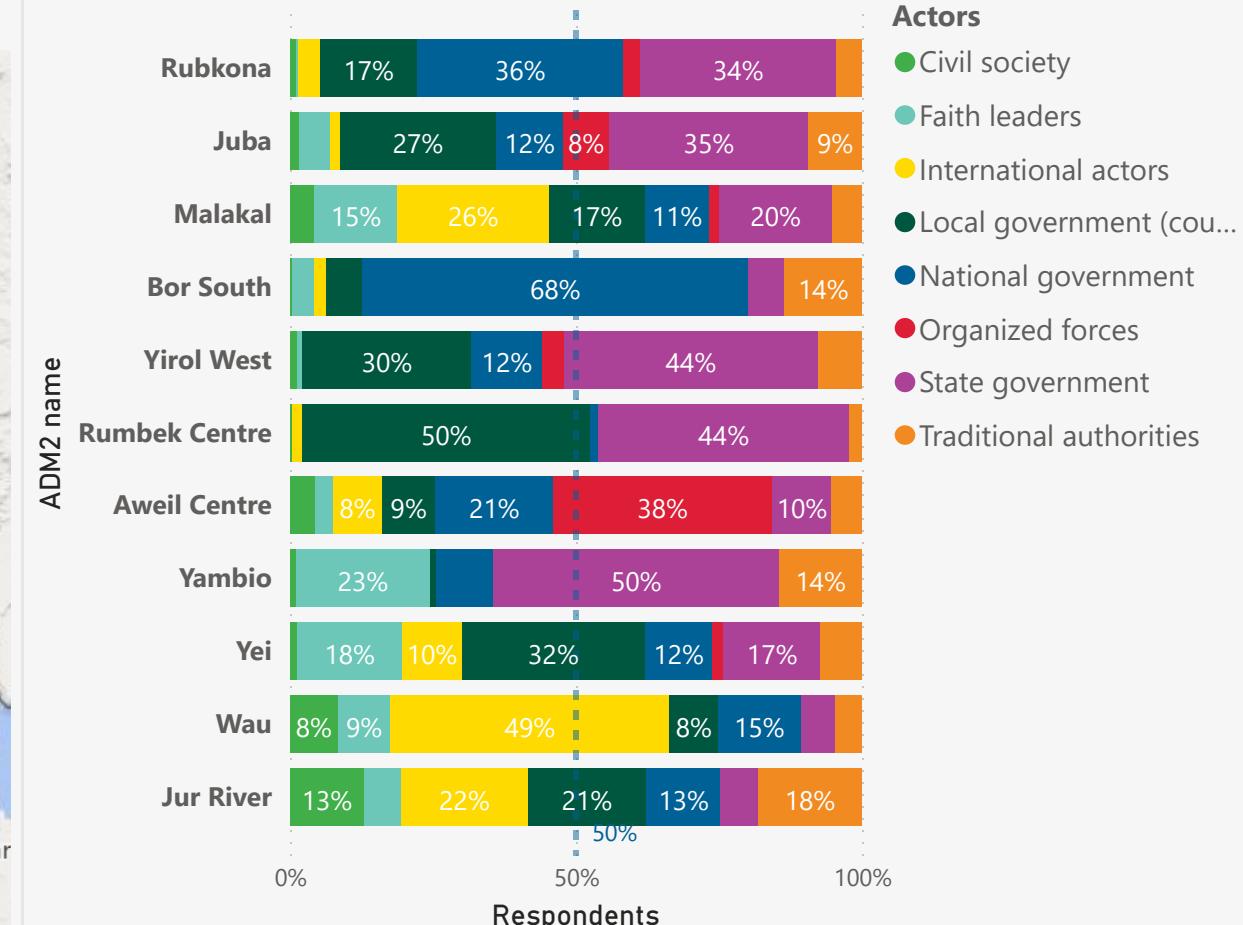


**When armed group are fighting in this area, is it primarily about national political issues, local political issues, both national and local political issues, or not about politics at all?**

- Both national and local pol... ● Local political issues ● National political issues ● Not about politics ...



**Which of the following actors do you trust most to help your community negotiate agreements with armed groups nearby so they can pass peacefully through your area?**



# COMMUNITY GRIEVANCES AND ACTORS

## Influential Actors within Community - Cattle-raiding



Number of times respondents have been displaced (&gt;=)




Environment Type

 IDP Camp

 Rural

 Urban

Gender

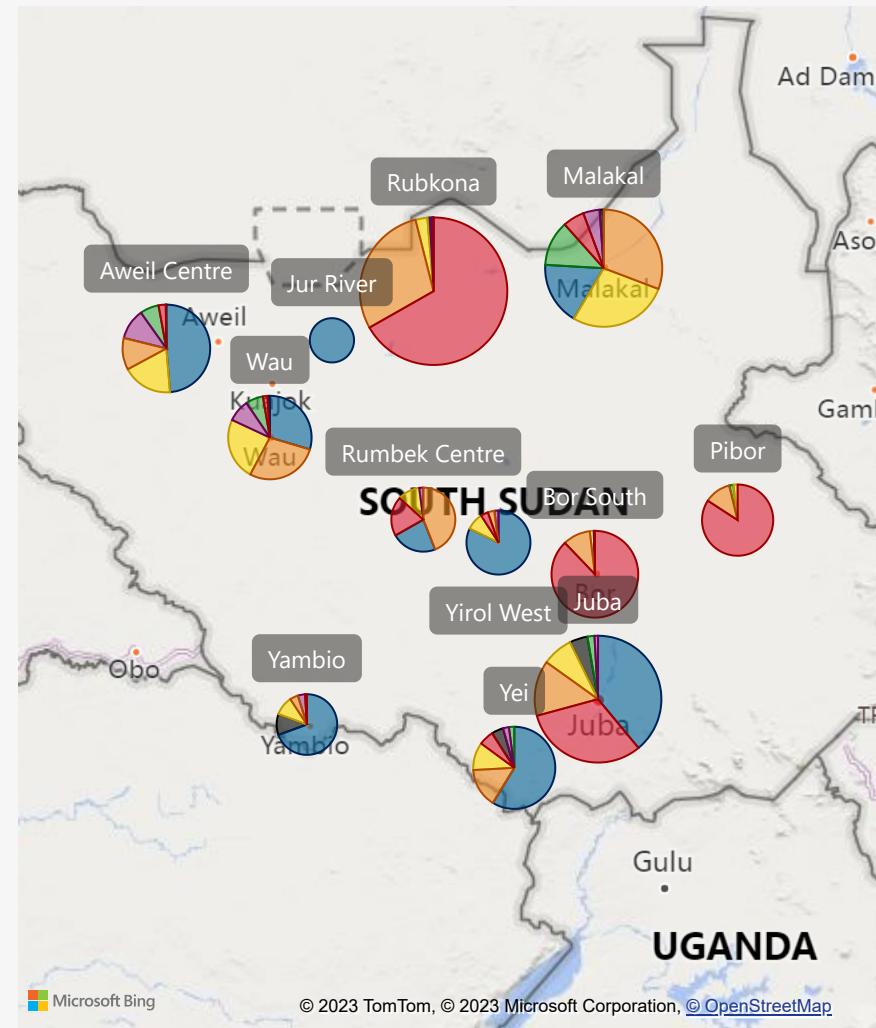
 Female

 Male


### How much of a problem is cattle-raiding in this area?

#### Responses

- Not answered
- Not a problem at all
- Very small problem
- Small problem
- Moderate problem (nu...
- Big problem
- Very big problem



### Which of the following actors do you trust most to help your community reach peaceful agreements about conflict over cattle?

