

STRUCTURED SUMMARY

AGRO-PASTORALISTS' ADAPTATION TO FLOODING AND CONFLICT IN GOGRIAL EAST, WARRAP STATE, SOUTH SUDAN

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Motivation

Agro-pastoralist communities in South Sudan face increasing challenges from climate change and inter-ethnic conflict. In Gogrial East County, recurrent flooding and cattle raiding have disrupted livelihoods, exacerbated food insecurity, and strained social cohesion. Understanding how these communities adapt is critical for informing policy and humanitarian responses.

Purpose

We explored the perspectives of agro-pastoralist men and women in Toch East and Pathuon West *payams* on the impacts of flooding and conflict; and documented the adaptations they employ in crop farming and livestock management.

Approach and methods

Cross-sectional mixed methods were used, including household surveys (n=96), 19 focus group discussions (FGDs), and 11 key informant interviews (KIIs). Sampling included random selection for surveys and purposive selection for key informants.

Quantitative data were collected using Kobo Collect and analysed using Excel, while qualitative data were coded and analysed using Dedoose software.

Findings

Flooding has increased in frequency and severity since 2018, leading to outbreaks of human and livestock diseases, reduced livestock production, destruction of farmland, and restricted access to markets and services. Adaptations include migration to higher ground, herd splitting, preventative health care for livestock, and dyke construction.

Conflict, primarily over cattle and grazing land, has resulted in loss of life, livestock and displacement. Communities have formed armed youth groups and altered migration patterns. Women and youth face disproportionate impacts, including increased workloads and exposure to violence.

Policy implications

Improved early warning systems (EWS), tailored veterinary services and climate-resilient infrastructure are needed to mitigate the impacts of floods. Conflict reduction requires community capacity-building, disarmament and support for peace-building. Humanitarian aid should address both food and non-food needs, giving special attention to gender-based violence and trauma support for affected populations.

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