

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

Waves

12

Counties

8843

Total Respondents

[Go to Survey Sample Overview](#)



EXPLORE KEY FINDINGS PAGES ON...

[Go to Contents Page](#)

Peace & Security



Public Authority



Governance



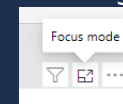
Elections



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

Key Findings

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...

Local Peace, Issues & Agreements

- Awareness of Peace Processes
- Community Peace
- Local Issues
- Peace Actors
- Local Agreements in PA-X

Public Authority

Key Findings

Authority & Peace

Dealing with Armed Groups

Care for Community

Authority & Safety

Authority & Peace Perceptions

Dealing with Local Issues

Authority & Actors

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 Oringa 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 Oringa

Christopher Oringa 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 conflicts 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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usip.org

PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Survey Sample



SURVEY & SAMPLE OVERVIEW

3

Waves

8843

Total Respondents

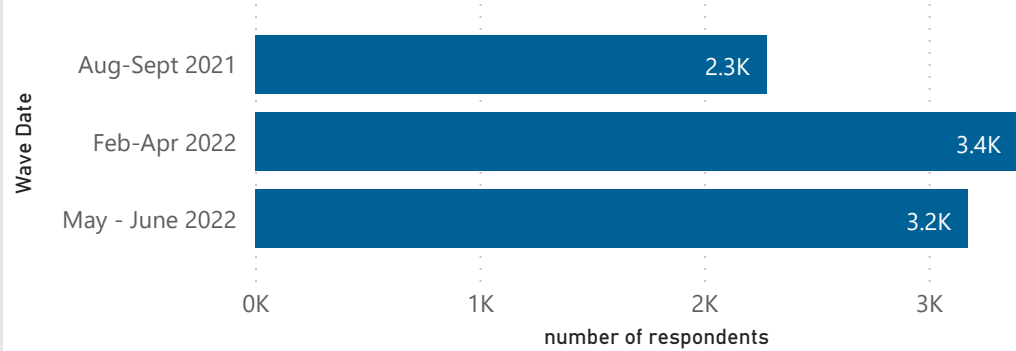
8

ADM1 States

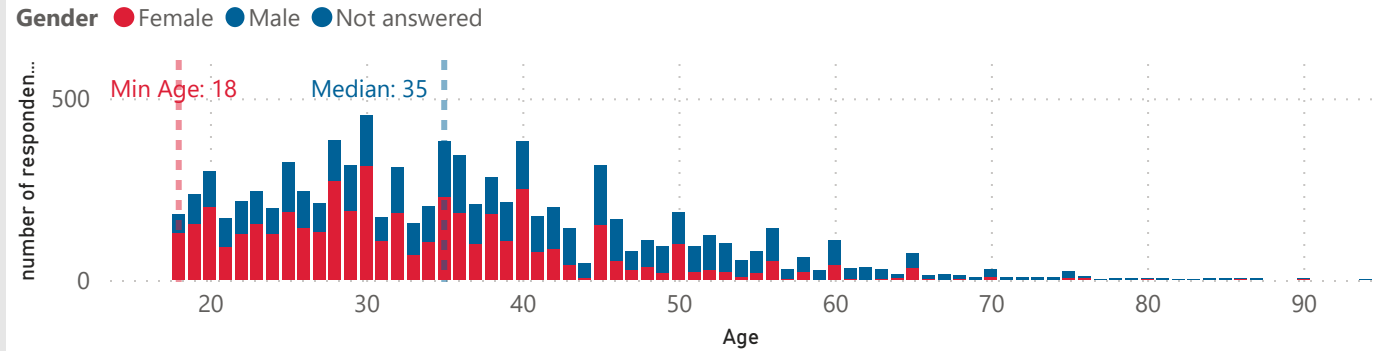
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ADM2 Areas

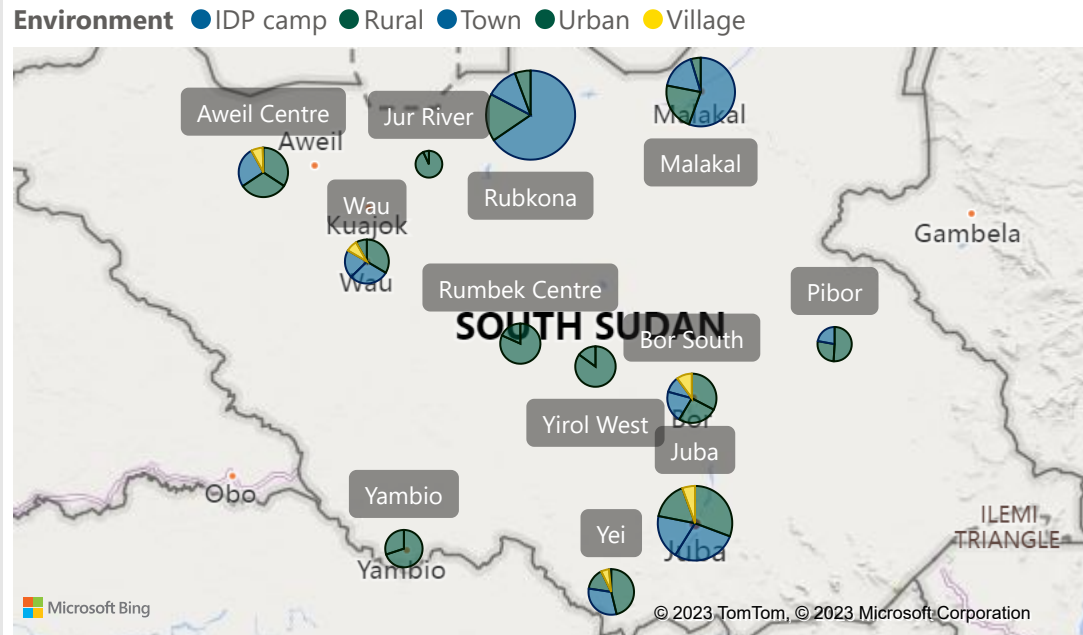
Wave Dates and Number of Respondents



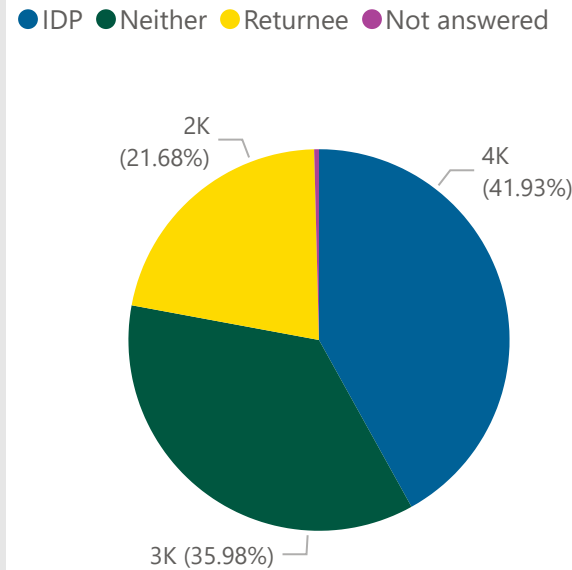
Gender and Age Distribution



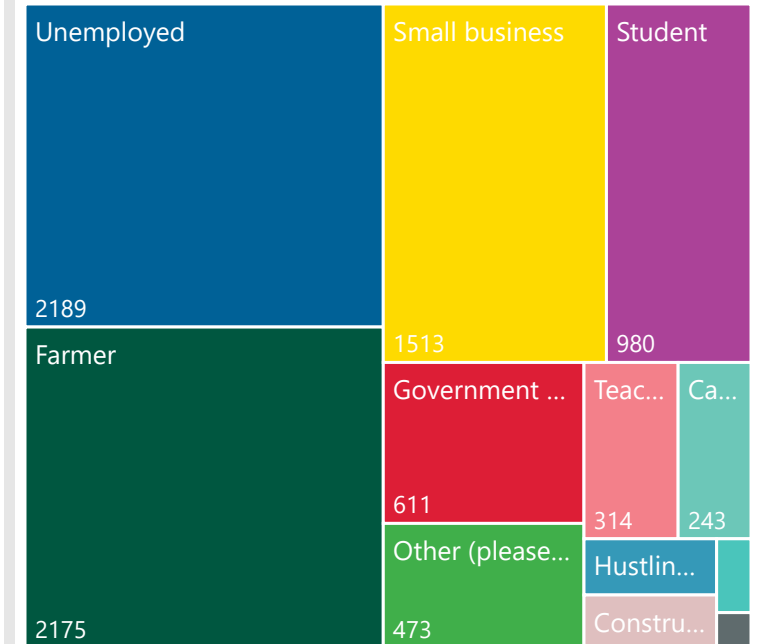
Respondents and Type of Environment by ADM2 Level



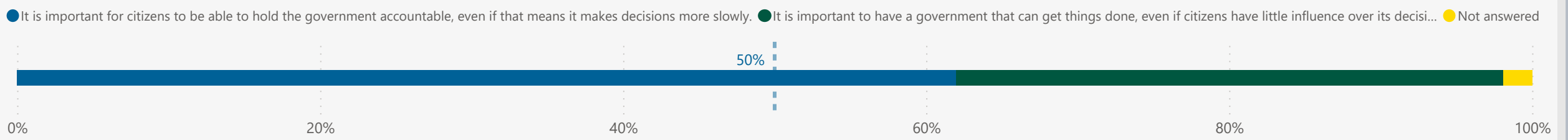
Displacement Status



Occupation



1. South Sudanese **strongly** (~62%) prioritize government **accountability**. Those who were otherwise divided on how the government should rule, rallied around accountability.

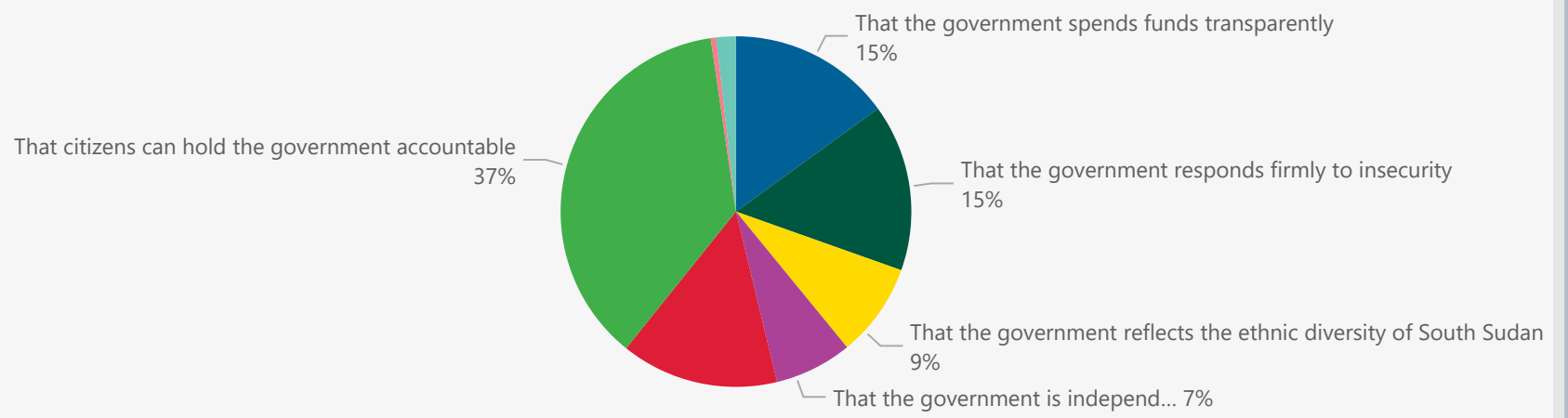


Overall there was overwhelming support for parliamentary input into presidential decision making, even if that slowed down decisions.

Citizens capacity to hold the government accountable was listed as the most important thing for **more than a third** (37%) of all respondents (in Wave 2).

What is most important?

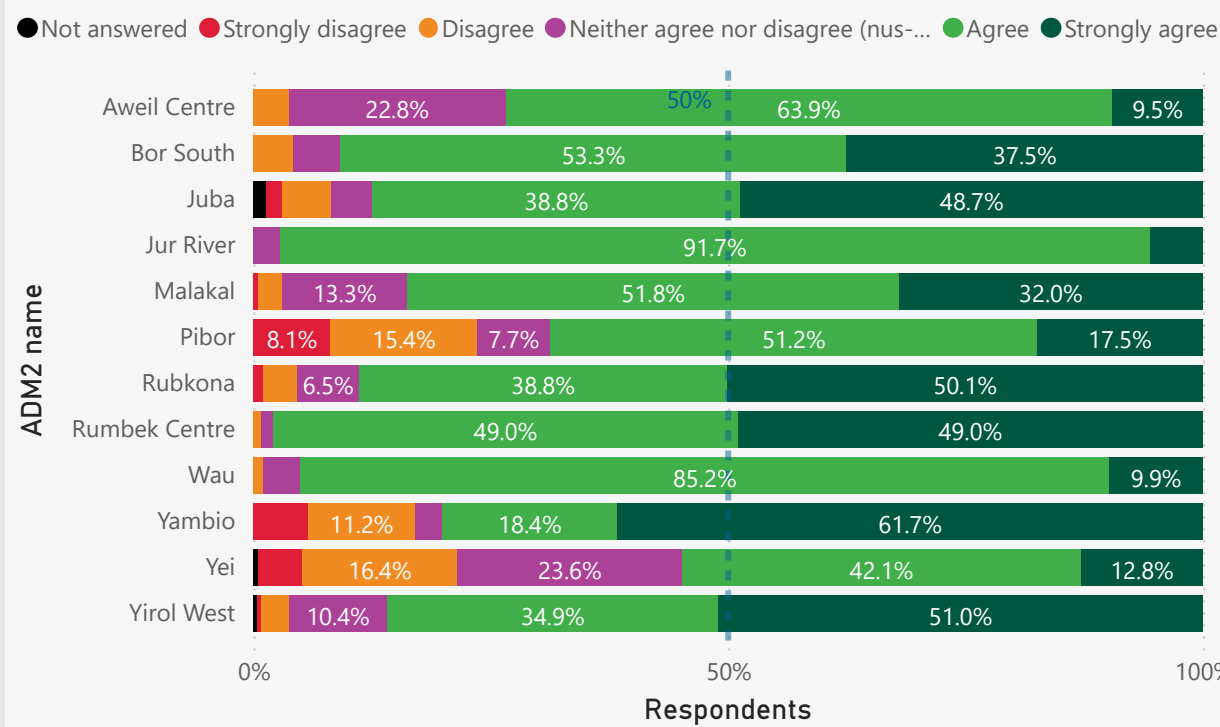
- That the government spends funds transparently
- That the government responds firmly to insecurity
- That the government reflects the ethnic diversity of South Sudan
- That the government is independent of the army
- That the government can get things done efficiently
- That citizens can hold the government accountable
- Not answered
- None of the above



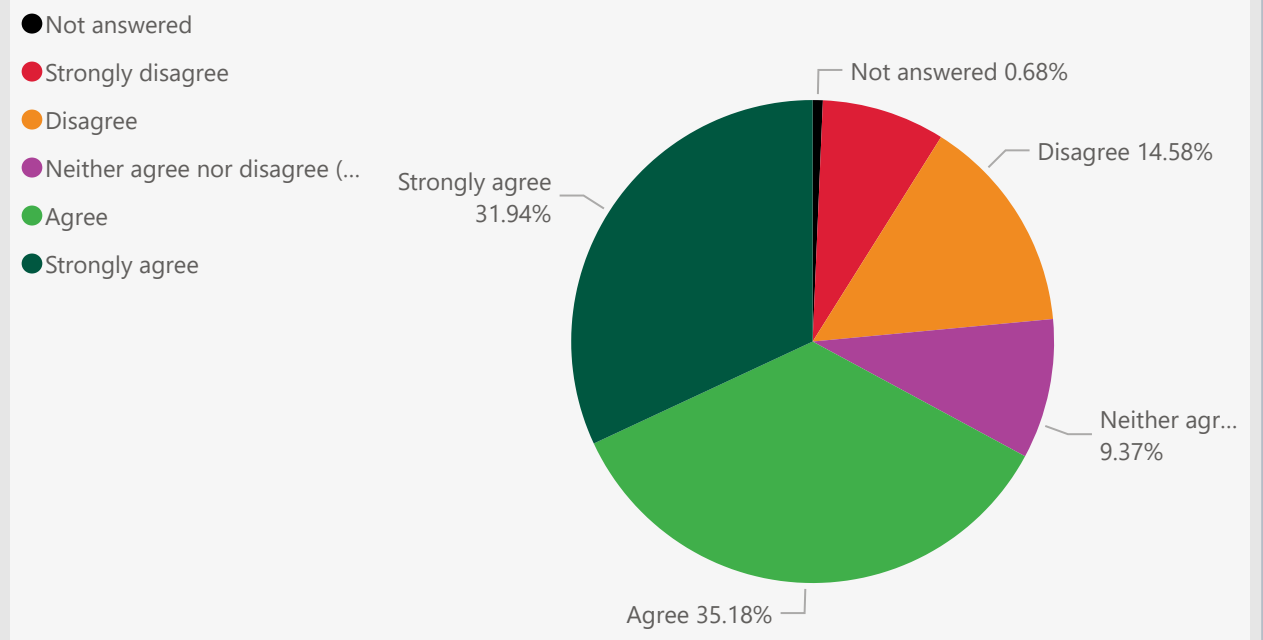
! This preference for accountability highlights the importance of policies that preserve a strong parliament. Mechanisms for citizen input into government should be created. These are central to arrangements for an extended transition period.

2. There is a consensus across all locations and living environments, that army unification increases local stability. If government and opposition forces are not unified, elections should be delayed.

The Unification of Forces will improve the security in this area.



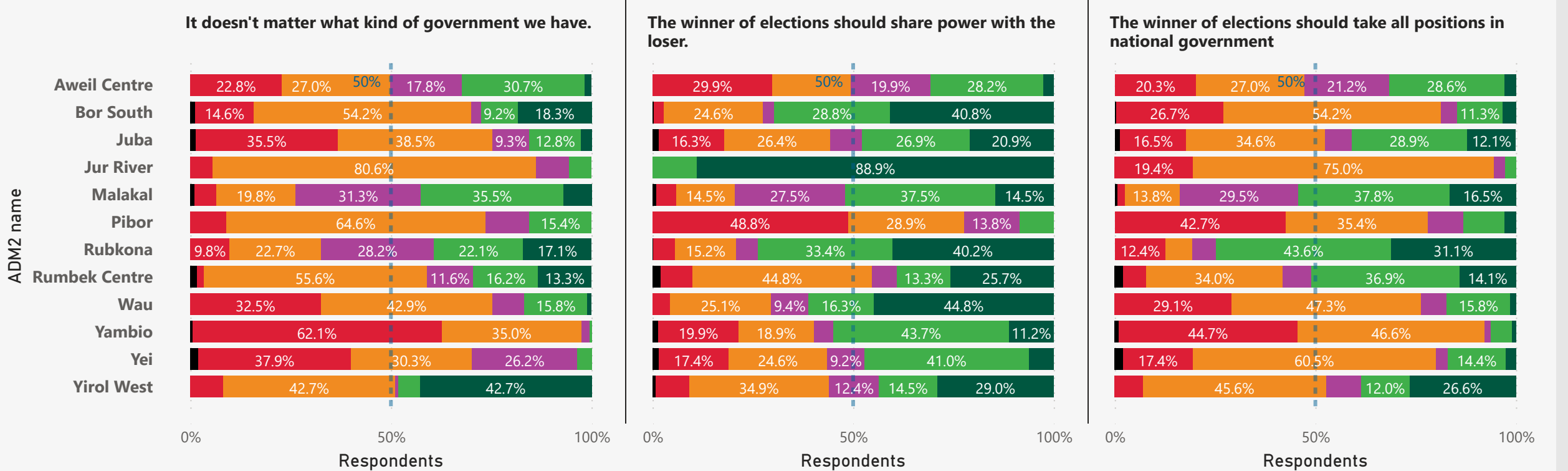
If government and opposition forces have not unified by the end of the transitional period in February 2023, elections should be delayed until they are able to unify.



! This consensus highlights the importance of policies for unification of forces. It also indicates that if elections take place before unification of forces, insecurity is likely. An extended transition period should make this a priority.

3. There are variations by location, and gender on perceptions of what kind of government there is, and there is **no consensus** on the electoral system the South Sudanese prefer (power-sharing or first past the post).

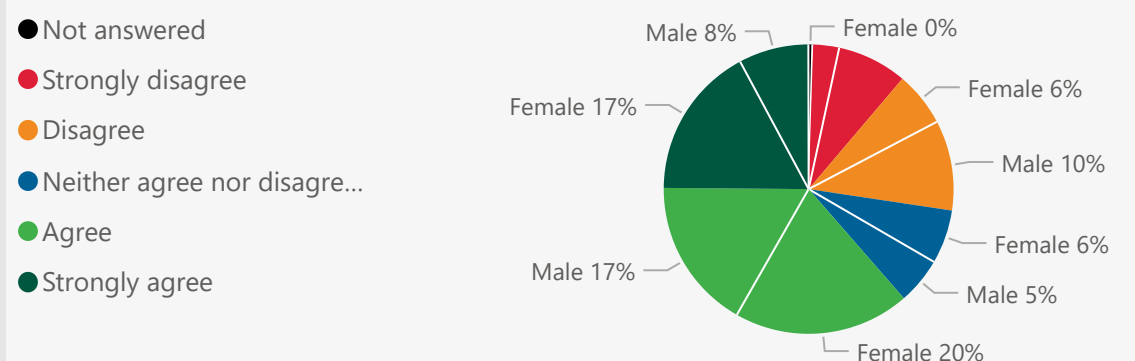
Legend: ● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree (nus-nus) ● Agree ● Strongly agree



Respondents were also divided on how strongly the government should respond to insecurity, even if that meant violating human rights.

- **Women** were more likely than men to support security responses that were **strong**, but **violated human rights**.
- Respondents who identified as **'very unsafe'** voiced the strongest support for **forceful** government responses.
- However, those who felt moderately **'unsafe'** were the most likely group to **object** to the government responding firmly to insecurity, even if that meant violating human rights.

"The Government should respond firmly to insecurity, even if that means violating human rights sometimes"



! Policy makers should not assume a power-sharing electoral system is the preference of the South Sudanese, as there is no consensus for either, despite past agreements and laws have favouring power-sharing. Security sector policies need to address the unique protection needs of people experiencing different degrees and types of insecurity, as some communities are vulnerable to national political generating local insecurity.

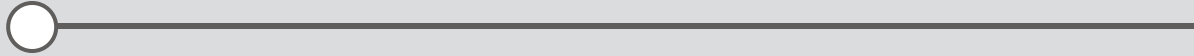
Explore responses to questions related to **governance**, by location, environment, gender and other variables for the following topics..

Government Reconciliation	Government Effectiveness	Effective or Accountable?	Electoral System Preference
What is most important?	Government Responses to Insecurity	Unification of Forces	Army Governance



Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

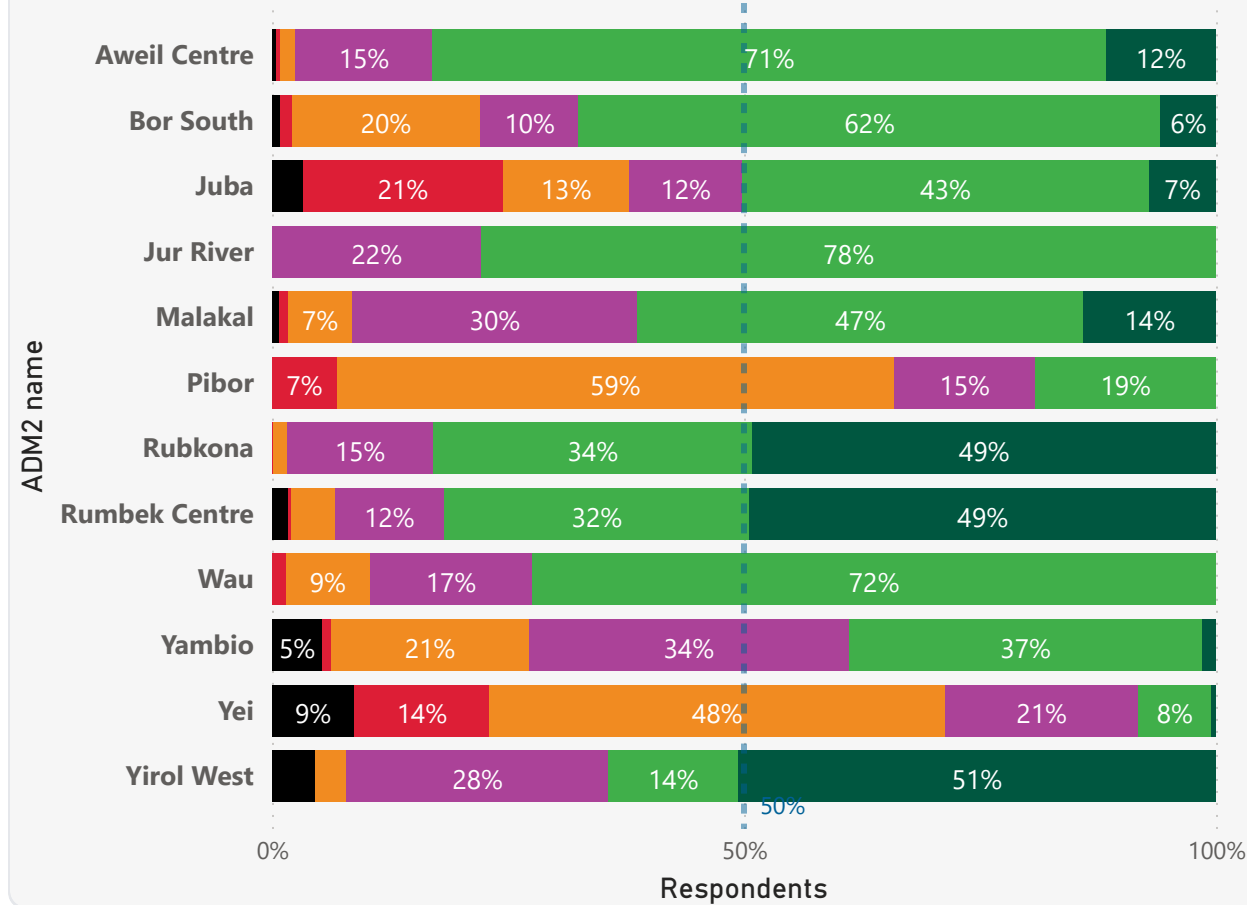
IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Gender

Female
 Male

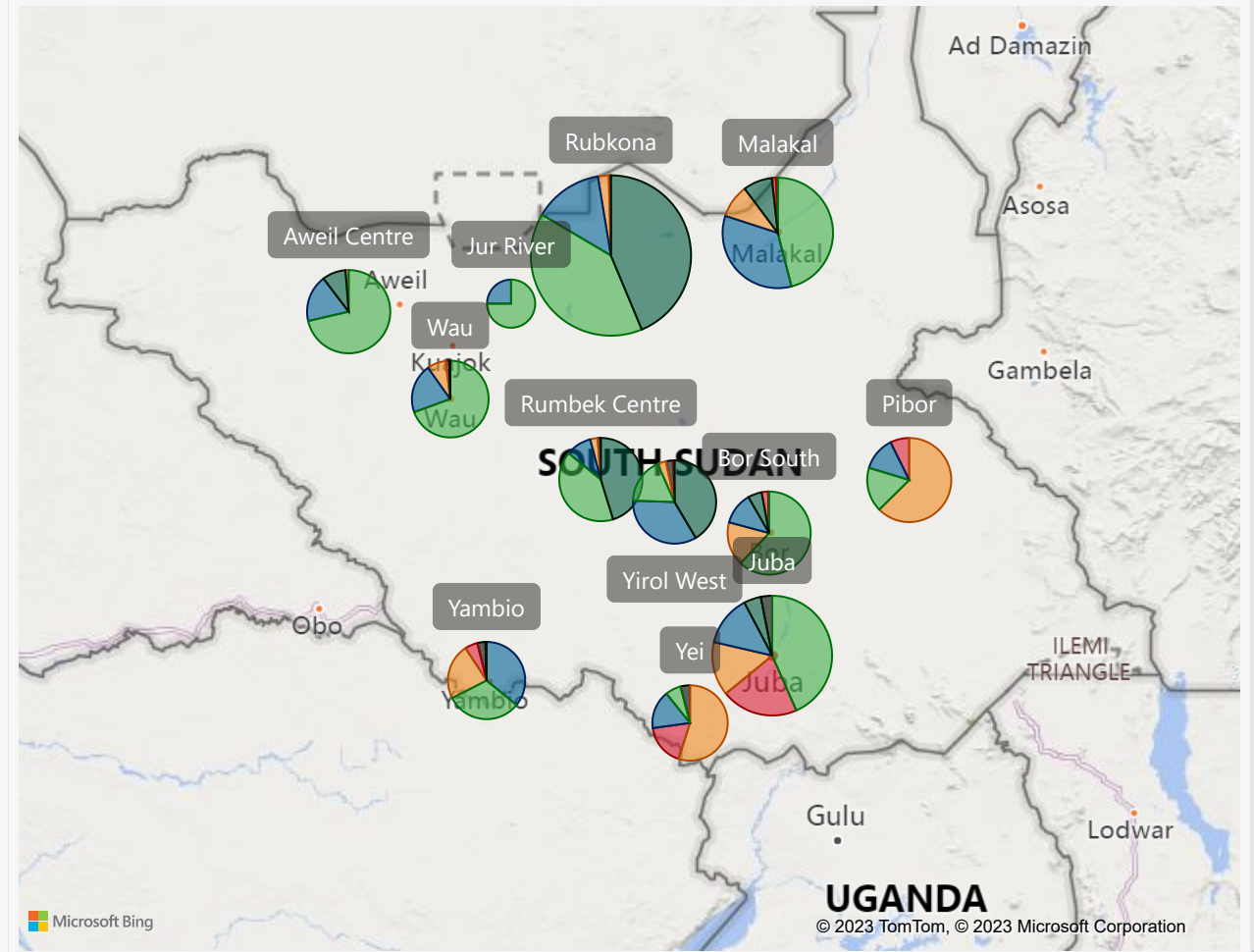
Government and opposition parties at the national level have reconciled with one another

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



Government and opposition parties in this area have reconciled with one another.

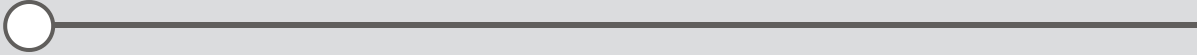
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree n... ● Agree ● Strongly agr...





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

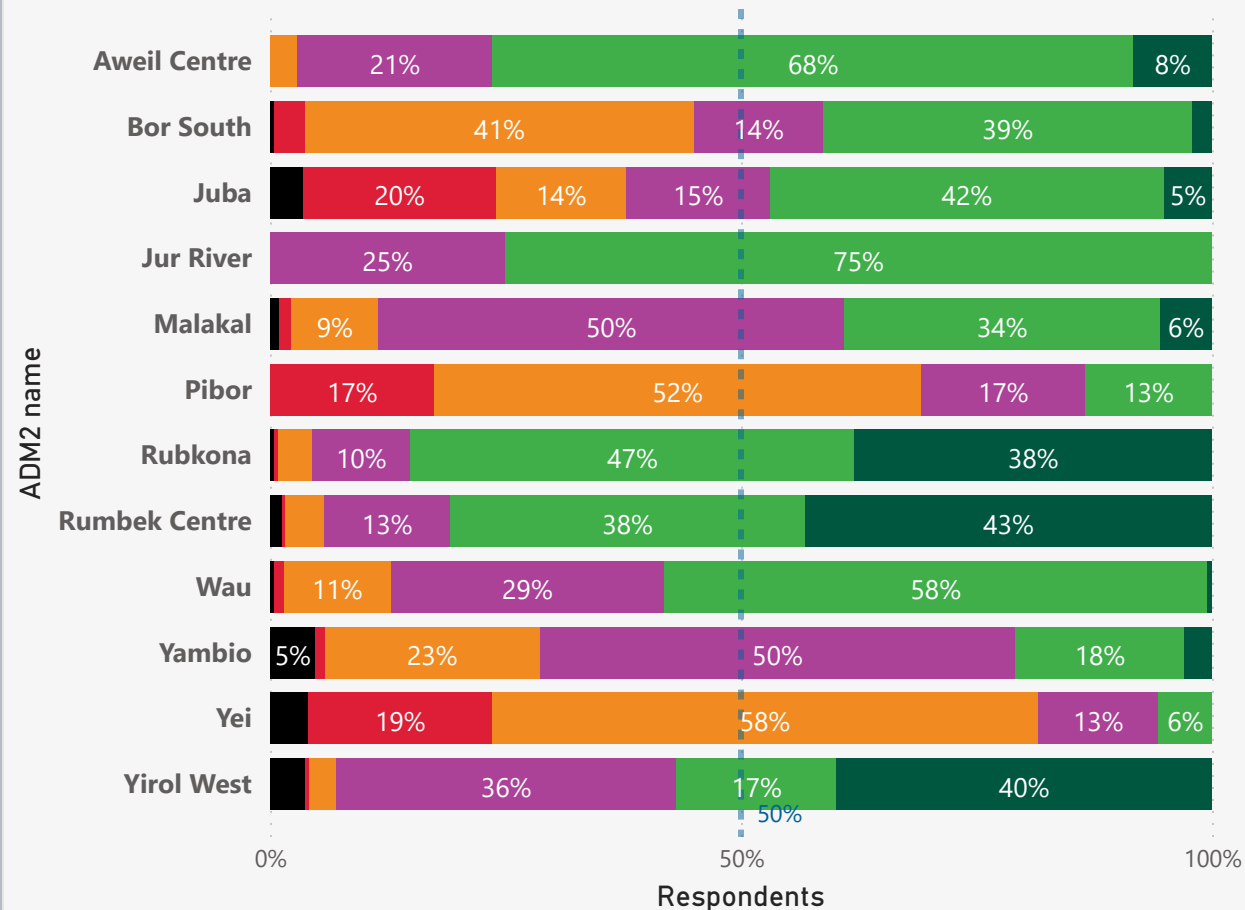
IDP Camp Rural Urban

Gender

Female
Male

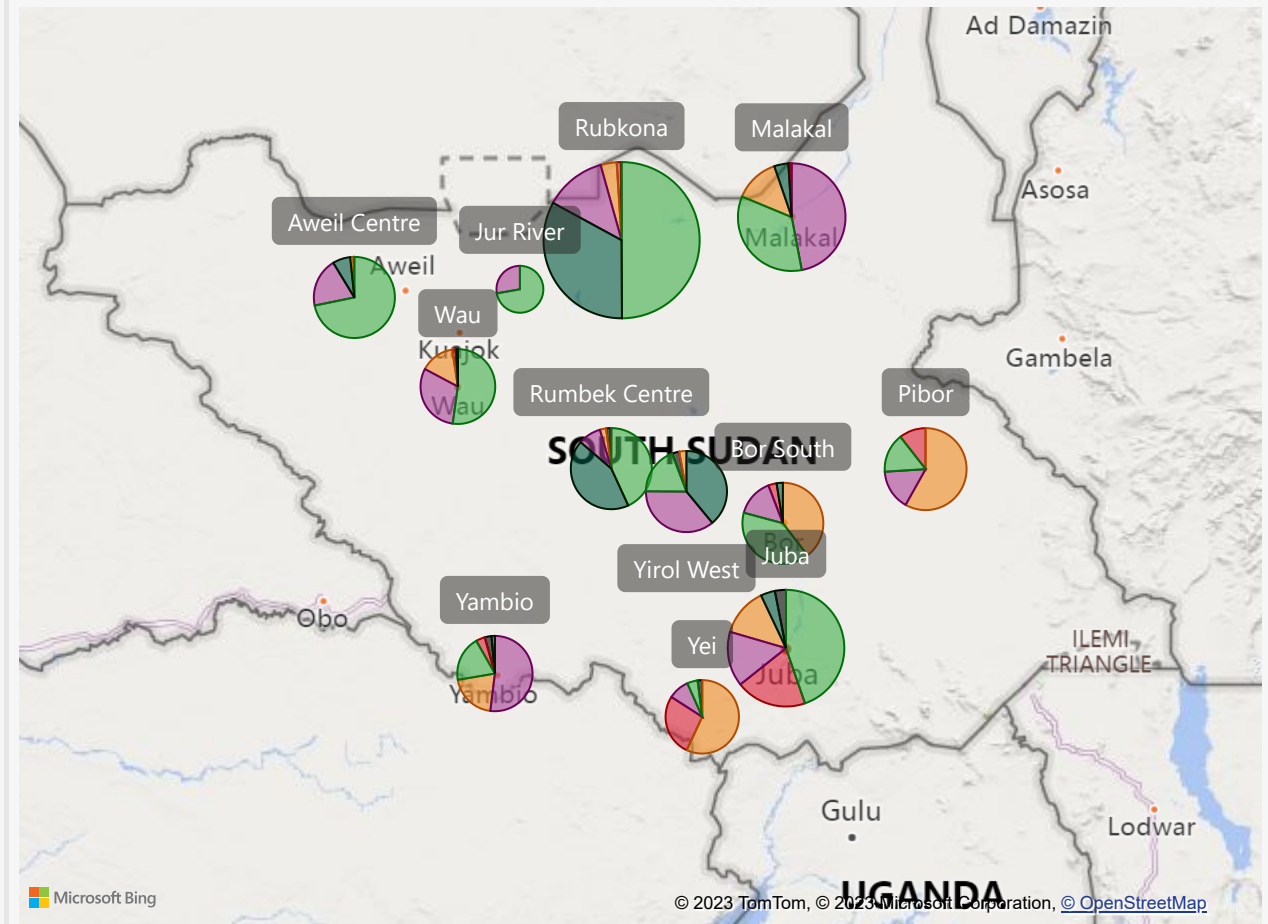
Government and opposition parties in the national government are able to work effectively together.

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



Government and opposition parties in this area are able to work together effectively.

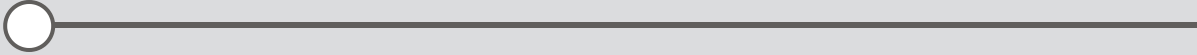
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree n... ● Agree ● Strongly agr...





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp Rural Urban

Gender

Female
Male

Q: Which of the following statements about the government do you agree with most:

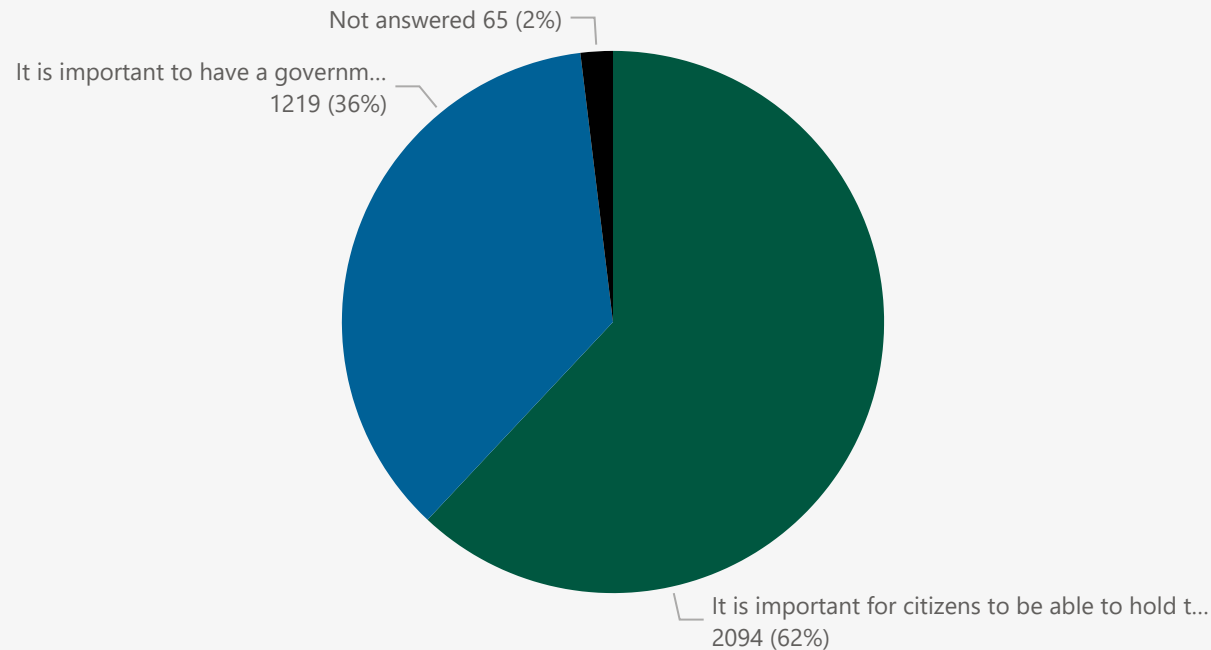
A) EFFECTIVE: It is important to have a government that can get things done, even if citizens have little influence over its decisions.

OR

B) ACCOUNTABLE: It is important for citizens to be able to hold the gov. accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

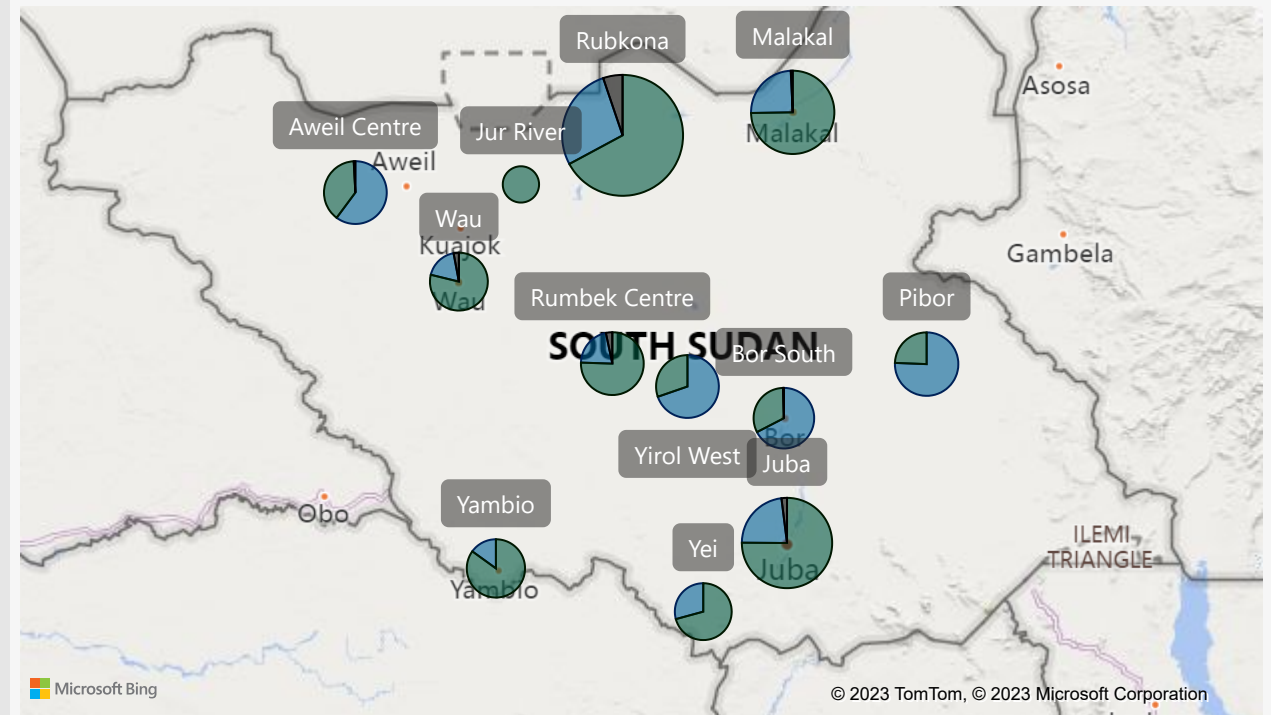
All Respondents

● B ● A ● Not answered



By ADM2 Area

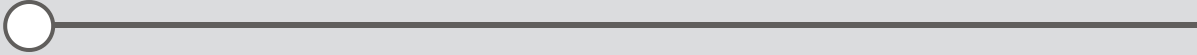
● A ● B ● Not answered





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp Rural Urban

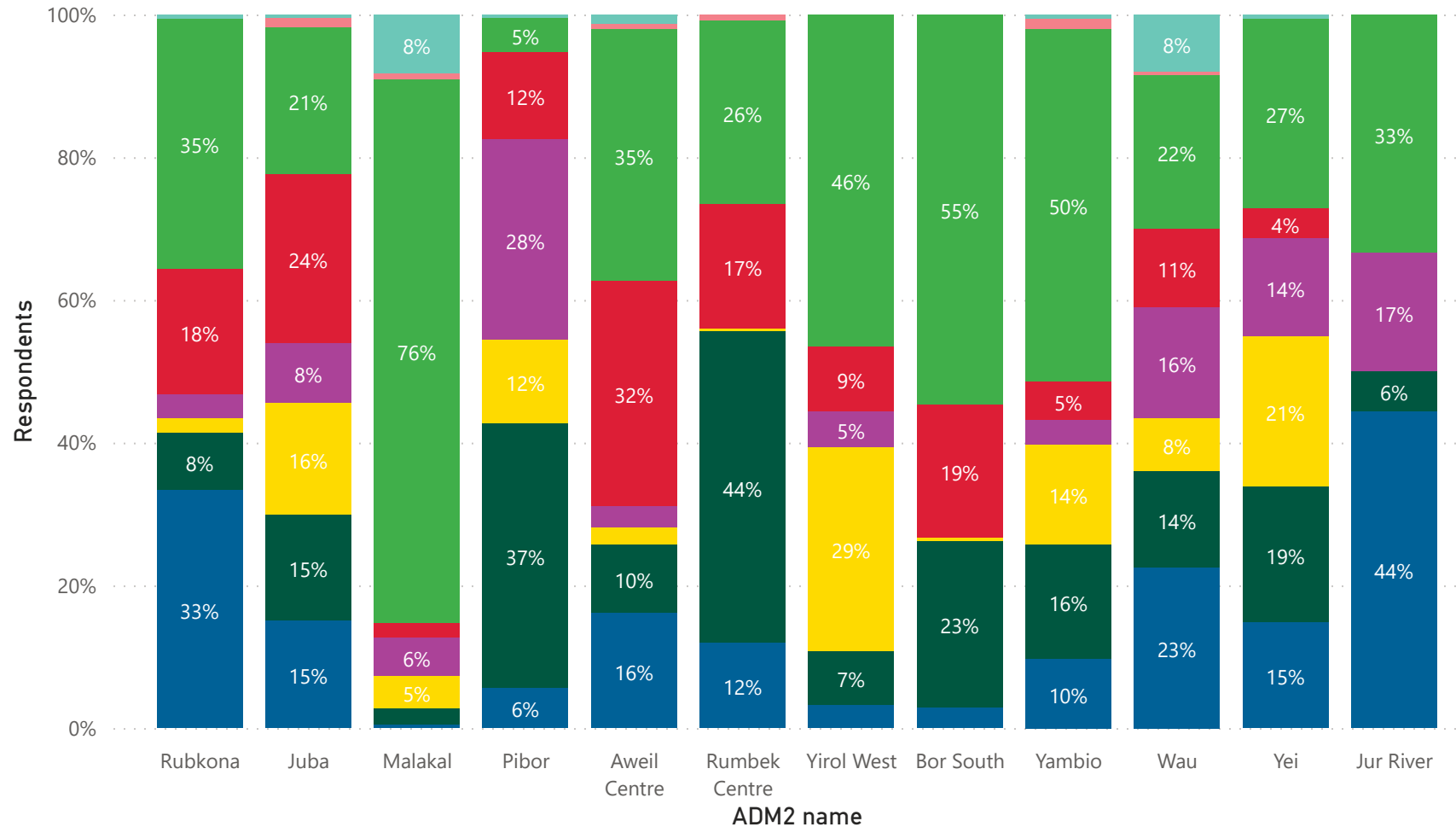
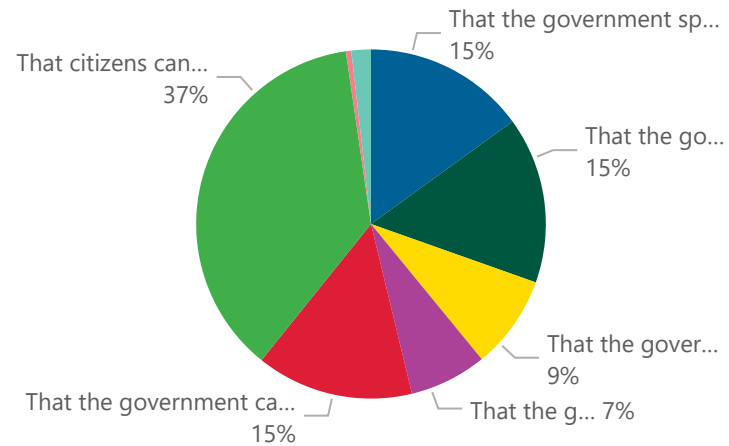
Gender

Female Male

Which of the following are most important?

- That the government spends funds transparently
- That the government responds firmly to insecurity
- That the government reflects the ethnic diversity of ...
- That the government is independent of the army
- That the government can get things done efficiently
- That citizens can hold the government accountable
- Not answered
- None of the above

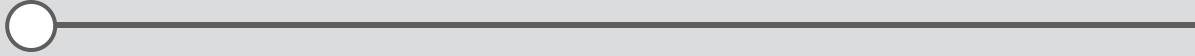
All Respondents





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp Rural Urban

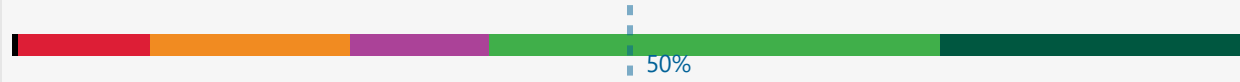
Gender

Female
Male

Q:"The Government should respond firmly to insecurity, even if that means violating human rights sometimes."

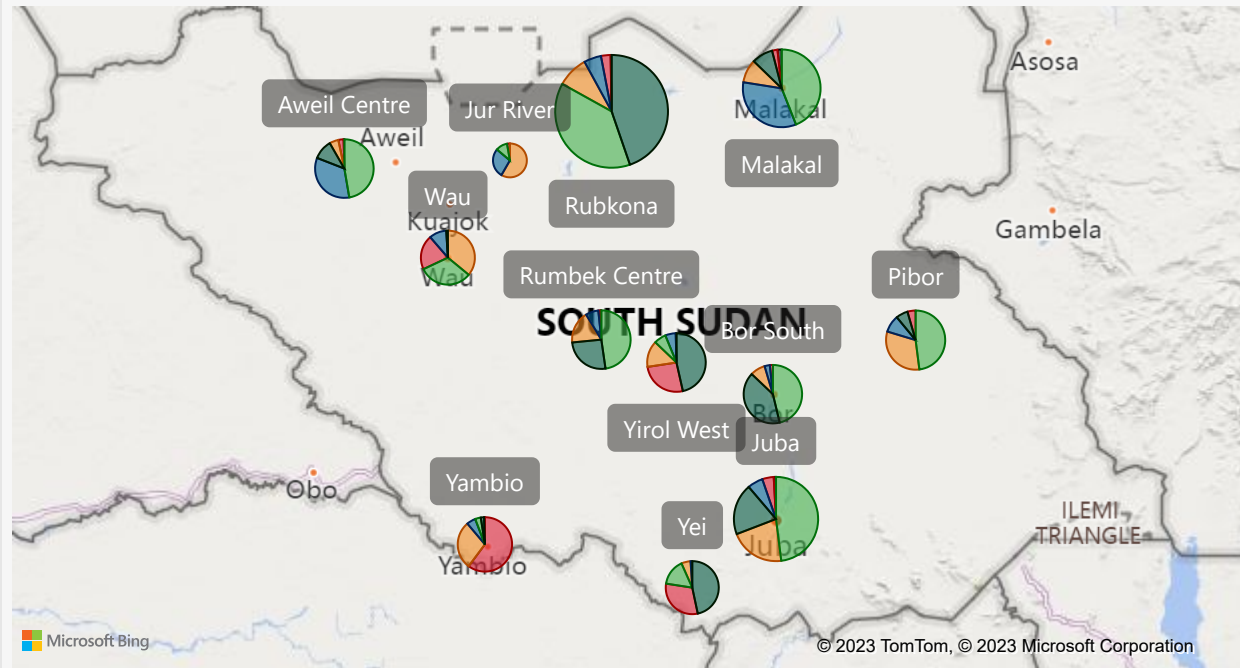
All Respondents

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



By ADM2

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

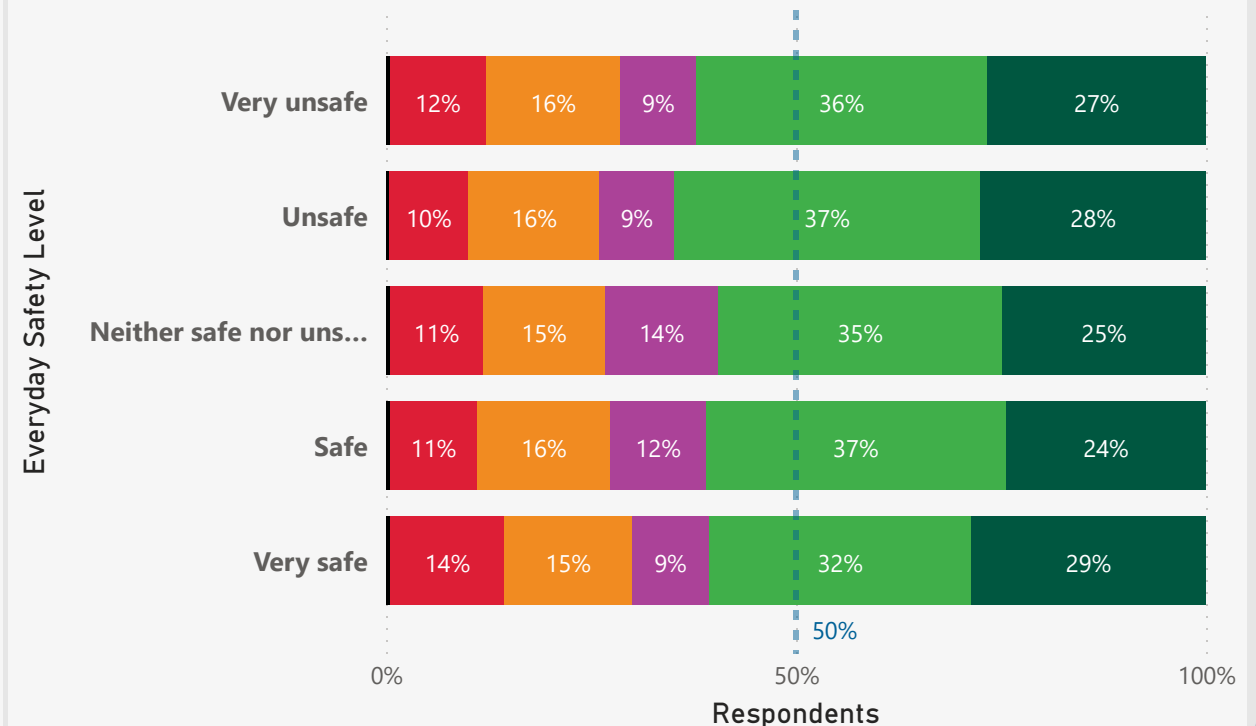


Everyday Safety Indicator

All

Respondents by Everyday Safety Levels

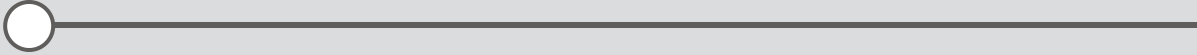
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree ... ● Agree ● Strongly ag...





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

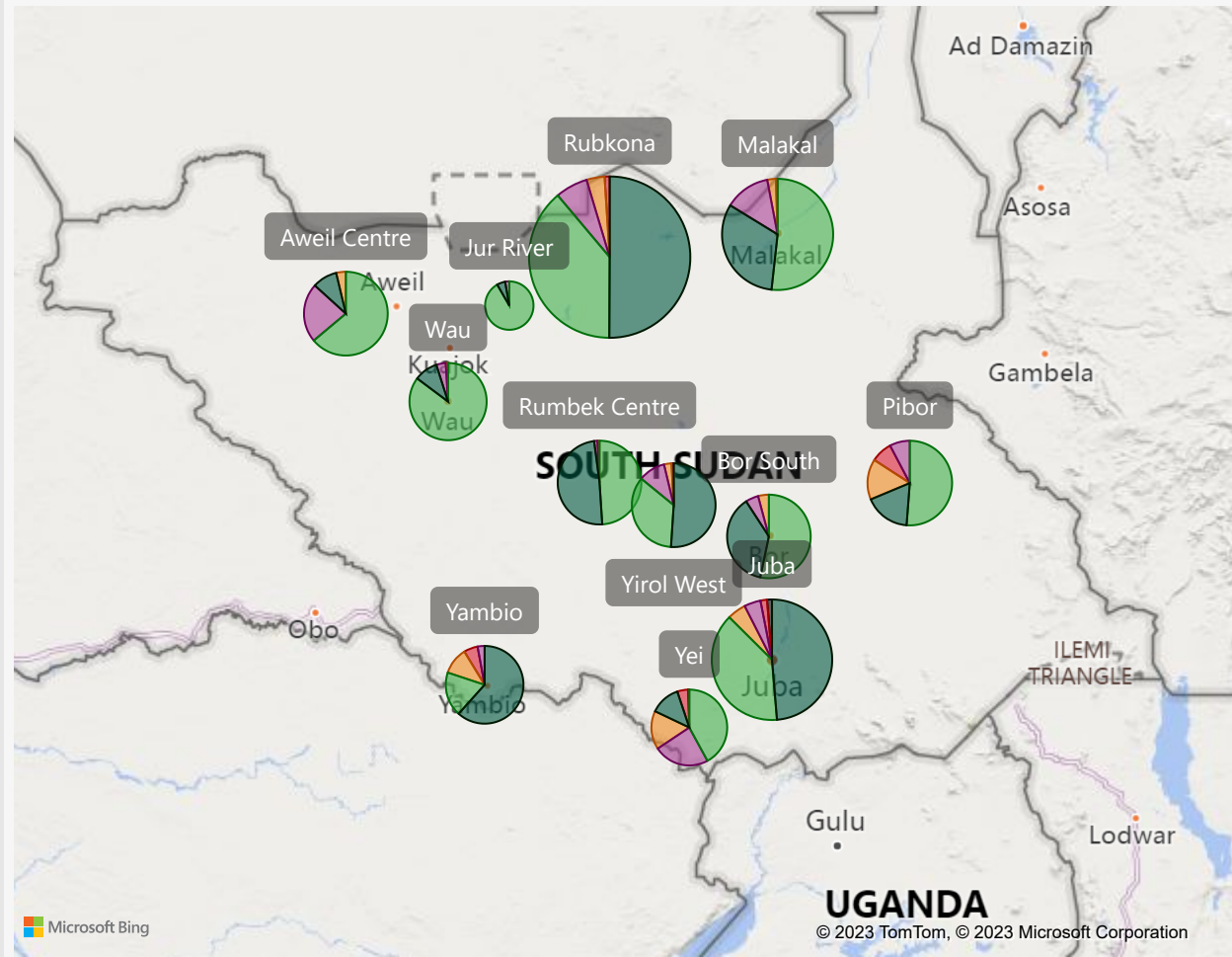
IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Gender

Female
 Male

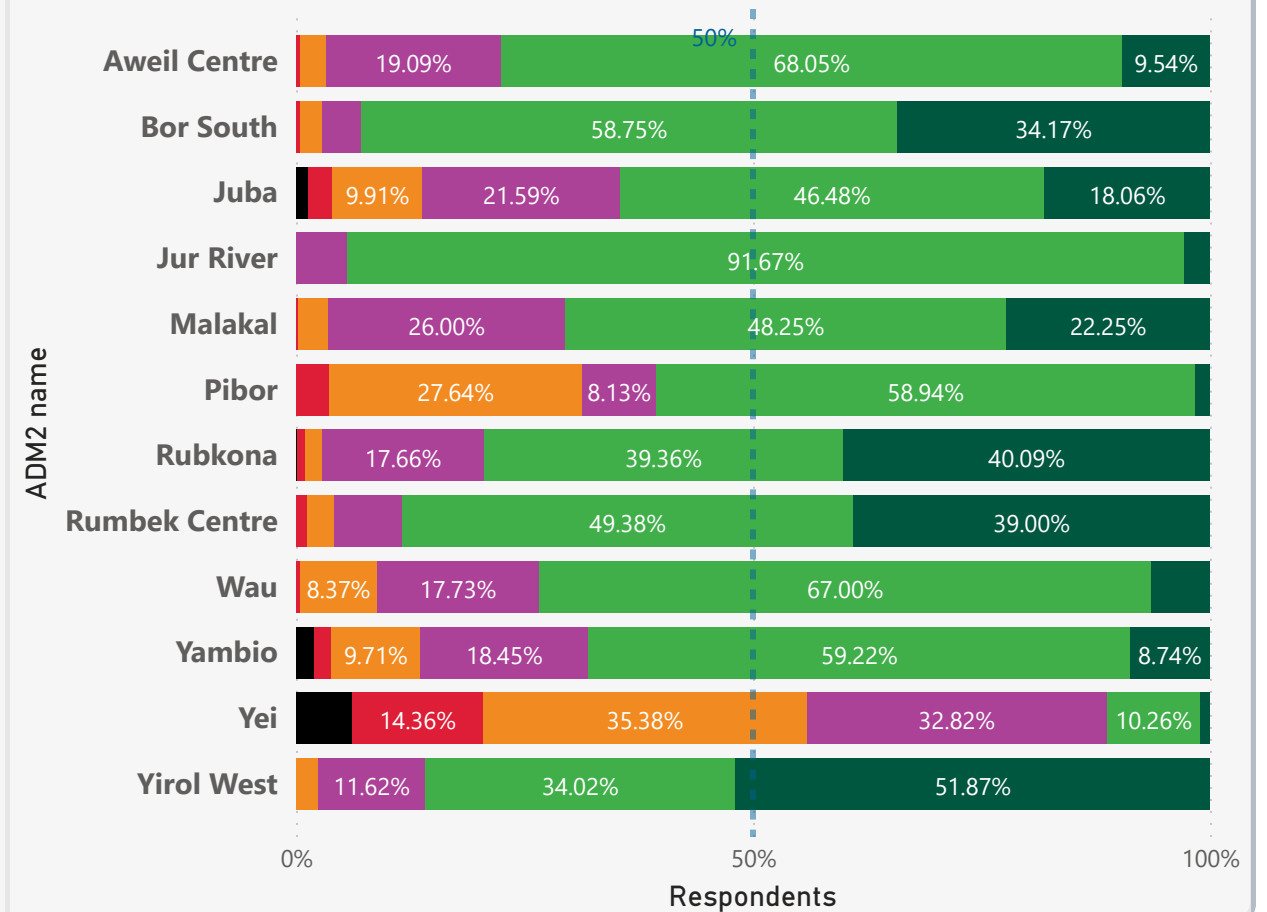
The Unification of Forces will improve the security in this area.

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



The parties to the revitalized peace agreement will make an honest effort to unify their forces.

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





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

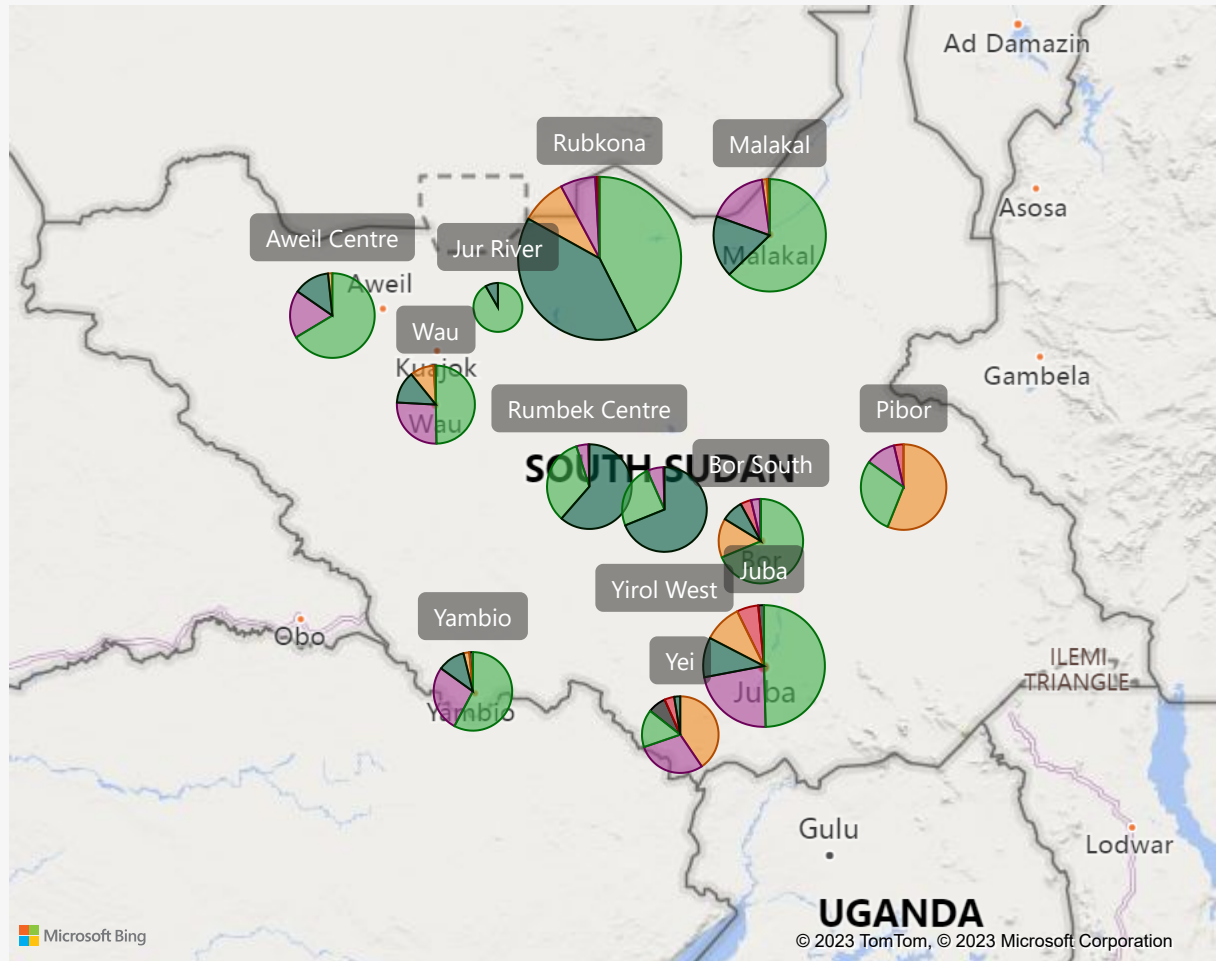
IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Female
 Male

Gender

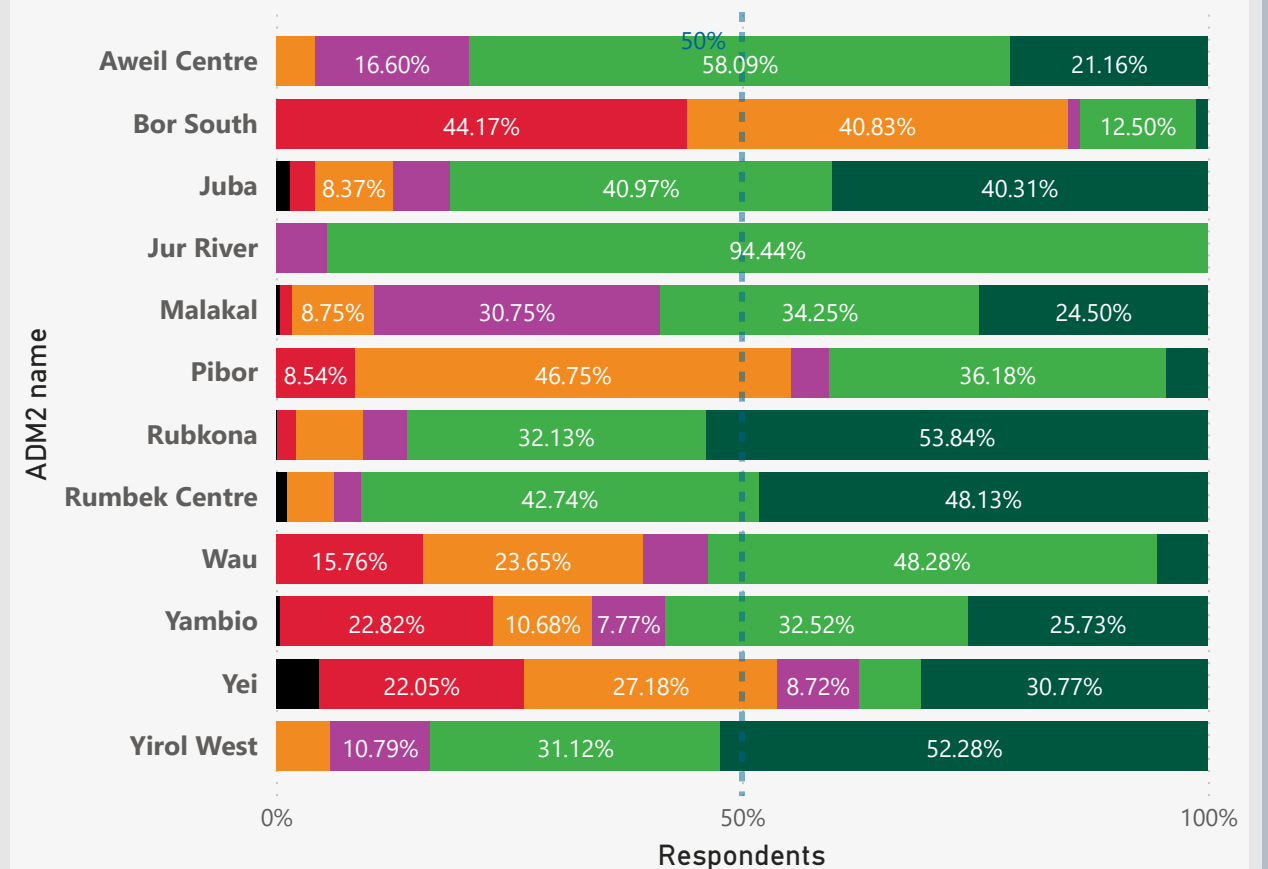
The peace agreement is likely to hold until the end of the transition period.

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



If government and opposition forces have not unified by the end of the transitional period in February 2023, elections should be delayed until they are able to unify.

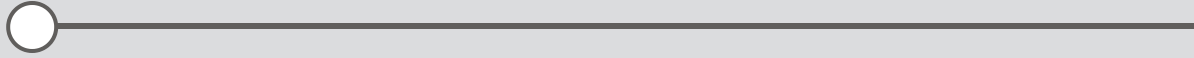
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree ... ● Agree ● Strongly ag...





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp Rural Urban

Gender

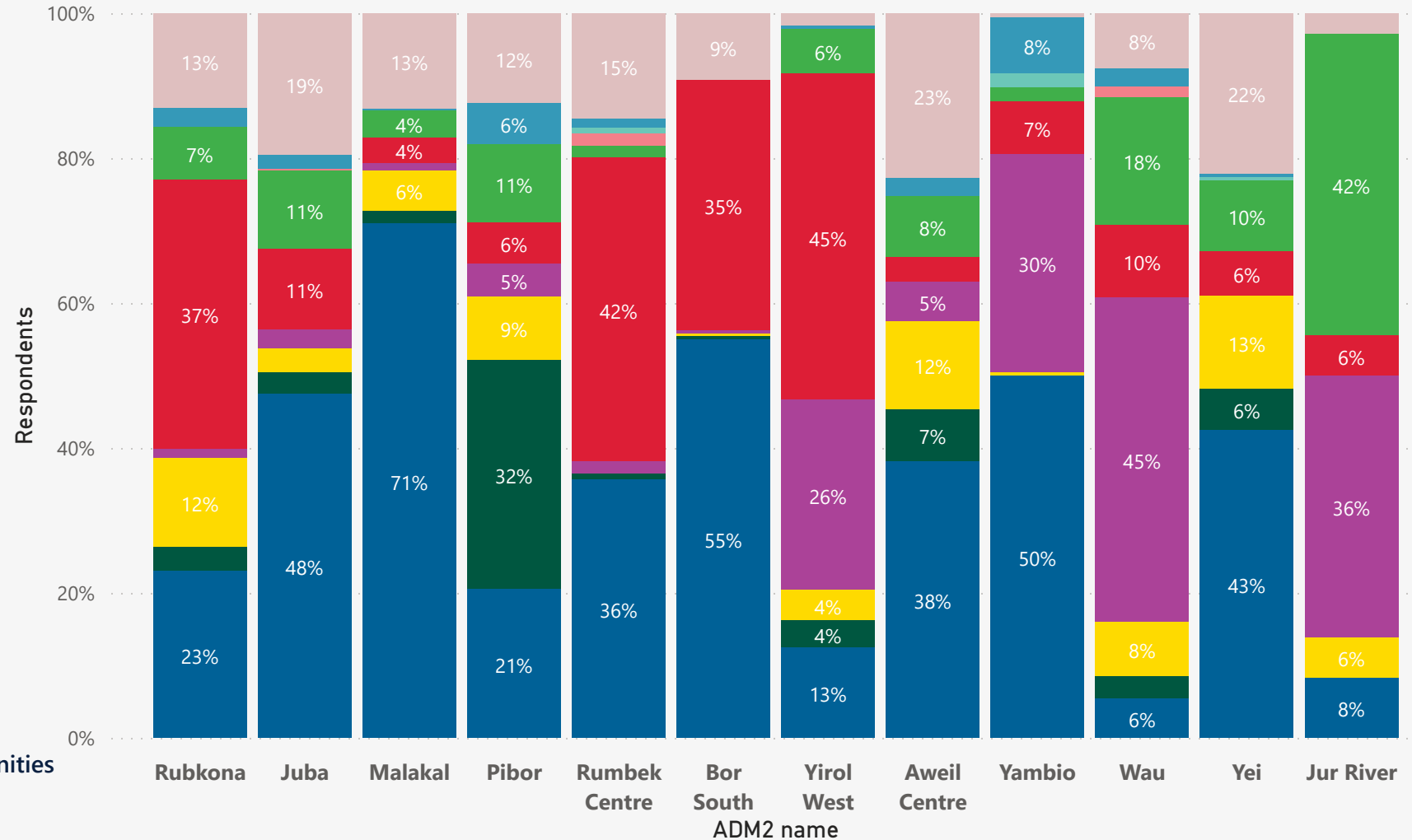
Female
Male

Of the following processes provided for in the revitalized peace agreement, which do you think is the most important?

- Creation of a unified national army
- Criminal prosecution of perpetrators of human ...
- Development of a permanent constitution
- Economic reforms
- Elections
- Humanitarian assistance for populations affecte...
- Not answered
- Other (please specify)
- Reconstruction of damaged or destroyed infras...
- Return, resettlement and reintegration of displa...

Other processes specified

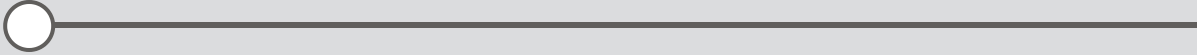
- | Education and health services
- | Healthcare and roads
- | Roads and health facilities
- | Security
- | Water points to be constructed as soon as possible
- | We need investors to come avail us with job opportunities
- | We need peace for development





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp Rural Urban

Gender

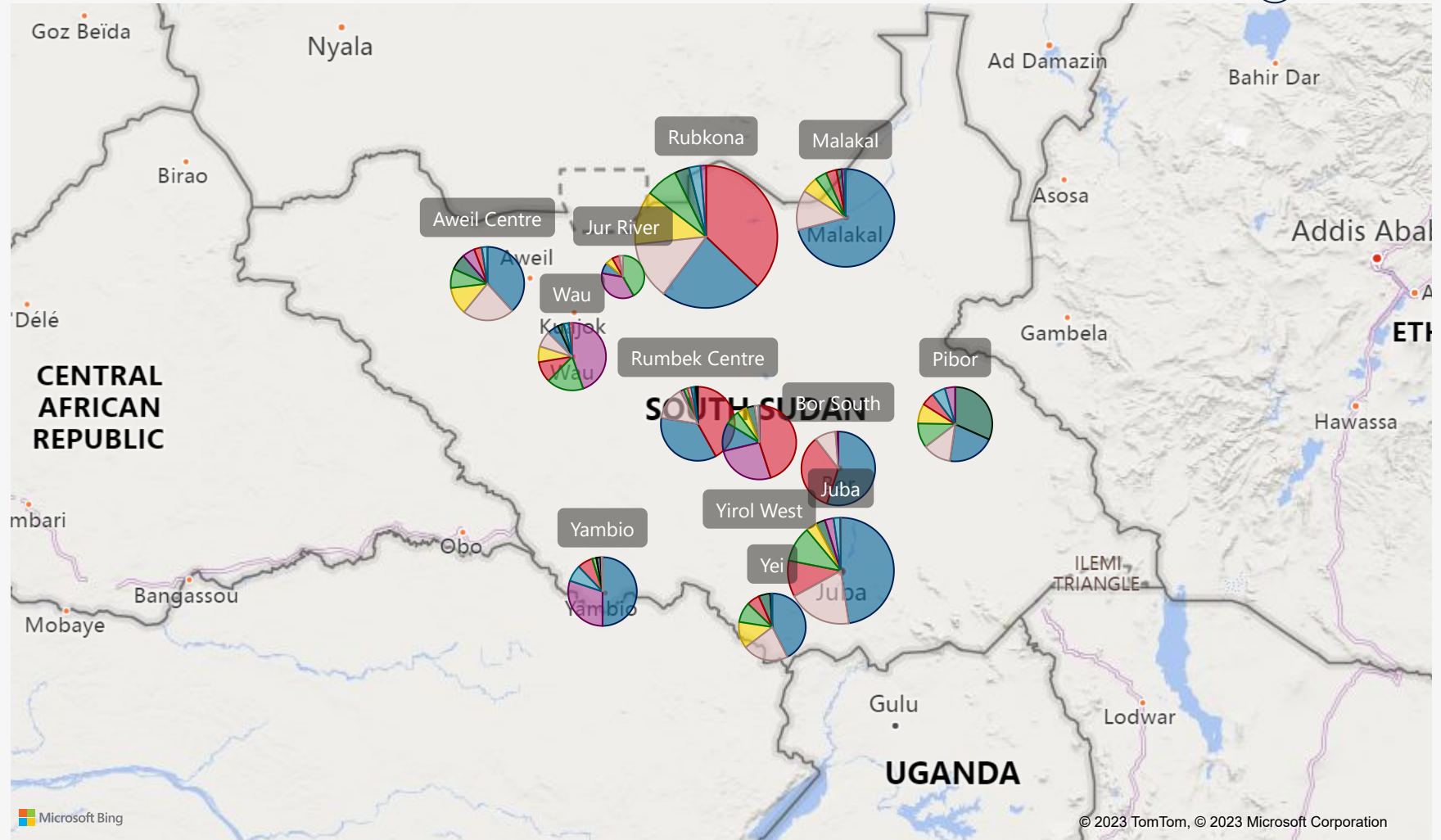
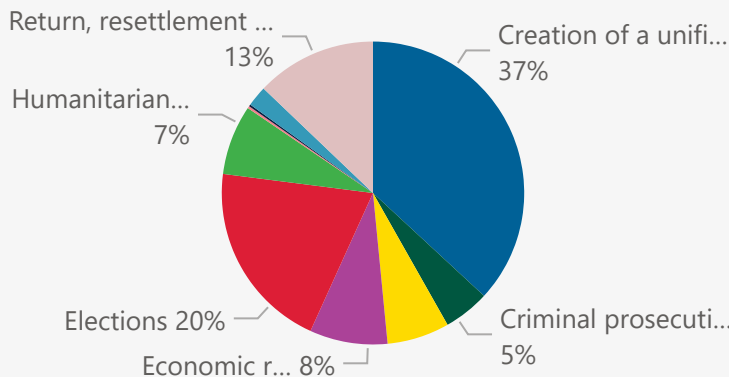
Female Male

Of the following processes provided for in the revitalized peace agreement, which do you think is the most important?

Show other responses i

- Creation of a unified national army
- Criminal prosecution of perpetrators of human right...
- Development of a permanent constitution
- Economic reforms
- Elections
- Humanitarian assistance for populations affected by...
- Not answered
- Other (please specify)
- Reconstruction of damaged or destroyed infrastru...
- Return, resettlement and reintegration of displaced ...

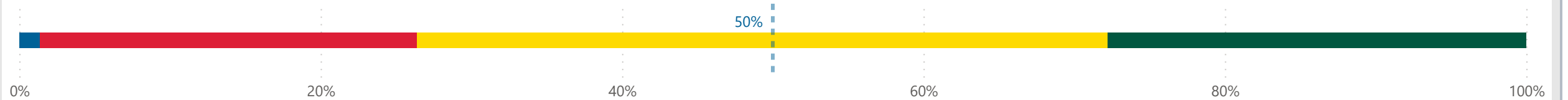
All Respondents



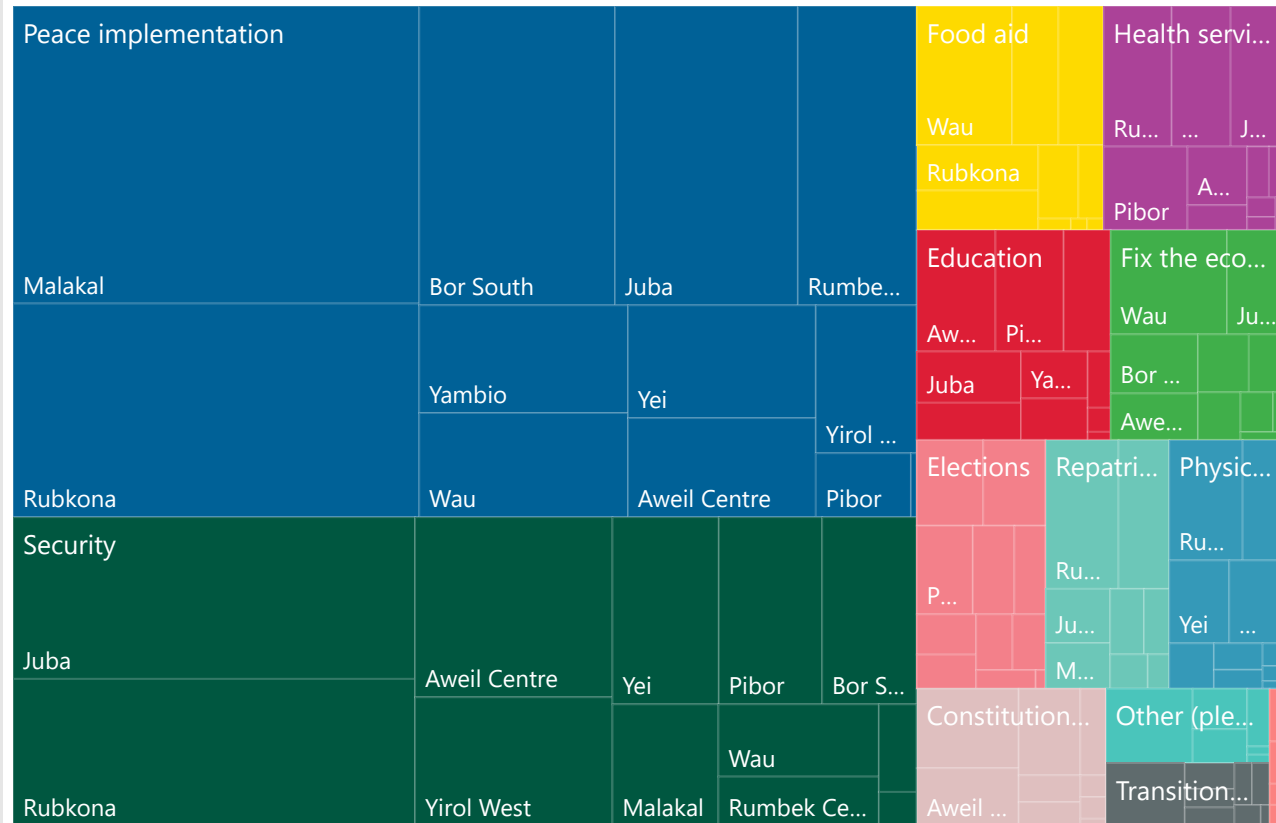


How much confidence do you have in the ability of the Revitalized Transitional Government to implement the peace agreement?

RTGONU Confidence ● Not answered ● No confidence ● A little confidence ● A lot of confidence



What should be the top priority for the Transitional Government?



Other Priorities (specified)



Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type



Gender



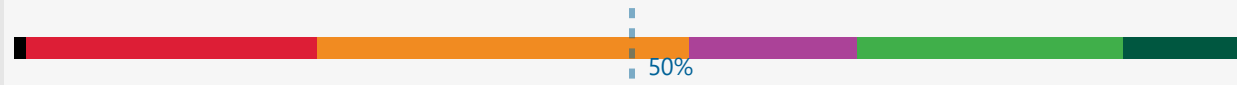
- IDP Camp
- Rural
- Urban

- Female
- Male

Q: Do you agree with the statement: "The army should govern the country."

All Respondents

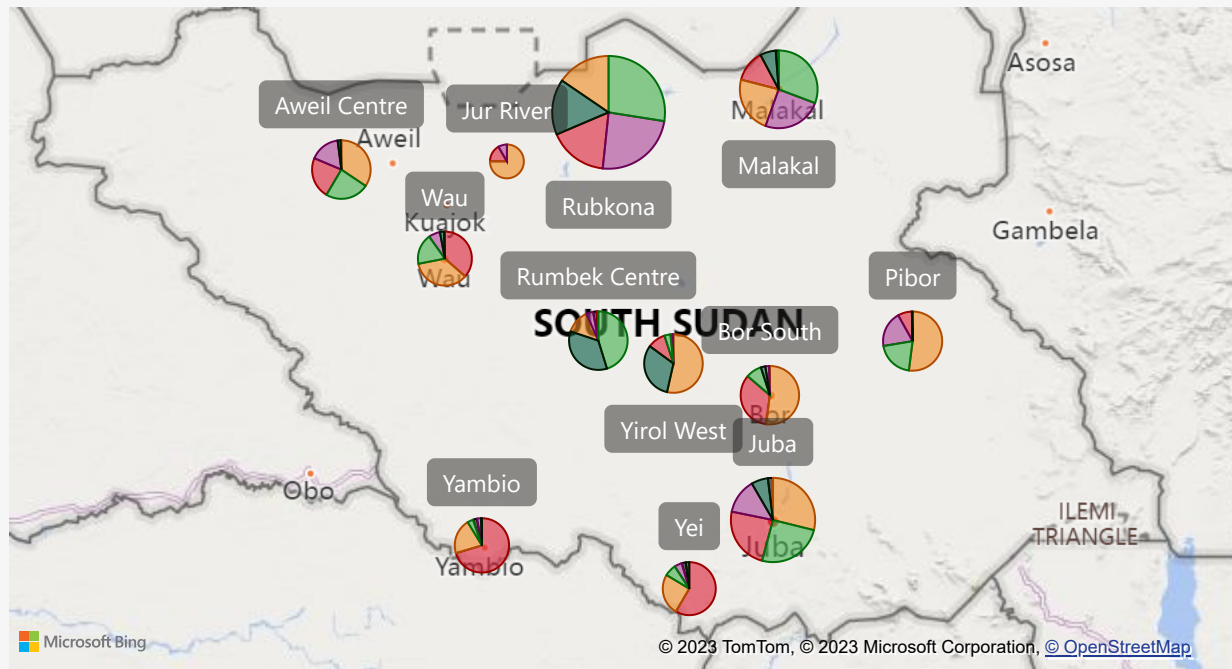
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree (nus-n... ● Agree ● Strongly agree



By ADM2

[View map as chart](#)

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

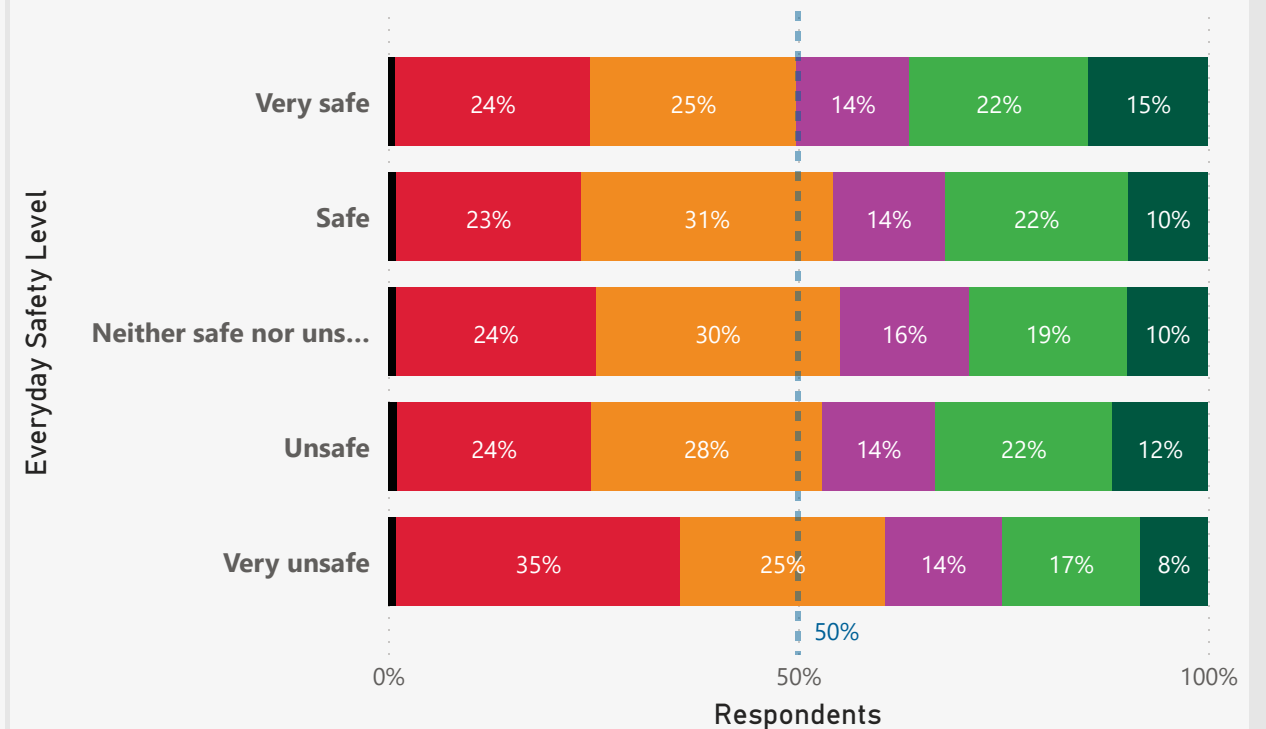


Everyday Safety Indicator

All

Respondents by Everyday Safety Levels

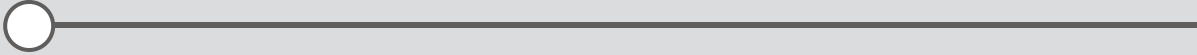
● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree ... ● Agree ● Strongly ag...





Number of times respondents have been displaced (>=)

0 100



Environment Type

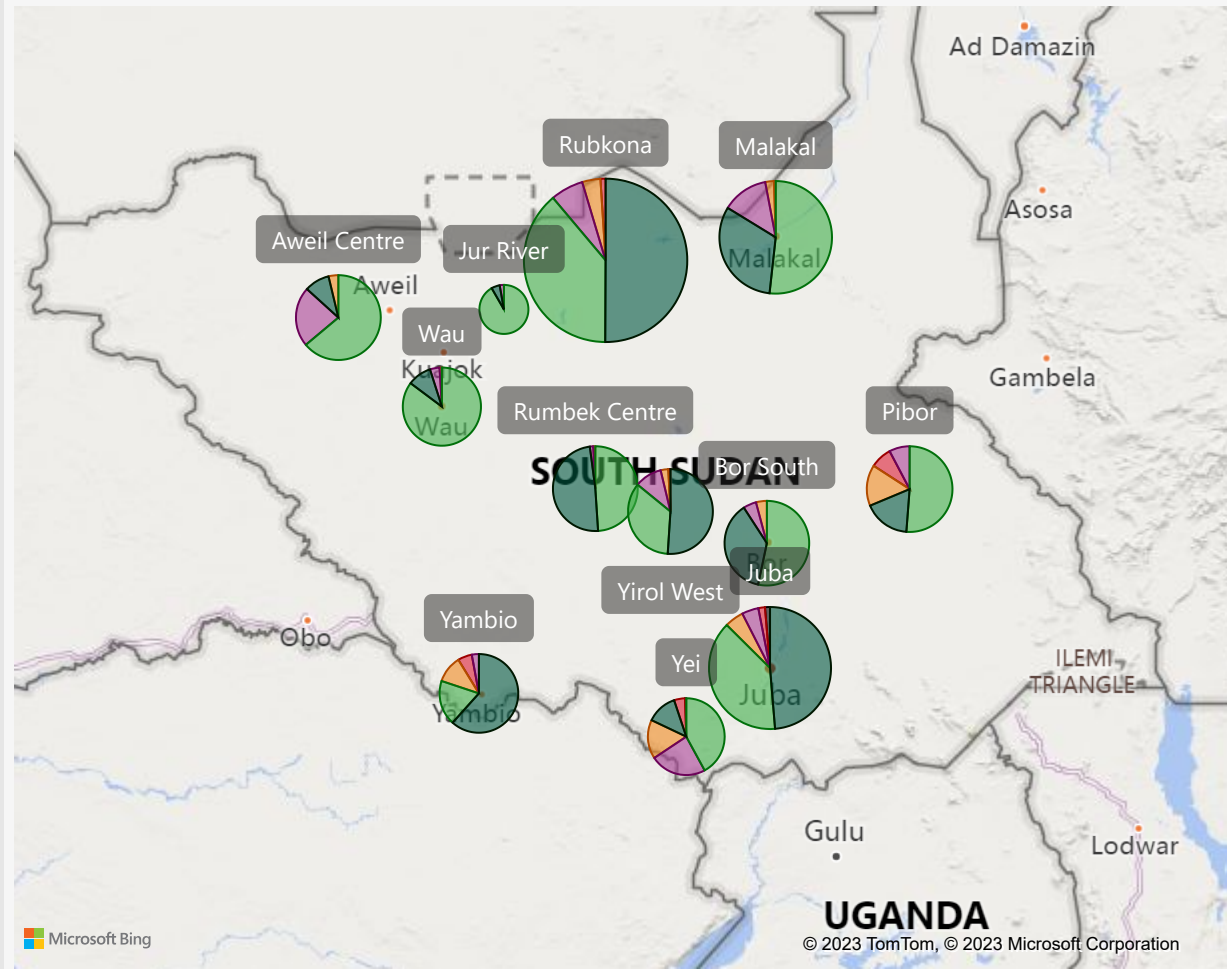
IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Gender

Female
 Male

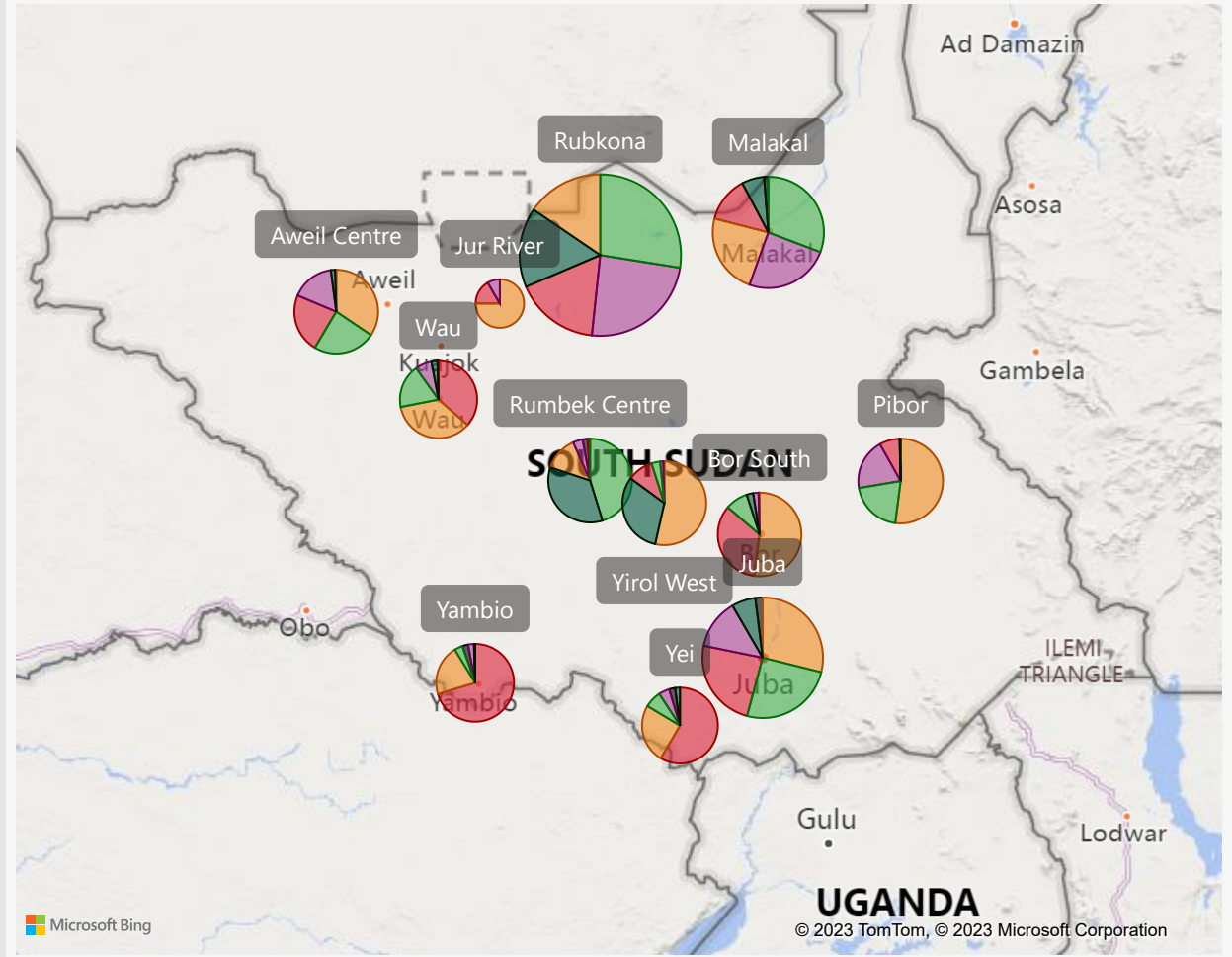
The Unification of Forces will improve the security in this area.

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



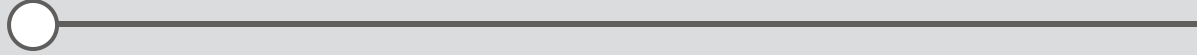
The army should govern the country.

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



Age of Respondents (between)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Gender

Female
 Male

Type of Governance

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

It doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

The winner of elections should share power with the loser.

The winner of elections should take all positions in national government



Age of Respondents (between)

0 100



Environment Type

IDP Camp
 Rural
 Urban

Gender

Female
 Male

Governance & Women

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

I would vote for a qualified female candidate to an elected position in government.

Leaders listen to the needs and ideas of women in this area

Women are adequately represented in decision-making processes in this area.

Women should be represented in 35% of positions in the executive as provided for in the peace agreement

