

# 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



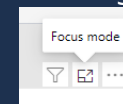
Elections



### **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 Detro, 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.

### Partners of the Project:

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# PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

## Survey Sample



### SURVEY & SAMPLE OVERVIEW

3

Waves

8843

Total Respondents

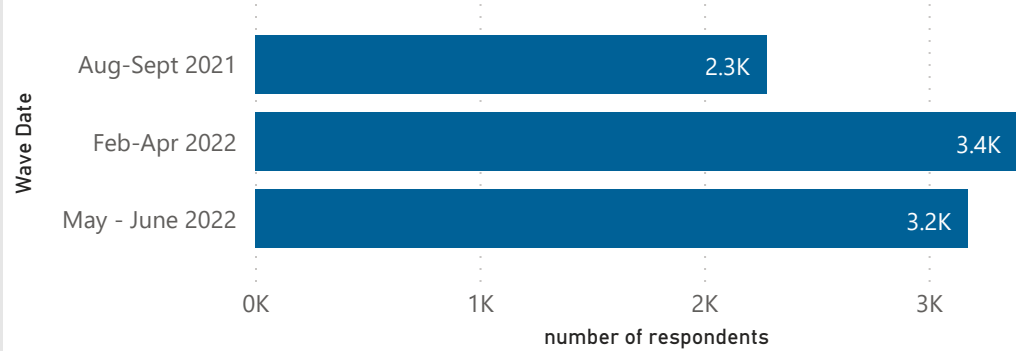
8

ADM1 States

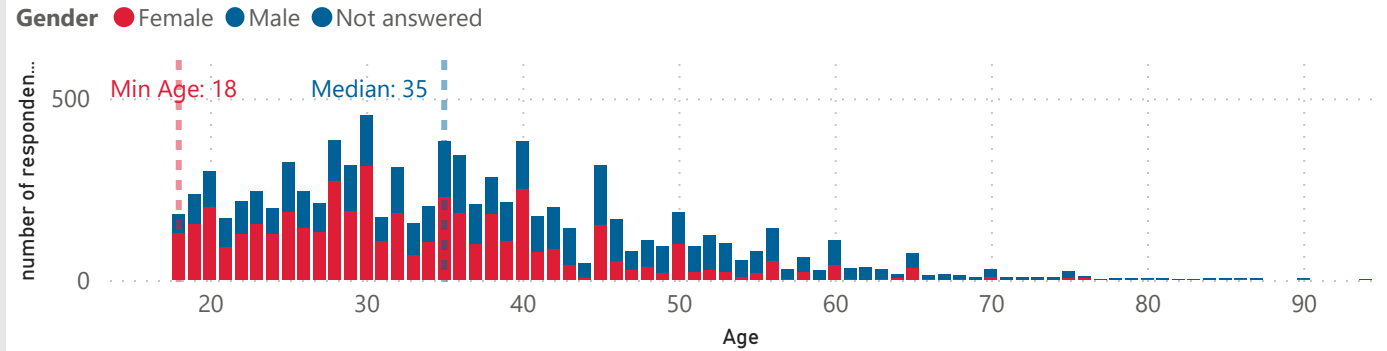
12

ADM2 Areas

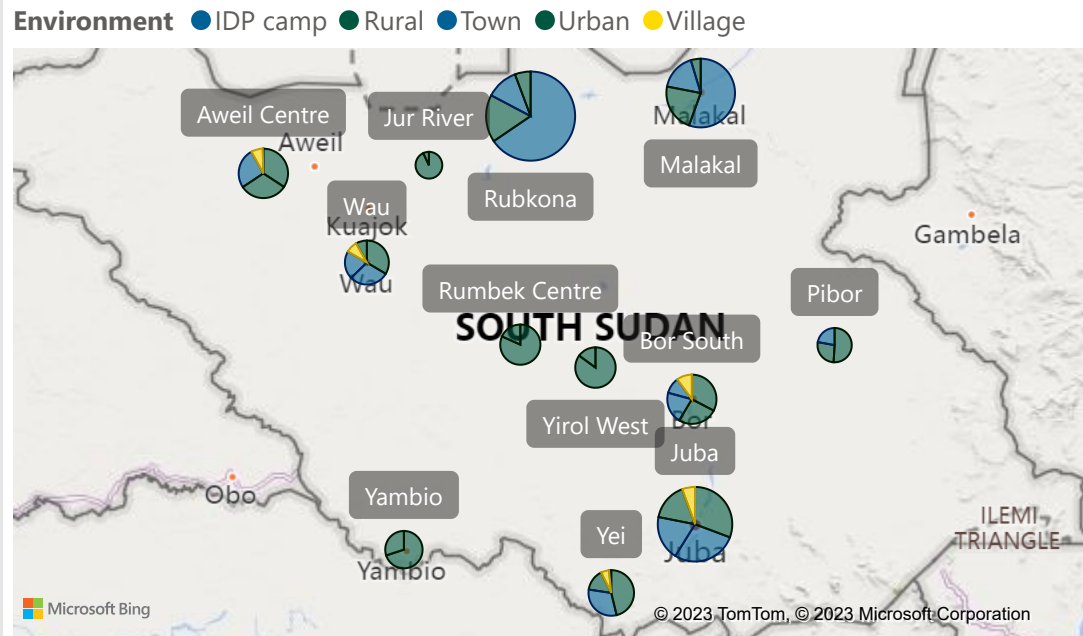
Wave Dates and Number of Respondents



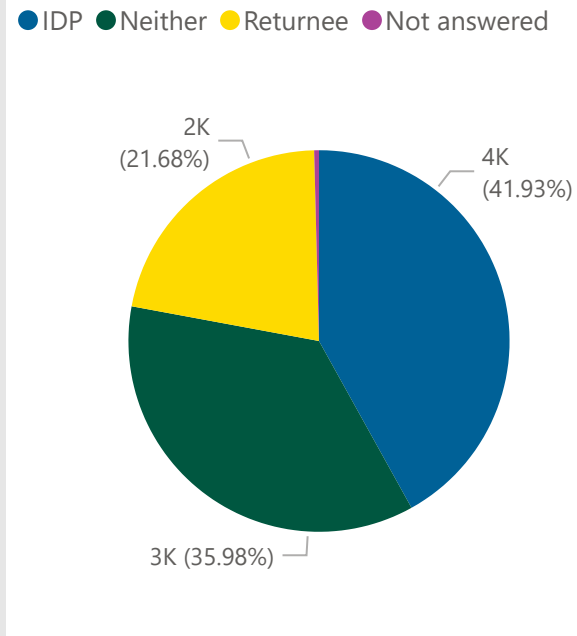
Gender and Age Distribution



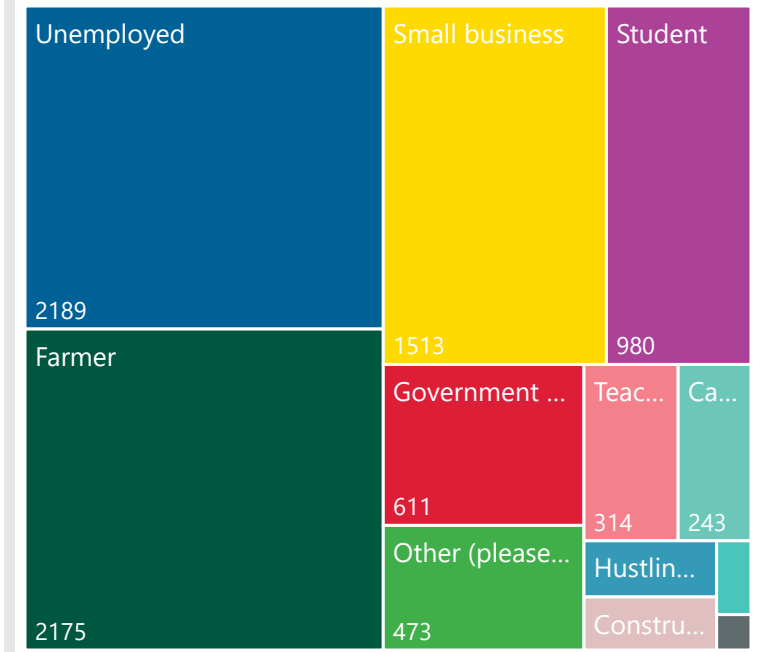
Respondents and Type of Environment by ADM2 Level



Displacement Status



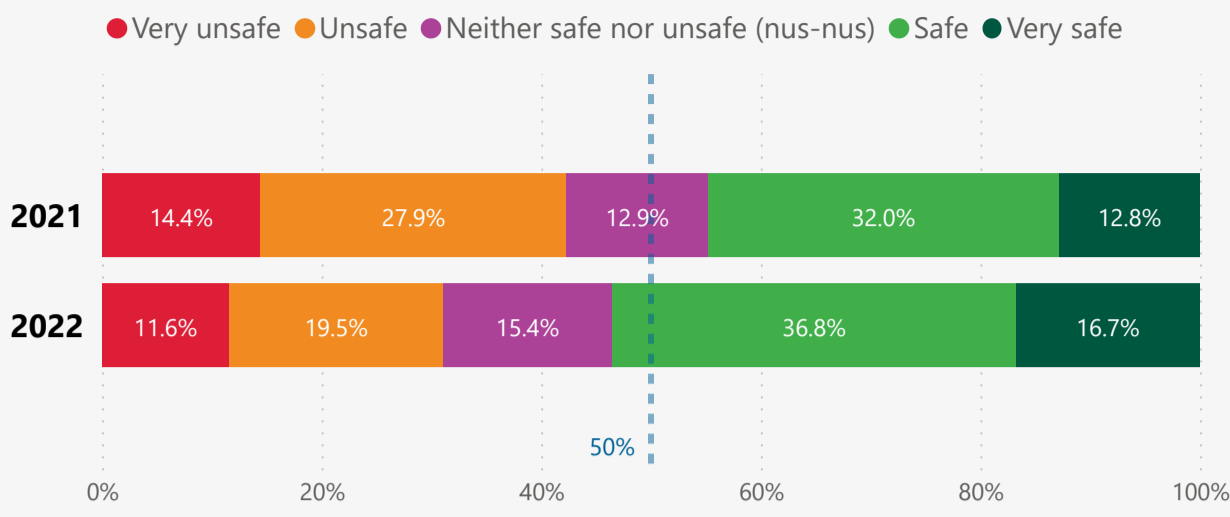
Occupation



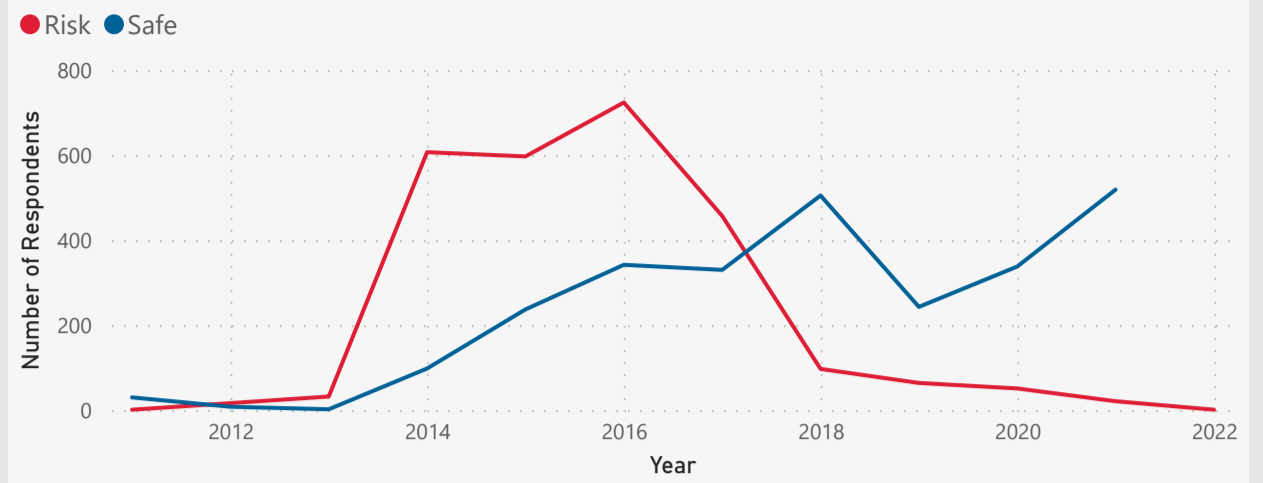


**1.** Overall, respondents felt **safer** in [the first half of] 2022 than in 2021 in their everyday lives in general, and more comfortable voicing opinions compared to previous years in the conflict, highlighting the importance of sustaining the political transition.

All Everyday Security Indicators

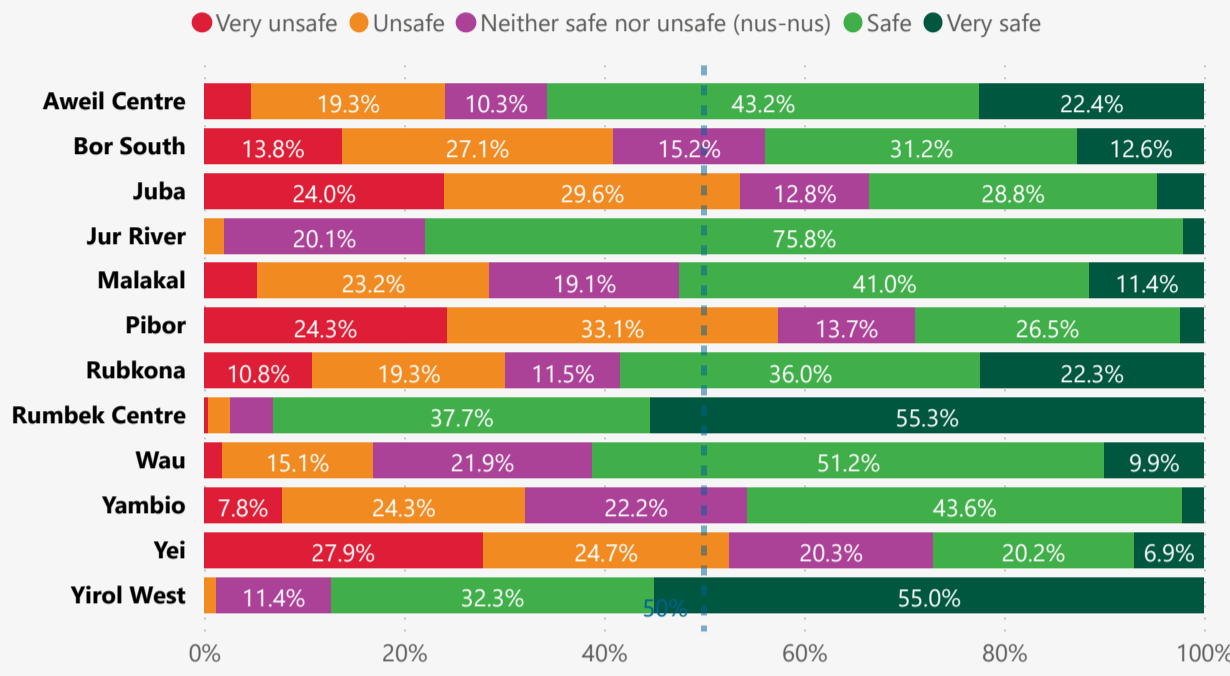


In what year since independence have you felt most at risk/most comfortable voicing your opinion on politically sensitive issues?

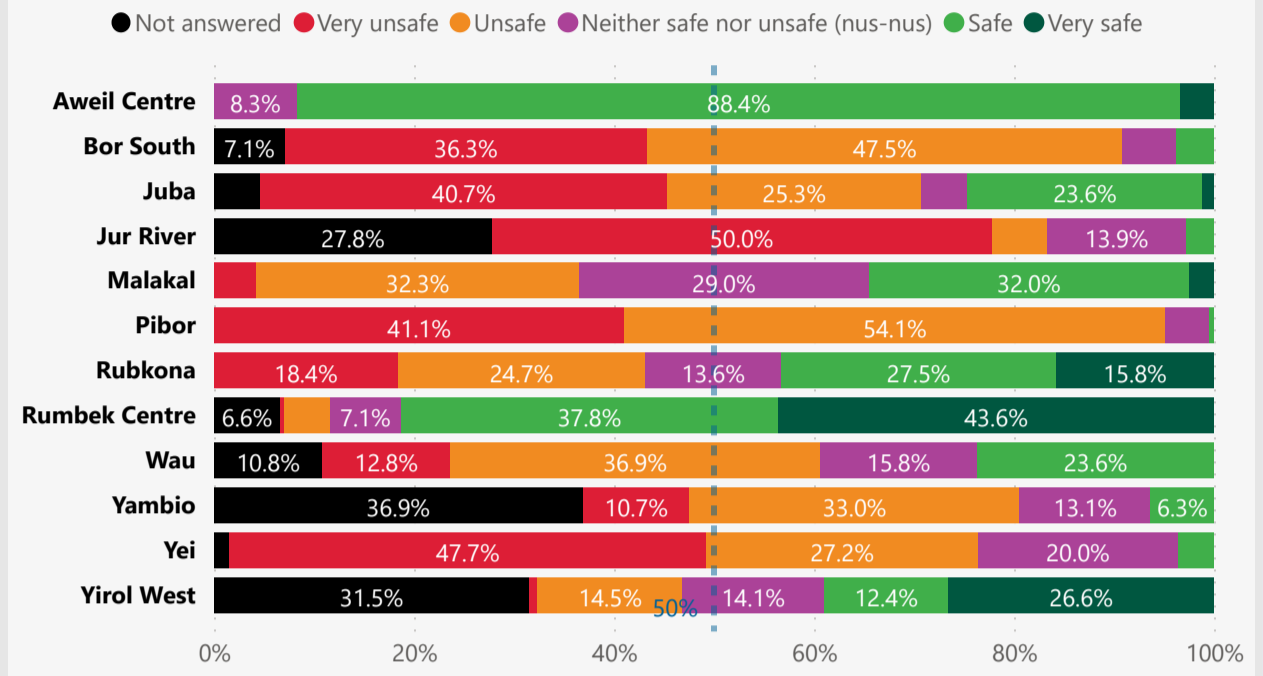


**2.** However, this was not the experience everywhere as citizens in places like **Yei, Pibor** and **Juba** have experienced persistent and acute insecurity.

All Everyday Security Indicators (2021 & 2022)

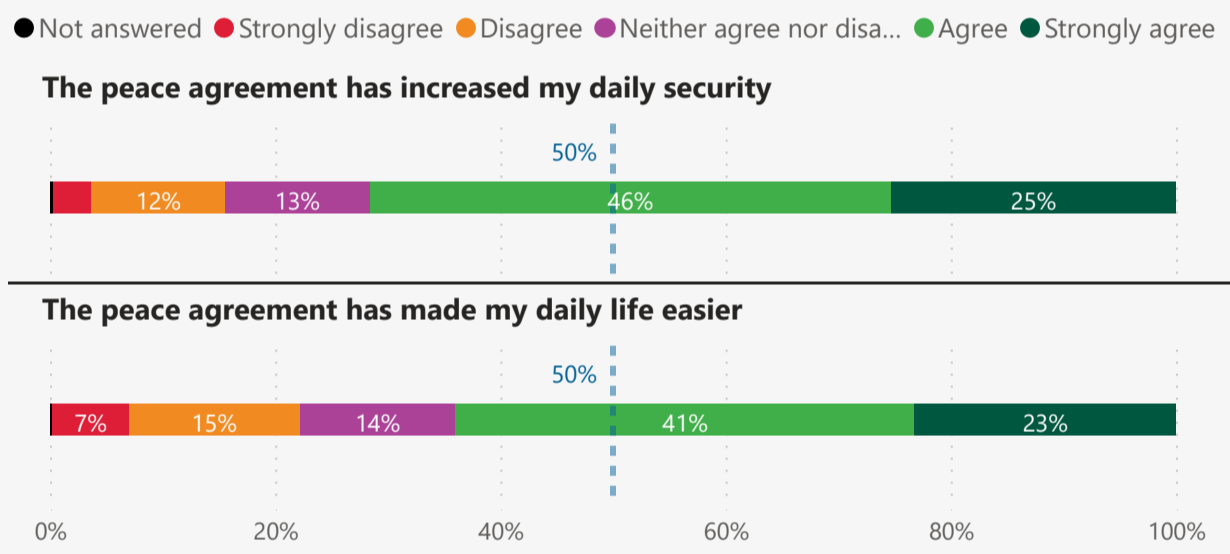


At present (2022), how safe do you feel speaking publicly on politically sensitive issues?

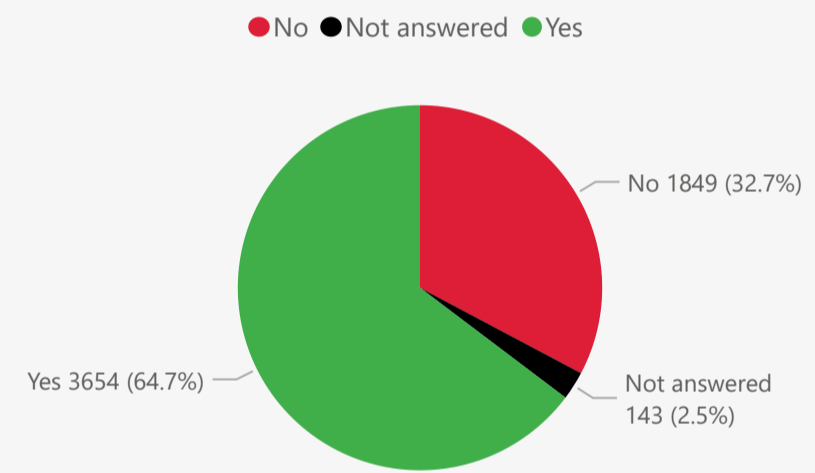


These findings highlight the importance of sustaining the political transition as it appears to be producing a general increase in stability, though it is not evenly distributed. This underlines the need for stabilization policies to prioritize the acute needs of places like Pibor and Yei.

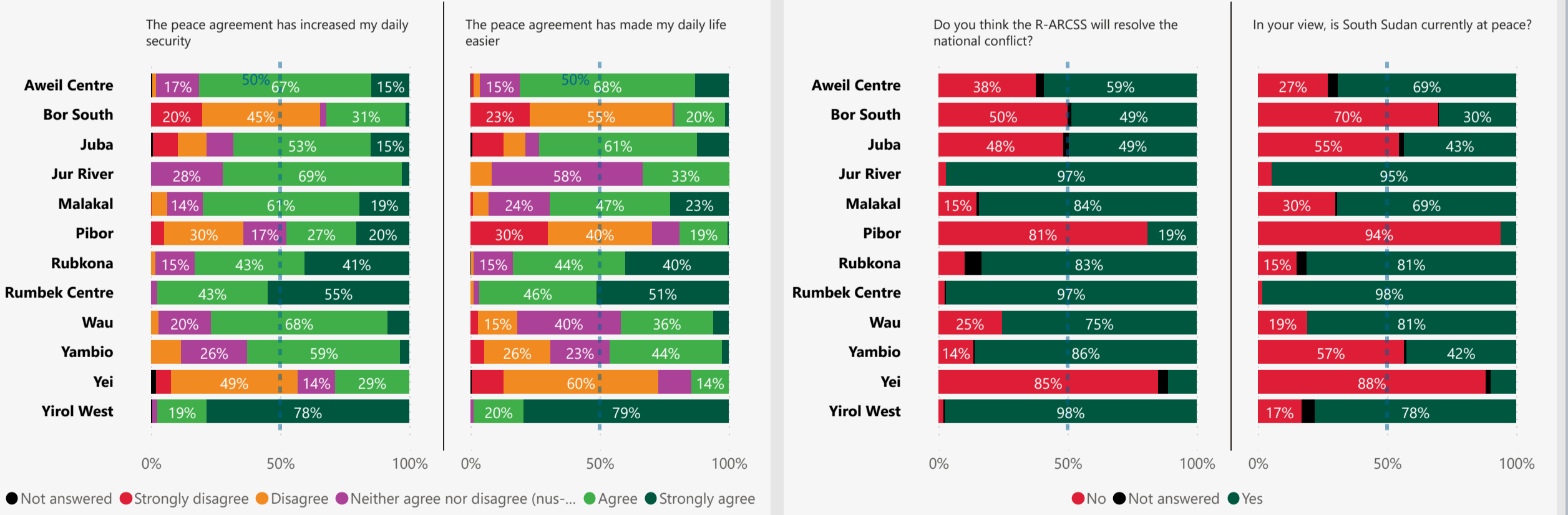
**3.** The **majority** of respondents believed that the Revitalized agreement has **improved** their **daily security** and made their **daily life easier**, and had high confidence levels that the **R-ARCSS will resolve the national conflict**.



Do you think the R-ARCSS will resolve the national conflict?



**4.** However, this increase in stability was also not evenly distributed, as the more unsafe people felt, the more skeptical they were of the national peace agreements. These experiences varied starkly by location.



This underlines findings that for South Sudanese to buy into national agreements, citizens need to observe direct improvements to their daily safety.

Explore responses to questions related to everyday peace and safety, by location, environment, gender and other variables for the following topics..

**Perceptions and Feelings of Peace and Security**

- Everyday Safety Indicators Map
- Currently at Peace?
- Prospects of Peace
- Hope & Despair
- At Peace & Everyday Security
- Prospects of Peace & Everyday Security

**Perceptions of Peace and Conflict**

- R-ARCSS Confidence
- Perceptions of Conflict Levels
- Perceptions vs UCDP
- Perceptions of R-ARCSS
- Conflict Levels (UCDP)
- Sexual & Gender Related Violence

**Local Issues, Peace and Agreements**

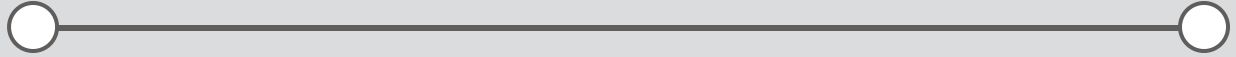
- Community Peace
- Peace Actors
- Local Issues
- Local Agreements in PA-X



Age

18

94



Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

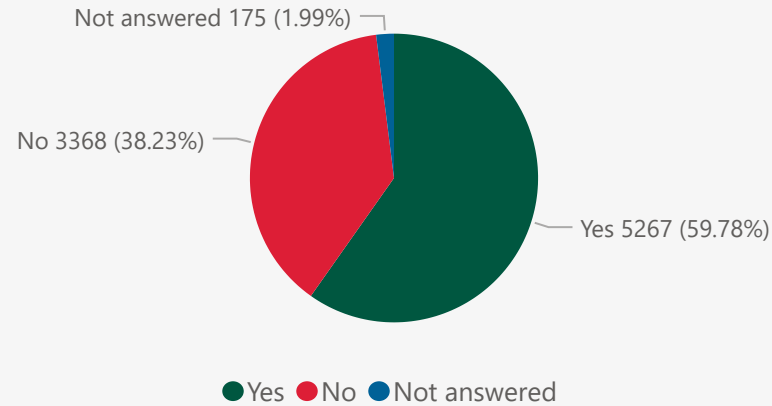
Gender

Female

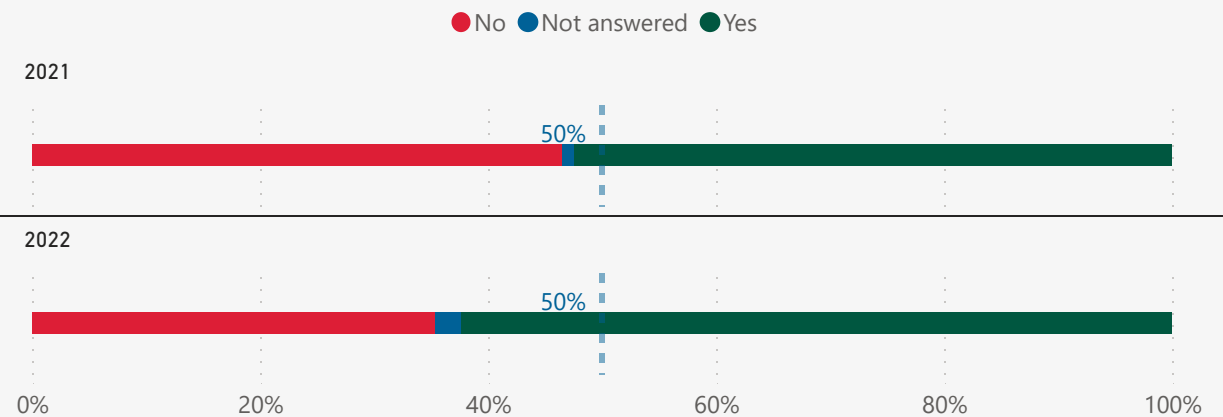
Male

### Q: "In your view, is South Sudan currently at peace?"

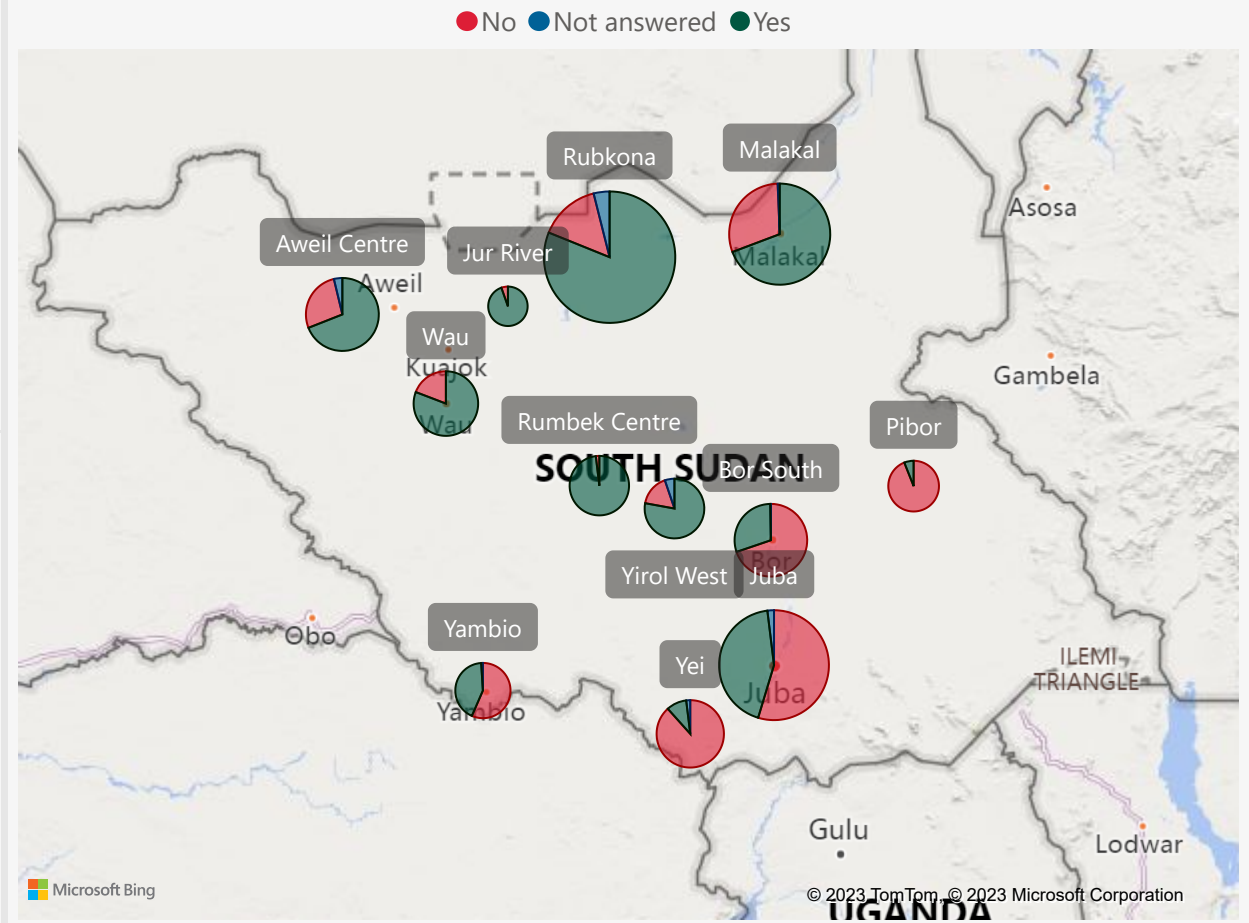
Overall Respondents



Respondents by Year



Respondents by Location





Select Topic or Question

Roads

2011

2013

2018

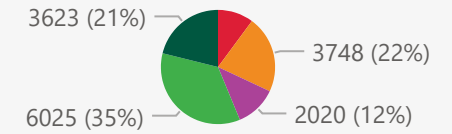
2021

2022

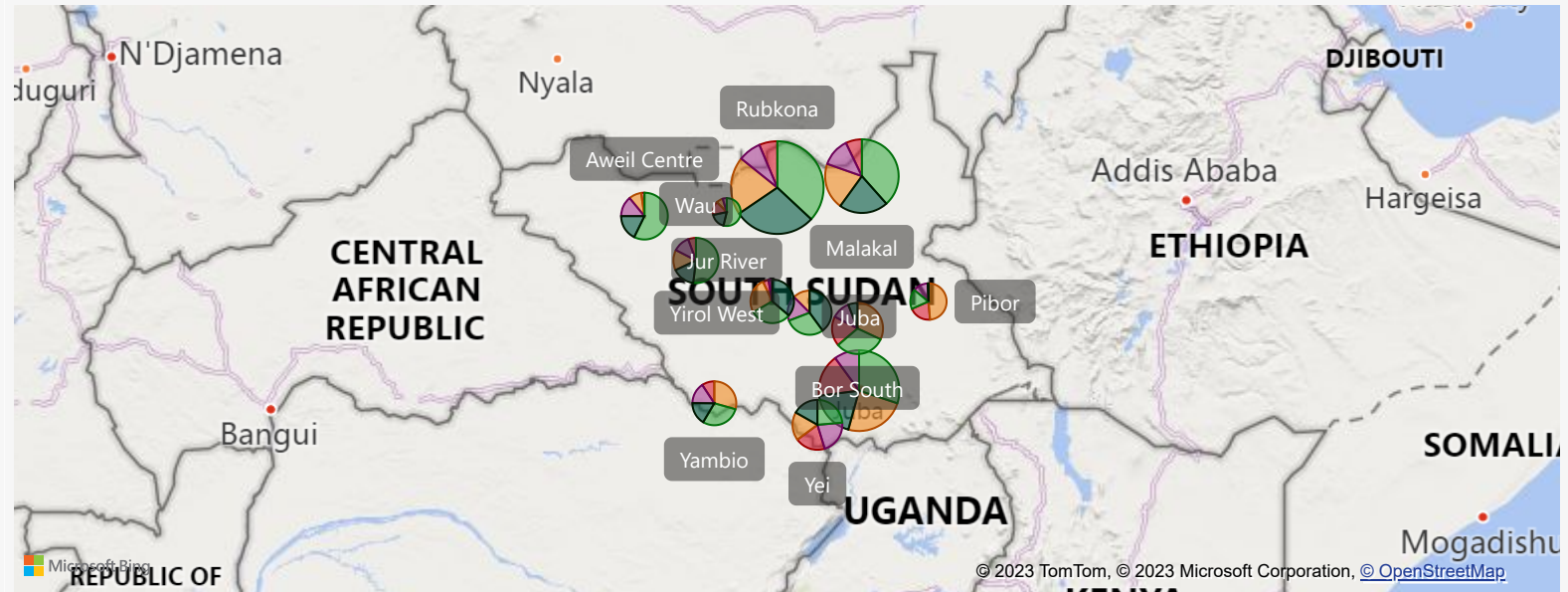
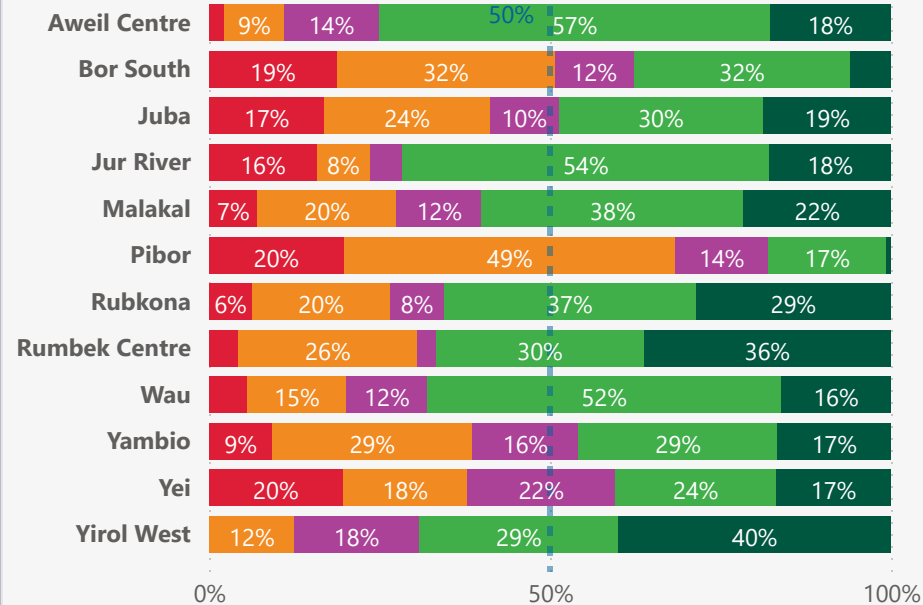
Select topic and year, or a single question from the drop down to view results

All Respondents

Legend ● Very unsafe ● Unsafe ● Neither safe nor unsafe (nus-nus) ● Safe ● Very safe



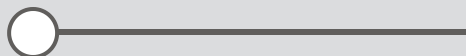
Respondents per Region



Legend ● Very unsafe ● Unsafe ● Neither safe nor unsafe (nus-nus) ● Safe ● Very safe

Number of times displaced (>=)

0 100



IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Female

Male

Do you own a phone?

- No
- Not answered
- Yes

Access to electricity at least once a day?

- Always
- Many times
- Never
- Not answered
- Once or twice
- Several times



# PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Q: "In your opinion, what are the prospects for peace in the next 3 years?"



Age

18

94

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

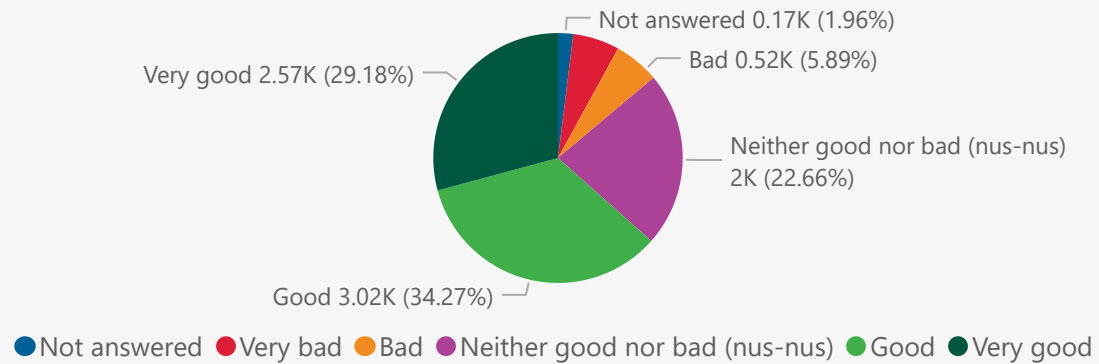
Gender

Female

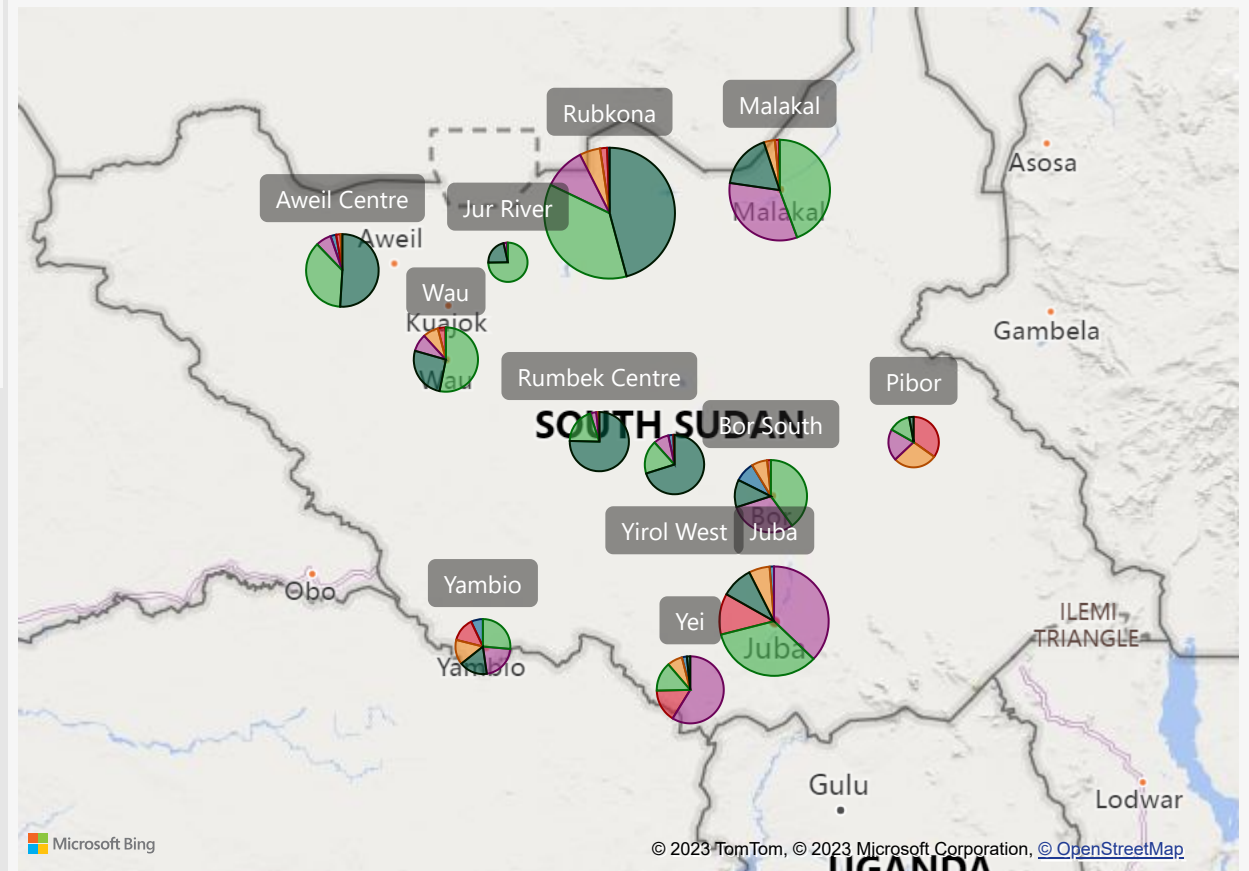
Male

## Q: "In your opinion, what are the prospects for peace in the next 3 years?"

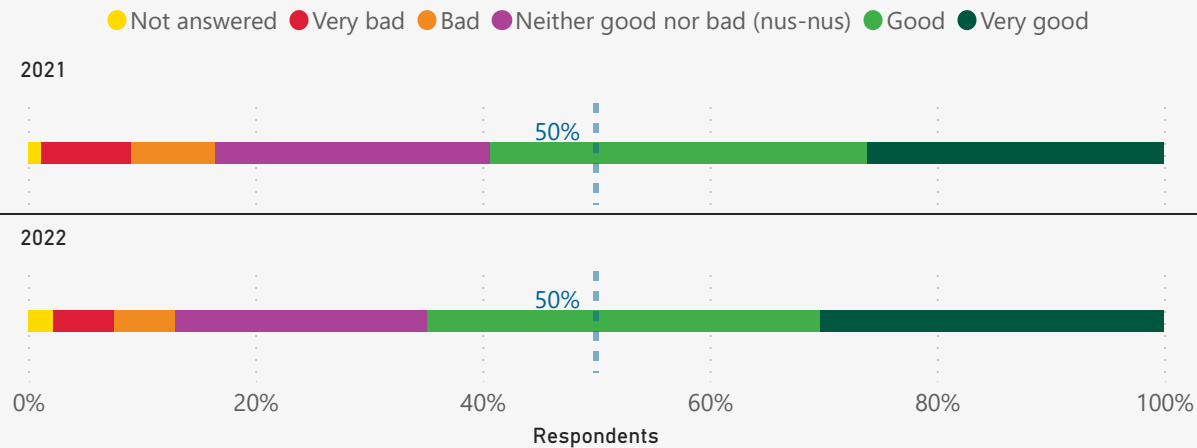
Overall Respondents



Respondents by Location



Respondents by Year



● Not answered ● Very bad ● Bad ● Neither good nor bad (nus-nus) ● Good ● Very good



# Q: "In your view, is South Sudan currently at peace?" & Everyday Safety Levels



Everyday Safety Indicator

All

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Female

Male

Not answered

## Responses to "Is South Sudan Currently at Peace?" & Levels of Everyday Safety

● No ● Not answered ● Yes



# Q: "In your opinion, what are the prospects for peace in South Sudan in the next 3 years?" & Everyday Safety Levels



Everyday Safety Indicator

All

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Female

Male

Not  
answered

## Responses for Prospects for Peace (in next 3 years) by Respondent's Levels of Everyday Safety

● Not answered ● Very bad ● Bad ● Neither good nor bad (nus-nus) ● Good ● Very good



Displaced times (>=)

0

Age (between)

18

Environment Type: All

IDP Camp  Rural  Urban

Gender: All

Female  Male

Access to electricity at least once a day?: All

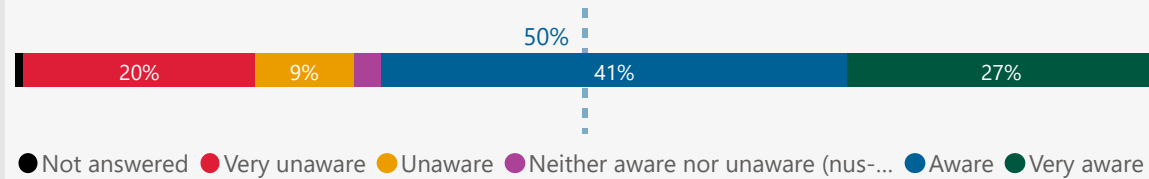
Always  Many times  Never  Not answered  Once or twice  Several times

Do you own a phone?: All

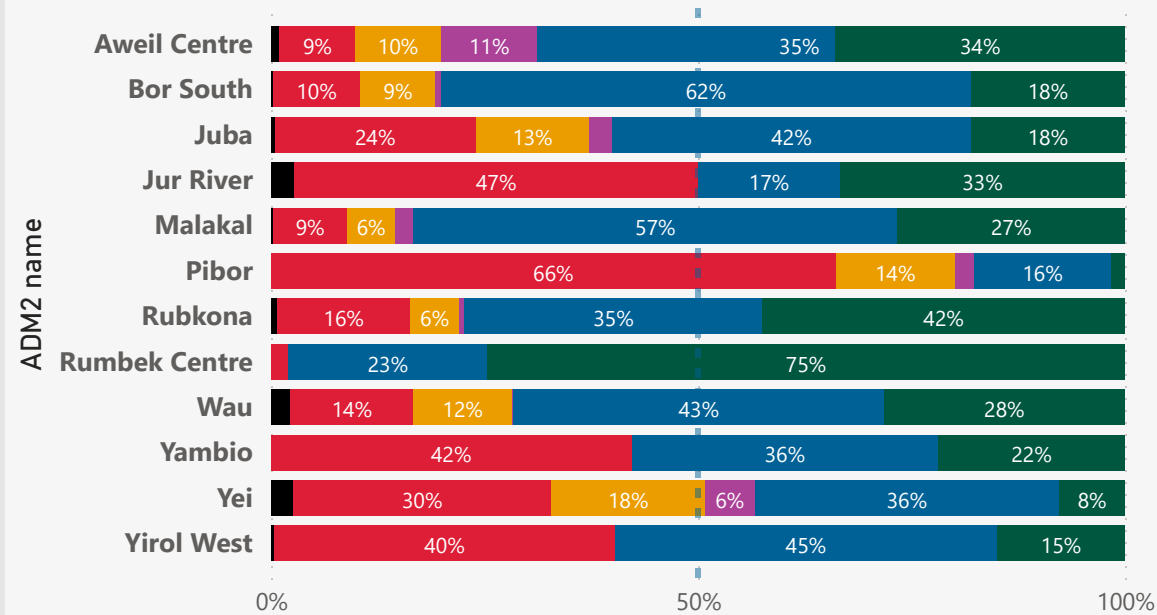
No  Not answered  Yes

Reset all Filters

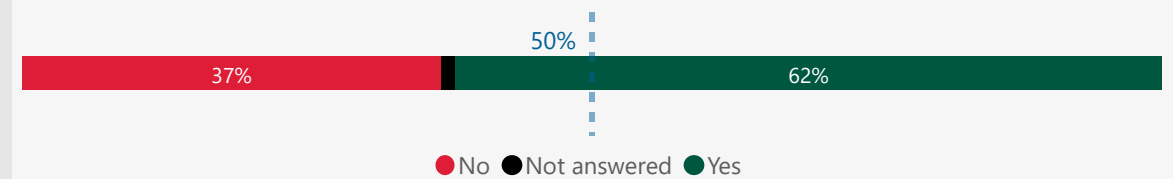
### How aware are you about the IGAD-led peace process?



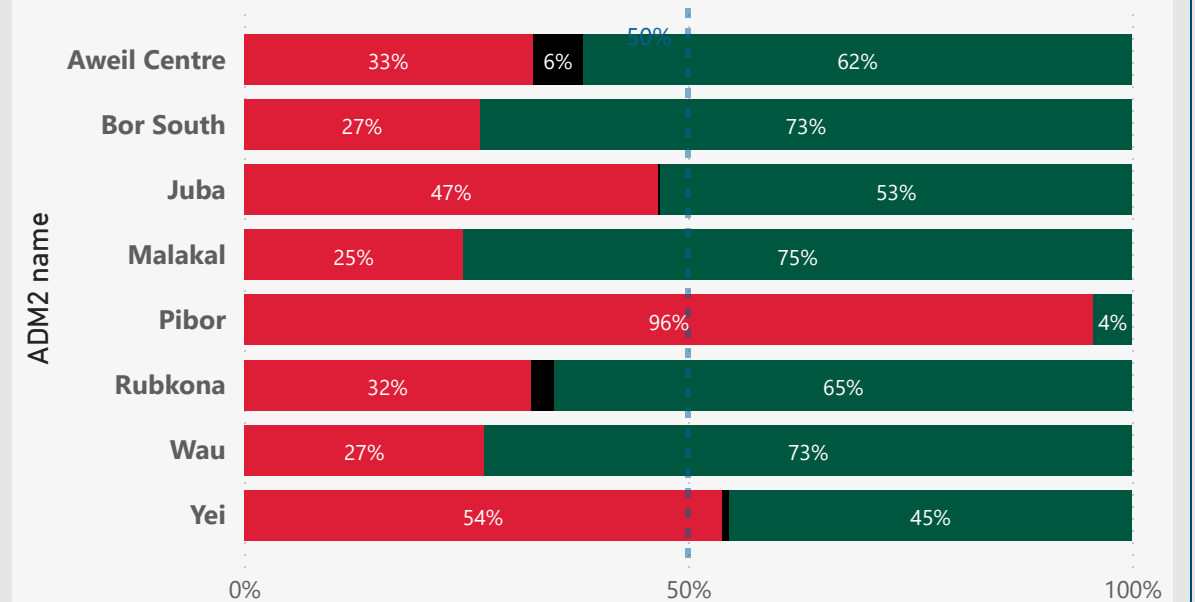
#### By ADM2



### Have you heard of the National Dialogue initiative that was launched in 2017?



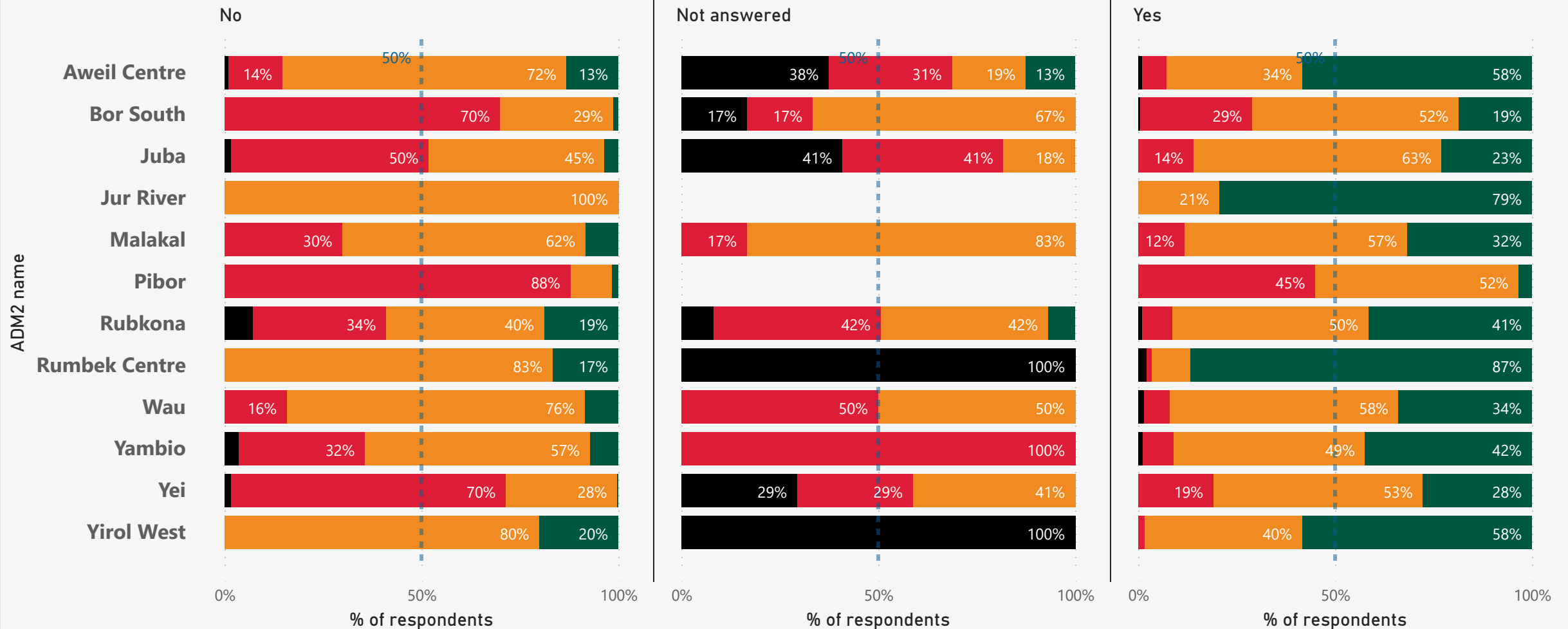
#### By ADM2





**Q1:** "Do you think the Revitalized Peace Agreement (R-ARCSS) will resolve the national conflict in South Sudan?" &  
**Q2:** "How much confidence do you have in the Revitalized Transitional Government to implement the peace agreement?"

**Q2: Confidence?** ● Not answered ● No confidence ● A little confidence ● A lot of confidence





# PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

## Perceptions of R-ARCSS Peace Agreement



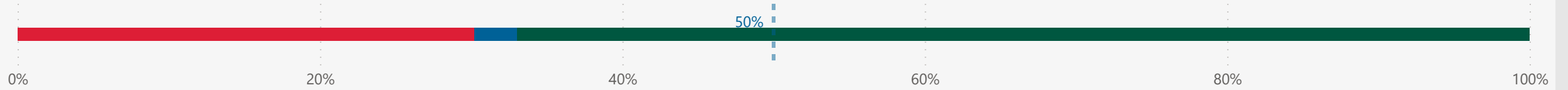
[View agreement details](#)



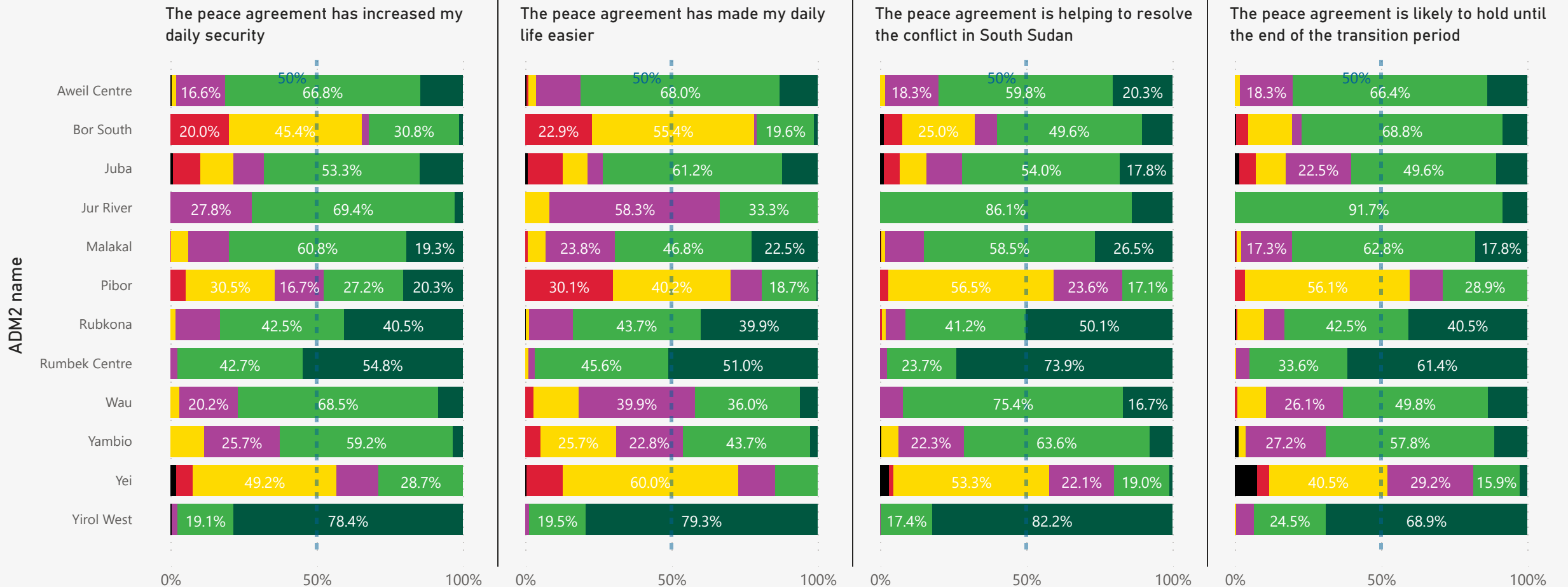
[View agreement PDF](#)



Do you think the R-ARCSS will resolve the national conflict? ● No ● Not answered ● Yes



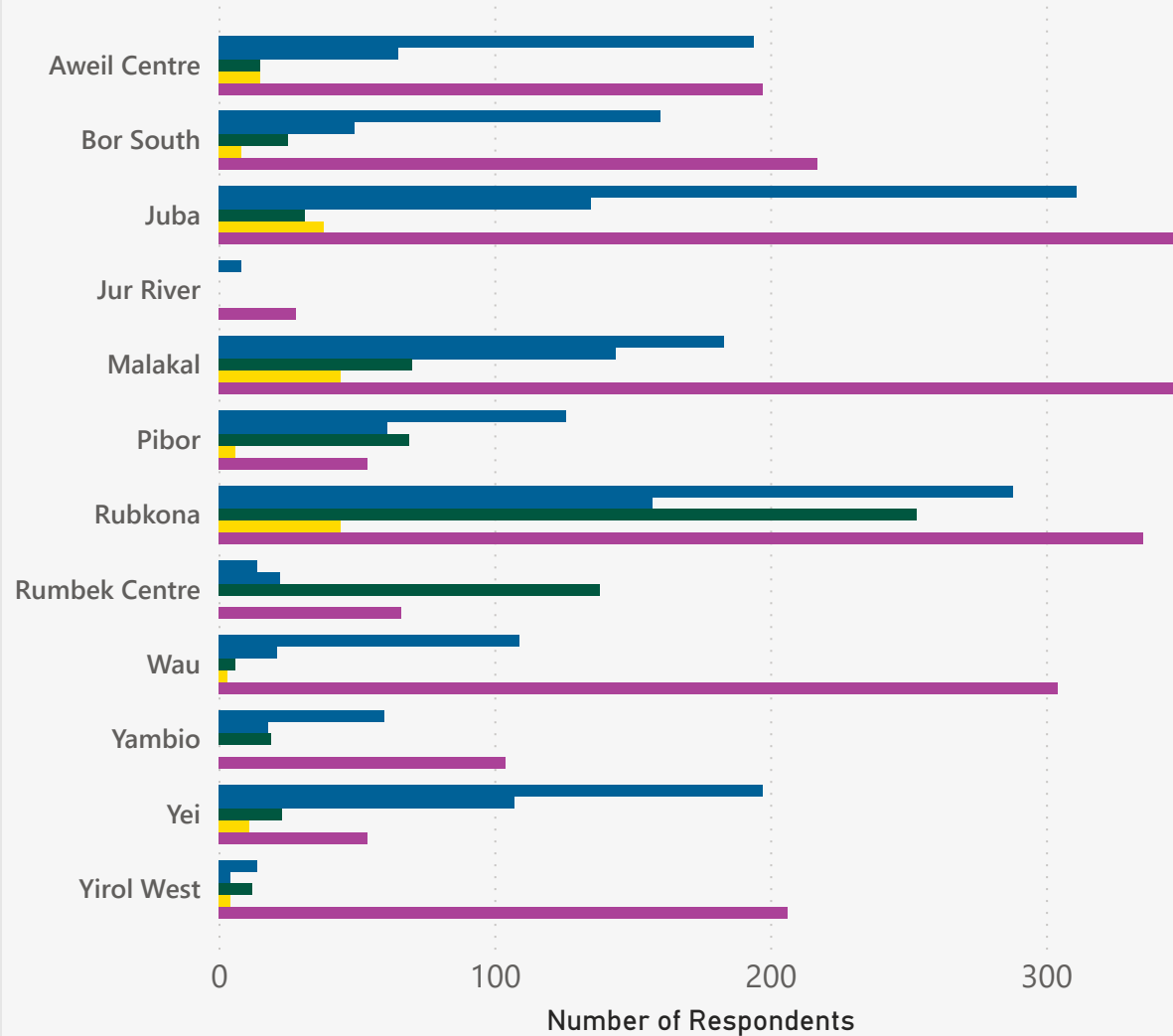
To what extent do you agree with the statements: ● Not answered ● Strongly disagree ● Disagree ● Neither agree nor disagree (nus-nus) ● Agree ● Strongly agree





In your view, are local, national or international actors most effective at building peace? (click a location name to filter word clouds)

● International actors ● National actors ● Local actors ● None of the above ● All of the above



Which international actors do you trust to build peace?



Which national actors do you trust to build peace?





## PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN



Q: "If the government and opposition are still at war, there are still ways my community can remain at peace."

Age

18

94

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

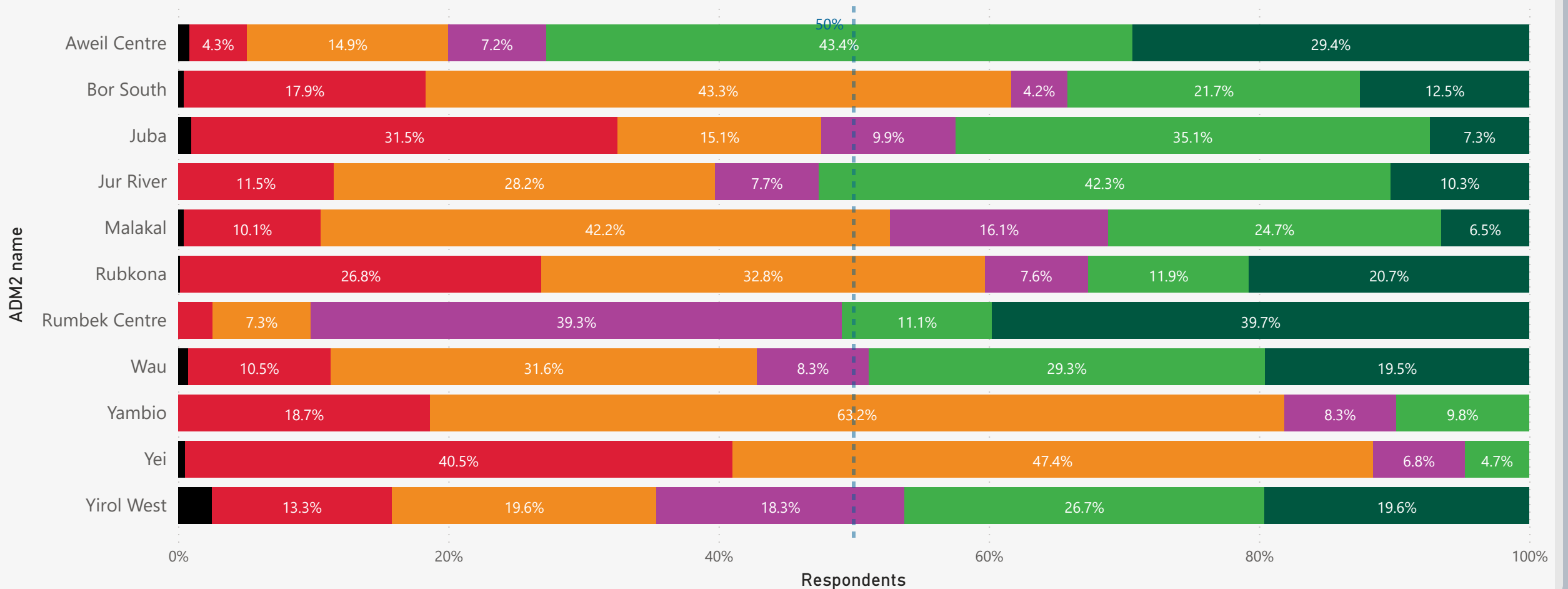
Gender

Female

Male

**Q: Do you agree with the statement:** "If the government and opposition are still at war, there are still ways my community can remain at peace."

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





Select a topic to view questions related to the specific grievance

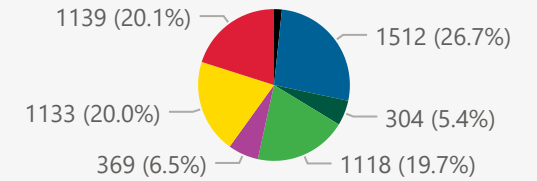
Cattle
  Cattleraiding
  Land

Number of Times Displaced [greater than]

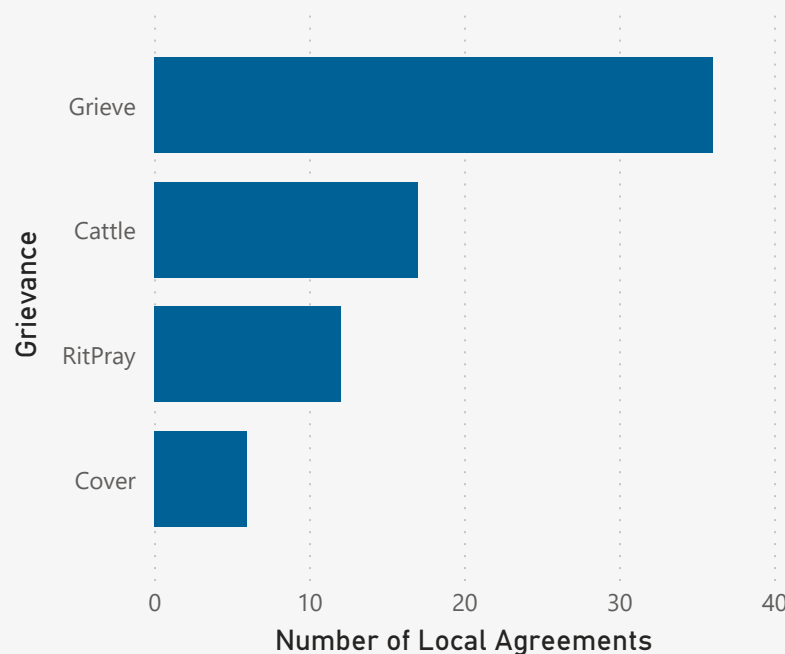
## How much of a problem are tensions between cattle keepers and farmers in this area?

All Respondents

**Legend** ● Not answered ● Not a problem at all ● Very small problem ● Small problem ● Moderate problem (nus-nus) ● Big problem ● Very big problem

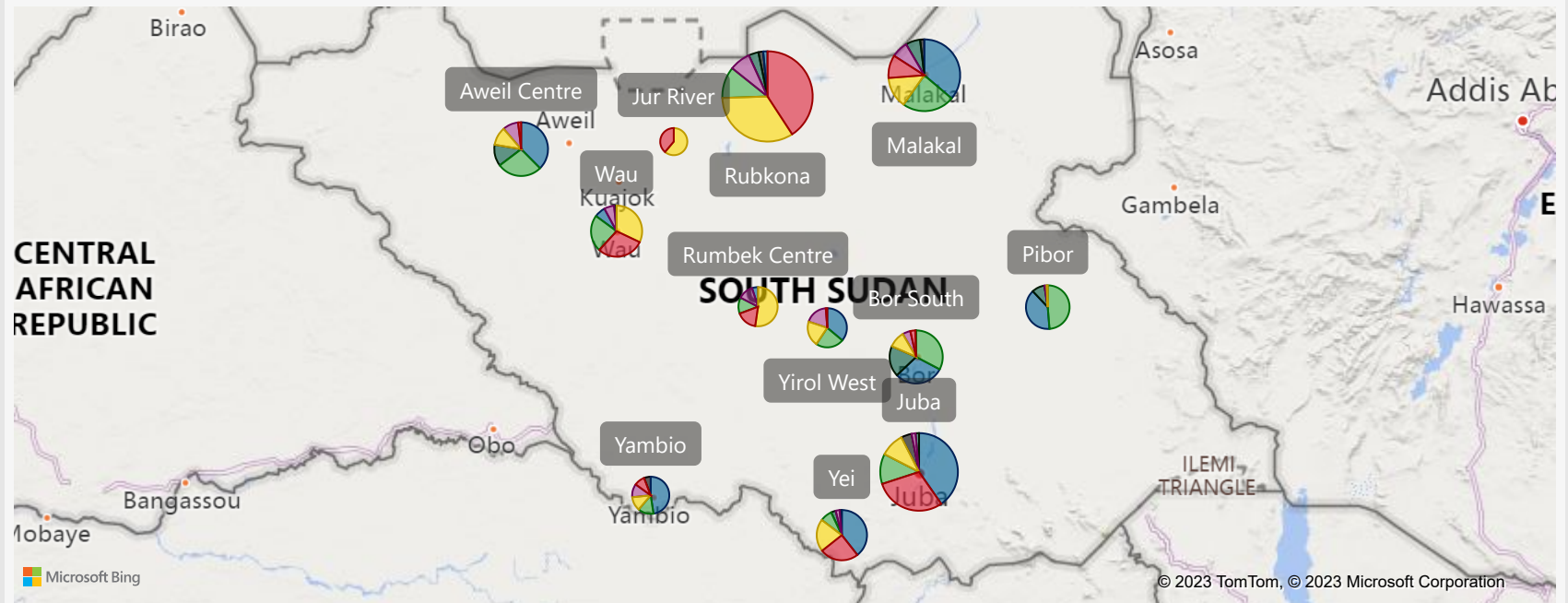


Grievances addressed in South Sudanese Local Agreements



Respondents per Region

**Answer** ● Not answered ● Not a problem at all ● Very small probl... ● Small problem ● Moderate pro... ● Big problem ● Very big probl...







# PERCEPTIONS OF PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Q: "In what year did you feel the most hope, and most despair?"



Age

18

94

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Gender

Female

Male

## In what year did you feel the most hope, and most despair?

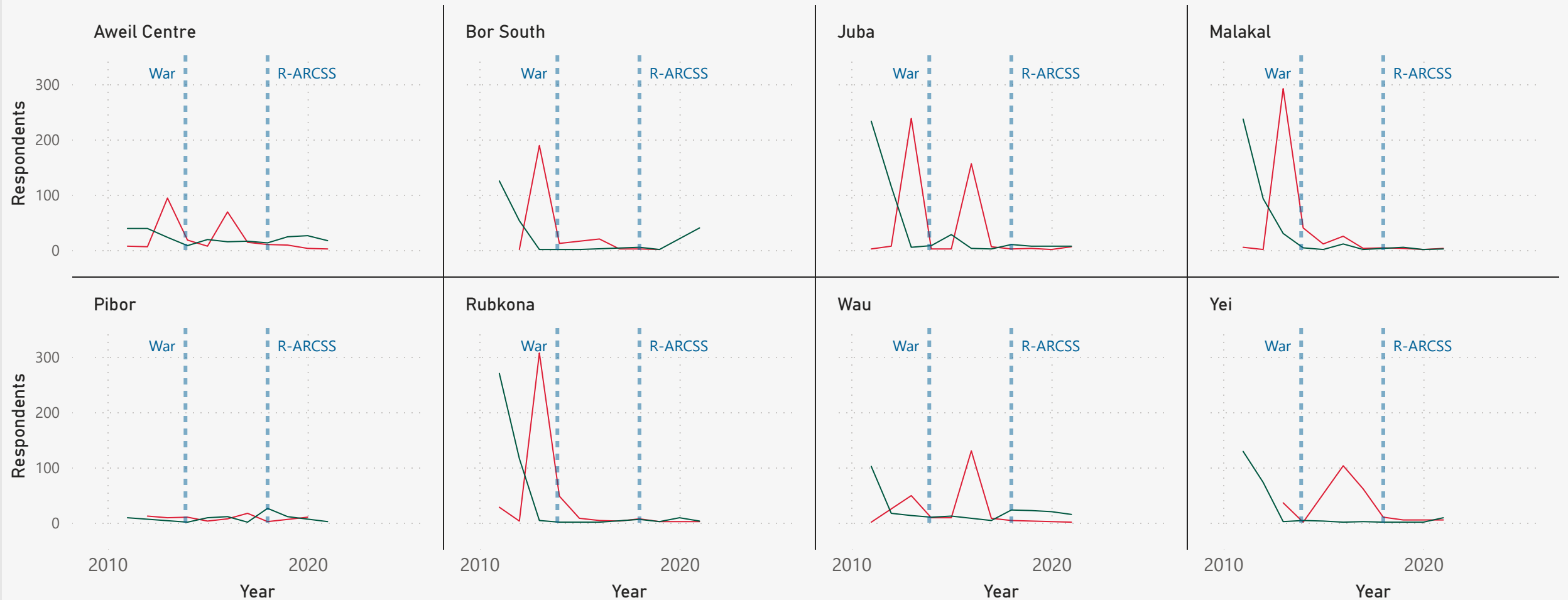
**2013**

**2011**

Year most Despair

Year most Hope

— Despair — Hope

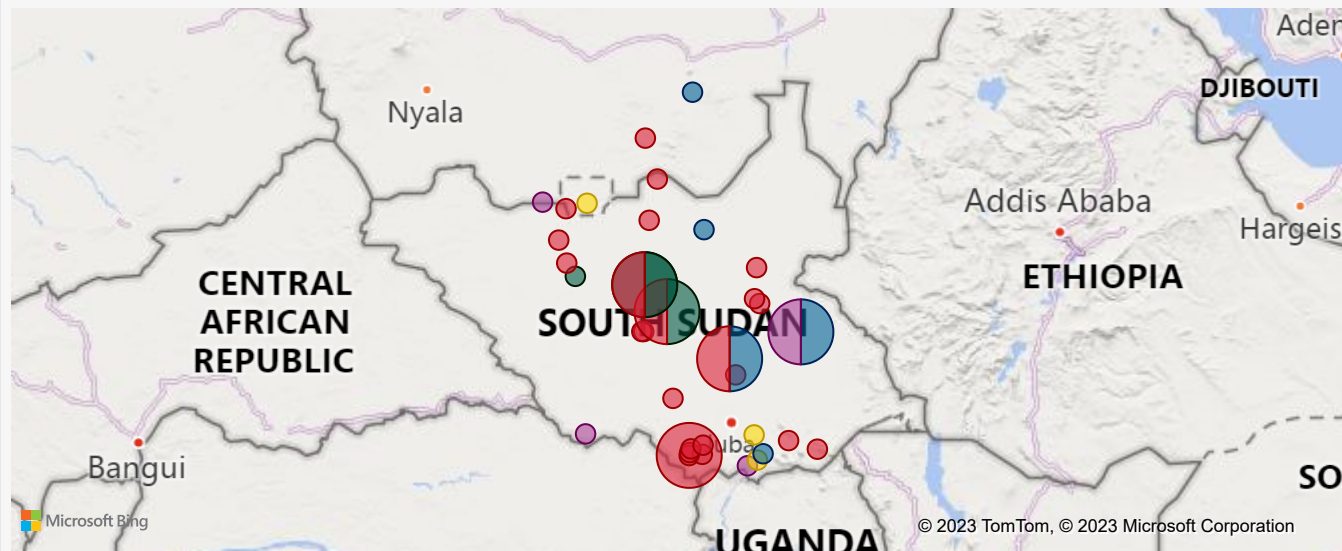


### South Sudanese Local Agreements

42

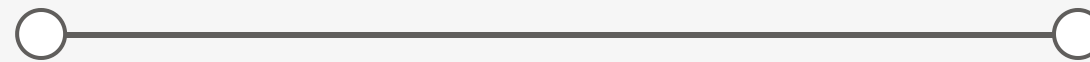
Local Agreements

Stage of Agreement ● Cea ● Imp ● Pre ● SubComp ● SubPar



### Filter agreements shown by:

08/03/1999 19/05/2021



#### Stage

- 

#### Actors Presence:

- CentState
- IntActor
- LocArmedGr
- LocComSoc

#### Grievances addressed:

- Cattle
- Cover
- Grieve
- RitPray

Agreement Name	Area	Date Signed	View on PA-X	View PDF
1st Review of the Marial Bai Agreement on Cattle Seasonal Movement, Wau State	States of Wau, Tonj, Gogrial	01 November 2019	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement between the Wonduruba Community and the SPLA Commando Unit	Wonduruba	03 December 2015	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement on a Cessation of Hostilities between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Defense Army, Cobra Faction	Jonglei State	30 January 2014	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities between the Youth of Dinka Bor and Murle Communities	Boma and Jonglei states	23 May 2017	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement on Resolution of the Conflict in Jonglei State between Government of the Republic of South Sudan and South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army-Cobra Faction (SSDM-SSDA-Cobra) (Yau Yau Agreement)	Jonglei State	09 May 2014	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement on the Demands of the Equatoria Non-Allied Force (ENAF) Yei State Government NSS/ISB and EPC Peace Desk and Communique	Yei River State, particularly greater Lainya and Yei	18 February 2019	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Gbudue and Maridi States	Gbudue and Maridi States (Western Equatoria State)	02 April 2016	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>
All-Jonglei Conference for Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance, held in Bor, 1-5 May 2012: Conference Resolutions and Recommendations	Jonglei	05 May 2012	<a href="#">View on PA-X</a>	<a href="#">View PDF</a>



Q: "Since the war broke out in Dec 2013, in which year has there been the **most** and **least** amount of conflict?"

Age

18

94

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

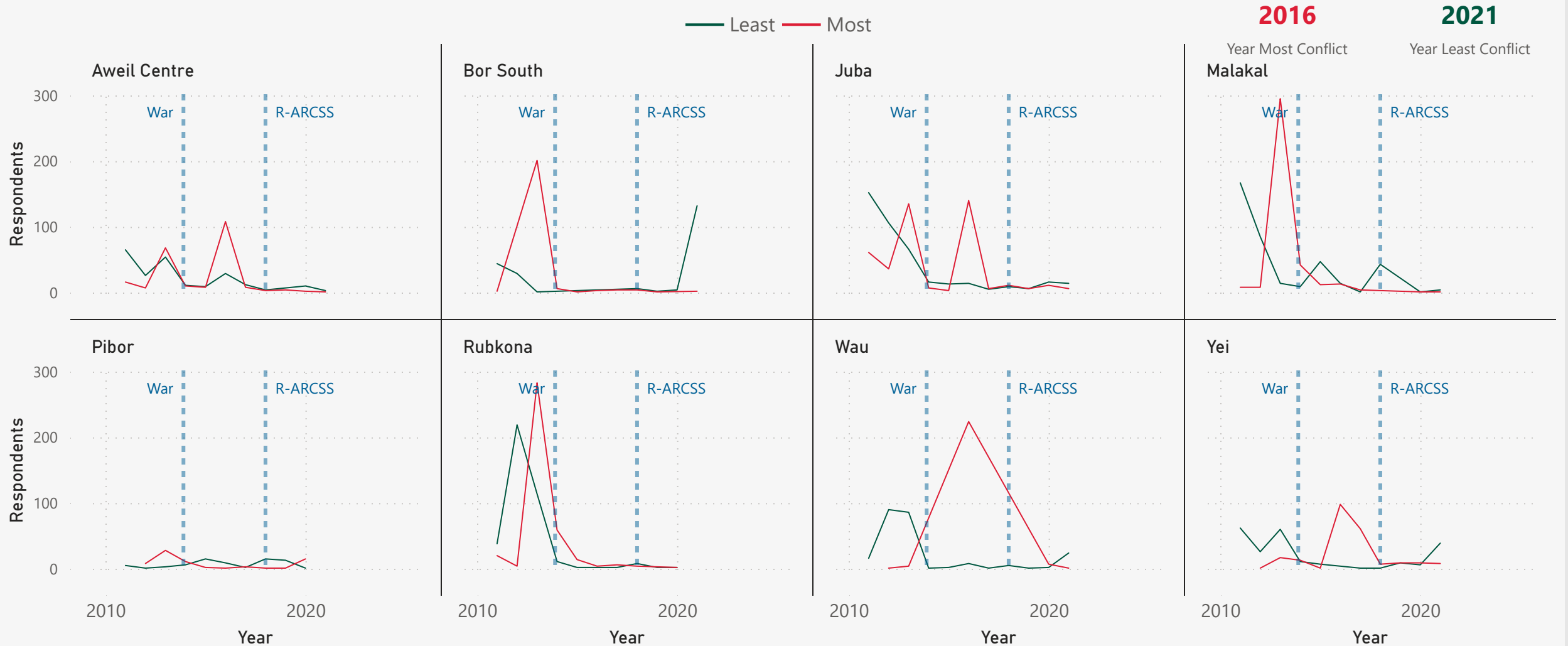
Urban

Gender

Female

Male

Since the war broke out in December 2013, in which year has there been the least amount of conflict between communities in this area?



# CONFLICT LEVELS IN SOUTH SUDAN (UCDP)

UCDP Event and Fatality data for the locations and time period covered by this survey<sup>1</sup>



Year: 2011 | 2021

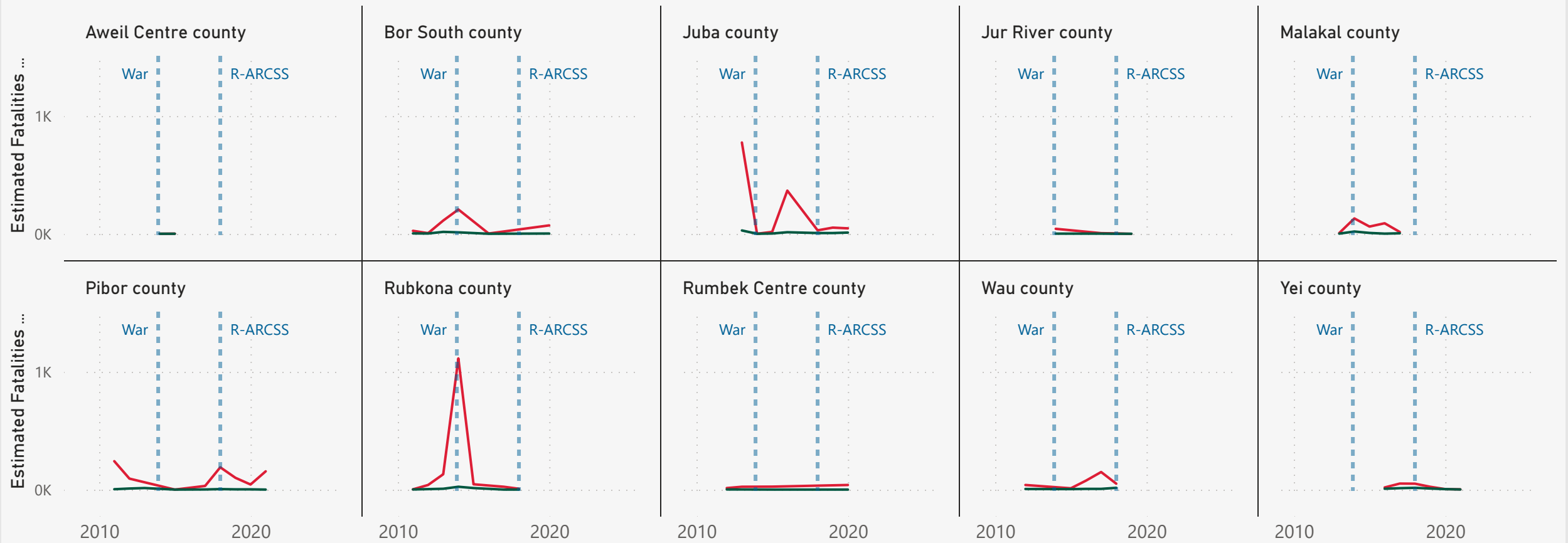
Violence Type: Non-state, State-based, One-sided

**2013**  
Year Most Events

**2014**  
Year Most Fatalities

UCDP GED Events and Estimated Fatalities in ADM2 Covered in Survey

● Estimated Fatalities ● UCDP Conflict Events



Data taken from UCDP GED 22.1 for events in South Sudan, see [The Uppsala Conflict Data Program \(UCDP\)](#):

<sup>1</sup>Davies, Shawn, Therese Pettersson & Magnus Öberg (2022). Organized violence 1989-2021 and drone warfare. Journal of Peace Research 59(4).

# CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN

UCDP & Q: "Since the war broke out in Dec 2013, in which year has there been the **most** and **least** amount of conflict?"



Filter by Location:

Survey Environment

IDP Camp
  Rural
  Urban

UCDP Violence Type

Non-state
  One-sided
  State-based

Perceptions from Survey

**2016**

Year Most Conflict

**2021**

Year Least Conflict

UCDP Events and Fatalities

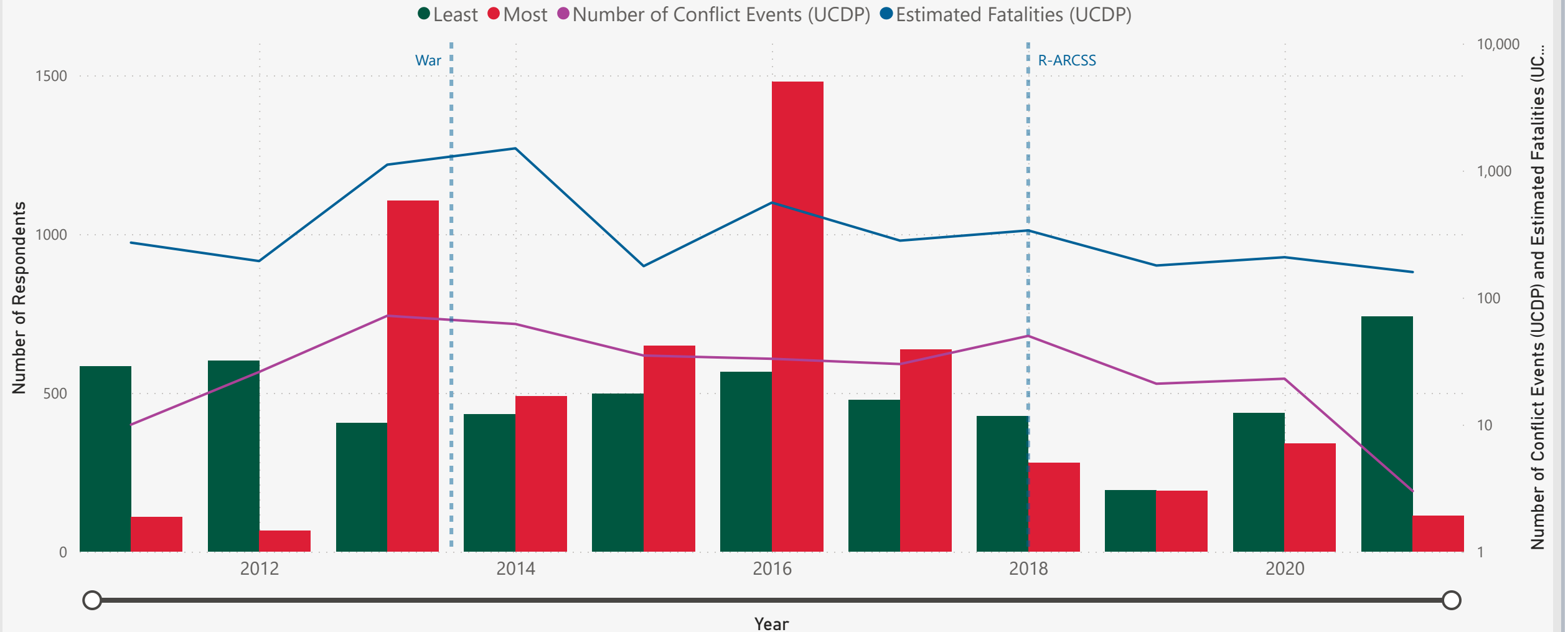
**2013**

Year Most Events

**2014**

Year Most Fataliti...

Survey perceptions of when least/most conflict and UCDP GED Events and Estimated Fatalities (in ADM2 Covered in Survey) by Year



# CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN

Do you think conflict-related sexual violence was more common during: the [current war](#) (2013-present), during the [22 year war](#) (1983-2005), or that it was [the same during both](#) wars?

Age

18

94

Environment Type

IDP Camp

Rural

Urban

Gender

Female

Male

## Responses by Location

- More common during the 22-year war
- The same in both wars
- More common during the current war

## All Respondents

