The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a global IOM system used to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It has been implemented in over 80 countries worldwide and is designed to capture, process, and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile populations, whether on site or en route, regularly and systematically. It is comprised of four distinct components, namely: Mobility Tracking, Registration, Flow Monitoring, and Surveying.

Mobility Tracking Round Three started in April 2021 with the expansion of DTM operations to North Kordofan state. Field teams revisited locations covered in Round One and Two, as well as new locations in Blue Nile state which were not covered in the first two rounds. Data collection was carried out over a two-month period, concluding in late June, and followed by data cleaning and verification to produce the third round of results.

Geographically, Round Three covers 1,538 locations in total – 704 locations in North Darfur, 232 locations in South Kordofan, 178 locations in West Kordofan, 102 locations in West Darfur, 100 locations in South Darfur, 74 locations in Central Darfur, 57 locations in Blue Nile, 37 locations in North Kordofan, 23 locations in East Darfur, 17 locations in Gedaref and 14 locations in Kassala.

Mobility Tracking Round Three identified the accumulative presence of 3,086,553 IDPs, 942,299 permanent returnees from internal displacement, 38,485 seasonal returnees, 92,644 returnees from abroad, and 388,634 foreign nationals currently residing in Sudan.1

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1 Inclusion of foreign nationals in Mobility Tracking is based on the knowledge of the key informants interviewed and is not yet a quotable figure for the number of migrants in a state (or Sudan).
MOBILITY TRACKING

Mobility Tracking is a methodology aimed at the systematic collection of information on selected target population groups within defined locations. It allows to update such figures at regular intervals to provide updates on displacement and other forms of mobility in Sudan. Through this standard methodology, DTM produces an evidence base for programme planning, with the intention to support humanitarian, transition, and recovery operations across the country.

DTM employs enumerators who originate from the areas of assessment. Enumerators collect quantitative data at the location level, through direct interviews with key informants (selected for their knowledge of the area under observation). Key informants consist of representatives from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), humanitarian aid workers, as well as religious and other prominent community leaders. The methodology utilised to implement Mobility Tracking Round Three is summarised below:

• DTM conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Khartoum with DTM teams from the states of operation on the Mobility Tracking methodology and data collection processes.
• Data collection commenced to verify the presence of target population groups across locations not covered in the first two rounds. Additional locations with target population presence were also identified throughout the data collection period and added accordingly to DTM’s existing baseline.
• DTM teams relied on a broad network of key informants to quantify and detail the characteristics of each target population group present per location. Where possible, triangulation of information provided by different key informants in the same geographic location further verified the figures.
• Additional information was collected, such as the time of arrival of IDPs, returnees from internal displacement and foreign nationals, as well as their locations of origin, reasons for displacement, return intentions, and temporary shelter categories.
• Sex and age disaggregation was projected based on the headcount of at least twenty households within each identified location and for each population group present.
• Locations are defined as the smallest administrative units where population groups can be assessed, such as villages, neighbourhoods, camps, or gathering sites.

Field teams will continue to revisit all locations and interview key informants to update locations and verify population presence on a periodic basis – ensuring updates are communicated regularly through datasets and reports and remain reflective of evolving dynamics in Sudan.

TARGET POPULATION GROUPS

DTM in Sudan collects information on the following target population groups:

**Internally displaced persons**

According to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, IDPs are: “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border” (United Nations, 1998). Building from this, and for operational purposes, DTM lists a person to be displaced if they have been forced or obliged to flee from their habitual residence due to an event dating from 2003 onwards, while subsequently seeking safety in a different location such as a village, neighbourhood, camp, or gathering site.3

**Returnees from internal displacement**

Persons who were previously displaced from their habitual residence, within Sudan, due to an event dating from 2003 onwards, and have now voluntarily returned to the location of their habitual residence, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. Under this definition, DTM is only monitoring returns, without referring to whether the return was safe, dignified, or a durable solution.

- Permanent returnees from internal displacement: Any returnee from internal displacement who has returned to their place of habitual residence.
- Seasonal returnees from internal displacement: Any returnee from internal displacement who returns to their place of habitual residence annually based on seasonal activities, such as seasonal harvests.

**Returnees from abroad**

Classified as all Sudanese nationals who have returned to Sudan from abroad, regardless of whether they sought international protection or not.

**Foreign nationals**

Any person who is not a Sudanese national and residing within a location (village, neighbourhood, or gathering site etc.), regardless of their status: including persons who may/may not have sought protection while in Sudan.

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2 Triangulation refers to triple verification done by interviewing at least three key informants for best estimates.

3 For a nomadic population, habitual residence refers to the habitual living space on which their pastoral way of life is dependent.
FURTHER EXPANSION TO BLUE NILE AND NORTH KORDOFAN

DTM’s expansion to the eastern states of Sudan within Round Two indicated the presence of vulnerable populations across that region. In April 2021, DTM’s further expansion to North Kordofan for Round Three provides IOM Sudan with its first baseline estimation figures indicating population presence. With Round Three, DTM covers 37 new locations across three localities in North Kordofan, in addition to 31 newly identified locations across six localities in Blue Nile.

In April 2013, clashes between the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) and the Government of Sudan (GoS) took place in North Kordofan. As a result of escalating violence in the region (particularly in the administrative units of Abu Kershola town, UmBarka, Elfaisd Um Abdallah, and Um Braimbta), IDPs sought refuge in safe settlements across North Kordofan state – including Rahad, Umrawaba, and later Al Obeid Town. Thousands of displaced people began sheltering in schools, under trees, and in makeshift shelters.

Blue Nile state shares an international border with both South Sudan and Ethiopia. The state has witnessed a long history of inter-communal armed conflict since 1987 resulting in the displacement of local populations. In 2011 and 2014, many Sudanese fled Blue Nile (Baw locality in particular) to Tango refugee camp in Ethiopia, as well as locations across South Sudan. Of the displaced population, those who did not cross international borders sought refuge in locations across Blue Nile, Sennar, and White Nile. Prevalence of inter-communal armed conflict, accompanied by a worsening economic crisis, created a vulnerable and fragile context for IDPs. Additionally, Blue Nile state (alongside the nearby states of Kassala and Gedaref) has been greatly affected by the conflict in Ethiopia which led to a large influx of returnees from abroad and foreign nationals. Field teams indicate that all vulnerable groups report difficulties in access to basic services, loss of assets, and lack of income-generating activities.

IDPs OVERVIEW

DTM identified a total accumulative number of 3,086,553 IDP individuals (619,971 households) across nine states in Sudan. The greatest proportion of displacement in the country is protracted (ongoing for more than five years, see Diagram 1). An estimated 1,721,590 current IDPs (56%) were initially displaced between 2003 and 2010 at the height of the Darfur crisis. In comparison, 1,076,572 IDPs (35%) were initially displaced between 2011 and 2017, in addition to 68,574 (2.2%) newly displaced in 2018, 47,893 IDPs (1.6%) in 2019, 93,504 IDPs (3%) in 2020 and 78,420 (2.5%) IDPs captured in the first quarter of 2021.

In terms of population presence, the state with the highest number of IDPs is South Darfur – having recorded an estimated 1,006,690 individuals (33% of the total IDP count). North Darfur hosts the second largest population presence with 666,217 IDPs (22% of the total IDP count). Comparatively, North Kordofan is estimated to have the lowest population presence with 41,054 IDPs (1.3%), followed by East Darfur with 99,476 IDPs (3.2%), West Kordofan with 100,104 IDPs (3.2%) and East Darfur with 99,476 (3.2%).
South Kordofan has the greatest number of IDP locations – consisting of 214 locations (31% of the total), followed by West Kordofan with 168 IDP locations (25%) and North Darfur with 88 IDP locations (13%). East Darfur has the fewest number of IDP locations (6) and represents just 0.9% of the total location count, followed by West Darfur with 29 locations (4.2%). IDPs are most highly concentrated in East Darfur with 16,579 IDPs per location, followed by South Darfur (13,982 IDPs per location), Central Darfur (13,350), West Darfur (12,072), North Darfur (7,571), Blue Nile (3,852), North Kordofan (1,110), South Kordofan (925) and West Kordofan (596).

PLACES OF ORIGIN OF IDPs

As seen in Chart 1, the largest proportion of IDPs across Sudan are displaced from within the same state as they are currently residing. In Blue Nile, North Kordofan and South Kordofan, the entire IDP population indicated that their place of origin was among locations from within the same state as they currently reside. In contrast, the remaining states host a heterogeneous group of IDPs, comprising populations displaced both from locations within their own states as well as locations elsewhere across Sudan. The most heterogeneous group of IDPs is visible in West Kordofan (where 35% of IDPs are from a different state than they are currently residing), followed by North Darfur (14%), East Darfur (7%), Central Darfur (4%) and West Darfur (2%).

MAIN CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT

Armed conflict/violence was identified as the primary reason for displacement in 58% of IDP locations assessed. Communal clashes, which tend to be based on tensions over ethnicity, land, or livestock, were reported to be the main reason for displacement in 31% of IDP locations. Economic reasons – populations forced to move due to a lack of livelihoods and/or service provision – were reported to be the main reason for displacement in 8% of locations assessed. Finally, natural disasters, such as floods and/or droughts were reported as the main reason for displacement in 3% of assessed locations. Armed conflict/violence was identified as the primary reason for displacement across all states except West Kordofan, where communal clashes were reported as the main reason of displacement.

TEMPORARY IDP HOUSEHOLDS SHELTER TYPES
RETURN INTENTION
Data collected through the return intention indicator suggests that 52% of IDPs intend to return to their locations of origin, whilst 48% of IDP individuals intend to remain in their locations of displacement upon improvement of the security/economic situation. Of the latter, a small volume of IDPs intend to move somewhere else (5,146 IDPs in total, currently residing across locations in North Darfur, South Kordofan and West Kordofan). The majority of IDPs that report an intention to remain in their locations of displacement are in South Darfur (34%). In comparison, the majority of IDPs reporting intentions to return to their locations of origin are also in South Darfur (32%), followed by West Darfur (20%), and North Darfur (19%).

PROJECTED SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION ACROSS ALL STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Displacement</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>North Darfur</th>
<th>West Darfur</th>
<th>Central Darfur</th>
<th>South Darfur</th>
<th>East Darfur</th>
<th>South Kordofan</th>
<th>Blue Nile</th>
<th>North Kordofan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-2010</td>
<td>1,721,590</td>
<td>346,035</td>
<td>335,707</td>
<td>365,792</td>
<td>596,519</td>
<td>76,037</td>
<td>4,341</td>
<td>4,441</td>
<td>2,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2017</td>
<td>1,076,572</td>
<td>304,509</td>
<td>2,057</td>
<td>97,532</td>
<td>304,392</td>
<td>22,688</td>
<td>50,631</td>
<td>140,028</td>
<td>35,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>68,574</td>
<td>22,688</td>
<td>11,067</td>
<td>47,893</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>47,893</td>
<td>11,067</td>
<td>11,796</td>
<td>93,504</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>93,504</td>
<td>22,092</td>
<td>32,692</td>
<td>2,365</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>78,420</td>
<td>10,261</td>
<td>3,817</td>
<td>20,636</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diagram 3: Timeline of displacement by states with current IDP population presence

*Data present for 2021 does not include data collected by DTM Sudan as part of its Emergency Event Tracking methodology. For more information on Emergency Event Tracking, please refer to DTM Sudan’s online portal.
PERMANENT RETURNEES OVERVIEW

DTM estimates a total number of 942,299 permanent returnees from internal displacement (169,812 households) across eight states in Sudan. Through DTM’s continued expansion into new localities across Blue Nile, DTM captured 30,240 permanent returnees across three newly identified localities.

Reporting on returns in a chronological manner, the data indicates that between 2003 and 2010, 94,172 returnees (10%) returned to their location of origin. The highest proportion of returns (280,510) occurred between 2011 to 2015 (30% of the total count) – reflective of a mass influx of individuals returning to their habitual residences at the end of the Darfur crisis. This was followed by 118,476 returnees (13%) in 2016, 131,372 returnees (14%) in 2017, 124,200 returnees (13%) in 2018, and 111,521 returnees (12%) in 2019. The lowest proportion of returnees (50,528) occurred during 2020 and over the first six months of 2021 (31,272), representing 5% and 3% respectively. The steady decrease in returns over time suggests a correlation between the increased length of displacement and the diminishing likelihood of returns.

In terms of population presence, the state with the highest number of permanent returnees is North Darfur, where DTM teams captured an estimated total of 272,404 returnees (29% of the total count), followed by Central Darfur with 221,808 returnees (24%), South Darfur with 162,485 returnees (17%), East Darfur with 90,002 returnees (10%), South Kordofan with 79,593 returnees (8%), West Darfur with 63,745 returnees (7%), and Blue Nile with 38,084 returnees (4%). West Kordofan estimates a total number of 14,178 permanent returnees (1%) – the lowest proportion of the states.

North Darfur has the greatest number of returnee locations – consisting of 632 locations, followed by West Darfur (77), South Kordofan (77), South Darfur (55), Central Darfur (52), Blue Nile (42), West Kordofan (26) and East Darfur (19). Returnees are the most highly concentrated across East, Central, and South Darfur. East Darfur hosts an average of 4,956 returnees per location, Central Darfur hosts an average of 4,521 returnees, and South Darfur hosts an average of 3,064 returnees, followed by Blue Nile with 1,590 returnees, South Kordofan (1,070 returnees), West Darfur (1,052 returnees), and West Kordofan (873 returnees). North Darfur currently has the lowest returnee population, with an average of 511 returnees per location.

SHELTER TYPES IN WHICH PERMANENT RETURNEE HOUSEHOLDS ARE RESIDING

1 The total returnee count 1,073,428 (193,680 HH) represents the sum of permanent and seasonal returnees, and returnees from abroad
PERMANENT RETURNEE LOCATIONS OF PREVIOUS DISPLACEMENT

Chart 2 illustrates the population movement between states where permanent returnees were displaced to, and states where those permanent returnees have returned (i.e. their states of origin). Findings indicate that North Kordofan hosted the largest proportion of permanent returnees originally displaced from locations within other states. All permanent returnees (100%) displaced to North Kordofan were originally displaced from South Kordofan. South Darfur hosted the second largest proportion (44%) of returnees originally displaced from locations within other states (mostly arriving from Central and East Darfur), followed by North Darfur with 17% of returnees (also mostly arriving from Central and East Darfur). The eight remaining states hosted returnees that were almost all originally displaced from locations within the same state.

PROJECTED SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION FOR PERMANENT RETURNEES ACROSS ALL STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60+ Years</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 59 Years</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 17 Years</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 Years</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 1 Years</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEASONAL RETURNEES OVERVIEW

DTM estimates a total accumulative number of 38,485 seasonal returnees (6,922 households) across seven states in Sudan. In Round Three, DTM teams observed populations who returned to their habitual residence on an impermanent basis – due to seasonal changes and cultivation, harvesting and livestock purposes. These population figures are expected to remain influx and observe drastic changes between Mobility Tracking rounds, as people continue to move with the seasons. North Darfur hosts half (50%) of all displaced seasonal returnees in Sudan. West Kordofan hosts the second largest proportion (15%) of displaced seasonal returnees. Almost all displaced seasonal returnees captured across all seven states were originally displaced from locations within the same state.

PROJECTED SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION FOR SEASONAL RETURNEES ACROSS ALL STATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60+ Years</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 59 Years</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 17 Years</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 Years</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 1 Years</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHELTER TYPE IN WHICH SEASONAL RETURNEES HOUSEHOLDS ARE RESIDING

- **36%** - House of habitual residence
- **24%** - Other shelter types
- **23%** - Gathering sites (informal settlements)
- **13%** - Host communities / forests or other communal land
- **3%** - Rented accommodation
- **1%** - Abandoned buildings or critical shelters
RETURNEEs FROM ABROAD OVERVIEW

DTM estimates a total accumulative number of 92,644 returnees from abroad across seven states in Sudan. The estimated figures for returnees from abroad represent just nine per cent of the total returnee count (1,073,428 individuals, 193,680 households). The highest proportion of returnees from abroad (an estimated 25,815 individuals - 28%) returned to Sudan between 2011 to 2015 – reflective of a mass influx of individuals returning to their habitual residences at the end of the Darfur crisis. The second highest proportion of returnees of abroad returned to Sudan in 2019, (15,508 individuals - 17%) in 2019.

SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION FOR RETURNEES FROM ABROAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 1 Years</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5 Years</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 17 Years</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 59 Years</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ Years</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHELTER TYPE IN WHICH RETURNEES FROM ABROAD HOUSEHOLDS ARE RESIDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shelter Type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host communities / families or on host community land</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other shelters</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps (formal)</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COUNTRIES OF DISPLACEMENT OF RETURNEES FROM ABROAD

Most returnees from abroad returned from Chad (70%), followed by Ethiopia (22%), and South Sudan (8%). Predominantly, this population group is located in North Darfur (6,844 individuals), Blue Nile (4,963 individuals), and West Darfur (3,212 individuals), all states with the greatest proximity to the borders of Chad, Ethiopia, or South Sudan.
Map 5: Foreign Nationals across all states in Sudan

DTM estimates a total accumulative number of 388,634 foreign nationals (86,897 households) across 11 states in Sudan, irrespective of their legal status. Inclusion of foreign nationals in MT is based on the knowledge of the key informants interviewed and is not yet a quotable figure for the number of migrants in a state (or Sudan).

36% of the total foreign nationals are in Kassala, followed by Gedaref (22%) and East Darfur (16%). Eritreans constitute 41% of the total foreign population count, followed by South Sudanese (34%), Ethiopians (23%) and Chadians (1%). The highest proportion of foreign nationals (an estimated 269,892 individuals, 69%) arrived in Sudan before 2019.

SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS ACROSS ALL STATES

SHELTER TYPE IN WHICH FOREIGN NATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS ARE RESIDING
GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN

An overview of the geographical distribution of population presence illustrates that 2,044,021 IDPs (66%) reside in urban areas and 1,042,532 IDPs (34%) in rural areas. Blue Nile, North Darfur, Central Darfur, and West Kordofan all predominantly host rural IDPs, whereas IDPs in East Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur, South Kordofan, and North Kordofan are mostly found in urban locations. The state with the highest proportion of IDPs in rural locations is West Kordofan, and the state with the highest proportion of IDPs in urban locations is East Darfur.

When examining returnees from internal displacement, the data indicates that 967,955 returnees from internal displacement (90%) have returned to their rural habitual place of origin, while only 105,473 (10%) have returned to a place of origin characterised as urban. West Kordofan hosted no returnees originally internally displaced from locations classified as urban. Overall, rural returnees from internal displacement are consistently distributed across all assessed states. The state with the highest proportion of returnees originally internally displaced from locations characterised as urban is South Kordofan.

The credibility rating per location is ranked by the enumerators and analysed in accordance with a set of indicators. Namely, these indicators include the number of key informants interviewed per location, whether the information was provided over the phone or in person, whether the information provided by the source (key informant) matches that of other sources, whether the source referenced any records or lists and whether the information provided by the source matched the enumerator’s observations. The green, orange, and red scales (with green meaning high credibility, orange meaning medium and red meaning low) are then calculated based on analyses of the enumerator’s responses to determine the credibility per location and highlight areas for future improvement.
DTM Sudan

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a global IOM tool used to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route.

First introduced in Sudan in 2004, to provide rapid emergency registration for new displacement, the DTM has been continuously refined and adapted through the years to reflect the context and population movements specific to Sudan in both conflict and natural disaster settings. Deployed in partnership with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), it delivers an essential role in providing primary data and information to humanitarian partners on displacement and the needs and vulnerabilities on the ground, enabling and expediting the delivery of vital assistance to the most vulnerable populations, as well as capturing accurate and updated data on population demographics throughout the country.

DTM data includes information relevant to various humanitarian sectors such as water and sanitation, health, food and protection, making the resultant DTM data useful to a broad range of humanitarian and development actors.

In addition to being systematically deployed in medium to large-scale humanitarian response operations, DTM has also proven to be highly effective as a preparedness tool, as well as in support of the recovery and transition phase of the response. Integrating DTM into capacity building activities, mapping of potential evacuation and displacement sites, and setting up the DTM prior to a disaster are some examples of how the DTM can be deployed as an effective preparedness measure.

DTM SERVICES & CONTACTS

For further information, please contact IOM Sudan
KHARTOUM Head Office
Tel: +249 157 554 600/1/2
E-mail: dtmsudan@iom.int
Website: www.sudan.iom.int | www.dtm.iom.int/sudan

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