According to the Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), signed in August 2015.

- Central Equatoria: 5 counties (19 payams)
- Eastern Equatoria: 7 counties (18 payams)
- Upper Nile State: 6 counties (27 payams)
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal: 2 counties (12 payams)
- Western Bahr el Ghazal: 2 counties (10 payams)
- Lakes: 1 county (7 payams)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 575,340

Returnees 230,972

Data collection period: January – February 2018

*According to the Agreement of the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS), signed in August 2015. Central Equatoria: 5 counties (19 payams); Eastern Equatoria: 7 counties (18 payams); Upper Nile State: 6 Counties (27 payams); Northern Bahr el Ghazal: 2 counties (12 payams); Western Bahr el Ghazal: 2 counties (10 Payams); Lakes: 1 county (7 payams).
Introduction

South Sudan Mobility Tracking Pilot Round 1

IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) was designed to capture, process and disseminate information regularly and systematically to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of mobile populations in locations of displacement or transit. Through mobility tracking, DTM is able to provide a comprehensive baseline and regular updates on the trends and changes in numbers, locations and priority needs of IDPs and returnees in South Sudan. In this pilot round, the IOM DTM team covered a total of 93 payams in 23 counties across six states. Locations were chosen to be assessed based on preliminary findings indicating the presence of IDPs and / or returnees and taking into account access considerations.

Key Findings

• Findings indicate that return movements are on the rise and that the number of new instances of displacement is decreasing (94% displaced before July 2017), whilst many individuals find themselves in protracted displacement situations.
• Assessed populations report a lack of security, food, shelter and water. Returnee populations additionally report housing land and property issues. Partial or severely damaged housing is reported for 71 per cent of the returnees in the assessed areas.
• Displacement triggers are most commonly linked to the conflict (including food insecurity triggered by the conflict). Communal clashes were especially prevalent in Terekeka and Awerial in 2017.
• Whereas over half (57%) of IDPs in the assessed areas are living in IDP sites, there are areas where IDPs are only or primarily staying in host community settings, increasing the need to holistically respond to the needs of IDPs and affected host populations.
• Over 475,000 individuals remain displaced from the assessed areas and 93% of those are currently reported to be located mostly abroad.

Definitions

IDPs

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.

Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2013 to 2018

Returnees

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan (former IDP) or abroad (former refugee), who has since returned to their habitual residence. Please note that the returnee category, for the purpose of DTM data collection, is restricted to individuals who returned to the exact location of their habitual residence or an adjacent area based on a free decision. South Sudanese displaced persons having crossed the border into South Sudan from neighbouring countries without having reached their home are still displaced and as such not considered returnees.

Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2015 to 2018

Relocated Individuals

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan (former IDP) or abroad (former refugee), who has since relocated voluntarily (independently or with the help of other actors) to a location other than their former habitual residence, without an intention to return to their former habitual residence.
Time of displacement | F.1

DTM findings encompass currently displaced populations who became displaced since 2013 when the current conflict began. A third of the current IDP population was displaced in the early years of the conflict in 2013/14. Nearly half (44%) of all IDPs in assessed areas were displaced between 2015 and 2016 when the conflict escalated. Only 5.2 per cent of all IDPs in the assessed areas were displaced as recently as July 2017, indicating a downward trend in new displacements.

Reasons for displacement | F.2

Regarding reasons for displacement, the categories conflict (larger scale), communal clashes, (includes cattle raiding) and natural disasters (such as flooding) were distinguished. According to key informants, the main reason for displacement was conflict in the vast majority of displacement scenarios (93%), at times also linked to food insecurity caused by the conflict. Communal clashes were reported as the primary driver of some of the displacement caseload in locations such as Terkeka, Awerial, Kapoeta East and Lainya, particularly for 2017.

Areas of origin

In 2013/14, the three most common areas of origin reported for the assessed areas are Bor South (Jonglei), and Malakal and Baliet (Upper Nile). In 2015/16, the most common areas included Magwi (Eastern Equatoria) and Baliet and Malakal (Upper Nile). For January to June 2017, Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal) and Magwi (Eastern Equatoria) featured as the most common areas followed by Baliet and Malakal (Upper Nile). Wau is the most common area of origin reported for IDPs who arrived in the first half of 2017 and Torit for the second half. For 2018, new IDP arrivals were reported from Malakal, Renk, Torit and Wau.
The IDP population in the assessed areas was relatively young, as more than half (53%) of all individuals were 17 years of age or younger. While this proportion was equal or over 50 per cent in all states, it reached 56 per cent in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. On average, a quarter of the population was five years or younger (25%). In Central Equatoria this section of the displaced population reached 29 per cent. On average, six per cent of the IDPs were 60 years or older. Women and girls made up 53 per cent of the IDP population (56% in Eastern Equatoria).

IDP households consisted of 8.2 persons on average although this figure varied from state to state. Displaced households in Lakes State were on average the largest with 12.5 persons and the smallest were in Eastern Equatoria with 6.4 persons. More than half (56%) of all IDP households were incomplete at the time of the assessment.
Returnee Findings

**Time of displacement | F.6**

DTM findings encompass individuals who have returned since 2015. People returning to their habitual residence prior to 2015 are considered as part of the host community. There is a marked increase in returns visible in 2017, with 124,277 of 230,972 returnees (56%) reported to have returned in that year alone. From the beginning of 2018 until the end of data collection in early February 2018, another 28,315 returnees had arrived at their former habitual residences.

In terms of potential future returns, key informants indicated the absence of 475,176 individuals who have been displaced from the assessed areas and have not yet returned. The vast majority (93%) of them are reported to be abroad. Areas reporting the highest caseloads of people who have been displaced and have not yet returned include Lainya, Magwi, Aweil North, Aweil West and Malakal. For about a third of the caseload, the country of displacement is unknown, whereas another third (35%) are reported displaced in Uganda, and about a quarter (23%) in Sudan.

**Reason for displacement**

Regarding reasons for displacement, for those who returned in 2015, conflict and communal clashes contributed in nearly equal parts to the initial displacement. Terekeka reports a caseload of 20,911 individuals who returned that year, whilst there are 20,013 returnees who were initially displaced due to the conflict. Meanwhile the returnee caseload from 2016 onwards is strongly dominated by those initially displaced due to the conflict (equal to or over 90% for 2016, 2017 and 2018).

**Areas where returnees are returning from**

A comparative analysis of areas where the majority of returnees are reported to be returning from shows that, with regards to returns from abroad, the number of returns from Sudan has remained rather static. There are between 12,000 returnees in 2015 and a little over 10,000 returnees in 2017 for whom Sudan is indicated as the main area of origin. Meanwhile, returns from Uganda have seen an exponential increase from just a little over 500 of those who returned in 2015 indicating Uganda as the main area of displacement, compared to over 5,000 of those who returned in 2016 and more than 35,000 in 2017. Sudan accounted as the main area of origin for about a third of the total returnee caseload (from within and outside South Sudan) in 2015 and 2016, this share dropped to 8 per cent in 2017. Meanwhile Uganda was reported as the main area of origin for only 1 per cent of the 2015 returnee caseload, compared to 16 per cent in 2016, 27 per cent in 2017 and 31 per cent for those having arrived up to February 2018.

[Chart: Period of Return]
Returnee Findings

Demographics of the returnee population

The returnee population in the assessed areas was relatively young as more than half of all individuals were 17 years of age or younger (52%). While this proportion was equal or over 50 per cent in all states, it reached 59 per cent in Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal. On average, a quarter of the returned population (24%) was five years or younger. In Central Equatoria this section of the returned population reached 29 per cent. On average, six percent of the returnees were 60 years or older. Women and girls made up 54 per cent of the returnee population (58% in Eastern Equatoria). Returnee households consisted of 8.3 persons on average although this figure varied from state to state. Returnee households in Lakes were on average the largest with 12.6 individuals and the smallest in Eastern Equatoria with 6.4 people. More than half of all households were incomplete at the time of the assessment (52%).

Status of returnee housing

Partial or severely damaged housing is reported for 71 per cent of the returnees in the assessed areas. Housing damage was particularly severe in Central Equatoria (31 per cent severely damaged with people living in makeshift shelters, and 5 per cent partially damaged), as well as Northern Bahr el Ghazal (24 per cent severely damaged and 60 per cent partially damaged). Upper Nile, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria reported less severely damaged housing (8% each), but still feature significant portions of partially damaged housing.

Methodology

A total of 223 key informants were consulted during the data collection phase in late January and early February 2018. These included county and payam representatives (45%), IDP community leaders (32%), religious leaders (10%) and NGOs and humanitarian workers (8%). For per cent the affiliation is unknown. Despite efforts made to involve women in the assessment, the vast majority of key informants (91%) are male.