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

- Central Equatoria: 6 counties (29 payams)
- Eastern Equatoria: 8 counties (43 payams)
- Jonglei: 6 counties (31 payams)
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal: 5 counties (29 payams)
- Upper Nile State: 8 counties (33 payams)
- Western Bahr el Ghazal: 2 counties (10 Payams)
- Western Equatoria: 10 counties (44 Payams)
- Lakes: 1 county (6 payams)

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 843,234
Returnees: 658,148

Data collection period: April—June 2018
South Sudan Mobility Tracking – Round 2

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 second round, the IOM DTM team covered a total of 225 payams in 46 counties located across 8 states. The data collection activity was expanded from the pilot round to now include parts of Jonglei, Western Equatoria and additional counties in Northern Bahr el Ghazal.

Key Findings

- Conflict and communal clashes continue to be the main contributing factors for internal displacement in the assessed areas, as well as the causes of initial displacement for returnees.
- Nearly half (48%) of IDP individuals in assessed areas are 17 years of age or younger, with nearly a quarter (23%) of all IDPs identified as 5 years of age or younger, raising concerns around the effect of displacement on children’s wellbeing and access to services including education.
- One-third of IDPs in assessed areas live in IDP sites, with 67.8 per cent living in host communities.
- 42 per cent of returnees are reported to have returned in 2017 alone. Between January – April 2018, 153,980 IDPs returned to their habitual residences.
- Trends in areas where returnees are departing from are changing: Uganda and Kenya are increasingly cited as the point of departure for returnees, whereas trends for Sudan remain relatively unchanged.

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.
Internal Displacement

IOM DTM identified the presence of a total of 843,234 IDPs in the 225 assessed payams.

Time of displacement | F.1

DTM findings encompass currently displaced populations who have become displaced since 2013 when the current conflict began. Numbers in F.1 represent individuals displaced in a given year who remain displaced at the time of the assessment. Of the entire recorded IDP population, a quarter has been in protracted displacement since 2013 / 2014 (25.7%) whilst 36.5 per cent has been unable to return to their habitual residence since 2015 / 2016. The largest share of the currently displaced population has been displaced since the period between January 2017 and April 2018, namely 169,031 individuals in the first half of 2017, 94,752 individuals in the second half and 54,314 individuals since the beginning of 2018.

Reasons for displacement | F.2

According to key informants, the main reason for displacement was conflict (88%), which can contribute to a variety of linked factors such as conflict induced food insecurity or personal insecurity. Communal clashes were reported as the primary driver of the displacement in some locations such as Kapoeta South, Duk, Aweil South and Jur River, particularly in 2017.

Areas of origin

For those displaced in 2013/14, the three most common areas of origin reported for all of the assessed areas were Bor South (Jonglei), Baliet (Upper Nile) and Juba (Central Equatoria). For those displaced in 2015/16, the most common areas of origin included Wau (Western Bahr El Ghazal), Yambio (Western Equatoria) and Bor South (Jonglei). For those displaced between January and June 2017, Yambio (Western Equatoria) featured as the most common area of origin, followed by Bor South (Jonglei) and Juba (Central Equatoria). Duk and Baliet (Upper Nile) are the most common areas of origin reported for IDPs who arrived between July and December 2017. For 2018, new IDP arrivals were reported from Khorfulus (Upper Nile), Maban (Upper Nile) and Panyikang (Upper Nile).
**IDP Demographics | F.4&5**

The IDP population in the assessed areas was relatively young as half (48%) of all individuals were 17 years of age or younger. While this proportion was around 50 per cent in all states, it reached 55 per cent in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. On average, close to a quarter of the population was five years or younger (23%). In Jonglei this section of the displaced population reached 25 per cent. Women and girls made up 53 per cent of the IDP population assessed (56% in Western Bahr El Ghazal), and on average, seven per cent of the IDPs were 60 years of age or older.

IDP households consisted of 7.3 persons on average, although this figure varied from state to state. Displaced households in Lakes were on average the largest with 9.9 household members, whereas Western Equatoria had the smallest households with 5.9 individuals on average. About 41 per cent of all IDP households were incomplete at the time of the assessment.
No. of Returnees by Settlement

- 10,001 - 23,000
- 1,001 - 10,000
- 4 - 1,000

No. of IDPs by Settlement

- 10,001 - 14,000
- 1,001 - 10,000
- 1 - 1,000

IDP Sites

Settlements
Returnee Findings

IOM DTM identified the presence of a total of 658,148 returnees in the 225 assessed payams.

Time of displacement  | F.6

DTM findings encompass both former IDPs and refugees 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 277,888 of 658,148 total returnees (42%) reported to have returned in that year alone. There has also been a notable return of individuals to their places of habitual residences since the beginning of 2018. From January until the end of data collection in April 2018, 153,980 formerly displaced individuals had returned to their habitual residences. The proportion of the entire returnee population recorded between 2017, until the last date of data collection, is 66 per cent. The data suggests that an increasing proportion of displaced individuals perceive conditions as being good enough to return to their former homes.

Potential Future Returns

In terms of potential future returns, key informants indicated the absence of 922,181 individuals who have been displaced from the assessed areas and who have not yet returned. The vast majority (83%) of these are reported to be abroad, namely in Uganda (56%), Sudan (17%), Kenya (7%), Ethiopia (0.6%) and other countries (2.4%). Areas reporting the highest numbers of people having been displaced and that have not yet returned include Kajo-Keji, Magwi, Lainya, Bor South, Juba and Twic East and Aweil North.

Reason for displacement

The majority of those who returned in 2015 were initially displaced due to conflict (79%), followed by a significant number of individuals displaced by communal clashes (21%). Out of the 22,433 individuals that returned to their habitual residences in Central Equatoria, Terekeka alone accounts for 95 per cent. Of those who returned in 2016, about two-thirds indicated conflict as their initial reason for displacement. The returnee caseload from 2017 onwards is also dominated by those initially displaced due the conflict (over 84% for 2017 and 2018).
Areas where returnees are returning from

Key informants were asked where the majority of returnees came from. On a payam level, without taking into consideration the unknown proportion of who arrived from which location, the majority of returnees were former IDPs within the country. In line with Round 1 findings, Uganda is increasingly mentioned as point of departure for former refugees: from 4% in 2015 to 10% in 2017 and 17% for those who have returned since the start of 2018. The proportional share of returns from Kenya has also increased, being cited as the main point of origin by one per cent of payams in 2015 to ten per cent in the second half of 2017, remaining at that proportion for January to April 2018. The proportional share of returns from Sudan remains static forming between 11 and 15 per cent between 2015 and 2018.

Demographics of the returnee population

The returnee population in the assessed areas was relatively young as almost half of all individuals were 17 years of age or younger (48%). While this proportion was around or over 45 per cent in all states, it reached 52 per cent in Northern Bahr el Ghazal. On average, almost a quarter of the returned population (23%) was five years or younger. In Central Equatoria this section of the returned population reached 29 per cent. On average, seven per cent of the returnees were 60 years or older. Women and girls made up 52 per cent of the returnee population (54% in Western Equatoria).

Returnee households consisted of 7.1 persons on average although this figure varied from state to state. Returnee households in Lakes were on average the largest with 9.2 household members and the smallest in Western Equatoria with 5.8 individuals. Close to half of all households were incomplete at the time of the assessment (42.5%).
IOM DTM identified the presence of a total of 658,148 returnees in the 225 assessed payams.

Status of returnee housing

Partially or severely damaged housing is reported for 78 per cent of returnees in the assessed areas. Housing damage was particularly severe in Western Bahr El Ghazal (33% severely damaged with people living in makeshift shelters, and 42% partially damaged), as well as Lakes (26% severely damaged and 48% partially damaged). Western Equatoria reported 12 per cent severely damaged houses, whilst the other states reported less severely damaged housing (5-7% range), but still featured significant proportions of partially damaged housing, ranging from 65 to 90 per cent.

Methodology

A total of 671 key informants were consulted during the data collection phase which took place between mid-March and mid-April 2018. These included county and payam representatives (52%), IDP community leaders (26%), NGOs and humanitarian workers (11%) and religious leaders (8.5%). For 2.5%, the affiliation is not specified. Despite efforts made to involve women in the assessment, the vast majority of key informants (90%) were male.