The International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) and other humanitarian partners conducted a biometric registration exercise in Wau Protection of Civilians Adjacent Area (PoC AA) from 8 to 27 August 2019. Prior to the registration, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the PoC site were targeted through a process known as temporary registration (T-Reg) which is a day-long exercise to quickly determine the actual number of all residents. Those who participated in the T-Reg were screened and allowed to participate in the full biometric registration.

During the exercise, IOM DTM registered 13,053 individuals (4,006 households) as residents of Wau PoC AA. Although IOM DTM had observed a gradual decline in the population of the site through monthly population counts, the biometric registration showed a significant drop of 67 per cent (39,167 individuals) compared to the last biometric registration conducted in 2017. More so, throughout 2018, DTM observed a steady reduction in the population, noting a 40 per cent decline between January 2018 and January 2019 (population counts). However, there have been some cases of displacement of people into Wau PoC AA and other sites in Wau.

The majority of those who reported to have missed the T-Reg exercise were found to now reside outside the PoC site. Therefore, arrangements were made for these to be registered in the town to ensure continued humanitarian assistance. Hence, a separate registration was done at Wau Isaac Stadium for previous residents of the Wau PoC AA. During this exercise, a total of 24,921 individuals (6,809 households) were registered from 16 September to 5 October 2019.

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