IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has been monitoring arrivals from Khartoum to Rubkona through headcounts at two bus stations since April 2019. Between September 2019 and January 2020 the team reported arrival of 5,536 individuals, bringing the total number of arrivals from Sudan to 32,638 since the beginning of the exercise. Previous report in April to June 2019 and April to September 2019.

The headcount overview is supplemented by flow monitoring data to give a broader picture of Sudan to South Sudan (SDN-SSD) migration. Flow monitoring data suggests that whilst many have returned from displacement on buses from Khartoum reaching Bentiu and Rubkona, not all are returning to their habitual residences with many heading to Bentiu Protection of Civilian (PoC) site.

Key Findings

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### Key Findings

Return to habitual residence: 73.0%
Move to Bentiu PoC site: 24.0%
Relocation to Unity State: 2.0%
Bus Headcount

Number of arrivals

Findings indicate a spike in arrivals in June and July 2019 accounting for 65 per cent of all tracked individuals between April 2019 and January 2020. During June and July, DTM equally observed the largest average household size amongst travellers which was 7.2 individuals per household as opposed to an average of 2.7 during the other months.

# of arrivals and average HH size per month

Demographics

DTM gathered sex and age disaggregated data for Khartoum bus arrivals in Rubkona between 2 August 2019 and 30 January 2020 representing a sample of 10,162 individuals (31% of 32,639). These findings suggest that travellers were mostly represented by women and children. The majority of individuals were female (59%) with nearly twice as many adult women than men (30% vs 18%) and more than half being under the age of 18 (52%).

Flow Monitoring

IOM DTM monitors mixed migration flows at key transit hubs within the country and border crossings. Out of 38 flow monitoring points (FMPs) SDN-SSD (not only from Khartoum) migration was mainly recorded at 17 northern FMPs across Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Abyei, Unity and Upper Nile State. DTM tracked a total of 10,355 individual movements through 3,057 household / group level interviews between October 2019 and January 2020. Flow monitoring interviews with persons travelling through Rubkona and Bentiu migration hubs includes some of those covered by headcounts of arriving buses but only started in July in response to increased arrivals from Sudan and does not cover 100 per cent of the arriving population. The data is used to supplement headcount figures by providing an indicative profile of the arriving population.

Please note that FMPs are strategically located at the busiest transportation nodes and findings provide an overview of most common routes while painting a more detailed traveller profile but are not being representative of all SDN-SSD flows.
Return to habitual residence: 73.0% of Sudan arrivals were directly returning to their habitual residence

Destinations - All in Unity State: Rubkona (41.6%), Leer (17.9%), Guit (13.6%), Koch (12.3%), Mayom (7.7%), Mayendit (5.6%), Panyijar (1.3%).

Reasons – Two thirds (66.9%) of respondents intended to return after forced displacement abroad and 28.8 per cent arrived after voluntary travel to Sudan. Unlike during the previous reporting period (July to September 2019), DTM did not encounter a significant number of persons fleeing (the effects of) tensions in Sudan.

Intended duration of stay at destination - indefinite (45.8%), over a year (27.7%), less than a year (3.0%) and unknown (23.2%).

Move to Bentiu PoC site: 24.0% of Sudan arrivals migrated to Bentiu PoC site

Through Displacement Site Flow Monitoring at the gates of Bentiu PoC site, DTM interviewed 5,386 households / groups tracking 18,608 individual movements between October 2019 and January 2020. Amongst these, 847 individuals arrived from Khartoum either as returning residents (627 ind.) or as new arrivals (220 ind.). Whilst these represent by no means the total number of arrivals from Sudan, conducted interviews can provide an indicative overview of entries from Khartoum. As bus headcounts indicate, DSFM also saw a drop in Khartoum arrivals in the new year. The bulk of October to November 2019 arrivals from Sudan (69.3%) were in the form of site residents returning after pursuing education in Khartoum (56.0% under 18) which drastically dropped in January 2020. All of those who returned from educational stays in Khartoum had been away for over six months.

Those that newly arrived across the entire reporting period mostly arrived to join their families at the site (31.2%). Nearly all newcomers from Khartoum already had family residing at the site at the time of entry (94.8%) and intended to stay for more than six months (94.8% as well).

Relocation to Unity State: 2.0% of Sudan arrivals intended to relocate their habitual residence

Destinations - All in Unity State: Rubkona (85.5%- especially Bentiu and Kurkal), Koch (14.5%- all Pakur), Mayom (5.8%), Mayendit (5.2%).

Reasons – A third cited that conflict / tensions in Sudan had interrupted their livelihoods which is why they intended to relocated to places in Unity State (32.7%). A further eleven per cent reported food insecurity as primary driver for their migration. Most other arrivals reported family / return related reasons.

Intended duration of stay at destination - Over a year (16.4%), less than a year (72.7%) and unknown (10.9%).

Looking at the subset of South Sudanese travelling through Bentiu (2 FMPs) and Rubkona (2 FMPs) that fit the profile of those covered in the headcount, namely arrivals in buses from Khartoum, makes it possible to create an indicative migrant profile of this population. DTM gathered data on 2,437 individuals that fit this group (from Khartoum, through Rubkona, October 2019 – January 2020) representing 44 per cent of the number of individuals tracked in headcounts during the same period.

Available flow monitoring data suggests that nearly three quarters of Khartoum arrivals were on their way to their habitual residence mostly with an intention of remaining there for over a year (28%), indefinitely (46%) or an unknown length of time (23%), a quarter aimed to reach Bentiu PoC site, and two per cent intended to reach new destinations in Unity State different to their habitual residences.
Khartoum to Rubkona (13.6% of all individual movements SDN-SSD, 1,408 ind. tracked): Over 98.0 per cent of these were captured at Rubkona and Bentiu FMPs between October 2019 and January 2020. Some 5.0 per cent arrived from refugee camps in Sudan. Most travellers were returning from forced displacement (80.6%) whilst the rest mainly travelled for family related reasons. Some 43.8 per cent of movements were in direction of Bentiu PoC site. Among movements to non-displacement site settings, 85.2 per cent were in direction of habitual residences - mostly in Bentiu and Rubkona.

Long-term migration: 72.7%

East Darfur to Aweil North (16.6% of all individual movements SDN-SSD, 1,722 ind. tracked): Most travellers were passing through Kiir Adem (60.5%) and Gokmachar (38.8%) located in Aweil North. Some 7.4 per cent of movements started at Sudan refugee camps but none were in direction of South Sudan displacement sites. Over 90 per cent were heading to their habitual residence and 88.0 per cent returned to Aweil North after voluntary travel to Sudan. The rest mainly travelled for economic reasons along this route.

Long-term migration: 61.8%

Khartoum to Wau (8.5% of all individual movements SDN-SSD, 881 ind. tracked): Nearly all people along this route travelled through Abyei Administrative Area (97.7%). Some 1.6 per cent arrived from refugee camps and nearly none were traveling to displacement sites in South Sudan. Most returned to Wau County after voluntary travel to Sudan (75.6%) or travelled for economic reasons (14.6%) whilst none (primarily) travelled due to food insecurity along this route.

Long-term migration: 79.9%

East Darfur to Raja (4.7% of all individual movements SDN-SSD, 491 ind. tracked): Most people along this route travelled through Delieba (62.7%) and Raja Town (37.3%). Nearly half travelled for seasonal reasons (46.4%). A third reported departing from refugee camps (32.2%) and 30.1 per cent moved in direction of their habitual residence. Over a quarter were returning after forced displacement (26.7%).

Long-term migration: 73.7%

Khartoum to Aweil North (4.6% of all individual movements SDN-SSD, 477 ind. tracked): The Khartoum - Aweil North flow was mostly captured in Kiir Adem (56.0%), Gokmachar (22.2%) and Ariath (16.6%). None arrived from refugee camps and none moved to displacement sites in Aweil North. Almost all movements were in direction of habitual residences (92.2%) and the rest returned after voluntary travel (80.1%)

Long-term migration: 71.9%

Main routes representing 48.0% of all 10,355 individual movements tracked between October 2019 and January 2020 from Sudan to South Sudan

Return to habitual residence as driver of migration from Sudan:
Over a quarter of travel from Sudan to South Sudan was in the form of long-term travel (28.1%) with the main reason being return to habitual residence. This compares to Uganda to South Sudan where only 1.5% of measured travel was in the form of long-term migration (main reason for travel: economic and seasonal). Movements from the Democratic Republic of Congo to South Sudan are equally more short term (15.6% long term) where most people travel due to healthcare or economic reasons.

6. Flows are considered to be long / medium term if the group spent at least 3 months at the location of departure and intends to spend at least 6 months at destination.
The above represents findings based on the best available data for monitored locations and covered periods between October 2019 and January 2020.