

CONTEXT MONITORING (MOBILITY AREA ASSESSMENT)

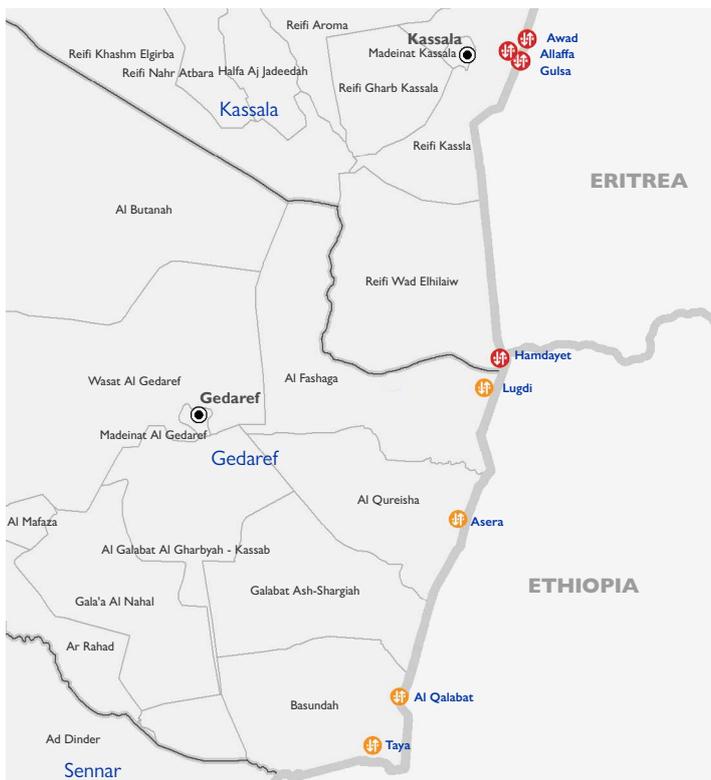
KASSALA & GEDAREF 2021

OVERVIEW

Context Monitoring is a participatory exercise, conducted at the locality level in collaboration with national authorities, partner organisations, and local stakeholders to take stock of the available information and expertise of and within locations where there is high population movement. This includes transit point mapping to identify key areas where various movement patterns occur. The first DTM Sudan Context Monitoring mission visited the eastern states of Kassala and Gedaref in March 2021.

Context monitoring utilises a global DTM Mobility Area Assessment form to collect information on target populations. This is followed by the conduct of a literature review and an analysis of the overarching mobility dynamics - including profiles of mobile groups and the reasons for their movement. The findings of this exercise are used to inform the production of DTM Sudan's other [active methodological components](#).

POINTS OF ENTRY (PoEs)



KASSALA

- Government officials and partners indicated Awad, Galsa, Allafa, and Hamdayet as commonly used PoEs. Out of these, Galsa, Awad, and Allafa have Passport Offices.
- Active points, particularly after the Tigray crisis, are Hamdayet and the wider locality of Reifi Wad Elhilaiw.
- Movements through Hamdayet also cross into Gedaref, given the points proximity to the state's border.
- The active unofficial points are Al-Gash, Hillat Mousa, the Erishai North Qalasa Crossroads as well as four mountains close to Galsa. Officials indicated that these unofficial points are often used for irregular entry (into Sudan) as they are less monitored due to limited official capacity and the porous nature of the border.

GEDAREF

- Government officials and partners indicated Lugdi and Al Qalabat as commonly used PoEs.
- The border towns of Asera and Taya are both monitored by delegated authorities of the Passport Office in Gedaref town.

MIGRANT PROFILES

Participatory discussions with counterparts provided DTM Sudan with information on several migrant population groups situated in the states of Kassala and Gedaref. Key takeaways from the discussions included:

- In addition to Ethiopian and Eritrean entries into the two states, there is prominent immigration from Somalia, Niger, and Central African Republic.
- For South Sudan nationals - and linked to the independence of South Sudan in 2011 – a registration and enumeration mechanism is employed in the Passport and Immigration Office.
- Migrants from India and Yemen have also been present historically in Kassala since the 1950s, with the majority now holding Sudanese citizenship and residing in Hilat Jaddeed.
- As a result of bilateral negotiations between the governments of Sudan and Syria in the context of the crisis in Syria, Syrian nationals travelling to Sudan were exempt from visa requirements and had access granted naturalized citizenship up until early 2020.
- Lastly, there is also an Egyptian presence, mainly in the towns and for work purposes.

¹ The DTM Mobility Tracking methodology in Sudan utilises key informant networks to systematically track mobility in locations of interest over consistent data collection rounds. Enumerators revisit each location and interview key informants to update and verify population presence on a quarterly basis.

TYOLOGY OF MIGRATION MOVEMENT

Across both Kassala and Gedaref, there are four prominent typologies of migration movement:

1. Daily Commuters: those who enter Sudan for trading purposes, to access markets or to seek medical treatment.

Counterparts indicate that the daily commuters most likely to be granted entry into both states are the elderly and children, as well as women entering for medical reasons. Young adult males are often denied entry for daily endeavours, however when they do enter it is often for trading purposes or to access markets close to the border.

2. Foreign Nationals in Transit: those who enter Sudan temporarily with the intention of moving onwards to other destinations.

Transit movements entering through both Kassala and Gedaref are prominent throughout the year. Kassala and Gedaref towns were identified as transit stops for foreign nationals from Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan, who are less likely to stop in the two towns and often move onwards towards Khartoum and other destinations.

3. Seasonal Migrants: those who are employed in Sudan on a seasonal basis to work in agriculture.

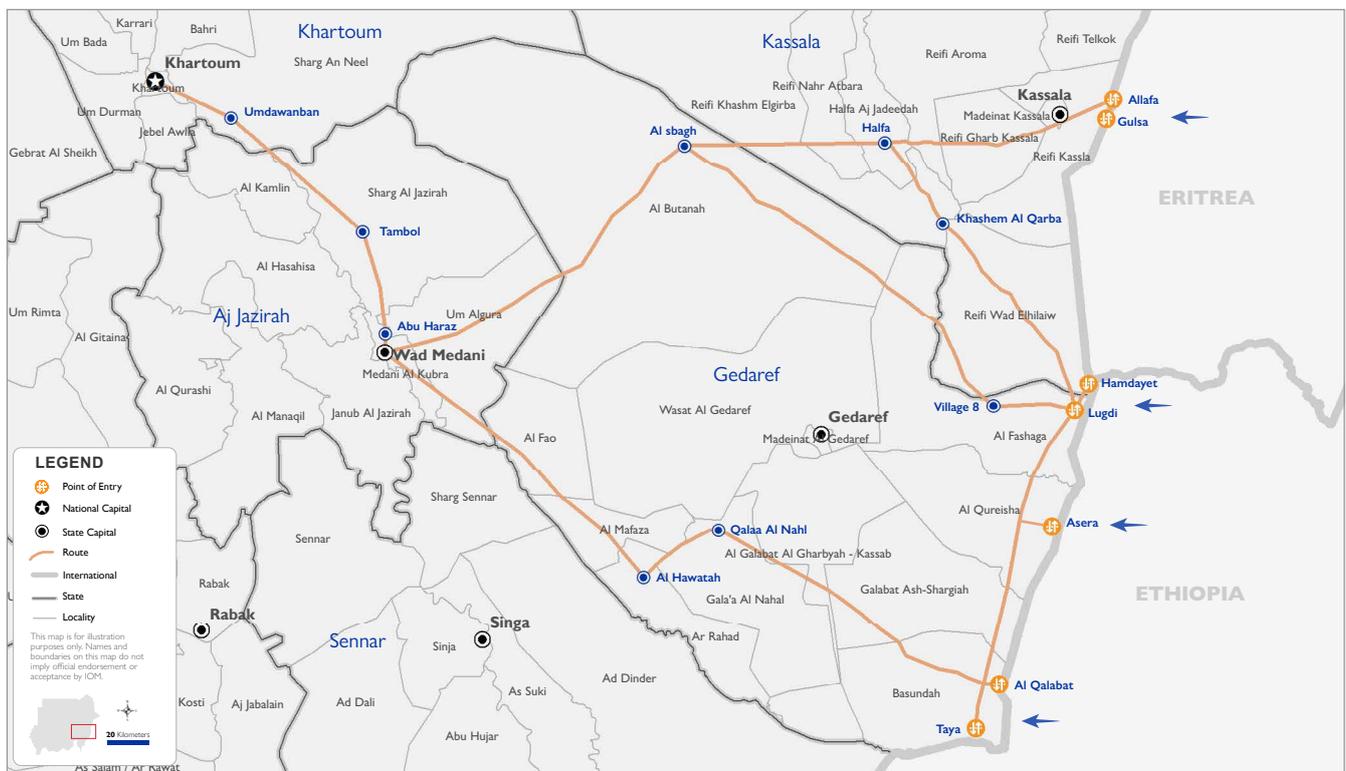
Seasonal movements are predominant in Gedaref given the state's large agricultural economy, which employs a large foreign workforce. Ethiopian foreign nationals make up the largest proportion of foreign nationals working in agriculture in the state. The director of the passport and immigration office in Al Qalabat met with Passport Officials at the PoE, who indicated that there is an agreement between Ethiopia and Sudan on daily and seasonal movements through the point. This agreement regularises movements through written and signed documentation at the PoE, in coordination with agricultural networks, to monitor the return of foreign nationals from Ethiopia at the end of the cultivating season. This type of migration is managed directly by the Office, which directs the movement of foreign nationals to agricultural farms across the state. Similarly, in Kassala, foreign nationals from Ethiopia are more likely to pursue opportunities in seasonal cultivation in comparison to other sectors, such as services.

4. Foreign Nationals intending to stay in Sudan: those who enter Sudan with no intention of return or moving onwards.

Pre-existing data on foreign national presence in Kassala corresponds with feedback received from counterparts regarding the likelihood of foreign nationals to remain in Kassala with no intention to continue moving or to return to their locations of origin. In Gedaref, foreign national presence is high seasonally, due to the periodic entry of foreign nationals for work. Foreign nationals from Ethiopia were identified as more likely to settle and find work across both Kassala and Gedaref to send back remittances. Alternatively, foreign nationals from Eritrea were identified as being less likely to settle for economic reasons, intending instead to transit through Sudan or enter as asylum-seekers.

COMMON ROUTES

The most common routes used by migrants indicate Khartoum as the main destination, where migrants either settle or continue their journey onwards:



The route was digitized based on participatory mapping destinations collected from key informants and governmental officials in Kassala and Gedaref

In Kassala, foreign nationals first cross into Sudan via Eritrea through Allafa and Galsa, and via Ethiopia and Eritrea through the PoE at Hamdayet. The migrant route coming from Allafa and Galsa moves through Halfa to Al sbagh, Gedaref, whereas the migrant route from Hamdayet goes through Lugdi, then up through Khashem Al Qarba before reaching Halfa and then Al sbagh, Gedaref. Both routes continue onwards from Al Butanah locality through Wad Medani, Al Jazirah state, then through Abu Haraz and Tambol before going on to the capital.

In Gedaref, foreign enter through Lugdi, Asera, Al Qalabat, and Taya via Ethiopian PoEs. The migrant routes commencing at Lugdi, Asera, and Taya meet at Village 8 before reaching Al sbagh Gedaref. This migrant route continues to Wad Medani, Al Jazirah before continuing on the same path outlined previously to the capital. Alternatively, the migrant route beginning at Al Qalabat travels through Gedaref state via Qalaa Al Nahl and Al Hawatah before reaching Wad Medani to follow the same route as outlined previously.

METHODOLOGY

DTM teams utilised Mobility Tracking¹ data to identify areas with high foreign national presence. Foreign nationals are defined as any person who is not a Sudanese national and residing within the location (village, neighbourhood, camp, gathering-site) regardless of their status; including persons who may/may not have sought international protection while in Sudan.

DTM Sudan staff first identified local and national authorities who could provide relevant information on migrant profiles and routes. Entry point visits were then conducted in each state and included meetings with passport officials at the border crossing points to further contextualize the information provided by counterparts. Following this, one-to-one meetings were held with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), Passport Deputy Director of the Office of Trafficking and Smuggling, the Director of Passport Offices, the Representative of Customs at the Galsa Point of Entry, and the Commission of Refugees (COR) in both states. DTM teams also visited Allafa and met with Passport Officials at the PoE, who provided additional information on the unofficial points surrounding Galsa and Awad.

Participants of these meetings were invited to attend larger participatory discussions with local NGOs and other operational partners in each state to further detail migration trends, streamline the findings, and visualize key entry points and routes used by migrants on a printed map. The diverse range of participants helped to ensure that the analysis was based on a broad and thorough range of sources. In Kassala, participants included: BRDO (Build Resilience Organization for Development), SRC (Sudanese Red Crescent), Welthungerhilfe, and SOD (Sudan Organization for Development). In Gedaref, participants included: The Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Child Care Council, Youth Peer Education Network, Mosandon Organization, the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), and a representative of the passport office, as well as migrant communities (from Niger & Ethiopia).



Kassala town, Kassala

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