**CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY**

Akobo town is located in the eastern side of Akobo County, Jonglei State, close to the land and river border crossings with Ethiopia. Akobo is a key point of trade and transit between South Sudan and Ethiopia. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2013, this route has been used by South Sudanese heading to or coming back from refugee camps in Ethiopia. Since May 2015, REACH has been recording arrivals and departures of South Sudanese households (HHs) in four locations, Gadrang Road, Koatkoangthor Road, Tundot Port and Market Port, on a daily basis.

In order to provide an indication of wider trends, data is collected on the volume of movement, as well as the motivations and intentions of those travelling. REACH teams interviewed arrivals and departures at the household (HH) level. For movements larger than three households, a short alternative survey is used to assess HH and individual numbers by speaking to the Transport Focal Point (TFP), such as the driver or transport authority. Due to insecurity and other issues, data is not always collected on a daily basis. To correct for this inconsistency, data presented for general movement trends across months represents an average based on the number of days of data collection each month. The data presented here is not representative, nor does it capture all movements in and out of Akobo. Rather, it is indicative of movement trends for the assessed population.

The following findings are based on primary data collected between the 1st and 31st of January 2020.

**GENERAL MOVEMENT TRENDS**

Data provided below has been taken from REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) data collection, as well as data provided using the TFP survey which captures larger movements between Akobo and Ethiopia.

**Type of movement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of movement</th>
<th>Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded in January 2020:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHs Individuals</td>
<td>367 Women 27% Men 32% Breastfeeding 54% Pregnant woman 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHs %</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outbound HHs</td>
<td>384 Children 41% Women 27% Men 32% Breastfeeding 54% Pregnant woman 24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int. movement</td>
<td>34 Women 27% Men 32% Breastfeeding 54% Pregnant woman 24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 296 HHs coming by foot or in small vehicles and boats, REACH also used the TFP tool to estimate the number of HH travelling on larger boats. In January, one larger inbound boat was recorded carrying an estimated 210 individuals, and two larger outbound boats carrying an estimated 98 and 96 individuals, respectively.

**Security concerns during travel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Security concern</th>
<th>Inbound transport</th>
<th>Outbound transport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checkspt</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat conditions</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overloading of boat</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vulnerabilities**

- 85% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:
  - Breastfeeding: 54%
  - Pregnant woman: 24%

- 79% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:
  - Breastfeeding: 52%
  - Pregnant woman: 27%

**Reasons for coming to South Sudan**

Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs, October 2019 to January 2020:

- 67% Rejoining family/home
- 11% Presence of work opportunities
- 16% Perceived security

**Reasons for leaving South Sudan**

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, October 2019 to January 2020:

- 64% of outbound HHs reported intending to stay more than six months in their final destination outside of South Sudan.

**Notes:**

1. The TFP tool asks the driver (or another focal point of the transportation) to give details of the number of individuals and number of households travelling. This methodology is used if the number of households travelling exceeds 3 or if a household and a family cannot be interviewed. For more details, please access the Port and Road Monitoring Terms of Reference here: https://www.ipam-repository.org/document/reach/SSD/14469/Practical_tips_for_monitoring_cross-border_movements_in_Akobo.pdf
2. While external movement within South Sudan was also recorded in Akobo over the data collection period, this factsheet covers crossborder movement between South Sudan and Ethiopia, and vice versa, only.
3. Outbound transport focal points were asked what security concerns they anticipated on their onward journey based on historical trips.
4. Partial HHs are those where not all members of the self-identified family unit were reportedly travelling. Please note, family units in South Sudan often extend beyond the nuclear family.

**Main Destinations of Inbound HHs**

Akobo

**MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND HHs**

1. **Previous reported intended destinations for inbound HHs in South Sudan:**
   - Akobo County: 79%
   - Uror County: 1%
   - Nyirol County: 1%

2. **Primary push factors for outward HHs:**
   - Lack of food: 64%
   - Presence of educational services: 21%
   - Rejoining family: 17%

3. **Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to go to another country:**
   - Distance from family/ home: 71%
   - Lack of work opportunities: 15%
   - Tensions with host community: 9%

4. **Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:**
   - Akobo County: 83%
   - Nyirol County: 9%
   - Uror County: 8%

5. **Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:**
   - Akobo County: 98%
   - Uror County: 1%
   - Nyirol County: 1%

6. **Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs leaving to leave their last location:**
   - Distance from family/ home: 71%
   - Lack of work opportunities: 15%
   - Tensions with host community: 9%

7. **Reasons for coming to South Sudan:**
   - October 2019: 67%
   - November 2019: 57%
   - December 2019: 68%
   - January 2020: 63%

8. **Reasons for leaving South Sudan:**
   - Lack of food: 26%
   - Lack of educational services: 27%
   - Distance from family/home: 12%

9. **Outbound From South Sudan**

   - 79% of outbound HHs were partial HHs.

For more information on this profile please contact: REACH - south.sudan@reach-initiative.org