Cross-Border Population Movement Factsheet
Akobo Port and Road Monitoring
Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

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 July 2020.

GENERAL MOVEMENT TRENDS
The findings in this factsheet are based on data from the REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) data collection and the TFP survey, the latter of which captures larger movements between Akobo and Ethiopia.

Type of movement
- Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded in July 2020:
  - HHs: 226
  - Individuals: 880
- HHs %:
  - Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia: 36%
  - Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan: 54%
- Internal movement within South Sudan: 10%

During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 226 HHs travelling by foot or in small vehicles and boats (PRM data collection), REACH also used the TFP tool to estimate the number of HHs travelling on larger boats. In July, one inbound boat was recorded carrying an estimated 135 HHs, and 2 outbound boats were recorded carrying an estimated 135 and 83 HHs, respectively.

Vulnerabilities
- 83% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:
  - 52% Breastfeeding
  - 16% Separated/Unaccompanied child
- 77% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:
  - 46% Breastfeeding
  - 27% Physically disabled

INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN
- 37% of inbound HHs reported intending to stay more than six months in their final destination in South Sudan.
- Demographics:
  - Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:
    - Children 42%
    - Women 29%
    - Men 29%
- Previous location in Ethiopia:
  - Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:
    - Jewi Camp 23%
    - Kule Camp 19%
    - Nguenyyiel Camp 11%
- Intended destination in South Sudan:
  - Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:
    - Akobo County 86%
    - Nyirial County 7%
    - Uror County 7%
- Push factors:
  - Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to leave their last location:
    - Distance from family/home 56%
    - Fleeing COVID-19 20%
    - Lack of food 8%
- Reasons for coming to South Sudan:
  - Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, April 2020 to July 2020:
    - Rejoining family/home 80%
    - Lack of food 61%
    - Lower perceived risk of COVID-19 74%
    - Perceived security 60%

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN
- 55% of outbound HHs reported intending to stay more than six months in their final destination outside of South Sudan.
- Demographics:
  - Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:
    - Children 41%
    - Women 31%
    - Men 28%
- Previous location in South Sudan:
  - Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:
    - Akobo County 83%
    - Uror County 10%
    - Nyirial County 6%
- Intended destination in Ethiopia:
  - Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:
    - Jewi Camp 33%
    - Nguenyyiel Camp 32%
    - Kule Camp 17%
- Pull factors:
  - Primary reported pull factors for outbound HHs to go to another country:
    - Presence of food distributions 34%
    - Presence of family/home 22%
    - Presence of health services 18%
- Reasons for leaving South Sudan:
  - Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, April 2020 to July 2020:
    - Lack of food 39%
    - Distance from family/home 39%
    - Perceived security 39%
    - Lack of health services 14%

Notes:
1. The TFP tool asks the driver (or another focal point) 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 households and therefore cannot
2. Outbound transport (out of Akobo) was also recorded in Akobo over the data collection period, this factsheet covers crossborder movement between South Sudan and Ethiopia, and visa versa, only.
3. Outbound transport focal points were asked what security concerns they encountered on their inward journey based on history.
4. Inbound transport focal points were asked about the security concerns they encountered on their outward journey based on history.
5. For more information on this profile please contact: REACH - southsudan@reach-initiative.org