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

May 2020

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 security 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 May 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
Region
Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded in May 2020:

- **Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia**
  - HHs: 153
  - Individuals: 530
  - HHs (%): 42%

- **Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan**
  - HHs: 187
  - Individuals: 761
  - HHs (%): 52%

- **Internal movement within South Sudan**
  - HHs: 23
  - Individuals: 111
  - HHs (%): 6%

During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 146 HHs coming by foot or in small vehicles and boats, REACH also used the TFP tool to estimate the number of HHs travelling on larger boats. In May, one inbound boat was recorded carrying an estimated 96 individuals, and two larger outbound boats were recorded carrying an estimated 125 and 103 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>Checkpoints</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat is overloaded</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat conditions</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaking down</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

- **20%** of inbound HHs reported intending to stay more than six months in their final destination in South Sudan.

Demographics

- **70%** of inbound HHs were partial HHs.

Previous location in Ethiopia

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:
- Addis Ababa: 33%
- Kule Camp: 17%
- Jewi Camp: 17%

Intended destination in South Sudan

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:
- Akobo County: 92%
- Nyiril County: 6%
- Uor County: 2%

Push factors

Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to leave their last location:
- Fleeing COVID-19: 66%
- Distance from family/ home: 20%
- Lack of educational services: 13%

Reasons for coming to South Sudan

Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, February 2020 to May 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>February 2020</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2020</th>
<th>May 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regaining family/ home</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceived security</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower perceived risk of COVID-19</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

- **49%** of outbound HHs reported intending to stay more than six months in their final destination outside of South Sudan.

Demographics

Previous location in South Sudan

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:
- Akobo County: 88%
- Uor County: 12%

Intended destination in Ethiopia

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:
- Ngueviyl Camp: 31%
- Jewi Camp: 22%
- Kule Camp: 20%

Pull factors

Primary reported pull factors for outbound HHs to go to another country:
- Presence of family / home: 41%
- Presence of food distributions: 31%
- Presence of health services: 17%

Reasons for leaving South Sudan

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, February 2020 to May 2020:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>February 2020</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th>April 2020</th>
<th>May 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distance from family/ home</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of food</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of health services</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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