Kapoeta Road Monitoring
Kapoeta, Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY
Kapoeta town is located in Kapoeta South County, Eastern Equatoria State, near South Sudan’s border with Kenya. Since the beginning of the crisis in South Sudan in December 2013, Kapoeta town has been a gateway through which many internally displaced persons (IDPs) have passed on their way to refugee camps in Kenya. This factsheet provides results from the REACH road monitoring exercise in Kapoeta town. REACH monitors two bus/car parks where travellers are travelling to and from Torit/Juba and Narus/Kakuma, in order to record the arrivals and departures of households (HHs) on a daily basis. The following findings are based on primary data collected over 25 days between 5 and 29 May 2020. In May, 42 of surveyed HHs (112 individuals) were departures from Kapoeta town, 5 HHs (9 individuals) were arrivals to Kapoeta town and 6 HHs (21 individuals) were transit. None of the arrivals or departures were cross-border movements, likely due to COVID-19 related movement restrictions including the closure of national borders. Therefore, while the PRM findings usually pertain to cross-border movements, this current round only presents data from internal movements arriving in or departing from Kapoeta town. Not all entry points to Kapoeta town were covered systematically, and some arrivals and departures reportedly took place outside of data collection hours (8:00 am - 18:00 pm). As a result, data presented in this factsheet does not capture all population movements and, as such, findings are not representative but rather indicative only of broader population movement trends for the assessed population.

ARRIVALS TO KAPOETA³
Demographics
5 households were partial households.⁵

Reasons for leaving previous location
Most commonly reported primary reason for leaving previous location for Kapoeta:⁴
- Distance from family/home: 2
- Lack of work opportunities: 2
- Lack of health services: 1

Reasons for coming to Kapoeta
Primary reported pull factors for coming to Kapoeta town in May 2020⁰
- Rejoining family/home: 2
- Presence of work opportunities: 2
- Presence of health services: 1

Vulnerabilities
3 arriving HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:⁷
- Elderly
- Critically ill

Previous county location
Reported county or state from which arriving households were coming:
- Torit: 4
- Budi: 1

Intended duration of stay in Kapoeta
Reported length of time that respondents intended to stay in Kapoeta:
- Less than a month: 0
- From 1 to 3 months: 1
- From 4 to 6 months: 1
- More than 6 months or permanently: 3

DEPARTURES FROM KAPOETA
Demographics
76% of departing HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:
- Breastfeeding: 29%
- Pregnant women: 18%
- Critically Ill: 10%

Vulnerabilities
79% of departing households were partial households.⁵

Reasons for going to final location
Most commonly reported primary reason for travelling to desired location from Kapoeta:⁴
- Proximity to family/home: 53%
- Precense of markets/goods: 20%
- Lower perceived risk of COVID-19: 6%

Destination county location
Reported county to which departing households were going:
- Kapoeta East: 45%
- Budi: 24%
- Torit: 20%
- Juba County: 8%
- Other destinations: 3%

Reasons for leaving Kapoeta
Primary reported push factors for departing Kapoeta town May 2020.⁰
- Distance from family/home: 49%
- Lack of markets/goods: 20%
- Fleeting COVID-19: 14%

Intended duration of stay in destination
Reported length of time that respondents intended to stay in destination:
- Less than a month: 6%
- From 1 to 3 months: 22%
- From 4 to 6 months: 31%
- More than 6 months or permanently: 41%

Notes:
1. These are indicative trends; REACH does not record all arrivals and departures.
2. Due to the negligible number of transits recorded, a detailed analysis of the dynamics of transiting households was not included in this factsheet, apart from a short narrative section.
3. With the exception of the general cross border movement trends graph.
4. Due to low sample size of arrivals (5 HHs) in May, findings are reported in absolute numbers.
5. “Partial” in the sense that not all members of the HHs were travelling with the interviewed HHs.
6. Reported presence of services or opportunities is indicative of respondents’ perception and does not necessarily reflect availability.

GENERAL CROSS BORDER MOVEMENT TRENDS
Average daily number of individuals departing (red) and arriving (grey) with the intention to stay longer than six months, May 2019 to May 2020

INBOUND AND OUTBOUND MOVEMENT THROUGH KAPOETA
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most national border crossing points were closed for personal travel in March 2020.⁷ Therefore, the average daily number of individuals inbound to (grey) and outbound from (red) South Sudan with the intention to stay in their final destination for more than six months recorded in Kapoeta Town dropped to on average zero arrivals and departures in the months of April and May 2020. However, lack of captured cross-border movements may be partially influenced by Kapoeta town’s location along formal roads, as anecdotal reports suggest that some movement continued in May through informal routes.

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Notes, continued:
7. Presence of health services, food and jobs were also reported as pull factors by 5%.