

Background and Methodology

DTM relies on its network of key informants and on secondary sources to provide a weekly assessment of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at priority locations in South Sudan. The updates are released in the beginning of each week based on information collected Monday–Sunday of the previous week. Table 2 on page 2 represents only points recommended by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group (PoETWG). A more exhaustive list of entry points can be found [here](#).

If you wish to share any updates or flag any errors, please contact DTM at southsudanDTM@iom.int.

Overview

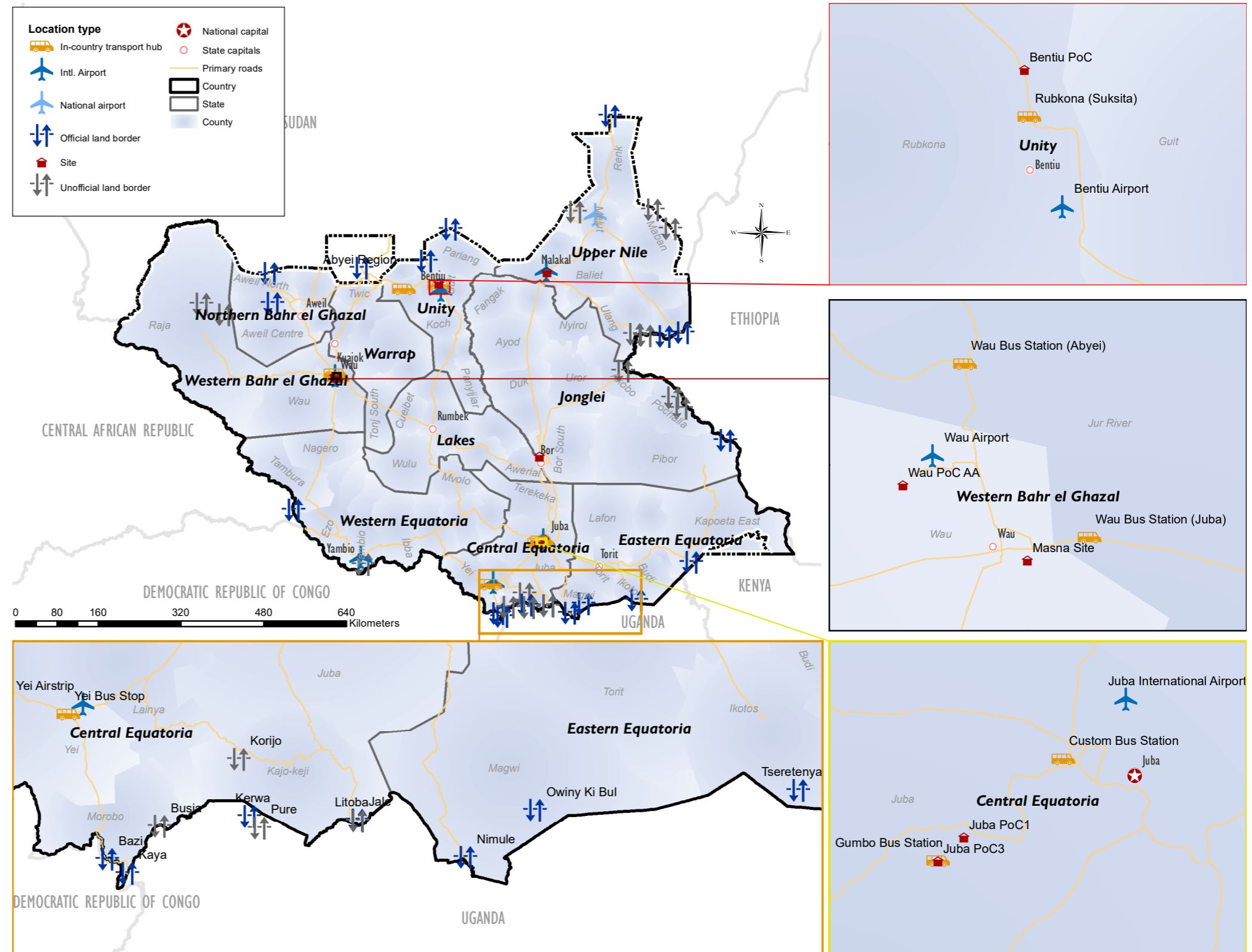
On 25 April 2020, South Sudan registered its **sixth** COVID-19 case just two days after the **fifth**. On confirmation of the sixth case, the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on 26 April 2020 issued a suspension of all public transportation from and to Juba as well as Torit, where cases of the virus were found. These road movement restrictions follow interstate flight limitations from 13 April 2020. As of 21 April, the HLTF further extended all movement restrictions introduced in March 2020 until further notice.

Humanitarian access was limited by newly imposed flight clearance taxations and mandatory “COVID-19 free” certificates prior to travel. This impacted food air drops as well as trucking for pre-positioning of humanitarian goods during these final weeks of the dry season. As of 25 April 2020, humanitarian workers can return to their home-country without such a certificate. Further COVID-19 related **population movements** included increased permanent exits from Wau PoC AA (observed by IOM DTM) and reportedly return movements from Uganda and in-country locations to Juba according to the RRC.

Although cargo is mostly allowed to enter the country, movement restrictions have caused **market prices** like those of wheat, sorghum and maize to increase.

Further¹ **arrests** were made of persons breaking [congregation](#) or [travel](#) restrictions.

Selected IDP sites and transportation hubs



Please note that coordinates are available upon [request](#).

1. The Diocesan Major Response Team on COVID-19 decided to close several Wau collective centres on 9 April 2020. As of 12 April 2020, Nazareth, Cathedral, St. Joseph and Lokoloko (3,743 ind. in March 2020 according to DTM population count) are empty

Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- **SUDAN:** DTM observed travel of cargo between South Sudan and Sudan through Abyei as well as sporadic cases of movements through alternative routes near the border point, which is otherwise closed. Movement through Kiir Adem (Aweil North) continues uninterrupted. Markets in Renk Town are reported to have undergone rapid price increases due to travel restrictions with a rise in smuggling. Movements into Raja of persons from camps in Darfur as well as cargo continues uninterrupted.
- **ETHIOPIA:** Cross-border movements to and from Ethiopia at most points of entries remain on halt or is carried out via alternative local roads. However, movement of cargo through Akobo continues with a lower volume of flows through Boyi / Dima. Ethiopia is to embark on [door to door testing](#) of COVID-19 cases in the country in a quest to test at least 4,000 people on a daily basis.
- **UGANDA:** On 21 April 2020, a traveler who tested positive for coronavirus was [held while on his way to Uganda](#). The traveler, believed to be a truck driver, was held at Nimule border after he delivered goods to Juba. Uganda has increased [testing truck drivers](#) after 11 drivers en route from Tanzania and Kenya had [tested positive](#) on 24 April 2020. “[Relay trucking](#)” is supposed to ensure that drivers do not cross international borders. The RRC has reported that since the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Uganda and South Sudan, over 700 families have arrived in Wonduruba Payam of Juba County from Uganda and from other states of South Sudan.
- **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** While cargo is allowed to enter through Gangura, none has been observed during the reporting period. This is reportedly due to security concerns related to the suspected presence of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) along the way. Movement of persons continues to take place via smaller roads.
- **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** The border point at Source Yubu remains shut by authorities on ground but movements continue through smaller alternative crossings.
- **KENYA:** Movement through Nadapal has been limited to incoming cargo.

Table 1. Mobility and preparedness assessment at selected IDP sites within South Sudan

County	Location	Type	Population ¹	Movement Restrictions within and in/ out of the site	Average daily flow in / out during rep. period	Approx. % overnight travel ²	Approx. % of out of county travel ²	Congregation restrictions	Fever Screening	Hand-washing stations	Risk communication	Comment
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	118,385	None	8,622 / 8,098	45%	71%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,928	Yes	1,328/1,348	30%	63%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	National Security forces have restricted access to the PoC site gates as well as the gate used by UNMISS and humanitarian service providers as of Monday 6 April 2020.
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	10,755	None	3676 / 3726	3%	6%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Cross-country restrictions are valid within the Wau PoC AA, limiting the gathering of more than 10 people, 2 m distance rule, no faith congregations and limit of humanitarian group activities to no more than 10 people per group. 265 HH/992Ind. registered for voluntary return from Wau PoC AA and collected their return package.
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	3,746	None	Unknown	6%	32%	Yes	No	Yes	No	Masna remains populated without movement / congregation restrictions or handwashing.
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Limit of public gatherings to no more than 10 people respecting the 2m distance rule, no faith congregations, humanitarian partners to limit group activities to no more than 10 people.
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	2,847 / 2,818	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Limit of public gatherings to no more than 10 people respecting the 2m distance rule, no faith congregations, humanitarian partners to limit group activities to no more than 10 people.
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,779	None	9,1703 / 9,678	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Table 2. Mobility and preparedness assessment at urban transport hubs and points of entry in South Sudan recommended by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group (PoETWG)

County	Location	Type	Border to	Mvmnt of cargo as of 26 April	Mvmnt of persons as of 26 April	Into SSD / out of SSD 2019 daily average ³	Into SSD / out of SSD reporting period daily average ³	Fever screening	Hand-washing stations	Risk communication	Isolation / quarantine area	Increased security forces	Comment
Abyei	Abyei (Amiet)	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	20/32	7/11	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	10/16	No	No	No	No	No	REACH conducts road monitoring in Akobo Town . Persons and cargo are still crossing the border. Cargo is transported by river here, not trucks.
Aweil East	Majokynthiou	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	6/24	69/38	No	Yes	No	No	No	
Aweil North	Kirr Adem	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	13/26	14/8	No	No	No	No	No	RRC reported that a partner from the Aweil task force visited Kirr Adem to assess border movement patterns and confirmed that there are no movement restrictions.
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	Incoming only	Closed with exceptions	Unknown	30/15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Inter-state movement from / to Juba Airport was halted on 15 April 2020 with exceptions for emergencies and life saving activities with approval from the High Level Task Force.
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	Incoming only	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	10/6	No	No	Yes	No	Unknown	REACH conducting road monitoring in Kapoeta Town .
Maban	Yabous	Unofficial land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	Small border crossing used as usual.
Maban	Elfoj	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	Small border crossing used as usual..
Magwi	Nimule	Official land border	UGA	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	124/156	70/48	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Authorities arrested a truck driver who tested positive to COVID-19 in Kenya. The truck driver passed from Kenya to Uganda and reached Juba where he delivered his goods, and was apprehended on his way back to Uganda.
Maiwut	Pagak	Official land border	ETH	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	
Maiwut	Jekow	Official land border	ETH	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Morobo	Kaya	Official land border	UGA	Incoming only	De facto via alternative routes	249/198	5/4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Holding unit available but no isolation unit.
Pariang	Pantou	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	70/23	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Panakuac road through Karsana and Heglig (all names with alternative spellings).
Pariang	Jau	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	35/13	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Renk	Wunthaw	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	Unknown	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	9/28	Unknown	No	No	Yes	No	No	Arrivals from Sudan and internal movement

High Level Task Force

The Government of South Sudan establishes the High Level Task Force on COVID-19 led by The First Vice President Dr. Riak Machar.

Closure of edu. facilities

South Sudan Vice President for Service Cluster Hussein Abdelbagi Akol has decided to [close all the schools, teachers training institutes and the universities](#) across the country.

Uganda suspends refugee policy

Uganda's open-door policy for refugees and asylum seekers is [suspended](#) for 30 days. Refugees who are already in the country will continue to receive support.



1st COVID-19 Case in SSD

The South Sudan Government confirmed its [first case of COVID-19](#).



4th COVID-19 Case



Long distance learning

Education ministry to [launch distance learning for students](#). Lessons for core subjects for primary and secondary school students will be delivered over radio stations and national television.



Release of 143 prisoners

Authorities in South Sudan has [released 143 prisoners](#) in an effort to combat the spread of the new coronavirus disease in crowded jails.



19 March

20 March

24 March

25 March

27 March

5 April

6 April

10 April

13 April

16 April

18 April

Preparedness & Response Plan

Ministry of Health releases COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (April - September 2020).



South Sudan closes borders

South Sudan [closes all airports and seals land borders](#) for passengers. Curfew across country from 8.00PM to 6.00AM. Public institutions working half-time. First suspected case of COVID-19 tested negative.

Quarantine Escape

Over 500 South Sudan nationals described as returnees [escape quarantine in Renk](#), set up at a secondary school after arriving from Sudan.

Closing of Wau Collective Centres

The Diocesan Major Response Team on COVID-19 decides to close several Wau collective centres. As of 12 April 2020, Nazareth, Cathedral, St. Joseph and Lokoloko (3,743 ind. in March 2020 according to [DTM population count](#)) are empty apart from a few stranded households.



Suspension of inter-state travel

The Government has suspended passenger flights as well as public and private inter-state transport for up to two weeks effective from midnight Wednesday 15 April 2020 (Communication from the presidency 25, HLTF 13 April 2020).



Increased testing in Juba

The HLTF directs the Ministry of Health to divide Juba into five zones and to collect over 100 samples per week per zone to enable a minimum testing capacity of 500 samples a week (Communication from the presidency 28, HLTF 16 April 2020).



Extensions of restrictions

The Government's High-level Taskforce on combating the COVID-19 pandemic extended all restrictions introduced in March 2020 until further notice as a precautionary measure.

Renk: rise in prices of goods

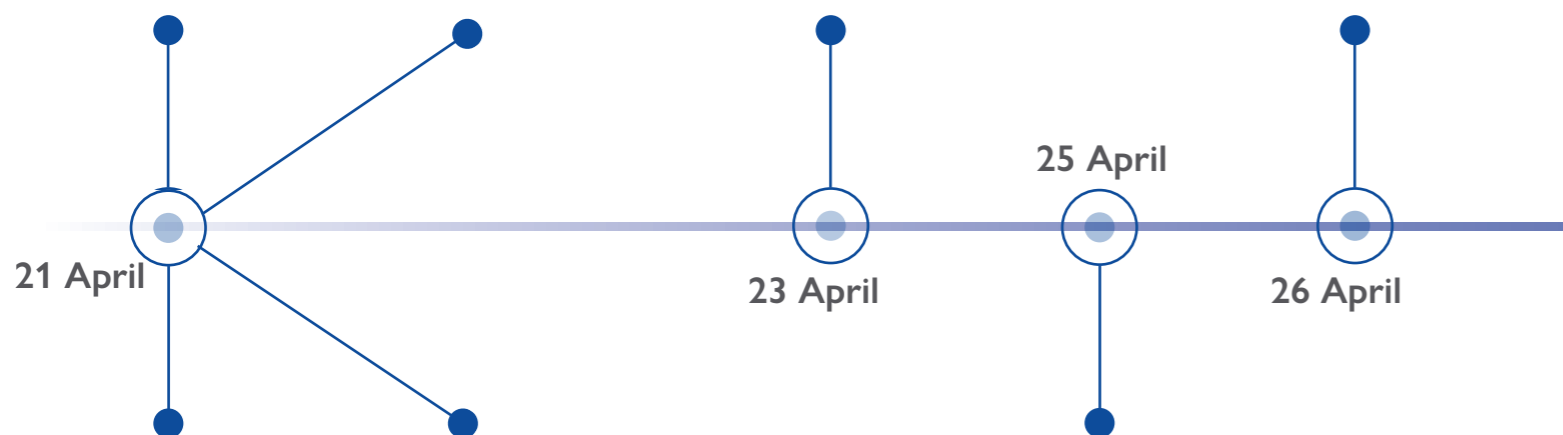
As many households in Renk are dependent on trading with Sudan the closure of the border has seen increased cases of smuggling of goods and supplies between Sudan and South Sudan.

5th COVID-19 Case



Internal movement restrictions

Suspension of all public transportation system between Juba and all other towns and villages in Central Equatoria, and between Torit and all other towns and villages in Eastern Equatoria.



Arrest at Nimule border

A suspected truck driver who was tested at Kenyan-Ugandan border and tested positive is arrested in Nimiule border crossing point when returning from Juba to Uganda.

IDPs leave Wau PoC AA

265 households (992 IDPs) registered and picked up a return package, although not all have left. IOM DTM confirms an increase in intended permanent exits from Wau PoC AA peaking between 7 and 12 April.

6th COVID-19 Case



COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



Worldwide:

- 2,804,796 confirmed cases
- 193,710 deaths



Number of cases/deaths in neighboring countries:

- Sudan: 213/2
- Central African Republic: 19/0
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 442/28
- Uganda: 75/0
- Ethiopia: 122/3
- Kenya: 343/14



South Sudan

- 6 confirmed cases*
- 0 deaths

Source: WHO, update as of 26 April 2020

*Source: HLTF South Sudan