

Mobility Tracking Round 8: Initial data release



Datasets:

[Baseline locations \(2,747 locations\)](#)
[Summaries: periods of arrival, reasons, shelter](#)



Maps:

[Returnees by County \(A4\)](#)
[IDPs by County \(A4\)](#)

This summary presents initial findings from the eighth round of Mobility Tracking conducted across South Sudan through key-informant based assessment at payam and location level between February and March 2020. Mobility Tracking quantifies the presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in South Sudan in displacement sites and host communities.

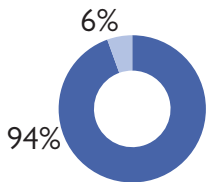
IOM DTM mapped a total of 1,600,254 IDPs (6% previously displaced abroad) and 1,533,390 returnees (33% previously displaced abroad) in 2,747 locations across South Sudan as of March 2020.

Period: **February - March 2020**



Coverage: **2,747** locations, **500** payams (sub-areas) in all **78** counties



IDPs since 2014
 arrived from abroad vs.
 from within South Sudan
 (n=1,600,254)

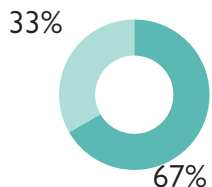


Number of IDPs



	Since Jan 2020 (subset of total)	Since Jan 2019 (subset of total)	Since 2014 (overall total: includes figures since 2019/20)
Total by period	127,840	285,713	1,600,254
 Subset of IDPs who arrived from within South Sudan	124,113	261,736	1,511,993
 Subset of IDPs who arrived from abroad	3,727	23,977	88,261



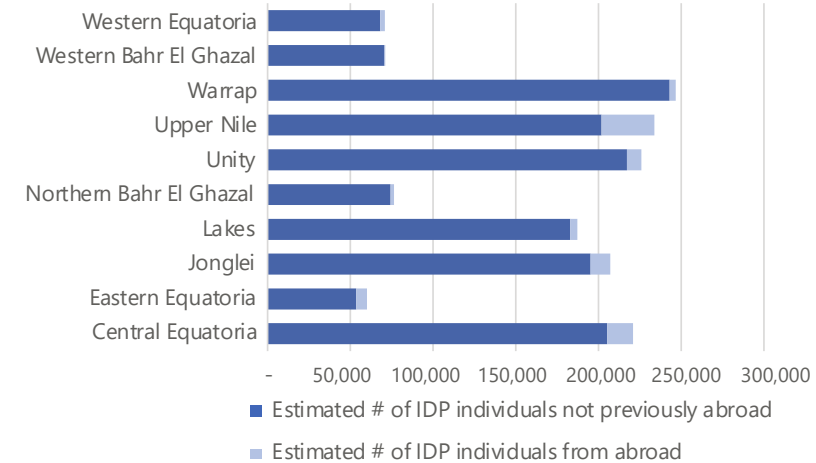
Returnees since 2016
 from abroad vs.
 from within South Sudan
 (n=1,533,390)



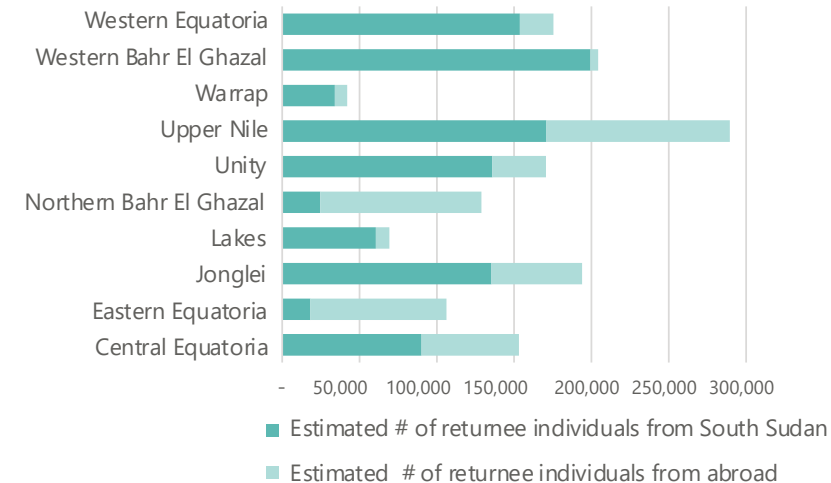
Number of returnees

	Since Jan 2020 (subset of total)	Since Jan 2019 (subset of total)	Since 2016 (overall total: includes figures since 2019/20)
Total by period	107,156	583,705	1,533,390
 Subset of returnees who arrived from within South Sudan	71,508	380,442	1,022,689
 Subset of returnees who arrived from abroad	35,648	203,263	510,701

Total: 1,600,254 IDPs



Total: 1,533,390 returnees





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Three categories of data to consider when interpreting results

In order to provide a comprehensive picture of displacement and return across South Sudan, DTM revisits each previously (e.g. [round 7](#)) assessed location and further expands the tool's scope where possible. When locations prove to be inaccessible in a given round of assessment due to, for example, insecurity or flooding, DTM uses the most recent data available. For round 8, this means that for certain locations population figures are taken from the two previous rounds. Data disaggregated by 2,747 locations can be categorized as **re-assessed** (2,344 locations, 85%), **new locations** (227 locations, 8%) and **locations for which data was used from previous rounds** (176, 6%).

Please refer to the adjacent table for an overview of IDP and returnee figures reflected in each category. Data from previous rounds was used for 176 locations of which 105 (60%) were inaccessible due to insecurity and 71 (40%) were inaccessible for other reasons including road conditions and challenges linked to remoteness.

	Locations		IDPs		Returnees	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Re-assessed	2,344	85.3%	1,417,258	88.6%	1,388,134	90.5%
New locations as of round 8	227	8.3%	117,096	7.3%	99,548	6.5%
Data re-used from round 7 and 6	176	6.4%	65,900	4.1%	45,708	3.0%
Total	2,747	100%	1,600,254	100.0%	1,533,390	100.0%

Interpreting trends in IDP numbers

DTM observed an overall net decrease from 1,665,815 IDPs in round 7 (November 2019) to 1,600,254 IDPs in round 8 (March 2020). The difference between round 7 and round 8 IDP figures can be broken down into a) a net decrease in IDPs across re-assessed locations (-166,475 IDPs), b) the addition of IDPs in newly assessed locations (+117,096 IDPs) and c) a decrease due to an overhaul of the existing database through data cleaning and the exclusion of outdated information (-16,182 IDPs).

Considering only **re-assessed locations** (85% of locations included), DTM has witnessed a decrease of 166,475 IDPs representing a **drop by 11 per cent**. For the remaining 15 per cent of locations, which are either newly assessed (8%) or for which data had to be reused from previous rounds due to inaccessibility (6%), DTM was unable to confirm changes in IDP populations.

The above-mentioned net decrease of 166,475 IDPs in re-assessed locations results from a combined 277,104 decrease and a 110,629 increase. Counties with the most significant net decreases in the number of IDPs were Aweil West (-35,625), Rumbek North (-28,564), Wau (-23,086), Tonj North (-17,733), Jur River (-11,605), Gogrial West (-10,812) and Akobo (-10,489). The main counties witnessing net increases in the number IDPs since round 7 were Yei (+13,736), Tonj East (+10,590), Maridi (+ 8,899), Pibor (+6,170), Longochuk (+4,273), Yirol West (+3,873) and Yirol South (+3,736).

Interpreting trends in returnee numbers

DTM recorded an overall net increase from 1,365,057 returnees in round 7 (November 2019) to 1,533,390 returnees in round 8 (March 2020). The difference between round 7 and round 8 returnee figures can be broken down into a) a net increase in returnees across re-assessed locations (+83,413 returnees), b) the addition of returnees in newly assessed locations (+99,548 returnees) and c) a decrease due to an overhaul of the existing database through data cleaning and the exclusion of outdated information (-14,628 returnees).

Considering only **re-assessed locations** (85% of locations included), DTM has witnessed an increase of 83,413 returnees representing a **6 per cent growth**. For the remaining 15 per cent of locations which are either newly assessed (8%) or for which data had to be reused from previous rounds due to inaccessibility (6%), DTM was unable to confirm changes in returnee populations.

The above-mentioned net increase of 83,413 returnees in re-assessed locations results from a combined 91,133 returnee decrease and a 174,546 returnee increase. Counties with the most significant increases in the number of returnees were Longochuk (+10,995), Jur River (+9,333), Gogrial West (+7,392), Ezo (+7,372), Rubkona (+6,178), Wau (+5,843) and Magwi (+4,294). The main counties witnessing decreases in the number returnees since round 7 were Rumbek North (-12,598) Bor South (-7,586), Akobo (-7,090), Aweil West (-4,172), Koch (-3,119), Ulang (-3,015) and Pibor (-2,355).

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Methodology

The baseline area assessments at various administrative levels allowing for triangulation, and multi-sectoral location assessments conducted at the villages, neighbourhoods or displacement sites.

1. **Baseline area assessments** provide information on the presence of targeted populations in defined administrative sub-areas (following the 10-state payam system), and capture information at the group level on population categories (IDPs, returnees, relocated) and attributes such as time of arrival of the target population in the assessed location, return from abroad or South Sudan, displacement previously abroad or not, reasons for displacement and former home areas for IDPs (both captured on majority basis for a given payam), presence of and dates of displacement / return, and shelter conditions. The baseline area assessment form also comprises a list of locations (defined as villages / neighbourhoods / displacement sites) hosting displaced and / or returned populations.
2. **Multi-sectoral location assessments** at village / neighbourhood or site level are conducted to gather data on a more granular level, comprising sectors such as Health, WASH, S/NFI, Protection, FSL and Education. The objective of the location level assessments is to collect key multisectoral indicators on the living conditions and needs of affected populations which can enable partners to prioritize locations for more in-depth sector-specific assessments.

Definitions

IDPs: previously abroad / previously not abroad

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2014 to March 2020

Returnees: internal / from abroad

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan or abroad, who has since returned to their habitual residence. Please note: the returnee category, for the purpose of DTM data collection, is restricted to individuals who returned to the exact location of their habitual residence, or an adjacent area based on a free decision. South Sudanese displaced persons having crossed the border into South Sudan from neighbouring countries without having reached their home are still displaced and as such not counted in the returnee category.

Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2016 to March 2020

Relocated Individuals

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan or abroad, who has since relocated voluntarily (independently or with the help of other actors) to another location than their former habitual residence, without an intention to return to their former habitual residence.

Note on returnee definition

The IOM DTM returnee figure from abroad cannot be compared directly with the spontaneous refugee returnees reported by UNHCR. The latter can have returned home (this would be captured as part of the returnees from abroad category in IOM DTM), but they may also find themselves in a situation of continued displacement or have chosen a new habitual residence (in both cases, they would be considered but not directly visible as part of the IDP and relocated figures reported by IOM). UNHCR and IOM technical teams are exploring how to improve data sharing to enable comparison and integration of numbers published by each agency.

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