

# COVID-19 Preparedness & Response: Mobility Update 11 (1-14 June 2020)

#### **Background and Methodology**

DTM relies on its network of key informants and on secondary sources to provide a bi-weekly assessment of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at priority locations in South Sudan. Table 2 on page 2 represents only points recommended by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group (PoE TWG). A more exhaustive list of entry points and displacement sites can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

If you wish to share any updates or flag any errors, please do not hesitate to contact IOM DTM at southsudanDTM@iom.int.

#### Overview

A cumulative figure of 1,755 confirmed cases have been recorded as of 14 June 2020, including 32 imported cases, 58 recoveries, 30 deaths and 55 healthcare workers who were infected since the outbreak of the pandemic in the country. Endemic structural challenges such as limited resources and access challenges have hindered efforts by national authorities, civil society and aid organizations to contain the virus.

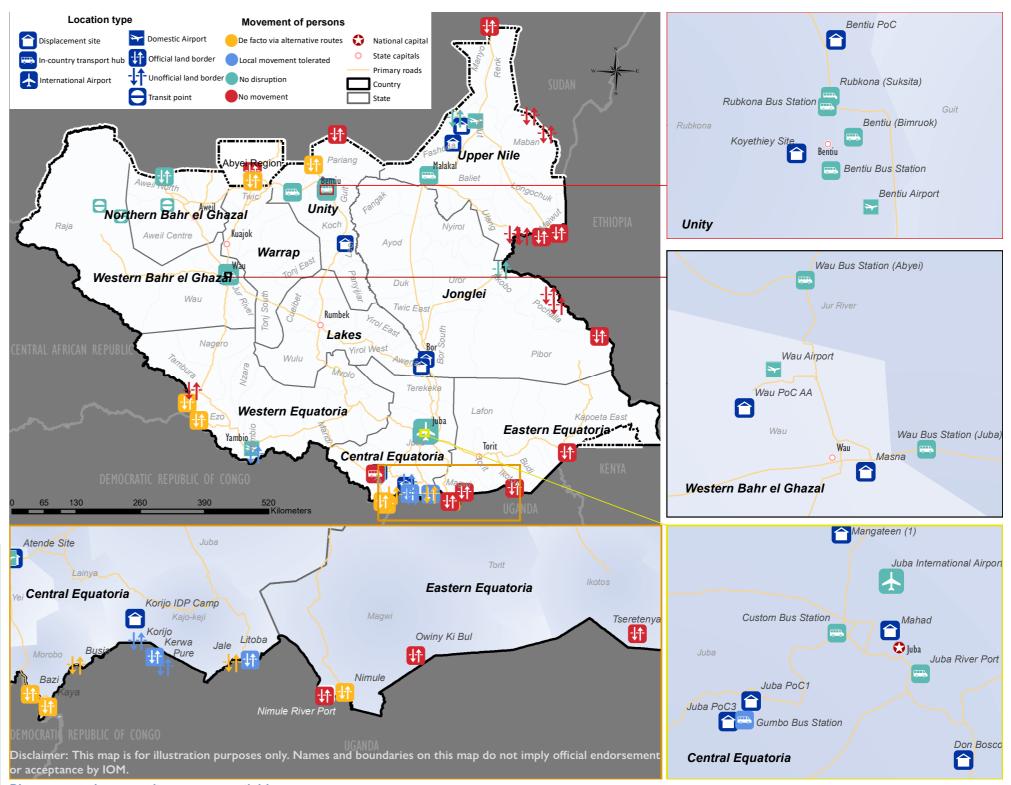
Doctors at the Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Centre (part of the Rapid Response Team) are <u>pending 4</u> <u>months of incentives</u> promised a month prior. The office of the Vice President (head of the national taskforce) indicated that frontline health workers will be paid within the coming days. The <u>undersecretary of the Ministry of Health (MoH) has been let go</u> according to a Presidential decree due to poor reporting on COVID-19 cases and response in the country. The new team resumed daily updates in the second week of June.

Five new cases were reported in Juba Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites bringing the total number of cases at the two sites to seven. In Bentiu PoC, a third COVID-19 case was identified. One of the three confirmed cases at Bentiu PoC site passed away due to respiratory failure.

The MoH issued a note about the occurrence of fake COVID-19 free certificates issued around Juba International Airport. In response, the MoH suspended issuance of COVID-19 negativity certificates until further notice. This decision has had an immediate impact on the planning of internal travel requiring all passengers to observe 14 days quarantine prior to the journey. Concerns about the relaxing of COVID-19 related measures<sup>1</sup> continue as the archbishop of Juba suggested a total lockdown in Juba after three vice presidents and two ministers tested positive for coronavirus in order to minimize the spread of the virus.

#### Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- SUDAN: While most eastern routes including through Abyei remain closed to the movement of people to and from Sudan, persons move unhindered across the borders along the Aweil and Raja counties. Travellers to and from Unity State often move by night or find alternative crossing points.
- ETHIOPIA: The Akobo point of entry remains open for the movement of persons and cargo, while seven other points are closed with no movements being observed. The <u>first COVID-19 case has been confirmed in Gambella region</u>. The concerned individual tested positive upon return from South Sudan making regional authorities concerned about the proximity of the area to the border with South Sudan, fearing an uncontrolled outbreak as some cross-border movements continue despite official border closures.
- UGANDA: The movement of persons to and from Uganda is still restricted except for cargo. However, at 8 out of 11 tracked points, local movements are either tolerated by local authorities or travellers make use of alternative routes meaning that governments on either side of the border continue to struggle controlling this densely populated porous border inhabited by cross- border communities.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Through Bazi and Gangura, the movement of cargo has been uninterrupted. Whilst the border points are still closed to the movement of people, travellers have found alternative routes to cross.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Source Yubu and Nabia Pai also remain closed for the movement of persons with few movements observed via alternative points.
- KENYA: Nadapal remains open for the movement of cargo and closed for movement of persons with no uses of alternative routes recorded as of this reporting period.



#### Please note that coordinates are available upon request.

**DTM tracked 75 locations including 19 displacement sites and 56 transportation hubs** within the country and along international borders to report on COVID-19 related measures such as temperature screening and the availability of handwashing stations.

Of 19 displacement sites all were subjected to some form of risk communications, 17 (89%) made additional handwashing stations available and 3 (16%) screened temperatures at the gates. The movement of persons was stopped at a third of tracked in-country and border transit locations (18 locations of 32%). However, movement continued unhindered at 24 points (43%) with reports of alternative nearby routes being used at 8 (14%) and local movement by cross-border communities being tolerated at a further 6 locations (11%). Temperature screening was practiced at 10 locations (18%) while risk communication was made available at over half of tracked transit areas (33 locations or 59%). While handwashing stations had been constructed at 24 locations (43%), these were not put to use by travellers in all hubs.

1. The Presidency announces a relaxation of COVID-19 measures as of 8 May 2020 including a curfew from 10pm-6am and the loosening of other congregation restrictions without their complete repeal. The airspace was reopened on 12 measures as of 8 May 2020 including a curfew from 10pm-6am and the loosening of other congregation restrictions without their complete repeal.

Table 1. Mobility and preparedness assessment at selected IDP sites within South Sudan (19 sites in total available in dataset)

County	Location	Туре	Population <sup>1</sup>	Movement Restrictions within and in/ out of the site	Average daily flow in / out (latest available data)	Approx. % overnight travel	Approx. % of out of county travel for overnight travel	Congregation restrictions	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk com- munication	Comment
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	111,766	None	12,694/12,878	47%	73%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Three confirmed cases. UNMISS reduced its presence in the PoC to critical issues only. Movement of IDPs in & out the PoC continues as usual.
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,930	Yes	4,395/4,375	36%	96%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Widespread COVID-19 information campaign through radio, posters, and community meetings. There are movement restrictions between the POC, Humanitarian Hub, and UNMISS Compound now. Handwashing at all entrances. No temperature screening.
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	9,956	None	5,069/5,892	3%	100%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	6,127	None	Unkn.	8%	0%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	Yes	289/344	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	283/315	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	As of 5 June 2020, 2 COVID-19 cases confirmed in UNMISS Juba PoC 1.
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,778	None	2,407/2,380	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	As of 5 June 2020, 5 COVID-19 cases confirmed in PoC 3 Site.

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	Туре	Border to	Mvmnt of cargo as of 14 june	Mvmnt of persons as of 14 june	Into / out of point 2019 daily average <sup>2</sup>	Into / out of point during reporting period daily average <sup>2</sup>	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk communication	Isolation / quarantine area	Increased security forces	Comment
Abyei	Abyei (Amiet)	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	20/32	8/5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Save the Children have visited Amiet to monitor ongoing screening activities.
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	11/17	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil East	Majokyinthiou	Transit Point	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	6/24	59/41	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil North	Kiir Adem	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	13/26	12/1	No	No	No	No	No	
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	202/211	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	While the airport is open for all movements of cargo and passengers, not all international flights have resumed to pre-COVID-19 schedules. Most flights operated within South Sudan only (domestic) during the reporting period.
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	Incoming only	No movement	Unknown	12/16	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Maban	Yabous	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Maban	Elfoj	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Magwi	Nimule	Official land border	UGA	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	124/156	44/40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	There are movements via alternative routes reported and the movement of trucks is ongoing along this PoE.
Maiwut	Pagak	Official land border	ETH	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Maiwut	Jekow	Official land border	ETH	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Morobo	Kaya	Official land border	UGA	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	249/198	1/2	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	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Travelers still cross on foot to South Sudan during the night. The travelers cross to Panthou first then disperse to different locations from there. Some of them take a route to Mayom and some board cars from Panakuach/Payangay to Unity oil field and then to Rubkona.
Pariang	Jau	Official land border	SDN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	
Renk	Wunthaw	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	9/28	570/490	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	This internal hub is also used by IDPs from Bentiu PoC site and is a bus terminal for different internal connections within Rubkona.

<sup>1.</sup> Latest population counts or biometric registration data when population counts aren't available. 2 Averages from IOM DTM Flow Monitoring or KI information. Into and out of SSD for border points.

## South Sudan

## COVID-19 Timeline (main events)

## TRACKING MATRIX SOUTH SUDAN

#### 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.

#### Border Closure

South Sudan <u>closes all</u> airports and seals land for passengers. Curfew across country from 8.00PM to 6.00AM. Public institutions working halftime. First suspected case of

COVID-19 tested negative.

25 March

## Over 500 South Sudan

nationals described The Diocesan Major as returnees <u>escape</u> Response quarantine in Renk, COVID-19 from Sudan.

5 April

#### Quarantine Escape Closing of Wau Collective Centres

Team set up at a secondary to close several Wau other towns and villages stay-at-home orders. school after arriving collective centres. As of in Central Equatoria, and 12 April 2020, Nazareth, between Torit and all Cathedral, St. Joseph and other towns and villages Lokoloko (3,743 ind. in Eastern Equatoria. March 2020 according to DTM population count)

13 April

are empty.

#### Internal movement restrictions

27 April

on transportation system of COVID-10 patients decides between Juba and all who did not adhere to

### Forced Quarantine

The Government begins Suspension of all public the forceful quarantine

5 May

#### First Bentiu PoC site case confirmed

The first COVID-19 case (IDP) is confirmed at Bentiu PoC

site. Partners begin contact tracing and continue in the construction of a Bentiu Town isolation centre.

8 May

#### First Juba PoC site Re-opening of airspace cases confirmed

The first COVID-19 cases are confirmed at Juba

PoC 3 site. The patients are humanitarian service providers.

11 May

#### Quarantine escpape South Sudan Civil Aviation

Authority has officially Some 24 people escaped quarantie Kapoeta South County due to food limited

#### Front line death

One health-care worker of COVID-19 representing the first front-line fatality in South

Sudan.



#### Preparedness & Response Plan

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

#### Uganda suspends refugee policy

19 March 24 March

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.

#### COVID-19 Case in SSD

27 March



4 June

The South Sudan Government confirmed its first case of COVID-19



#### Suspension of inter-state travel

The Government has suspended passenger flights as well as public and private iner-state

6 April

transport for up to two weeks effective from midnight Wednesday 15 April 2020 (Communication from the in presidency 25, HLTF 13 April 2020).

#### Malakal PoC lockdown start

26 April

Security forces put the UNMISS base and Malakal PoC site under lockdown

COVID-19 Malakal

### Relaxation of measures

7 May

The Presidency announces a relaxation of COVID-19 measures as of 8 May 2020 including a curfew from 10pm-6am and the loosening of other congregation restrictions without their complete repeal.

#### Trucks stranded

10 May

"Hundreds of" trucks are reported to be stranded in Elegu (UGA), bordering Nimule. The drivers are said to be awaiting clearance from South Sudanese authorities.

#### Malakal PoC site lockdown end

announced the

all airports to

domestic and

international

12 May

eopening

Government security forces have lifted the lockdown (1) at Malakal PoC site.

#### First death

The HLTF confirmes28 new cases bringing the total number of cases to 231 with three recoveries and one death.

Taskforce change

The High Level Task Force on COVID-19 is replaced with the National Taskforce Committee Coronavirus Disease.

## South Sudan

## COVID-19 Timeline (reporting period)

#### New cases in Juba PoC sites

3 June

Juba PoC Management Agency, ACTED reports five new cases within the PoC sites. A total of 7 COVID-19 positive samples were collected in Juba PoC sites.

#### South Korea delivers testing kits

The government of South Korea donates coronavirus testing kits and 20,000 facemasks.

#### Fake COVID-19 free certificates

Ministry Health warns about COVID-19 free certificates and suspends issuance of certificates until further notice.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> case in Bentiu PoC site

5 June

While three cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed at the PoC site, one person has passed away due to respiratory failure.

#### Students repatriated

8 June

218 South Sudan nationals studying in Ethiopia are repatriated.

#### Death toll rises to 22

11 June

With a total of 1.589 confirmed cases and 22 deaths, the number of official recoveries remains low (48) because of a lack of follow-up according to the Minitry of Health.

#### MoH official let go due to poor COVID-19 reporting

12 June

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Makur Matur Koriom has been let go according to a Presidential decree, mainly due to alleged poor reporting on COVID-19 cases and response in the country.

## 14 lune

#### 1,755 cases total

According to the Ministry of health 1,755 cases have been confirmed in total with 58 recoveries and 30 deaths.

# Summary of tracked border crossing points and transportation hubs Report 11 (1-14 June 2020)



Туре 坑	#
Domestic Airport	6
In-country transport hub	13
Intl. Airport	1
Official land border	19
Transit point	3
Unofficial land border	14
Total	56

Movement of cargo	#
Incoming only (trucks)	1
Incoming only (small scale)	2
No disruption	47
No movement	6
Total	56

Movement of people	#
De facto via alternative routes	8
Local movement tolerated	6
No disruption	24
No movement	18
Total	56

C-19 measures	Yes	No	Unknown
Temperature screening	10	46	0
Handwashing stations	24	31	1
Isolation / quarantine area	11	45	0
Increased security forces	7	10	39
Risk Communication	33	23	0



For an excel version of the above summary as well as table 1 & 2 (p2) including more transport hubs and points of entry, please click here.

### COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



#### Worldwide:

- 7,690,708 confirmed cases
- 427,630 deaths



## Number of cases/deaths in neighboring countries:

- Sudan: 7,007/447
- Central African Republic: 2,057/7
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 4,723/105
- Uganda: 823/0
- Ethiopia: 3,166/55
- Kenya: 3,457/100



#### South Sudan\*

- 1,755 confirmed cases
- 30 deaths
- 58 recoveries

Source: WHO, update as of 14 June 2020 \*Source: Ministry of Health, South Sudan











