

# COVID-19 Preparedness & Response: Mobility Update 13 (29 June - 12 July 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

As of 12 July 2020, the cumulative total of COVID-19 cases in South Sudan stands at 2,148 with 41 confirmed deaths and 1,135 recoveries while a total of 11,862 tests have been carried out.

During the reporting period President Kiir rejected the idea of a renewed lockdown citing economic reasons. In an Independence Day presidential address, Kiir announced this measure would have more adverse repercussions for the citizens. Whist a national lockdown is no longer expected, Juba University intends to stem the spread of the virus by switching to online learning. Two of South Sudan's neighbours – Kenya and Sudan – have eased restrictions during the reporting period.

An unknown number of international and regional airlines have announced the <u>resumption of flights</u> from Juba International Airport in the coming weeks.

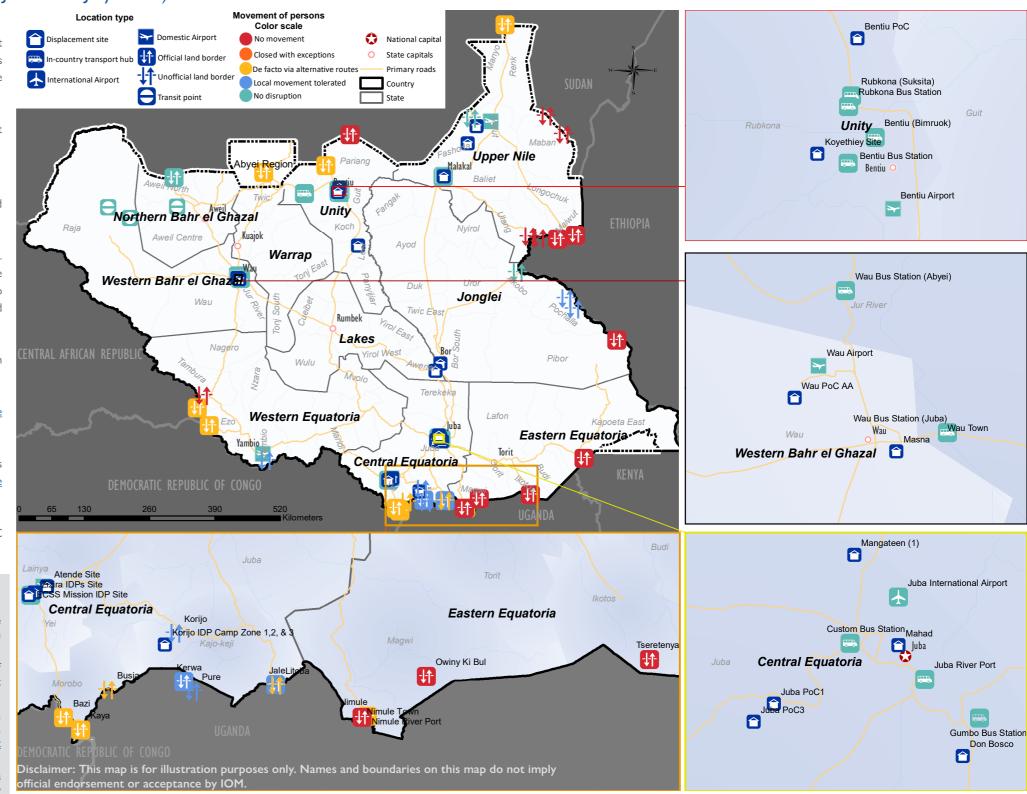
The economy has been hit by restrictive measures as seen in the <u>oil sector</u> and the number of <u>food insecure</u> <u>households</u> in South Sudan is expected to rise.

While there have been additional steps taken to respond to the outbreak of the disease, mobility restrictions and movement patterns have seen little change since the last update at assessed locations (15—28 June 2020).

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases at PoC sites stands at two at Bentiu PoC site, 11 at Juba PoC sites and six at Malakal PoC site.

#### Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- SUDAN: Abyei Amiet and Pantou continue to record cross-border movements of people via alternative routes, while movement of cargo remains uninterrupted. Sudan began <u>loosening lockdown measures</u> on 8 July 2020.
- ETHIOPIA: Local movement through Boyi/Dima, and Daktek has been tolerated, while movement of people and cargo through Akobo continues uninterrupted. Other points in Nasir and Maiwut have not seen any movement due to restrictions.
- UGANDA: The movement of persons to and from Uganda is still restricted except for cargo. However, DTM continues to observe the use of alternative routes along this porous border. On 1 July 2020, UNHCR welcomed Uganda's reception of approximately 45,000 people fleeing the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: While the movement of cargo through Bazi and Gangura remains is uninterrupted the points have been closed to the movement of persons who are said to mostly find alternative crossing points. The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo warned the UN Security Council of the new dangers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by exacerbating tensions in the country's coalition government.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Source Yubu and Nabia Pai also remain closed for movement of persons with a few alternative movements nearby points.
- KENYA: Nadapal border point remains open for the movement of cargo and closed for movement of persons with no alternative movements recorded as of this reporting week. The Kenyan government announced the <u>loosening of COVID-19 related restrictions</u>.



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, all sites made additional handwashing stations available and 2 (11%) screened temperatures at the gates. The movement of persons was stopped at 23 per cent of tracked in-country and border transit locations (13 locations). However, movement continued unhindered at 25 points (45%) with reports of alternative nearby routes being used at 10 (18%) and local movement by cross-border communities being tolerated at a further 8 locations (8%). Temperature screening was practiced at 11 locations (20%) while risk communication was made available at 71 per cent of tracked transit areas (40 locations). While handwashing stations had been constructed at 29 locations (52%), these were not put to use by travellers in all hubs.

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

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	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk com- munication	Comment
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	99,052	None	12,219/12,297	49%	51%	No	Yes	Yes	There are two confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Bentiu PoC site, while two COVID related deaths have been reported. UNMISS and other partners continue to operate with minimum footprint. While plans are in place to convert a former humanitarian hub in Bentiu town to an isolation facility, MSF has operationalized an on-site isolation facility.
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,930	None	4,500/4,423	21%	61%	No	Yes	Yes	There are six confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Malakal PoC site, while one COVID related death has been reported. To establish an isolation facility, IOM provided shelter material to Malakal Hospital. An on-site isolation facility will be operational once electricity is connected. General food distribution covering a two-month period has been completed.
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	9,990	None	3,846/4,489	0%	NA	No	Yes	Yes	Isolation facilities have been established at the Al-Mukta PHCC, Mary Help PHCC, and Wau Teaching Hospital in Wau Town while on site temporary facilities are situated within the IMC and IOM clinics.
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	6,016	None	Unkn.	6%	85%	No	Yes	Yes	While some handwashing facilities are available, these are still missing in the area populated by a new arrivals in the second quarter of 2020 fleeing violence in Jur River.
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	No	Yes	Yes	There are no COVID-19 cases so far in Bor PoC site. Public gatherings remain limited to 10 people. Temperature screening at the PoC gate is suspended due to malfunctioning of the equipment
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	There have been 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases at Juba PoC sites (1 & 3). An onsite isolation facility is not available at PoC 1. Cases are referred to a temporary isolation unit established by IMC before being referred to the infectious disease unit in
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,778	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Juba. Other preparatory measures include availability of an on- site ambulance for emergency referrals and involvement of WASH committee in RCCE messaging at water points.

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 12 July 2020	Mvmnt of persons as of 12 July 2020	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	De facto via alternative routes	20/32	2/9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Global Hand Aid is managing a former detention centre which has been turned into a COVID-19 isolation and quarantine space in Amiet.
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	11/17	No	No	Yes	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	57/46	No	No	No	No	No	
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	346/346	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	Incoming only	No movement	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown	The Red Cross installed hand washing stations at Nadapal PoE
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	63/37	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	People continue to move via alternative routes while only trucks carrying cargo are permitted to move along the border.
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	3/2	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Pariang	Pantou	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Travelers use alternative routes and usually board buses from Panakuach to Bentiu.
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	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	9/28	515/469	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

## South Sudan

## COVID-19 Timeline (main events)



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</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.

Over 500 South Sudan nationals as returnees <u>escape</u> Response quarantine in Renk, from Sudan.

#### Quarantine Escape Closing of Wau Collective Centres

described The Diocesan Major Team COVID-19 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)

#### Internal movement restrictions

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

#### 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.

#### First Juba PoC site cases confirmed

The first COVID-19 cases are confirmed at Juba

PoC 3 site. The patients are humanitarian service providers.

## Re-opening of airspace

South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority has officially announced the reopening all airports to domestic international flights.

## Taskforce

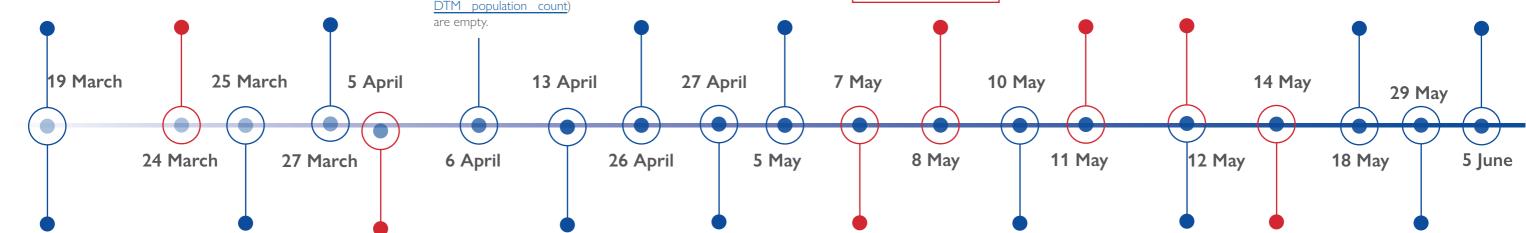
The High Level Task Force on COVID-19 replaced with the National Taskforce Committee on Coronavirus Disease.

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

TRACKING MATRIX

SOUTH SUDAN

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



#### Preparedness & Response Plan

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

#### 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.

## Case in SSD

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

COVID-19



### Suspension of inter-state travel

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

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

Security forces put the UNMISS base and Malakal PoC site under lockdown COVID-19



#### Relaxation of measures

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.

11 July

#### Trucks stranded

"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

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

#### First death

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

#### Front line death

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

## South Sudan

## COVID-19 Timeline (reporting period)

International airlines announce resumption of flights

3 July

A number of international and regional airlines announce they would resume flights as soon as 10 July 2020.

#### COVID-19 measures expected to worsen food insecurity

8 July

The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reports that demands for labour and services remain below normal levels. In combination with increased food prices, these lingering effects of COVID-19 related restrictions are likely to increase the number of food insecurre households

#### Lockdown rejected

10 July

President Salva Kiir rejects the idea of imposing a total lockdown to contain the spread of the virus in the country with the main reason being the suspected concomitant economic hardship.

#### Frontline workers forced to resign

Eleven frontline workers at the Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Unit have reportedly been forced to resign from the COVID-19 response team by their families for fear of bringing the virus home.

#### E-learning to begin at Juba University

The University of Juba is set to start providing online lessons next to month ensure students continue learning during the coronavirus pandemic.

#### Oil sector hit by the pandemic

22 July

South Sudan's production dropped to 170, 000 barrels per day from 185,000 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a senior Petroleum ministry official said.

#### UN agencies push to re-open schools

23 July

Two United Nations agencies are calling on South Sudanese authorities to immediately reopen schools across the country, saying damage being done to children forced to stay home outweighs the risk of catching the novel coronavirus. The agencies (UNICEF & UNESCO) further argued that while it is important to protect children from COVID-19, children and schools are no the main drivers of the epidemic

# Summary of tracked border crossing points and transportation hubs Report 13 (29 June - 12 July 2020)



Туре	#
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	10
Local movement tolerated	8
No disruption	25
No movement	13
Total	56

C-19 measures	Yes	No	Unknown
Temperature screening	11	45	0
Handwashing stations	29	27	0
Isolation / quarantine area	14	42	0
Increased security forces	7	11	38
Risk Communication	40	16	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:**

- 12,552,76 confirmed cases
- 561,617 deaths



## Number of cases / deaths in neighboring countries:

- Sudan: 10,250 / 650
- Central African Republic: 4,288 / 53
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 7,970 / 188
- Uganda: 1,013 / 0
- Ethiopia: 7,560/ 127
- Kenya: 9,726 / 184



#### South Sudan\*

- 2,148 confirmed cases
- 41 deaths
- 1,135 recoveries

Source: WHO, update as of 12 July 2020 \*Source: Ministry of Health, South Sudan













