



This summary presents initial findings from the round nine of Mobility Tracking conducted across South Sudan through key-informant assessments at payam and location level between July and September 2020. Mobility Tracking estimates the presence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in South Sudan in displacement sites and host communities.

IOM DTM mapped a total of **1,615,765 IDPs** (5% previously displaced abroad) and **1,674,668** returnees (32% previously displaced abroad) in 2,854 locations across South Sudan as of September 2020.

**Dataset link** [Baseline by locations \(2,854\)](#)  
[Baseline by payam \(509\)](#)



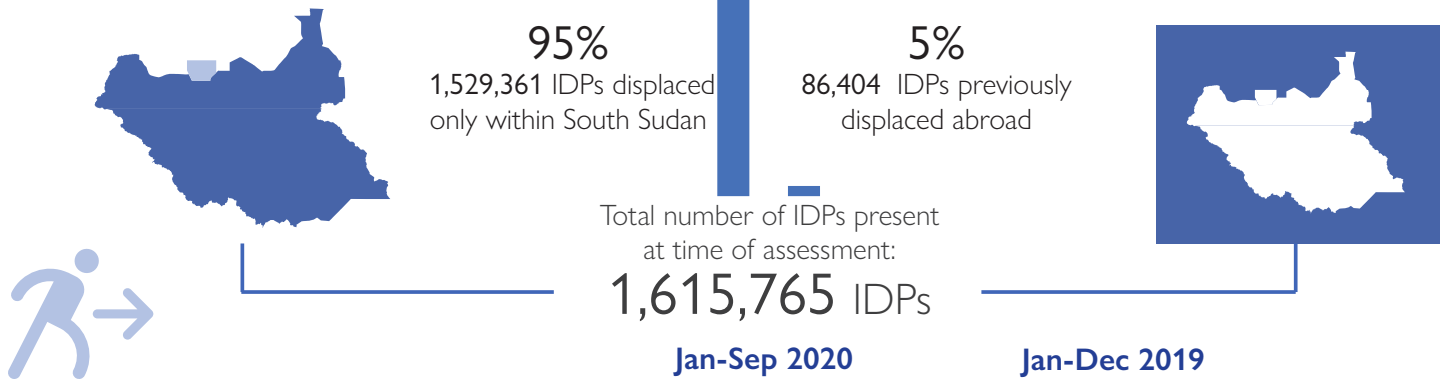
**Maps link:**



[Returnees by County \(A4\)](#)  
[IDPs by County \(A4\)](#)  
[IDPs and returnees' locations country overview \(A0\)](#)  
[IDPs and returnees' locations State Atlas \(A3\)](#)  
[Locations coverage admin 3 \(A4\)](#)  
[Locations type overview \(A0\)](#)

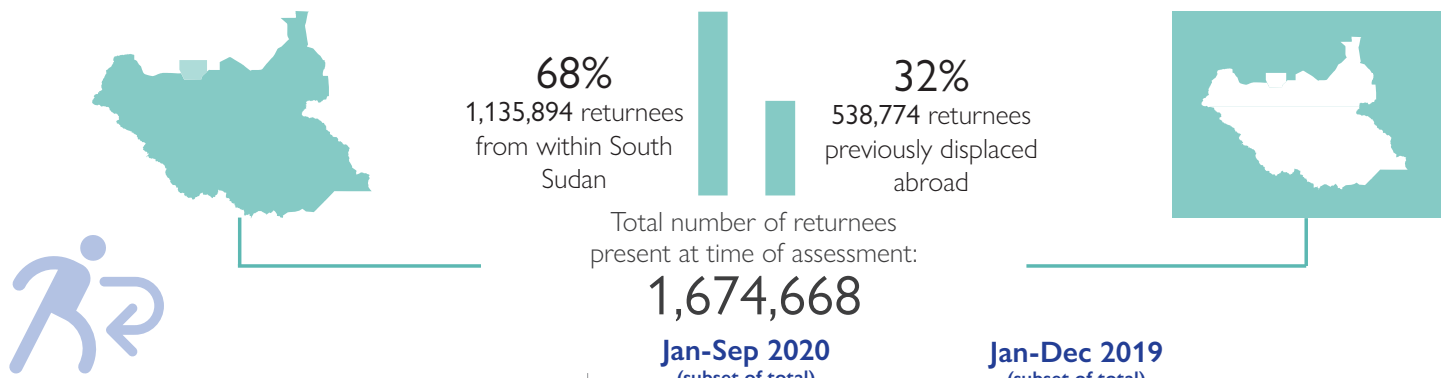
**PERIOD: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020 COVERAGE: 2,854 LOCATIONS 509 ADMIN 3 (PAYAM) IN ALL 78 COUNTIES**

### IDP Overview



	Jan-Sep 2020 (subset of total)	Jan-Dec 2019 (subset of total)
<b>Total by period</b>	<b>261,630</b>	<b>150,470</b>
<i>Subset of IDPs who arrived from within South Sudan</i>	254,468	132,176
<i>Subset of IDPs who arrived from abroad</i>	7,162	18,294

### Returnee Overview



	Jan-Sep 2020 (subset of total)	Jan-Dec 2019 (subset of total)
<b>Total by period</b>	<b>258,316</b>	<b>471,976</b>
<i>Subset of returnees who arrived from within South Sudan</i>	174,463	310,299
<i>Subset of returnees who arrived from abroad</i>	83,853	161,677

IOM DTM mapped a total of **1,615,765 IDPs** (5% previously abroad). Seventy seven percent are IDPs in host communities. A quarter of IDPs present at the time of assessment were mapped in Rubkona (122,744), Juba (90,538), Tonj North (87,394), Tonj South (65,516) and Yei (57,472). Guit and Nagero are counties with less than 500 IDPs (150 and 113 respectively).

**INTERPRETING TREND IN IDPs NUMBERS**

DTM observed an overall net increase from 1,600,254 IDPs in round 8 (March 2020) to 1,615,765 IDPs in round 9 (September 2020). The difference between round 8 and round 9 IDP figures can be broken down into a) a net decrease in IDPs across re-assessed locations (-115,312 IDPs), b) the addition of IDPs in newly assessed locations (+132,233 IDPs) and c) a decrease due to an overhaul of the existing database through data cleaning and the exclusion of outdated information (-1,410 IDPs).

**Considering only the 90% of locations which were re-assessed, DTM has witnessed a decrease of 115,312 IDPs representing a drop by 7 per cent.** For the remaining 15 per cent of locations, which are either newly assessed (4%) 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 115,312 IDPs in re-assessed locations results from a combined 144,049 decrease and a 28,737 increase. Counties with the most significant net decreases in the number of IDPs were Rubkona (-21,241), Pibor (-10,217), Yei (-10,039), Wau (-9,700), Kapoeta East (-7,779), Leer (-7,677) and Maban (-7,240). The main counties witnessing net increases in the number IDPs since round 8 were Terekeka (+6,783), ayod (+3,438) and Budi (+2,603).

The counties with the highest numbers of IDPs in new locations are Tonj South (27,887), Uror (24,000), Juba (13,512), Bor South (13,100) and Raja (8,981).

*Current IDPs  
(Displaced between 2014 and September 2020):*

**1,615,765**

*IDPs in Host Community*

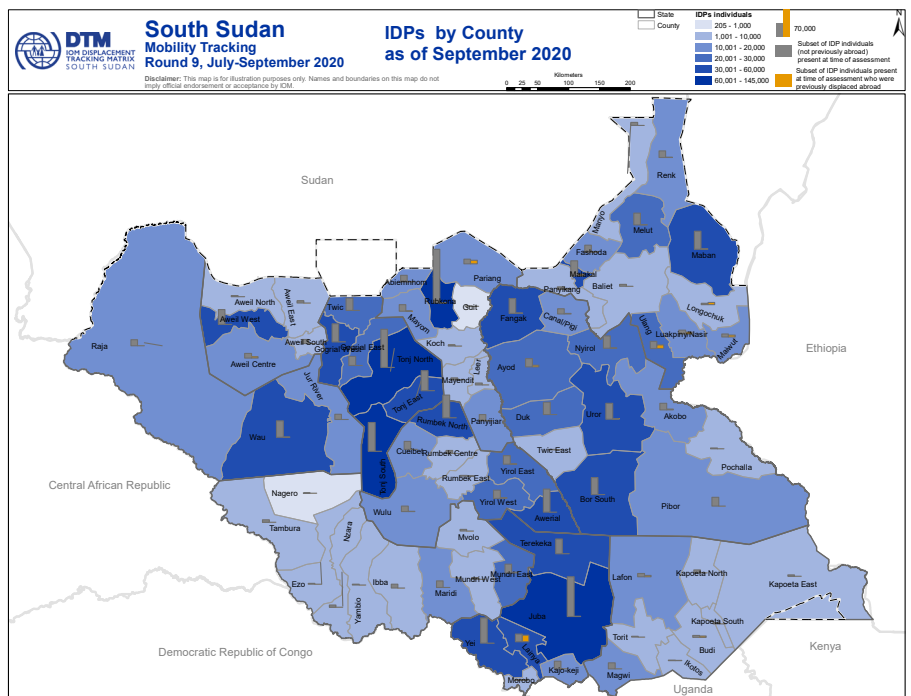
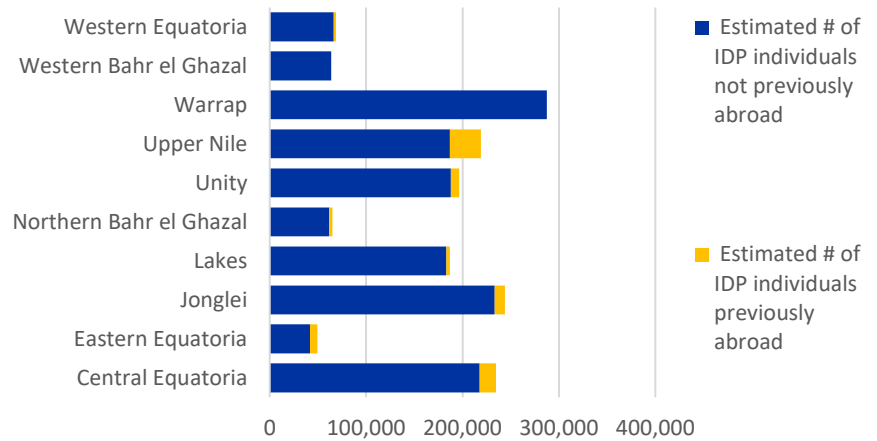
**1,240,920 (77%)**

*IDPs in Displacement site*

**374,845 (23%)**



**Estimated # of IDP individuals**



During data collection of round 9, IOM DTM estimated **1,674,668 returnees** present (32% from abroad). The counties with the greatest number of returnees are Wau (166,419), Renk (85,656), Magwi (69,580), Juba (63,990), Ulang (21,740) and Jur River (42,219). Border counties see the highest numbers of returnees from abroad; Magwi (69,580) and Kajo-Keji (34,863) near the border with Uganda; Aweil North (36,921), Renk (34,801) and Aweil East (33,942), near the border with Sudan; and Ulang (21,740) and Akobo (17,293) near the border with Ethiopia. Kapoeta north and Twic are the counties with the lowest number of returnees (922 and 826 respectively).

**INTERPRETING TREND IN RETURNEES NUMBERS**

DTM recorded an overall net increase from 1,533,390 returnees in round 8 (March 2020) to 1,674,668 returnees in round 9 (September 2020). The difference between round 8 and round 9 returnee figures can be broken down into a) a net increase in returnees across re-assessed locations (+125,067 returnees), b) the addition of returnees in newly assessed locations (+18,751 returnees) and c) a decrease due to an overhaul of the existing database through data cleaning and the exclusion of outdated information (-2,540 returnees).

**Considering only the 90% of locations which were re-assessed, DTM has witnessed an increase of 125,067 returnees representing an 8 per cent growth.** For the remaining 10 per cent of locations, which are either newly assessed (4%) 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 125,067 returnees in re-assessed locations results from a combined 13,403 returnee decrease and a 138,470 returnee increase. Counties with the most significant increases in the number of returnees were Wau (+16,810), Juba (+9,945), Budi (+9,023), Jur River (+7,442), Koch (+6,449), Maiwut (+6,285) and Longochuck (+6,83). The main counties witnessing decreases in the number of returnees since round 8 were Terekeka (-2,079) Panyijar (-2,088), and Torit (-2,609).

The counties with the highest numbers of returnees in new locations are Tonj South (27,887), Urur (24,000), Juba (13,512), Bor South (13,100) and Raja (8,981).

*Current Returnees*

*(Returned between 2016 and September 2020):*

**1,674,688**

*Current Returnees from South Sudan*

*(Returned between 2016 and September 2020):*

**1,135,894 (68%)**

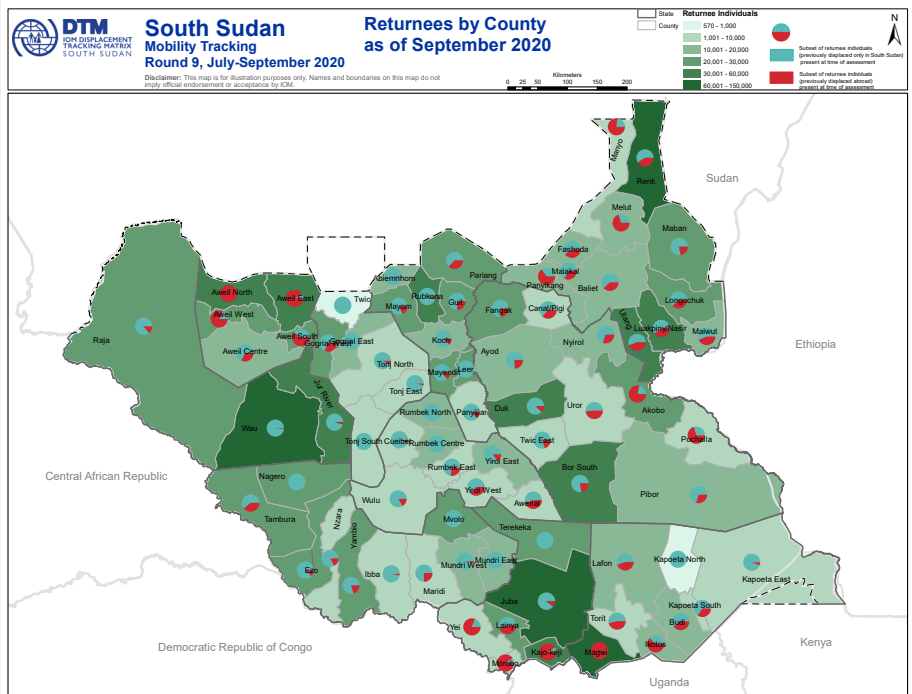
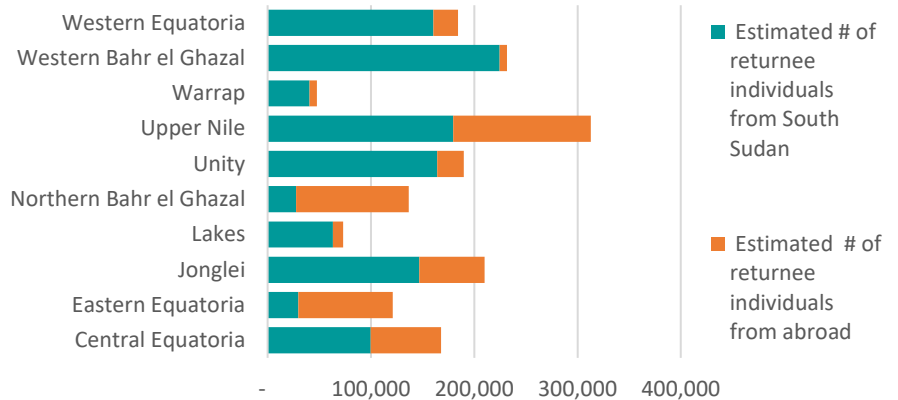
*Current Returnees from abroad*

*(Returned between 2016 and September 2020):*

**538,774 (32%)**



**Estimated # of returnees individuals**



## METHODOLOGY

Mobility Tracking supports the humanitarian response in South Sudan by providing a unified and comprehensive system to collect and disseminate data on the numbers, mobility history and needs of IDPs and returnees on a nationwide scale. Data collection takes place at a granular level and is repeated at regular intervals to ensure accurate and up-to-date information.

Round 9 of mobility tracking focused on two baseline assessments:

1. **A baseline area assessment** providing information on the presence and number of targeted population groups (IDPs, returnees, relocated) in level-3 administrative subdivisions (following the 10-state payam system), as well as attributes such as time of arrival of the targeted population in the assessed location, return from abroad or South Sudan, whether current IDPs were previously displaced abroad, reasons for displacement and former areas of habitual of IDPs (both captured on a majority basis for a given payam), and shelter conditions for returnees.
2. **A baseline location assessment** providing a list of locations - defined as villages (rural areas), neighborhoods (urban areas) or displacement sites - hosting displaced and / or returned populations.

The multi-sector location assessment component of mobility tracking was not included in round 9. The most recent available data was collected as part of round 8 and will be updated in round 10 (November - December 2020).

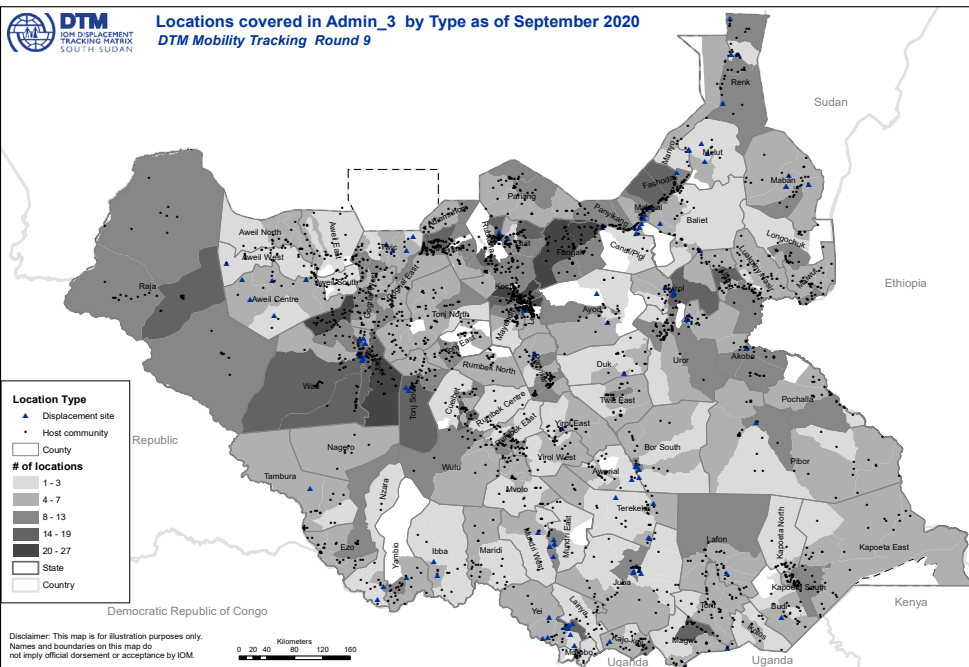
Data collection for round nine took place between July and September 2020 – at the height of the 2020 floods –following round eight which took place in February-March 2020.

## SCOPE

In round nine, DTM assessed **2,854 locations** (122 displacement sites and **2,732** villages/neighborhoods). Accessed locations were spread across **509 sub-areas** (locally known as payams) at the third administrative level in every county (78) of all 10 states.

## CHALLENGES

DTM teams faced several logistical and access challenges during data collection for round 9, including a delay due to COVID-19 travel restrictions



within the country, bureaucratic impediments and insecurity at local level, and widespread flooding.

For 159 locations that could not be accessed, DTM used the most recent available data in order to provide a comprehensive picture of displacement and return across the entire country. The reasons for inaccessibility included flooding on the road or at the location (33%), military presence (31%), long distance (18%), hard-to-access locations with no presence of IDPs (11%) and insecurity (7%).

Of the 2,854 locations in the dataset, 2,581 (90%) were re-assessed in round 9, 114 (4%) are newly covered locations and 159 (6%) are inaccessible locations for which data from previous rounds was used.

## DTM IS SUPPORTED BY



For more information please contact [SouthSudanDTM@iom.int](mailto:SouthSudanDTM@iom.int) or visit [displacement.iom.int/south-sudan](https://displacement.iom.int/south-sudan)