WHAT IS DTM?

DTM is a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. It is designed to capture, process, and disseminate information in order to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of displaced populations, whether on site or en route, both regularly and systematically.

Through its active methodologies, DTM produces an evidence base for strategy and program design and development, humanitarian coordination, and joint funding appeals, as well as informing operational response planning to protect, assist, and advocate on behalf of vulnerable and displaced populations. DTM primary data collection serves as a key accountability tool, highlighting persistent information gaps and serving to inform relevant actors about where assistance is most needed in order to strengthen capacities on disaster preparedness and migration crisis response.

DTM directly feeds into global level analysis - including the Annual Global Report on Internal Displacement. DTM's figures have been endorsed by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and are used to inform landmark humanitarian publications such as the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Data collection strategies and tools are based on the DTM global methodology and have been adapted to reflect the context and population movements specific to Sudan. DTM Sudan's outputs are made publicly available on our DTM portal for the benefit of our partners and members across the humanitarian community. This brief details DTM Sudan's active methodological components for 2023. Join DTM Sudan's mailing list here to stay up to date on all our ongoing releases.

WHAT?

MOBILITY TRACKING (MT)

Mobility Tracking is employed on a state-wide level to provide a primary data baseline for the humanitarian community to understand the mobility and trends surrounding vulnerable populations across Sudan. The data collected via Mobility Tracking has proved essential for the humanitarian community across Sudan to develop targeted and evidence-based programming.

HOW?

The Mobility Tracking (MT) methodology utilises key informant networks to systematically track mobility in locations of interest over regular data collection rounds. Enumerators visit and revisit targeted locations, interviewing key informants to update and verify population presence on a periodic basis. Target population groups include internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees from internal displacement (both permanent and seasonal), returnees from abroad, and foreign nationals.

WHERE?

Commencing in November 2019, DTM Sudan expanded its operations to implement Mobility Tracking (MT) across an initial seven states, namely, North, East, South, West, and Central Darfur, as well as South and West Kordofan. From 2020, DTM Sudan expanded its coverage to include North Kordofan and states within the East of Sudan – such as Kassala, Gedaref, Blue Nile, and Red Sea state - and then further still in 2022 to cover Northern, River Nile, White Nile, Sennar and Al-Jazirah. In 2023, DTM Sudan aims to include Khartoum and employ the MT methodology across all 18 states.

EARLY WARNING FLASH ALERTS (EWS) & EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING (EET)

In some cases, crises and emergencies require the humanitarian community to act urgently. As a subcomponent of MT, DTM Sudan deploys its Emergency Event Tracking (EET) methodology to track sudden displacement following incidents such as natural disasters or inter-communal violence. This tool works dynamically to provide more frequent updates on the scale of displacement that may occur between Mobility Tracking rounds and provide the humanitarian community with a first-of-its-kind evidence base to engage in life-saving interventions.

Within the first 24-48 hours of an incident, DTM Sudan releases an Early Warning Flash Alert to notify partners on sudden events where EET activities may subsequently take place. If displacement has occurred, EET is subsequently activated within 72 hours. EETs notify the humanitarian community of the vulnerabilities, priority needs, shelter typologies, and demographic descriptions of the IDP caseload in order to assist in more informed rapid response planning.

Commencing in 2020, DTM Sudan has trained enumerators to implement its EET Tool across 16 states in Sudan. This included Khartoum state, the whole of Darfur and Kordofan regions, in addition to Eastern states such as Kassala, Gedaref, White Nile, Blue Nile, Al-Jazirah, Sennar, and Red Sea State. DTM currently employs the EET tool in all 18 states of Sudan.

FLOW MONITORING REGISTRY (FMR)

DTM Sudan's Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) aims to capture movements of populations at key transit points and borders to quantify and provide regular updates on internal and cross-border flows.

Enumerators at established FMR points conduct direct interviews with individuals crossing the border and register the information gathered. FMR data collection indicators include locations of origin, demographics, protection vulnerabilities, and professions.

In 2023, DTM Sudan continues to operate its Flow Monitoring Registry at the Abyei border crossing point between Sudan and South Sudan, assessing migrant flows between the two neighbouring states.

WHAT?

SITUATION REPORTS, WEEKLY DISPLACEMENT SNAPSHOTS, & MONTHLY DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEWS

Since the onset of the military conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commencing 15 April 2023, DTM Sudan has provided the humanitarian community with comprehensive updates on displacement trends observed as a direct result of the fighting. These reports also provide information on mixed-cross border flows to neighbouring countries.

REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

Registration activities help our partners to create beneficiary lists for the purposes of effective resource allocation, vulnerability targeting, and aid delivery. Since 2004, DTM Sudan has provided rapid emergency registrations with a priority of meeting immediate information needs for guiding direct assistance to vulnerable people on a location level.

INTEGRATED LOCATION ASSESSMENTS (ILA)

Integrated Location Assessments (ILA) are utilised to enhance and provide accurate and up-to-date information on access to services at major sites of displacement, alongside profiles of displaced and returnee populations. The purpose of these exercises is to determine a severity level of living conditions of returnees and IDPs to allow partners to better strategize for resources and operations in vulnerable areas or to mitigate risks of push/pull factors for a more specific set of coherent interventions that bridge humanitarian, recovery, and stabilisation needs.

MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT (MSNA)

The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) aims to assess and provide timely update on sectoral humanitarian needs of populations across Sudan. In previous years, the MSNA provided an overview of the sectoral needs of IDP and non-displaced populations to inform humanitarian response and strategic programming. The MSNA is also the central component of providing a sound evidence base for the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan.

HOW?

DTM utilises a key informant methodology to capture best estimates of IDP caseloads, shelter typologies, and movement intentions. This information is gathered via dual combination of remote and face-to-face interviews. The Monthly Displacement Overview - which includes a greater contextual analysis including sex and age disaggregation, priority needs, and access to services at IDP locations.

Registration data is captured by DTM field teams through direct individual interviews in the target locations, usually with the heads of households. Registration data is shared with partners by means of data sharing agreements. In 2010, DTM expanded to include biometric registrations and data verifications. DTM Sudan now conducts all registrations entirely upon request from its partners in the government or humanitarian sectors.

Enumerators visit locations and physically survey public infrastructure, interview key informants, and/or conduct group discussions with affected members of the community. Key indicators reported on include Services and Infrastructure, Household Destruction, Safety and Security, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding.

During data collection, field teams conduct household surveys via randomised, two-stage cluster sampling. Population groups include Sudanese households - including both displaced households and the non-displaced host community. A combination of face-to-face and telephone modalities is employed. The findings are representative on a state level. Clusters covered by the MSNA include Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Health, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items, Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence), as well as AAP (Accountability to Affected Populations).

WHERE?

These publications provide updates of displacement trends in all of Sudan's 18 states. Where appropriate, data collection is undertaken in co-ordination with the Humanitarian Aid Commission. Additionally, information on mixed-cross border migration is gathered in co-ordination with IOM missions in neighbouring countries and state actors.

In 2023, DTM Sudan has the capacity to respond to all registration requests from DTM partners across all 18 states in Sudan.

Enumerators gather data for ILA during selected Mobility Tracking data collection exercises. Field teams select certain locations with the presence of IDP and Returnees. This can include locations from across all 18 states of Sudan. ILA is implemented in coordination with the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) and the Inter-sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to meet the specific information gaps identified by partners.

The MSNA is completed in close coordination with UNOCHA, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, and the National Assessment Task Team. DTM Sudan typically conducts the MSNA on an annual basis in coordination with partners in the humanitarian community. Field teams interview households from across all 18 states in Sudan.