This methodological note outlines the core methodological components implemented by DTM Sudan in 2024, as well as key operational definitions. DTM Sudan has maintained continuous data collection since the outbreak of widespread conflict on 15 April 2023. All datasets and reports are available on the DTM-IOM Sudan website and distributed via the DTM Sudan mailing list.

Displacement Tracking Matrix

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a global IOM system of methodologies used to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. IOM-DTM represents the leading source of primary data on internal displacement at both national and international levels.

DTM Sudan's data collection strategies and tools are based on the global DTM methodologies and have been adapted to displacement dynamics in Sudan.

DTM Sudan collects primary data, with a focus on providing the best estimates to support the wider humanitarian community and inform humanitarian programming. DTM captures data on the locations, movements, and needs of displaced populations on a regular and systematic basis. DTM Sudan works in partnership with the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Sudan and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). DTM data represents the official source for IDP figures in Sudan and directly informs the annual Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan. DTM Sudan data also informs global level analysis, including the annual Global Report on Internal Displacement.

CORE METHODOLOGIES

MOBILITY TRACKING (MT)

Mobility Tracking (MT) uses a key informant methodology to systematically track mobility and multi-sectoral needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan through regular rounds of data collection. Mobility Tracking allows DTM to collect population estimates in locations hosting IDPs, as well as data on locations of origin and displacement, humanitarian needs, shelter categories, demographics (including sex, age, and nationality), and movement intentions of IDPs. Depending on the context, target population groups may include internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees from internal displacement (both permanent and seasonal), or individuals crossing borders with neighbouring countries. Data collection tools are developed according to global DTM-IOM guidance and adapted to the Sudanese context. Enumerators are trained according to DTM data collection practices, including training on risk mitigation and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

Data collection is conducted by field teams at a location (Admin 3) level, while data triangulation and verification are undertaken by team leaders at the locality level (Admin 2) and focal points at the state level (Admin 1). As of March 2024, DTM Sudan operates with a network of of nearly 500 enumerators and approximately 4,000 key informants to collect data on a regular basis from over 8,500 locations across all 18 states in Sudan. In addition, DTM field teams collect data on key indicators used to assess data credibility, including frequency of data collection in a particular location, ratio of key informants to IDPs in a location, and consistency in responses between multiple key informants per location, among other factors.

Due to ongoing insecurity, DTM Sudan relies on a combination of in-person and remote interviews to ensure comprehensive coverage for data collection efforts.

FLOW MONITORING

Flow Monitoring (FM) tracks movement flows through key points of transit, either within Sudan or at key border crossing points with neighboring countries. Flow Monitoring methodology allows DTM to quantify and provide regular updates on internal and cross-border mobility.

Enumerators at established flow monitoring points collect estimates on total population flows and conduct direct surveys with a sample of individuals crossing through the FM point. Data collected may include information on locations of origin, intended destinations, demographics, protection vulnerabilities, and humanitarian needs.

DTM Sudan collaborates with IOM missions, other UN agencies, and government authorities in neighboring countries to provide regular updates on individuals crossing from Sudan into Central African Republic (C.A.R.), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and South Sudan. DTM Sudan also collects data on individuals crossing back into Sudan from neighbouring countries.

MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

DTM regularly leads data collection for the annual Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), in close collaboration with UNOCHA, the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, and the Assessment and Analysis Working Group. The MSNA assesses the sectoral humanitarian needs, vulnerabilities, and access to services of populations across Sudan, including both displaced and non-displaced populations. The final MSNA data, typically representative on a locality level, provides a nuanced understanding of the humanitarian context and informs the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview. During data collection, field teams conduct household surveys in accessible localities via randomized, two-stage cluster sampling. In partially accessible and non-accessible localities, data collection is conducted through key informant interviews. Clusters covered by the MSNA may include Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Health, Emergency Shelter/Non-Food Items, Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence), Nutrition, Education, CASH, as well as cross-cutting sectors, such as Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) or Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

OTHER METHODOLOGIES

REGISTRATION

Upon requests from government or humanitarian partners, DTM Sudan may conduct registration exercises in order to identify displaced individuals or households for targeted humanitarian programming, resource allocation, or aid delivery. Registration data is captured by DTM field teams through direct individual interviews in the target locations, usually with the heads of households, and may include biometric registrations.

SUDAN MOBILITY UPDATE

The Sudan Mobility Update provides a brief overview of the total population of IDPs in Sudan, including those displaced both before and after the onset of the conflict on 15 April 2023. The report outlines states of origin and displacement of IDPs, displacement pathways, key demographic information, shelter typologies, and cross-border movement flows into neighbouring countries.

SUDAN MOBILITY OVERVIEW

The Sudan Mobility Overview provides an in-depth, contextual analysis of displacement in Sudan. In addition to data on displacement, the report also analyses humanitarian needs, access to services, and movement intentions amoung IDPs.

DATASETS

DTM Sudan regularly publishes datasets from Mobility Tracking data collection rounds. Datasets disaggregated at a locality (Admin 2) level are available publicly on the DTM website. Datasets disaggregated at a location (Admin 3) level are available via a Data Access Form.

CORE DTM PUBLICATIONS

EARLY WARNING FLASH ALERTS

Early Warning Flash Alerts report on specific incidents that trigger sudden displacement across Sudan, including armed clashes, attacks, intercommunal conflicts, natural disasters (such as floods or wildfires), or accidents (such as household fires). DTM Sudan typically publishes a flash alert with preliminary displacement estimates within 24 to 48 hours of a reported incident.

FOCUSED FLASH ALERTS

DTM Focused Flash Alerts provide a concise overview of unfolding events spurring continued displacement. If DTM reports multiple Early Warning Flash Alerts in relation to a specific location or event, DTM may publish a Focused Flash Alert to compile updates into a concise overview.

NATURAL DISASTER DISPLACEMENT SUMMARY

The Natural Disaster Displacement Summary compiles DTM updates on instances of localized displacement due to natural hazards. The report typically compiles updates on displacement due to fires between April and July, and displacement due to floods or heavy rain between July and October.

DTM Sudan produces hundreds of publications each year. This list only includes routine publications as of March 2024. All datasets and reports are available on the DTM-IOM website.

KEY DEFINITIONS

DTM Sudan relies on standard IOM definitions, adapted to the Sudanese context. Unless otherwise specified, DTM Sudan reports rely on the following operational definitions of key terms.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

DTM Sudan defines an internally displaced person as any person displaced within Sudan who has been forced or obliged to flee from their habitual residence due to an event dating from 2003 onwards.

Returnee

Persons who were previously displaced from their habitual residence, within Sudan, due to an event dating from 2003 onwards, and have now voluntarily returned to the location of their habitual residence, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type.

SHELTHER CATEGORIES

Formal IDP Camp

IDPs staying in an official camp for displaced persons, recognized by government authorities.

Host Families & Communities

IDPs staying in the private residences of host families, including relatives, friends, members of the same tribe, or neighbours.

Private Rented Accommodation

IDPs paying rent in order to stay in private apartments or houses.

Improvised Shelter or Critical Buildings

IDPs staying in shelters made from natural materials, including Rakubas, tents, or other forms of emergency shelters, without paying rent.

Schools or Other Public Buildings

IDPs staying in public buildings used as makeshift or temporary shelters, including school buildings.

Open Area Gathering Sites

IDPs staying at gathering points in open areas or sites that may not be recognized by government authorities as a formal camp.