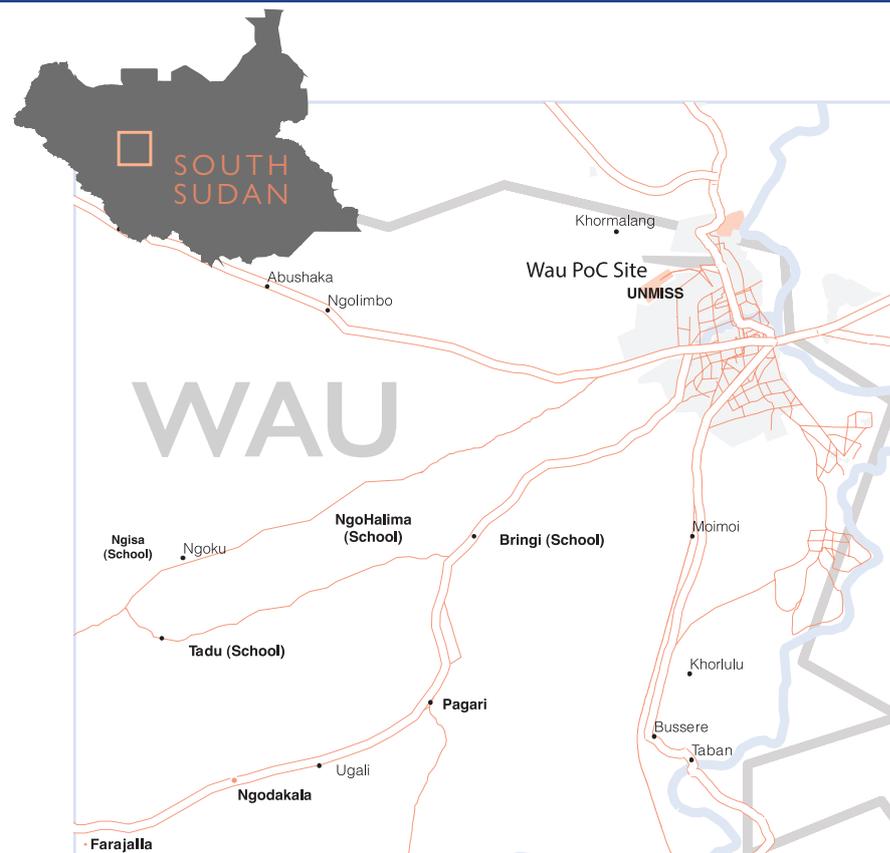


Finding from DTM 2018 & Q1 2019 Data Collection Cycle



## BACKGROUND

Wau County has seen localized displacement at a significant scale since 2015. DTM has been deploying a variety of data collection tools and methodologies to regularly update partners on changing dynamics in the displacement situation. This report aims to consolidate key findings from a variety of reports published between January 2018 – March 2019 to provide a comprehensive overview of the current status quo. It also provides some insights into ongoing programming from the Shelter-NFI and Transition and Recover Units in response to identified needs of returnees in Wau Town.

## METHODOLOGY

DTM deploys different components of data collection to follow displacement and return trends in Wau. **Mobility tracking** enables the DTM team to assess the presence of displaced populations and returnees across the county. **Flow monitoring**, conducted at the PoC sites, collective centres and key transit hubs in Wau Town, provides a more in-depth understanding of people's journeys: points of departure, destination, reasons for movement and intended period of stay. Through **biometric registration**, IOM provides partners with detailed beneficiary information to support the provision of critical, life-saving assistance. Recognizing that there are changes in population figures over time, this is further complemented through **authentication** exercises at food distribution, and **monthly headcounts** to monitor changing population dynamics and displacement trends in Wau PoC 1 and Wau PoC AA sites, as well as Cathedral, Nazareth, St. Joseph, Lokoloko and Masna collective centres. Last but not least, surveys – for example a **Wau Town VAS** (published January 2018), **multi-sectoral assessment** in Wau Town (published October 2018) and an **intention/perception survey** in Wau PoC AA (published January 2019), have been conducted to provide detailed insights into specific topics of interest. This report draws on findings from these various tools to create a better understanding of the overall displacement/return dynamics.

## DISPLACEMENT HISTORY

In April 2014, internal tensions culminated in armed conflict between fractions of government forces in Wau. Fighting flared up in neighborhoods of Wau in February 2016 due to clashes between SPLA forces and the opposition and by June the PoC site population grew from 202 to 16,000 individuals, reaching 30,660 people seeking UNMISS protection in July 2017. By January 2018, this number had reduced to 25,029 individuals. Throughout 2018 and beginning of 2019, a downward trend in the populations residing in the Wau Town displacement sites continued to be observed, with 14,226 individuals reported present in the Wau PoC AA as of March 2019, and an additional 9,897 individuals displaced in the collective centres. However, recent clashes in Kuarjena between armed cattle keepers and farmers in March 2019 triggered new displacements leading to some increases in population in both Wau PoC AA and Masna sites, further detailed below.

## KEY FINDINGS

**90,894** Internally Displaced Persons

**44,949** Returnees

*53% reported to have returned in the course of 2018*

Mobility Tracking Round 4

**63,251** Biometrically registered

**24,123** Headcount

*38% of Biometrically registered remain in the IDP sites*

Biometric Registration & Headcount Wau PoC AA and collective centres

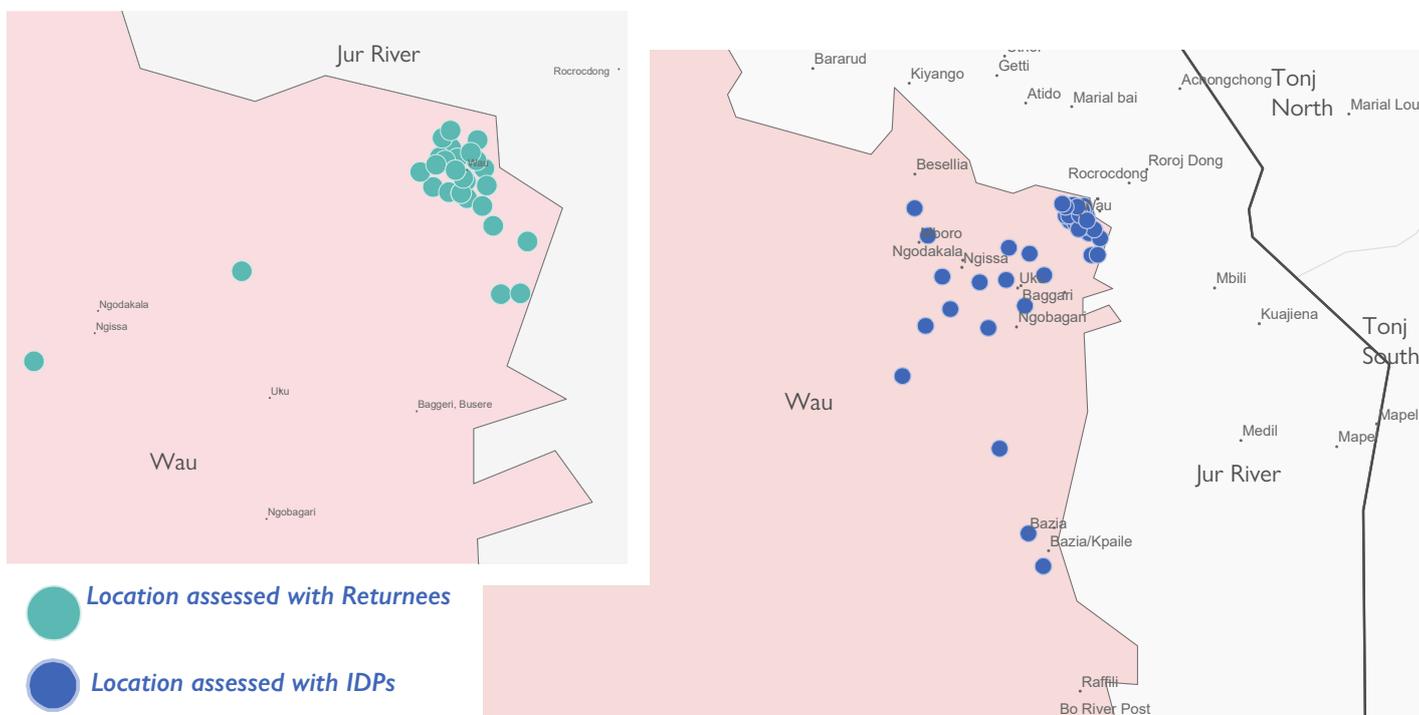
**38%** reported living in partially damaged houses

**54%** reported living in severely damaged houses

Multisectoral Assessment Wau Town

## DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN TRENDS

IOM's mobility tracking Round 4 data collection cycle, which concluded in December 2018, suggests the presence of 90,894 internally displaced persons and 44,949 returnees across Wau County. The adjacent Jur River County hosts 69,917 IDPs and 49,461 returnees, whilst in Raja Town<sup>1</sup>, 8,064 IDPs and 97 returnees were identified, bringing the total for Western Bahr El Ghazal to 168,875 IDPs and 94,507 returnees.



Of the IDPs in Wau County, 44 per cent live in displacement sites and 56 per cent in host community settings. The current biometrically registered caseload in displacement sites in Wau as of 31 March 2019 comprises 63,251 individuals, whilst the March 2019 headcount suggests only 38% per cent (24,123 individuals) remain in the following IDP sites:

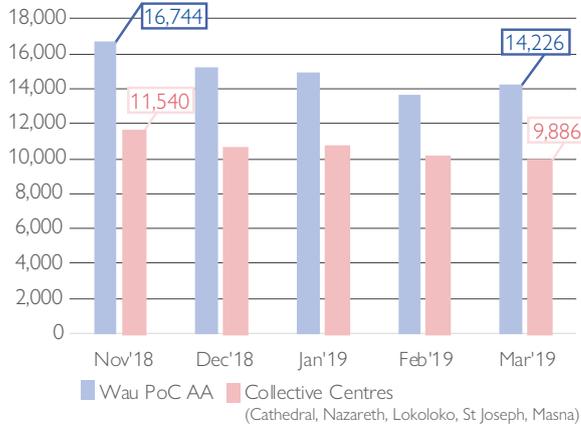
The discrepancy between biometric registration figures and headcount figures has to do with the fact that it is relatively easy to add new arrivals to the database, but much harder to deregister those who have departed the site. To gain a better understanding of who is still residing in the areas targeted by general food distributions (GFD) and who has moved away, IOM and WFP since Q4 of 2018 are implementing a joint initiative to biometrically authenticate beneficiaries during GFD. The records of beneficiaries who do not show up in three consecutive food distribution become deactivated. In some locations, this has led to significant reductions on the biometric registration figures. In Wau, however, only 2,540 individuals have been deactivated to date. This illustrates that the majority of those previously registered in a displacement site in Wau Town and who are no longer residing in the displacement site have returned or relocated to nearby areas and continue to come to the displacement site during GFD to obtain their monthly ration.

Location	# individuals biometrically registered	# of individuals according to Headcount (March 2019)	% remaining present
Wau PoC 1*	111	11	10%
Wau PoC AA	35,198	14,226	40%
Wau-ECS (Masna)	5,557	3,795	68%
Wau-Lokoloko	1,372	1,157	84%
Wau-Nazareth	2,039	641	31%
Wau-St.Joseph	532	248	47%
Wau-Cathedral	18,442	4045	22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,251</b>	<b>24,123</b>	<b>38%</b>

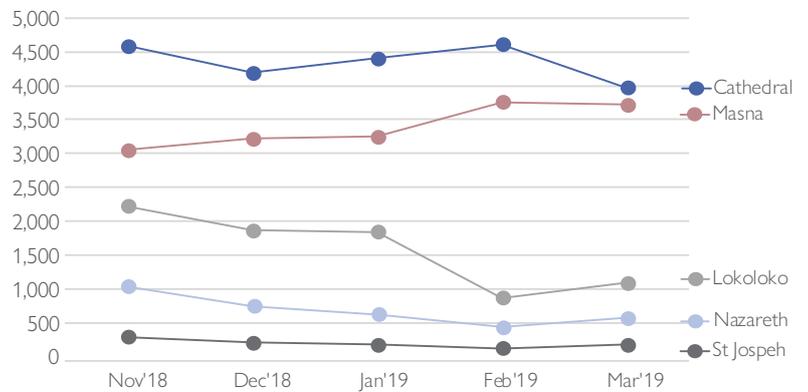
\*Wau PoC 1 site is now closed, all individuals previously registered have been deregistered. Wau PoC AA and Masna collective sites both experienced a recent influx not fully captured in above table, with a total of 376 households / 1739 individuals newly arrived in Wau PoC AA and 203 households / 1076 individuals newly arrived in Masna collective site, based on a fixing exercise undertaken by DTM in the first week of April 2019.

Thus headcount figures for Wau PoC AA are currently the more reliable means to estimate the number of people remaining displaced in the site. Throughout 2018, a steady decline in the net population of Wau PoC AA site population could be observed during monthly headcounts, whilst collective centres experienced some fluctuations including periods of increased inflows, particularly linked to insecurity in areas such as Baggari and Beselia.

**Monthly trend in Wau PoC AA compared to other sites (Nov 2018-Mar 2019)**



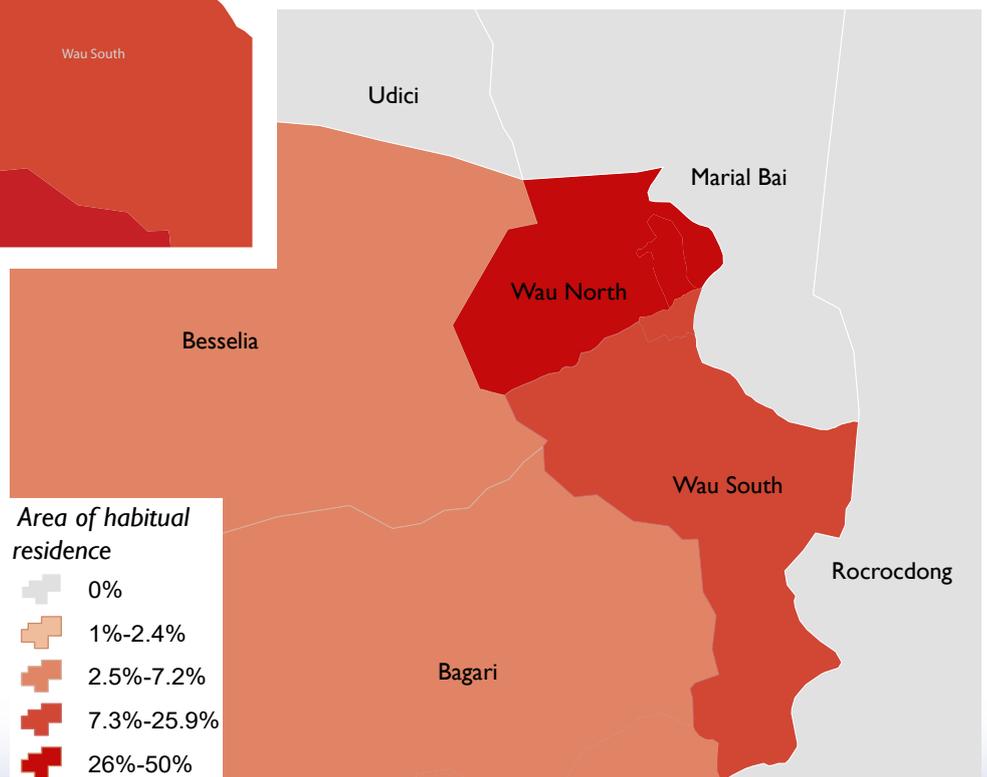
**Monthly trend in Wau collective centres (Nov 2018-Mar 2019)**



As the situation remains in flux, many remain concerned with the durability of the peace, the conditions in their desired areas of return and the risks potentially posed to women, men, girls and boys en route as well as at their destinations. Nevertheless, Wau has seen significant return trends, as evidence from the monthly headcounts, mobility tracking and flow monitoring demonstrates. In Wau County, half (53%) of the 44,949 returnees are reported to have returned in the course of 2018. The majority returned from the same state and same county. This matches the observation that displacement trends in Wau have been highly localized. During a Wau Intention Survey conducted in December 2018, where 40% of households indicated an intention to return (half of them within the first quarter of 2019), the vast majority (92%) of those surveyed indicated that their former habitual residence prior to displacement was located in Wau County.



*Below: Payams of habitual residence prior to displacement. Inset: Payams of ancestral origin of displaced populations living in Wau PoCAA site*

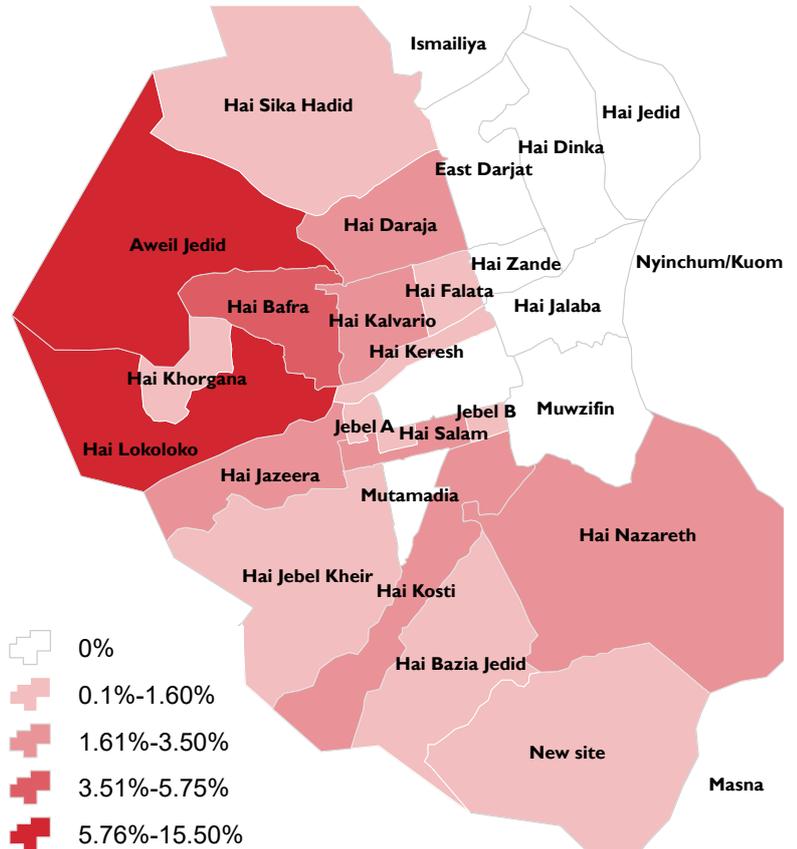


All respondents, independent of whether they currently have an intention to return or not, were asked where would be their preferred area of return. The majority (97%) have

**The majority (97%) have a preferred area of return in South Sudan, including Wau North (51%), Wau South (25%), Bagari (8%) and Besselia (7%).**

If looking at only those with a current intention to leave, the distribution of preferred areas of return is very similar. Within Wau North, the most prominent neighbourhoods are, in order of importance, Hai Lokoloko, Aweil Jedid and Hai Bafra. In Wau South, the most important intended neighbourhoods of return include Hai Ingaz, Hai Kosti, Hai Jebel Kheir and Hai Bagari Jedid.

Likewise, DTM's monthly flow monitoring at the Wau PoC AA site and collective centres indicates that the majority are consistently heading for locations in Wau North and Wau South. The proportion of intended permanent exits amongst interviewees at the gates of Wau PoC AA remain significant in comparison to Bentiu and Malakal PoC sites in March 2019 (10%) but have dropped from December 2018 (45%). During March 2019, new entries from Jur River (Rocrodong and Kuarjena) due to insecurity represented nearly half of all interviewees (48%).



**Intended bomas of return in Wau North and Wau South - all respondents**

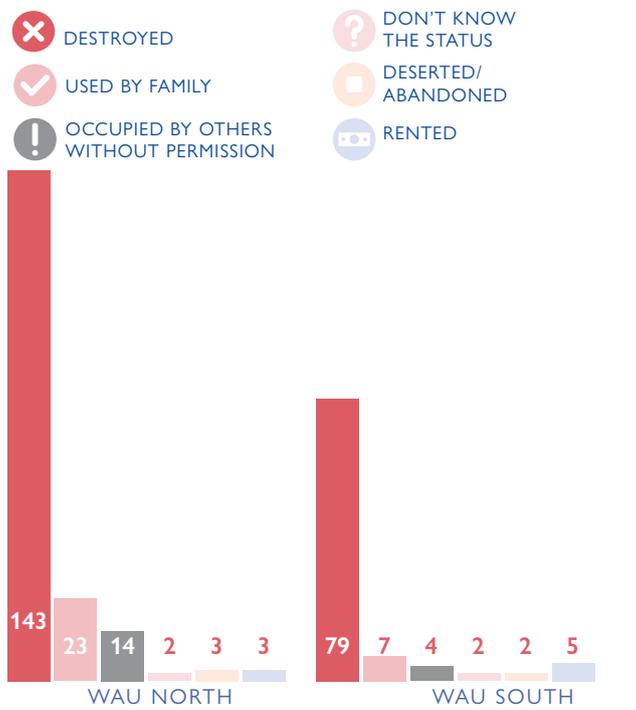
**CONDITIONS OF RETURN**

Among returnees in Wau County, nine per cent are reported to live in severely damaged / makeshift shelters and 27 per cent in damaged housing. As people cautiously consider options for return, DTM's flow monitoring at the PoC AA site and collective centres is picking up on individuals who travel during the day and for up to several weeks or months to check on / repair property. During the Wau Intention survey, nearly two-thirds (63%) reported owning their own house or land. However, three quarters (74%) of those with a house or land ownership report that their house/land was destroyed. Among respondents intending to leave, half (51%) indicated intending to move to their own land/house where they will seek shelter, whilst a fifth (21%) intend to stay with friends or family and 16 per cent intend to rent.

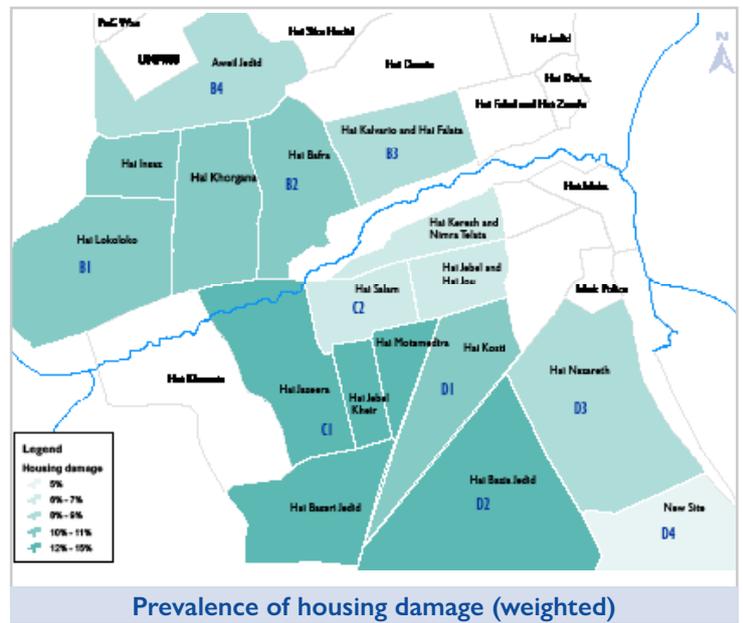
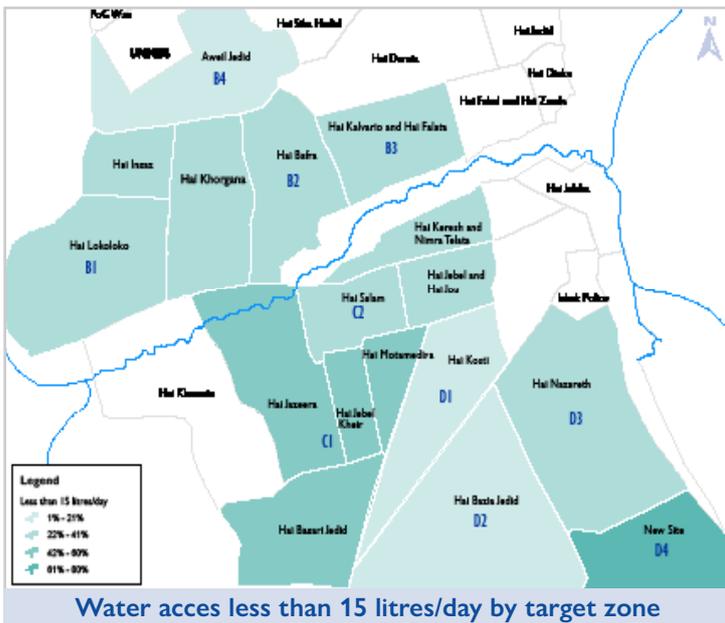
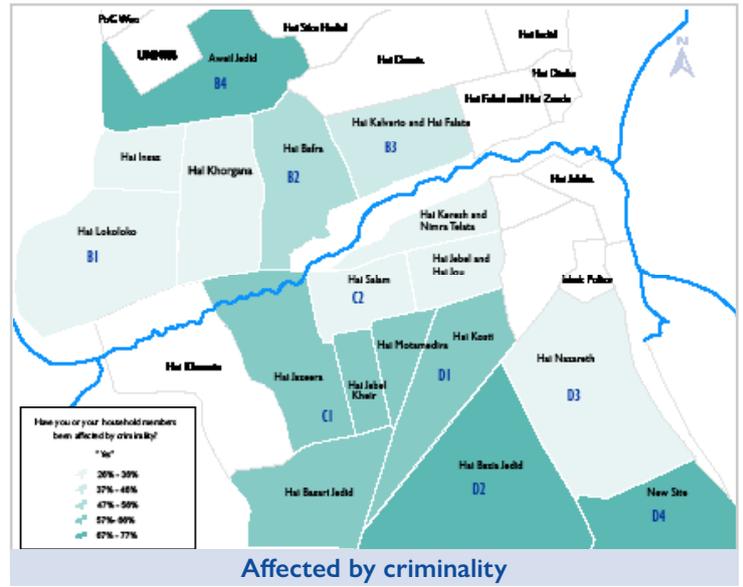
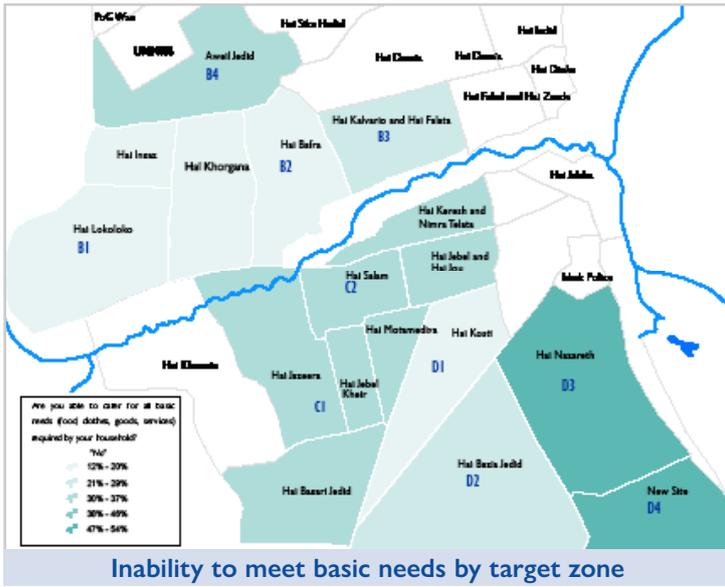
*The provision of services in areas of intended destination forms a key element alongside improvements in safety and security shaping decisions on whether to return or not.*

In August 2018, DTM on behalf of partners in Wau conducted a multisectoral assessment in Wau Town, surveying 2,093 households representing 16,604 individuals. The assessment identified critical gaps in the current level of services and infrastructure available to those residing in Wau Town. There remain significant gaps in people's ability to meet their basic needs including food, clothes, good and services and the vast majority rely on casual labour (59%) or subsistence farming to meet their needs (16%). Households are affected by criminality and children frequently risk lack of access to education. A third (33%) of households reported accessing less than 15 litres of water per day. The majority of households reported living in either partially (38%) or severely (54%) damaged houses, or makeshift shelters (5%). A quarter (26%) of households reported having had disputes relating to their house / property.

**STATUS OF HOUSING IN TWO MAIN AREAS OF RETURN**



\*Bagari, Besselia and Raja feature similar percentages of housing destruction as Wau North, with slightly higher percentage of housing use by family (17% each). Six per cent of respondents from Besselia indicated that their property was occupied without permission.



An earlier assessment conducted in November 2017 and published in January 2018 found 49% of water points to be dysfunctional, 69 per cent of functioning health facilities operating without doctors, a 37:1 average student to teacher ratio, with over 55 students per teacher at 15 per cent of schools, and food scarcity faced by inhabitants in all assessed areas. Main recommendations included the rehabilitation of shelters to support reintegration of returnees, providing resources to reinforce health care service delivery and increasing sanitation and hygiene campaigns.

Considering that service provision, particularly health and specialized care, were cited alongside security and safety as main reasons for currently staying in the PoC site and preconditions for return among those unsure whether to return and those currently intending to stay, *addressing remaining and well documented service and infrastructural gaps in Wau Town remains paramount to creating conducive environments for the progressive resolution of the displacement situation in Wau.*

During focus group discussions, participants highlighted general improvement in the security situation in the preferred area of return most frequently as factor which would influence their decision, followed by assurances from Government on safety. Other important factors included humanitarian support, access to shelter and support in shelter repair. Access to land and resolution of communal clashes were also mentioned alongside resolution of housing, land and property issues.



## ONGOING EFFORTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE RETURNS

### SETTLEMENT PROJECT

IOM's programming for returnees aims to create conducive environment for dignified, voluntary and sustainable return through a settlement approach. The settlement is designed to bring communities together and ensure access to livelihoods, health, education, nutrition, water supply and sanitation facilities, and protection against physical and violent threat in areas on high return. A good example of such intervention is where IOM formed four Village Committees, constructed 350 shelters and provided training to village committee members on protection and community management in Wau town. In the same area, IOM also rehabilitated a Primary Health Center, set up water, sanitation and health services that could cater for 45,000 persons and introduced psychosocial support services. Communities returning to Jebel Kher were also supported to engage in small-scale income-generation schemes to help them withstand economic shocks upon return. IOM closely works with humanitarian partners and communities through their representatives, including traditional leaders, to identify priority geographical areas and sectoral needs.

*IOM rehabilitated a Primary Health Center, setup water, sanitation and health services that could cater for 45,000 persons and introduced psychosocial support services*

### ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS

*IOM Camp Coordination and Camp Management coordinated the response to support 218 IDPs (72 households) from the PoCAA return to their area of origin, Deim Zubeir*

As co-lead of the Solutions Working Group, IOM Camp Coordination and Camp Management coordinated the response to support 218 IDPs (72 households) from the PoCAA return to their area of origin, Deim Zubeir, an agricultural community several hours west of Wau Town. Recognizing the stabilization of their home village, IDP leaders and community members approached humanitarians asking for support to return.

In response, CCCM and Protection Clusters led a mission to Deim Zubeir to map services and gaps, conduct a protection risk analysis, and gauge the host community's and authorities' willingness and readiness to receive returnees. Following the mission and numerous consultation with the community, CCCM mobilized partners to support for voluntary returns, including an IOM Shelter/NFI cash grant, FAO registration for livelihood support, and connection to WFP seasonal food support.

CCCM conducted in-depth sensitization to ensure informed, voluntary movement and communicate key messages on support in areas of return and conditions of leaving the PoC while Protection partners were on hand to conduct household interviews and handle referrals. DTM assisted with de-registration from the PoCAA. CCCM is now following up with partners in Deim Zubeir to monitor the returns and coordinating with Clusters to ensure service gaps are addressed and the area is conducive for further IDP returns. A final mission will take place shortly to see how the IDPs have settled back in Deim Zubeir.

### CONCLUSION

The situation in Wau remains in flux. Whereas a significant return trend is visible and confirmed through a variety of information sources, there also continue to be factors triggering new displacements, such as the recent clashes in Kuarjena. Significant mobility dynamics can be observed, with individuals residing in the displacement sites moving in and out either during the day, or for medium term trips of several days up to several months, pursuing livelihoods, checking on/repairing property, visiting friends and family and seeking healthcare or other services. However, there also remains a significant proportion of those currently residing in displacement sites who do not yet feel comfortable to move. During the Wau PoC AA intention survey, 51 per cent indicated to leave the PoC site on a daily or weekly basis – meaning the other half of the population remains more static. As such, the situation remains one where humanitarian service provision continues to be critical in providing life-saving assistance to those displaced, whilst there is significant space for transition, recovery and development actors to engage in creating more conducive conditions for return, thus supporting a gradual transition and resolution of displacement situations in areas where the security situation remains stable.

ANNEX

DEFINITIONS



**IDPs**

Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

South Sudan: Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2013 to 2018



**Returnees**

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan or abroad, who has since returned to their habitual residence. Please note: the returnee category, for the purpose of DTM data collection, is restricted to individuals who returned to the exact location of their habitual residence, or an adjacent area based on a free decision. South Sudanese displaced persons having crossed the border into South Sudan from neighboring countries without having reached their home are still displaced and as such not counted in the returnee category.\*

South Sudan: Time of arrival in assessed area considered: 2015 to 2018



**Relocated Individuals**

Someone who was displaced from their habitual residence either within South Sudan or abroad, who has since relocated voluntarily (independently or with the help of other actors) to another location than their former habitual residence, without an intention to return to their former habitual residence.

LIST OF REPORTS FOR 2018/2019

 [Intentions And Perception Survey – Wau PoC AA \(December 2018\)](#)

**Displacement Site Flow Monitoring (DSFM)**

-  [Sept – Nov 2018 long-term analysis](#)
-  [DSFM Monthly: December 2018 \(p4\)](#)
-  [DSFM Monthly: January 2019 \(p4\)](#)
-  [DSFM Monthly: February 2019 \(p4\)](#)

**Flow Monitoring** – including data from Wau Town covered in South Sudan – Sudan (p4) and internal movement (p5) [January 2019](#)

 [February 2019](#)

 [Biometric Registration: Wau Cathedral Site \(October 2018\)](#)

 [Multisectoral Needs Survey – Wau \(August 2018\)](#)

-  [Demographics and displacement](#)
-  [Food Security](#)
-  [Livelihoods](#)
-  [Protection](#)
-  [WASH](#)
-  [Shelter / NFI](#)
-  [Health](#)

**Wau PoC site and collective centres headcount reports**

 [Jan – Dec 2018 trend analysis](#)  
[January 2019](#)     [February 2019](#)

**South Sudan - Event Tracking**

 [Wau Lokoloko \(Nov 2018\)](#)  
[Wau PoC AA site & Masna Collective Centre \(9 April 2019\)](#)

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