

Background and Methodology

DTM relies on its network of key informants and on secondary sources to provide a weekly assessment of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at priority locations in South Sudan. The updates are released in the beginning of each week based on information collected Monday–Sunday of the previous week. 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 and transit points can be found [here](#).

If you wish to share any updates or flag any errors, please do not hesitate to contact IOM DTM at southsudanDTM@iom.int.

Overview

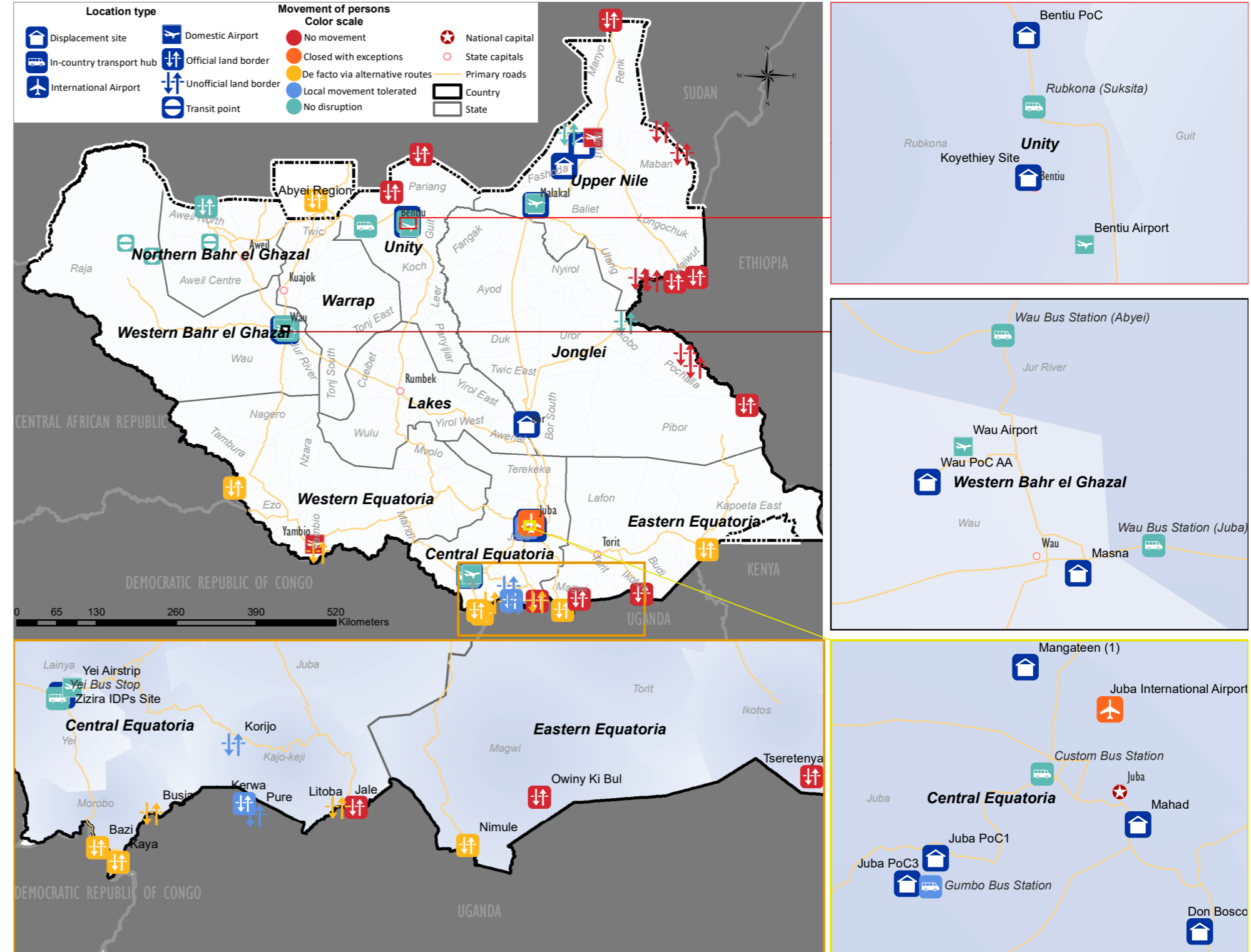
As of 17 May 2020, the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on COVID-19 has confirmed 347 cases of the virus in South Sudan. The first death was recorded on 14 May, rising to six by the end of the reporting period. On 17 May 2020, South Sudan's first vice president and chairman of the HLTF, Dr. Riak Machar Teny Dhurgon, and the Defense minister, Angelina Jany Teny were announced to have [tested positive](#) for COVID-19 as well as seven other HLTF members. As of 13 May 2020, a presidential statement indicated that another lockdown is not excluded amidst the rise of cases across the country. This news came after some COVID-19 related restrictions such as internal and international flights were eased as announced on 7 May 2020.

As of 11 May 2020, two COVID-19 cases were confirmed at the UNMISS [Juba Protection of Civilian \(PoC\) 3 site](#). At the time of writing, one of the cases was transferred to the IDU (Infectious Disease Unit) for further medical attention and quarantine. The lockdown as Malakal PoC site, which started on 27 April 2020 was lifted on 12 May 2020.

The price of common goods is reported to have increased in states such as [Northern Bahr el Ghazal](#) due to COVID-19 related policies hindering imports. Truck drivers in Nimule continue to face challenges crossing the border into South Sudan as movement restrictions impose a heavy bureaucratic burden on local authorities.

DTM tracked COVID-19 related movement trends at 68 locations consisting of 14 displacement sites and 54 transportation hubs of which 31 are located along South Sudan's borders. While no disruption to the movement of persons was recorded at 23 tracked transport hubs (43%), local movement was tolerated at four points (7%) or maintained through alternative crossing points at nine points (17%). Some risk communication was reported to be conducted at all tracked sites but not for nearly three-quarters of transportation hubs (30 points or 65%). Temperature screening was present at two displacement sites and six transportation hubs (14% and 11% respectively).

Selected IDP sites and transportation hubs



Disclaimer: this map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map to not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

Please note that coordinates are available upon [request](#).

Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- **SUDAN:** Movement restrictions through Abyei have been maintained. However, DTM has received reports of border crossings through alternative nearby points. Movement in the west through Raja and the Aweils continues while enforced restrictions in Rubkona, Renk and Maban seem to have halted travel between Sudan and South Sudan.
- **ETHIOPIA:** Movements of cargo and persons to and from Ethiopia have continued only through Akobo as travel through other points of entry has halted according to available data.
- **UGANDA:** DTM focal points in Elegu confirmed reports of arrests of travelers attempting to cross into Uganda from South Sudan using alternative roads near Elegu (UGA) / Nimule (SSD). While authorities have focused much of the available resources on major crossing points such as Nimule, the border remains porous and cross-border movements by local communities are commonly tolerated.
- **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:** Gangura and Bazi points of entry have both been closed for movement of cargo and persons while movement via panya routes (smaller local routes crossing the border) is still being observed.
- **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** Source Yubu point of entry is closed for movement of persons and cargo. However, movement through alternative routes around the border point is ongoing.
- **KENYA:** The border point between Kenya and South Sudan (Nadapal) remains open for the movement of cargo only. Travelers still find their way into or out of South Sudan through alternative routes.

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

County	Location	Type	Population ¹	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	Congregation restrictions	Temperature Screening	Hand-washing stations	Risk communication	Comment
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	118,385	None	12,822/13,908	46%	58%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	There is one confirmed COVID-19 case so far in Bentiu PoC site. UNMISS reduced its presence in the PoC to critical issues only. Movement of IDPs in & out the PoC continues as usual.
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,928	Yes	3,978/3,879	19%	87%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Movement restrictions between Malakal PoC and Malakal Town have ended. Movement has increased.
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	10,755	None	3,416/4,070	3%	0%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Handwashing stations present at gates but not commonly used.
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	3,746	None	Unknown	1%	0%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	Yes	323/360	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	6,461/2,797	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,779	None	9,213/9,226	Unknown	Unknown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	As of 11 May 2020, 2 COVID-19 cases confirmed in PoC 3 Site.

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	Type	Border to	Mvmnt of cargo as of 17 May	Mvmnt of persons as of 17 May	Into / out of point 2019 daily average ²	Into / out of point during reporting period daily average ²	Temperature 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	4/2	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	11/17	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil East	Majokynthiou	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	6/24	79/57	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil North	Kiir Adem	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	13/26	78/52	No	No	No	No	No	
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	No disruption	Closed with exceptions	Unknown	26/30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority has officially announced the reopening of all airports to domestic and international flights as of 12 May 2020.
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	Incoming only	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	Authorities report need for health personnel to conduct temperature screening.
Maban	Yabous	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	No	
Maban	Elfoj	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	No	
Magwi	Nimule	Official land border	UGA	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	124/156	64/31	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
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	Incoming only	De facto via alternative routes	249/198	2/6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Pariang	Pantou	Official land border	SDN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	No	Unknown	
Pariang	Jau	Official land border	SDN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	No	Unknown	
Renk	Wunthaw	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	9/28	600/435	No	No	Yes	No	No	

1. Latest population counts or biometric registration data when population counts aren't available. 2. Averages from IOM DTM Flow Monitoring or KI information. Into and out of SSD for border points.

Summary of tracked border crossing points and transportation hubs Week 8 (11-17 May 2020)

Type	#
Domestic Airport	6
In-country transport hub	13
Intl. Airport	1
Official land border	18
Transit point	3
Unofficial land border	13
Total	54

Movement of cargo	#
Incoming only	2
Incoming only (small scale)	2
No disruption	43
No movement	6
Unknown	1
Total	54

Movement of people	#
De facto via alternative routes	9
Local movement tolerated	4
No disruption	23
No movement	17
Unknown	1
Total	54

C-19 measures	Yes	No	Unknown
Temperature screening	6	48	0
Handwashing stations	15	35	0
Isolation / quarantine area	49	5	0
Increased security forces	7	10	37
Risk communication	24	30	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.](#)

South Sudan COVID-19 Timeline (part 1/2: 19 March - 18 April 2020)

High Level Task Force

The Government of South Sudan establishes the High Level Task Force on COVID-19 led by The First Vice President Dr. Riak Machar.

Closure of edu. facilities

South Sudan Vice President for Service Cluster Hussein Abdelbagi Akol has decided to [close all the schools, teachers training institutes and the universities](#) across the country.

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.

1st COVID-19 Case in SSD

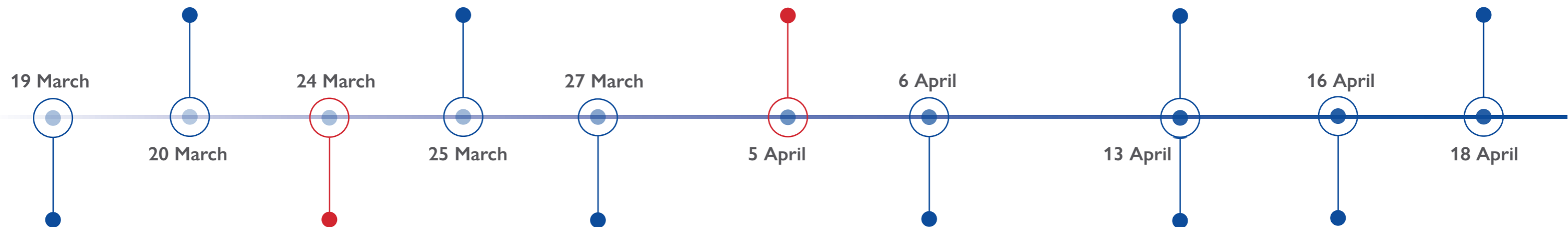
The South Sudan Government confirmed its [first case of COVID-19](#).

Long distance learning

Education ministry to [launch distance learning for students](#). Lessons for core subjects for primary and secondary school students will be delivered over radio stations and national television.

Release of 143 prisoners

Authorities in South Sudan has [released 143 prisoners](#) in an effort to combat the spread of the new coronavirus disease in crowded jails.



Preparedness & Response Plan

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

South Sudan closes borders

South Sudan [closes all airports and seals land borders](#) for passengers. Curfew across country from 8.00PM to 6.00AM. Public institutions working half-time. First suspected case of COVID-19 tested negative.

Quarantine Escape

Over 500 South Sudan nationals described as returnees [escape quarantine in Renk](#), set up at a secondary school after arriving from Sudan.

Closing of Wau Collective Centres

The Diocesan Major Response Team on COVID-19 decides to close several Wau collective centres. As of 12 April 2020, Nazareth, Cathedral, St. Joseph and Lokoloko (3,743 ind. in March 2020 according to [DTM population count](#)) are empty apart from a few stranded households.

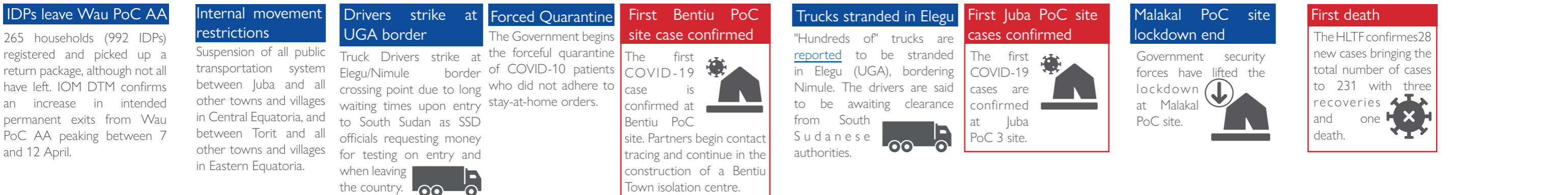
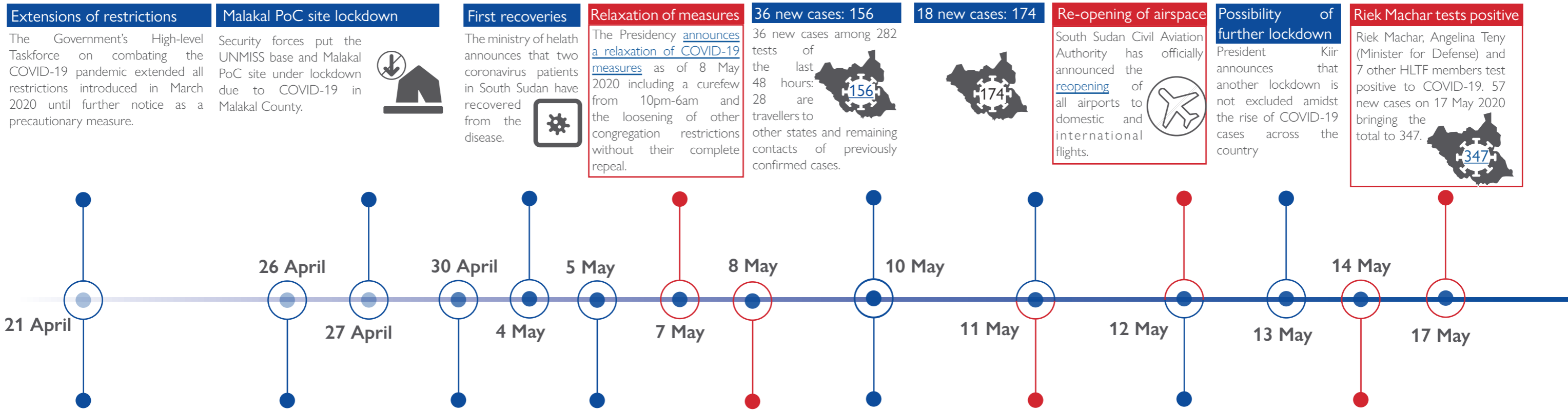
Suspension of inter-state travel

The Government has suspended passenger flights as well as public and private inter-state transport for up to two weeks effective from midnight Wednesday 15 April 2020 (Communication from the presidency 25, HLTF 13 April 2020).

Increased testing in Juba

The HLTF directs the Ministry of Health to divide Juba into five zones and to collect over 100 samples per week per zone to enable a minimum testing capacity of 500 samples a week (Communication from the presidency 28, HLTF 16 April 2020).

South Sudan COVID-19 Timeline (part 2/2: 21 April - 17 May 2020)



COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



Source: WHO, update as of 17 May 2020
*Source: HLTF South Sudan