

# COVID-19 Preparedness & Response: Mobility Update 12 (15-28 June 2020)

#### **Background and Methodology**

DTM relies on its network of key informants and on secondary sources to provide a bi-weekly assessment of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at priority locations in South Sudan. 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 points and displacement sites can be found <a href="here">here</a>.

If you wish to share any updates or flag any errors, please do not hesitate to contact IOM DTM at <a href="mailto:southsudanDTM@iom.int">southsudanDTM@iom.int</a>.

#### Overview

By 28 June 2020, South Sudan recorded <u>1,989 cumulative COVID-19 confirmed cases</u>, and 36 deaths. The overall number of tests conducted stands at 10,529.

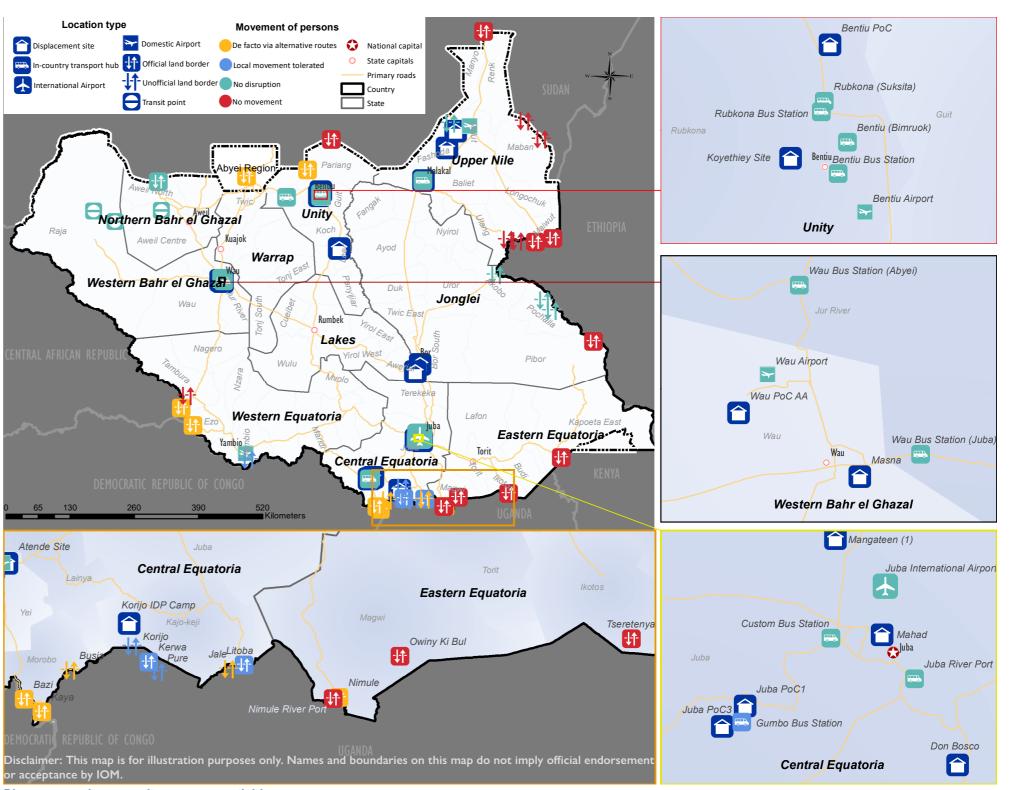
A number of efforts are underway to improve South Sudan's ability to cope with the pandemic. The country is revamping its reporting system related to COVID-19 deaths, a new portable laboratory was installed in Nimule, and plans are underway to begin oxygen production within the country. Across the country, DTM is observing a slight increase in the implementation of previously established COVID-19 related measures at tracked transportation hubs. Risk communication is now being practiced at 39 out of 56 tracked locations up from 33 during the last reporting period (1-14 June 2020) with handwashing facilities being available at 30, up from 24 in the first two weeks of June.

However, the country remains even more vulnerable to shocks than before the pandemic with UN Special Representative, David Shearer stating that the effects of the pandemic could <u>undermine the country's weak health infrastructure and ceasefire</u> at a time when the number of localized conflict instances is on the rise. While cargo is officially allowed to cross South Sudan's borders, bureaucratic hurdles have slowed down the flow of goods, increasing market prices and <u>negatively impacting the food security</u>.

As of 23 June 2020, Malakal PoC site registered its first COVID-19 case. On 27 June 2020, UNPOL forces withdrew from the main gates of Malakal PoC site. Forces were withdrawn at approximately 6am to enter quarantine for the following 14 days according to camp management. On Sunday 28 June 2020, community leaders of Malakal PoC site addressed UNMISS in a written statement requesting the redeployment of UN security forces due to increasing uncertainty about the personal safety of site residents. Similary, reports on a deteriorating security environment witin other PoC sites have been received following the reduction of UNPOL officers across other PoC sites.

#### Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- SUDAN: Abyei point of entry officially remained closed for the movement of people, and open for cargo. However, a limited number of travellers were able to continue passing through the area. DTM also observed movements through smaller crossing points in Majokyinthou, Delieba, and Kaka. Sudanese authorities announced that all <u>airports would remain closed</u> for domestic and international travel until 28 June 2020. Neighbouring authorities also announced an <u>extended lockdown of Khartoum State</u> until 7 July 2020.
- ETHIOPIA: Across eight monitored points along the Ethiopian border, five remain closed with no disruptions observed at three. The country <u>relaxed some of the restrictive measures</u> put in place in response to the pandemic on 19 June 2020.
- UGANDA: The main points of entries to Uganda, namely Nimule and Kaya remain officially closed for
  movement of people. However, migration has only stopped at 3 out of 11 monitored points in total. The
  Ugandan government has announced a three-day window during which approximately 5,000 refugees
  fleeng violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo were allowed to enter through a north-western
  point of entry. Of over 800 COVID-19 cases in the country, 52 are refugees.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: At Gangura point of entry, the movement across borders by local communities continues to be tolerated, while Bazi remains closed with movements continuing through nearby alternative locations.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Source Yubu remains closed, hence, travellers find their way through other points along this porous border.
- KENYA: Cargo movement through Nadapal crossing point remains uninterrupted, while the movement of people is restricted. Movements via alternative routes have not been registered as of this reporting week.



Please note that coordinates are available upon request.

**DTM tracked 75 locations including 19 displacement sites and 56 transportation hubs** within the country and along international borders to report on COVID-19 related measures such as temperature screening and the availability of handwashing stations.

Of 19 displacement sites all were subjected to some form of risk communications, 17 (89%) made additional handwashing stations available and 3 (16%) screened temperatures at the gates. The movement of persons was stopped at a quarter of tracked in-country and border transit locations (13 locations of 23%). However, movement continued unhindered at 27 points (48%) with reports of alternative nearby routes being used at 10 (18%) and local movement by cross-border communities being tolerated at a further 6 locations (11%). Temperature screening was practiced at 11 locations (20%) while risk communication was made available at 70 per cent of tracked transit areas (39 locations). While handwashing stations had been constructed at 30 locations (54%), these were not put to use by travellers in all hubs.

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

County	Location	Туре	Population <sup>1</sup>	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	restrictions	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk com- munication	Comment	
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	111,766	None	11,615/12,381	46%	55%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	There are three confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Bentiu PoC site. UNMISS reduced its presence in the site to critical issues only. Movement of IDPs in & out of the PoC and sensitization of community on COVID-19 continue through different communication channels at the site.	
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,930	Yes	4,395/4,423	13%	60%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Check points have been installed between Malakal PoC site, Humanitarian Hub, and UNMISS after the first confirmed positve case of COVID-19 in Malakal PoC site. Movement across check points is limited to critical staff.	
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	9,956	None	3,969/4,957	0%	0%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	6,127	None	Unkn.	0%	82%	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	Yes	289/344	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	283/315	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	There have been 11 confirmed COVID 10 coops at labor DoC sites	
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,778	None	2,407/2,380	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	There have been 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases at Juba PoC sites.	

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	Туре	Border to	Mvmnt of cargo as of 28 June	Mvmnt of persons as of 28 June	Into / out of point 2019 daily average <sup>2</sup>	Into / out of point during reporting period daily average <sup>2</sup>	Temper- ature 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	4/3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	A joint team from UNISFA, Save the Children and Global Aid Hand have visited Amiet market to coordinate activities.
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	11/17	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Aweil East	Majokyinthiou	Transit point	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	6/24	59/41	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil North	Kiir Adem	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	13/26	24/6	No	No	No	No	No	
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	251/263	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	While the airport is open for all movements of cargo and passengers, not all international flights have resumed to pre-COVID-19 schedules. Most flights operated domestically within South Sudan only during the reporting period.
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	Incoming only	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Maban	Yabous	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Maban	Elfoj	Unofficial land border	SDN	No disruption	No movement	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Magwi	Nimule	Official land border	UGA	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	124/156	61/37	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	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	249/198	2/2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Holding unit available but no isolation unit.
Pariang	Pantou	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Travelers still cross on foot to South Sudan during the night. Most cross to Panthou first then disperse to different locations from there. Some take a route to Mayom and some board cars from Panakuach/Payangay to Unity oil fields to then travel to Rubkona.
Pariang	Jau	Official land border	SDN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	The border remains closed for both entry and exit but irregular crossings persist.
Renk	Wunthaw	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	This point is officially closed but travellers are passing through nearby alterative routes. An isolation area is on site but not used for persons crossing through alternative points.
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	9/28	523/438	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	This internal transit point is used by the IDPs from UNMISS Bentiu PoC. It is a bus terminal for different internal locations within Rubkona and to other locations beyond Rubkona/Bentiu town such as: Mayom, Unity oil field, Lalob/Rotriak, Panakuach. Hand washing facility installed by UNICEF/CWW recently at this transit hub.

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.

## South Sudan

# COVID-19 Timeline (main events)



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

#### Border Closure

South Sudan <u>closes</u> airports and seals land for passengers Curfew across country from 8.00PM to 6.00AM. Public institutions working halftime. First suspected case of

COVID-19 tested negative.

Over 500 South Sudan nationals described The Diocesan Major as returnees <u>escape</u> Response quarantine in Renk, from Sudan.

#### Quarantine Escape Closing of Wau Collective Centres

Team COVID-19 set up at a secondary to close several Wau other towns and villages stay-at-home orders. school after arriving collective centres. As of in Central Equatoria, and 12 April 2020, Nazareth, between Torit and all Cathedral, St. Joseph and other towns and villages Lokoloko (3,743 ind. in Eastern Equatoria. March 2020 according to DTM population count)

#### Internal movement restrictions

on transportation system of COVID-10 patients decides between Juba and all who did not adhere to

### Forced Quarantine

The Government begins Suspension of all public the forceful quarantine

#### First Bentiu PoC site case confirmed

The first COVID-19 case (IDP) is confirmed at Bentiu PoC

site. Partners begin contact tracing and continue in the construction of a Bentiu Town isolation centre.

#### First Juba PoC site cases confirmed

The first COVID-19 cases are confirmed at Juba

PoC 3 site. The patients are humanitarian service providers.

## Re-opening of airspace

South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority has officially announced the reopening all airports to domestic international flights.

# Taskforce

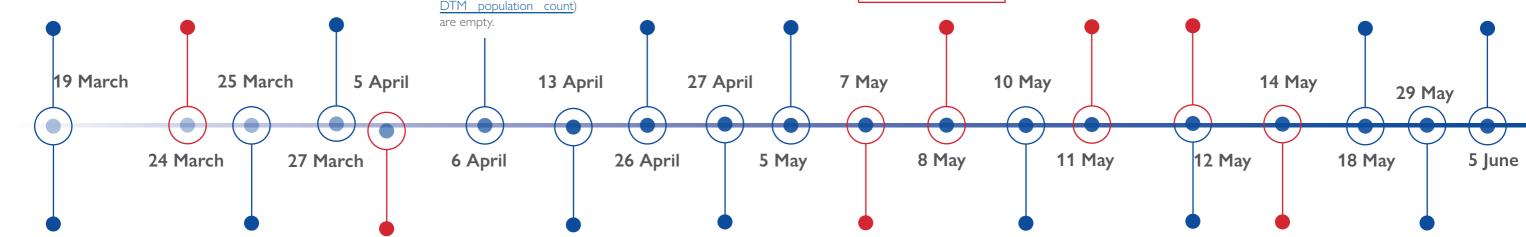
The High Level Task Force on COVID-19 replaced with the National Taskforce Committee on Coronavirus Disease.

3<sup>rd</sup> case in Bentiu PoC site

TRACKING MATRIX

SOUTH SUDAN

While three cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed at the PoC site, one person has passed away due to respiratory failure.



#### Preparedness & Response Plan

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

#### 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.

19 June

#### COVID-19 Case in SSD

The South Sudan Government confirmed its first case of COVID-19



#### Suspension of inter-state travel

The Government has suspended passenger flights as well as public and private iner-state

transport for up to two weeks effective from midnight Wednesday 15 April 2020 (Communication from the in presidency 25, HLTF 13 April 2020).

22 June

#### Malakal PoC lockdown start

Security forces put the UNMISS base and Malakal PoC site under lockdown COVID-19



#### Relaxation of measures

The Presidency announces a relaxation of COVID-19 measures as of 8 May 2020 including a curfew from 10pm-6am and the loosening of other congregation restrictions without their complete repeal.

#### Trucks stranded

"Hundreds of" trucks are reported to be stranded in Elegu (UGA), bordering Nimule. The drivers are said to be awaiting clearance from South Sudanese authorities.

#### Malakal PoC site lockdown end

Government security forces have lifted the lockdown at Malakal PoC site.

#### First death

The

confirmes28 new cases bringing the total number of cases to 231 with **X** three recoveries and one death.

24 lune

HLTF

#### Front line death

One health-care worker dies of COVID-19 representing the first front-line fatality in South Sudan.

## South Sudan

# COVID-19 Timeline (reporting period)

New reporting system

To address the anecdotal reports of increasing mysterious community deaths that are currently not well investigaed amidst concerns of safety during burial as raised by the general public, the MoH, WHO and partners set up a COVID-19 mortality surveillance team.

#### New mobile lab in Nimule

The MoH sets up a laboratory in Nimule which is considered a hotspot for infections. Nimule recorded its first case on 28 June 2020.

#### Report of increased market prices

Radio Miraya reports increases in the cost of food in Juba and across the country by as much as 25 per cent.

#### South Sudan ranks last based on capacity to deal with the pandemic

The Deep Knowledge Report Group put together a data anylsis of 20 measures of countries' ability to respond to COVID-19. The country has only 14 ventilators, 24 ICU beds, est. 1.5 doctors per 10,000 people, and a significant number of people who have been in contact with COVID-19 are seen escaping from the isolation facilities due to limited food supply and improper fencing.

#### Oxygen to be produced domestically

23 June

The government announces oxygen is to be produced within South Sudan.

#### First COVID-19 case in Malakal PoC site

The first know case of COVID-19 has ben confirmed at Malakal PoC site. Humanitarian partners call for precautions considering that the real scale of infection is not known.

#### COVID-19 declared risk to health system and ceasefire

The head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) states that the effects of the pandemic could undermine the country's weak health infrastructure at a time when the number of localized conflict instances is on the rise.

#### USD 4.1 Million COVID-19 response fund

The South Sudanese Government has recieved USD 4.1 million from the African Development Bank and the WHO in order to suppor the country's emergency response to the pandemic.

# Summary of tracked border crossing points and transportation hubs Report 12 (15-28 June 2020)



Туре 坑	#
Domestic Airport	6
In-country transport hub	13
Intl. Airport	1
Official land border	19
Transit point	3
Unofficial land border	14
Total	56

Movement of cargo	#
Incoming only (trucks)	2
Incoming only (small scale)	2
No disruption	46
No movement	6
Total	56

Movement of people	#
De facto via alternative routes	10
Local movement tolerated	6
No disruption	27
No movement	13
Total	56

C-19 measures	Yes	No	Unknown
Temperature screening	11	45	0
Handwashing stations	30	26	1
Isolation / quarantine area	12	44	0
Increased security forces	7	10	39
Risk Communication	39	17	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.

### COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



#### Worldwide:

- 9,843,073 confirmed cases
- 495,760 deaths



# Number of cases/deaths in neighboring countries:

- Sudan: 9,258/572
- Central African Republic: 3,340/40
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 6,689/152
- Uganda: 833/0
- Ethiopia: 5,570/94
- Kenya: 5,811/141



#### South Sudan\*

- 1,755 confirmed cases
- 30 deaths
- 58 recoveries

Source: WHO, update as of 14 June 2020 \*Source: Ministry of Health, South Sudan











