



# CROSS-BORDER POPULATION MOVEMENT FACTSHEET

## AKOBO PORT AND ROAD MONITORING

### AKOBO COUNTY, JONGLEI STATE, SOUTH SUDAN

## SOUTH SUDAN DISPLACEMENT CRISIS

FEBRUARY, 2022

### CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

Akobo town is located in the eastern side of Akobo County, Jonglei State, close to the land and river border crossings with Ethiopia. Akobo is a key point of trade and transit between South Sudan and Ethiopia. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2013, this route has been used by South Sudanese heading to or coming back from refugee camps in Ethiopia. Since May 2015, REACH has been recording arrivals and departures of South Sudanese households (HHs) in four locations, Gadrang Road, Koatkoangthor Road, Tundol Port and Market Port, on a daily basis.

In order to provide an indication of wider trends, data is collected on the volume of movement, as well as the motivations and intentions of those travelling. REACH teams interviewed arrivals and departures at the HH level. For movements larger than three HHs, a short alternative survey is used to assess HH and individual numbers by speaking to the Transport Focal Point (TFP), such as the driver or transport authority.<sup>1</sup> Due to insecurity and other issues, data is not always collected on a daily basis. To correct for this inconsistency, data presented for general movement trends across months represents an average based on the number of days of data collection each month. **The data presented here is not representative, nor does it capture all movements in and out of Akobo, rather, it is indicative of movement trends for the assessed population.**

The following findings are based on primary data collected between the 1st and 28th of February 2022.

### GENERAL MOVEMENT TRENDS

The findings in this factsheet are based on data from the REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) data collection and the TFP survey, the latter of which captures larger movements between Akobo and Ethiopia.<sup>1</sup>

#### TYPE OF MOVEMENT<sup>2</sup>

Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded in February 2022:

	HHs	Individuals	% of HHs
Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia	65	319	39%
Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan	78	423	47%
Internal movement within South Sudan	24	80	14%

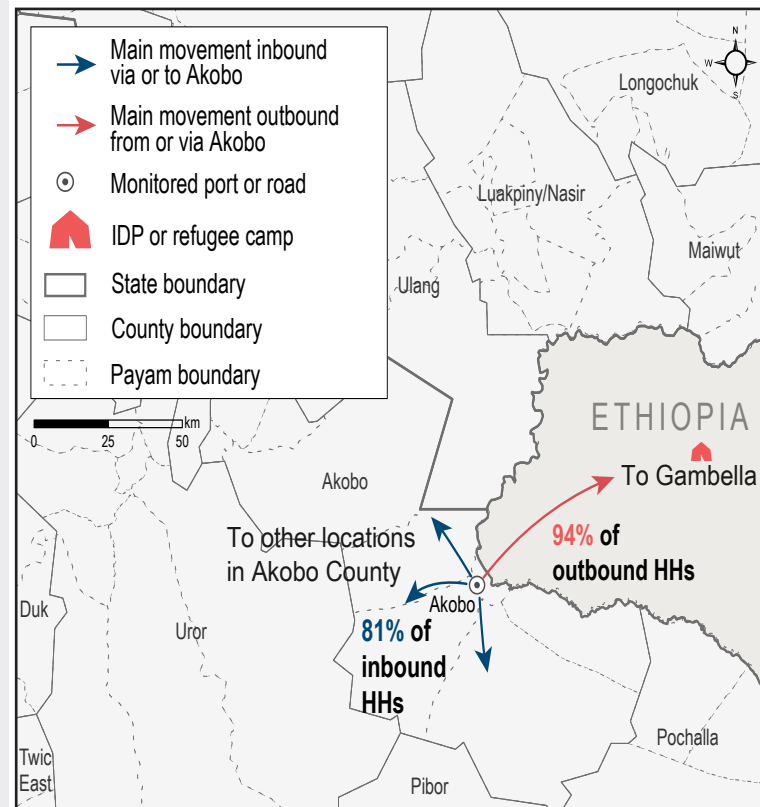
During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 167 HHs (822 individuals) travelling by foot or in small vehicles and boats (PRM data collection), REACH also used the TFP tool to estimate the number of HHs travelling on larger boats. In February, two inbound transports were recorded carrying an estimated 10 HHs (55 individuals) and 4 outbound transports were recorded carrying an estimated 29 HHs (179 individuals).

### VULNERABILITIES

**68%** of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability,<sup>4</sup> including:

- **26%** Pregnant woman
- **25%** Separated/unaccompanied
- **15%** Malnourished individual

### MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND AND OUTBOUND HHs



### NO. OF KEY INFORMANTS (KIs) REPORTING SECURITY CONCERNS DURING TRAVEL<sup>3</sup>

	Inbound transport	Outbound transport
Checkpoints	2	3
Boat breakdown	1	1
Boat overloaded	1	1
		Armed actors
		Low water levels

**79%** of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability,<sup>4</sup> including:

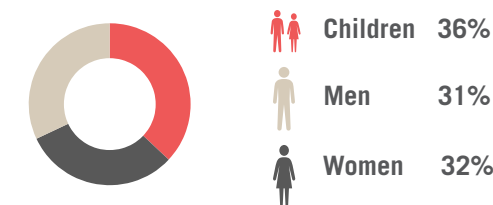
- **37%** Separated/unaccompanied child
- **28%** Pregnant woman
- **18%** Person with a physical disability

### INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

**57%** of inbound HHs reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination in South Sudan.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



**83%** of inbound HHs were partial HHs.<sup>5</sup>

#### PREVIOUS LOCATION IN ETHIOPIA

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:

Gambella Camp	77%
Assosa Camp	22%
Kakuma	2%

#### INTENDED DESTINATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:

Akobo County	81%
Nyiröl County	9%
Uror County <sup>7</sup>	6%

#### PUSH FACTORS

Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to leave their last location:<sup>7</sup>

Distance from family / home	37%
Lack of employment	17%
Lack of food <sup>8</sup>	11%

#### REASONS FOR COMING TO SOUTH SUDAN

Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, November 2021 to February 2022:<sup>7</sup>

	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022
Proximity to family/home	43%	63%	38%	35%
Presence of work opportunities	3%	8%	24%	17%
Improved security	8%	10%	13%	17%

### OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

**56%** of outbound HHs reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination outside of South Sudan.

#### DEMOGRAPHICS

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



**82%** of outbound HHs were partial HHs.<sup>5</sup>

#### PREVIOUS LOCATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:

Akobo County	95%
Uror County	4%
Nyiröl County	1%

#### INTENDED DESTINATION IN ETHIOPIA

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:

Gambella Camp	94%
Bweyale Camp	3%
Assosa Camp <sup>6</sup>	1%

#### PULL FACTORS

Primary reported pull factors for outbound HHs to go to another country:<sup>7</sup>

Proximity to education services	40%
Proximity to family / home	26%
Presence of food distributions	14%

#### REASONS FOR LEAVING SOUTH SUDAN

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, November 2021 to February 2022:<sup>7</sup>

	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022	February 2022
Lack of education services	36%	29%	2%	40%
Distance from family/home	14%	29%	58%	22%
Lack of food	23%	33%	2%	18%

Notes:  
1. The TFP tool asks the driver (or another focal point) to give details of the number of individuals and number of households travelling. This methodology is used if the number of households travelling exceeds 3 households and therefore cannot all be interviewed. For more details, please access the Port and Road Monitoring Terms of Reference [here](#).  
2. While internal movement within South Sudan was also recorded in Akobo over the data collection period, this factsheet covers crossborder movement between South Sudan and Ethiopia, and vice versa, only.  
3. Outbound transport focal points were asked what security concerns they anticipated on their onward journey based on historical trips.  
4. Respondents may select multiple vulnerabilities. All vulnerabilities were self-reported by respondents.  
5. Partial HHs are those where not all members of the self-identified family unit were reportedly travelling. Family units in South Sudan often extend beyond the nuclear family.  
6. One percent of outbound respondents also reported that their intended destination was Rhino Camp.  
7. Reported presence of services or opportunities is indicative of respondents' perceptions and does not necessarily reflect availability.  
8. An additional 11% of respondents reported an "other" primary push factor, which included marriage, religious mission trips, and school closures in their area of departure.