



Cross-Border Population Movement Factsheet

Akobo Port and Road Monitoring

Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement Crisis

December 2020

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 household (HH) level. For movements larger than three households, 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.¹ 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.**²

The following findings are based on primary data collected between the 1st to 23rd and the 28th to 31st of December 2020.

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.¹

Type of movement

Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded by PRM and TFP data collection tools in December 2020:

	HHs	Individuals	% of HHs
Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia	52	246	18%
Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan	220	1030	75%
Internal movement within South Sudan	23	46	8%

During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 233 HHs 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 December two larger inbound boats were recorded carrying an estimated 70 and 68 individuals respectively.

Vulnerabilities

79% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁴, including:

- 52%** Breastfeeding
- 17%** Malnourished⁵



Self-reported refugees

Proportion of inbound HHs (left) and outbound HHs (right) who self-reported having refugee status in another country:³

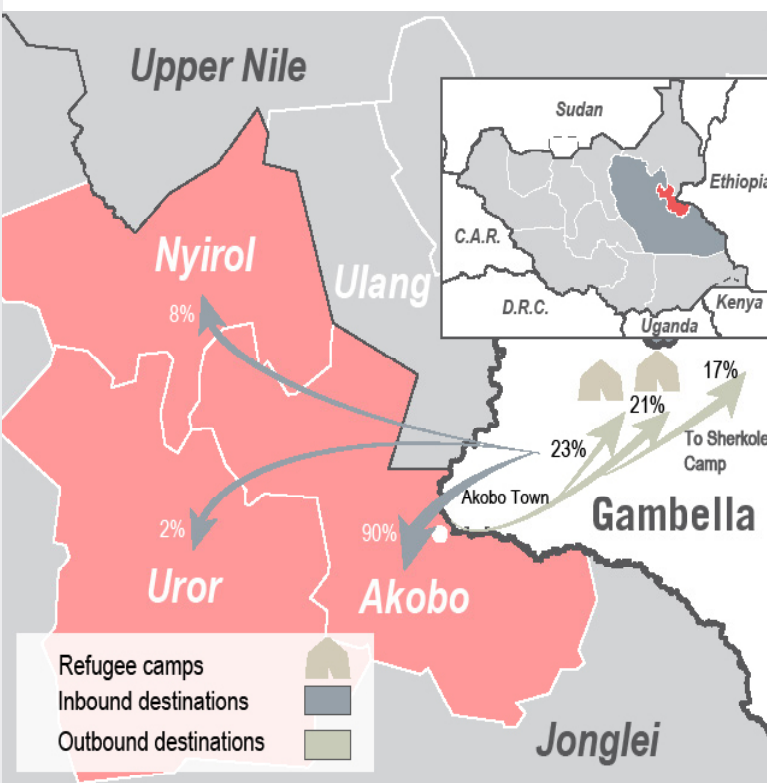


82% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁴, including:

- 56%** Breastfeeding
- 37%** Malnourished



MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND AND OUTBOUND HHs



INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

44% of inbound HHs that reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination in South Sudan.

Demographics

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



71% of inbound HHs were partial HHs.⁶

Previous location in Ethiopia

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:

Jewi Camp	23%
Kule Camp	21%
Sherkole Camp ⁷	17%

Intended destination in South Sudan

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:

Akobo County	90%
Nyirol County	8%
Uror County	2%

Push factors

Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to leave their last location:

Distance from family/home	83%
Lack of work opportunities	6%
Tensions with host community	6%

Reasons for coming to South Sudan

Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, September 2020 to December 2020:

	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Rejoining family/ home	61%	74%	73%	73%
Attending a ceremony	21%	14%	4%	10%
Perceived security	4%	0%	2%	8%

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

52% of outbound HHs that reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination outside of South Sudan.

Demographics

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



88% of outbound HHs were partial HHs.⁶

Previous location in South Sudan

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:

Akobo County	93%
Nyirol County	4%
Ayod County	2%

Intended destination in Ethiopia

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:

Jewi Camp	28%
Nguenyiel Camp	24%
Kule Camp	22%

Pull factors

Primary reported pull factors for outbound HHs to go to another country:

Presence of food distributions	44%
Presence of education services	27%
Rejoining family/home	9%

Reasons for leaving South Sudan

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, September 2020 to December 2020:

	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020
Lack of food	4%	9%	19%	44%
Lack of education services	52%	51%	40%	27%
Distance from family/home	4%	4%	17%	9%

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. 'Security Concerns During Travel' has been replaced with 'Self-reported Refugee' data for December as no inbound movements were captured by the TFP tool, and reporting of security concerns amongst outbound transport focal points was low.
4. Respondents may select multiple vulnerabilities.
5. Seventeen (17%) of HHs reported that at least one member of the HH was critically ill.
6. Partial HHs are those where not all members of the self-identified family unit were reportedly travelling. Please note, family units in South Sudan often extend beyond the nuclear family.
7. Seventeen (17%) of HHs also reported Nguenyiel as the primary location from which inbound HHs were leaving.