



Cross-Border Population Movement Factsheet

Akobo Port and Road Monitoring

Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement Crisis

October 2019

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

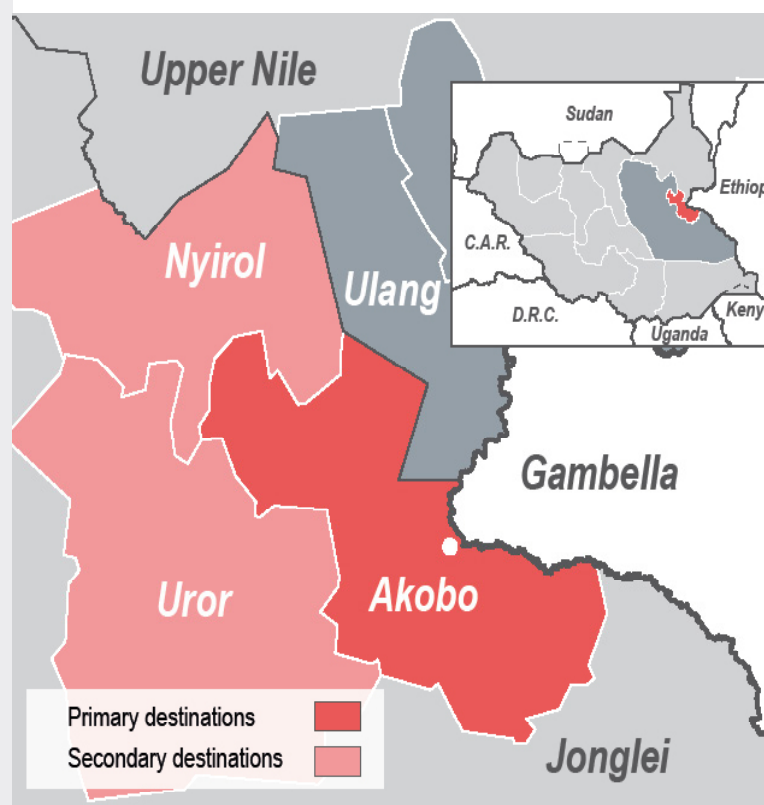
Akobo town is located in the eastern side of Akobo County, Jonglei State, close to the land and river border crossings with Ethiopia. Akobo is a key point of trade and transit between South Sudan and Ethiopia.

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. In four locations, Gadrang Road, Koatkoangthor Road, Tundol Port and Market Port, REACH has recorded arrivals and departures of South Sudanese households (HHs) on a daily basis since May 2015.

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. 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, 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 population².**

The following findings are based on primary data collected between 1 and 31 October 2019. REACH teams interviewed arrivals and departures at the household (HH) level.

MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND HHs



INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

35% 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:



86% of inbound HHs were partial HHs.⁴

Previous location in Ethiopia

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:

Nguenyiel Camp	26%
Jewi Camp	23%
Kule Camp	16%

Intended destination in South Sudan

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:

Akobo County	96%
Nyirol County	1%
Ayod County	1%

Push factors

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

Distance from family/ home	67%
Tensions with host community	14%
Lack of work opportunities	11%

Reasons for coming to South Sudan

Primary reported reasons for inbound HHs, July 2019 to October 2019:

	July 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019
Rejoining family/ home	74%	67%	64%	67%
Perceived security	16%	21%	27%	16%
Presence of work opportunities	6%	3%	5%	11%

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

82% 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:



86% of outbound HHs were partial HHs.

Previous location in South Sudan

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:

Akobo County	89%
Nyirol County	6%
Uror County	3%

Intended destination in Ethiopia

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:

Jewi Camp	29%
Nguenyiel Camp	28%
Kule Camp	23%

Pull factors

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

Presence of educational services	47%
Presence of food distributions	26%
Presence of family/ home	12%

Reasons for leaving South Sudan

Primary reported reasons for outbound HHs, July 2019 to October 2019:

	July 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019
Lack of educational services	13%	25%	61%	47%
Lack of food	40%	30%	16%	26%
Distance from family/ home	25%	22%	12%	12%

GENERAL MOVEMENT TRENDS

Data provided below has been taken from REACH Port and Road Monitoring (PRM) data collection, as well as data provided using the Transport Focal Point (TFP) survey which captures large movements between Akobo and Ethiopia¹.

Type of movement

Total monthly number of HHs and individuals recorded in October 2019:

	HHs	Individuals	HHs %
Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia	190	442	34%
Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan	345	2049	62%
Internal movement within South Sudan	22	144	4%

Self-reported refugees³

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



During the reporting period, in addition to interviewing 291 HHs through the PRM survey, coming on foot or in small vehicles and boats, REACH also used the TFP tool to estimate the number of households travelling on larger boats for which the enumerator team is not able to interview individually. In October 1 larger inbound boat was recorded with an estimated 102 people, and 2 larger outbound boats with an estimated 673 people across both boats.

Vulnerabilities

64% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:

- 65%** Pregnant or breastfeeding
- 16%** Separated child

67% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability, including:

- 60%** Pregnant or breastfeeding
- 20%** Separated child

Notes:

1. The TFP tool asks the driver (or another focal point) of the transportation 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 or 4 households and therefore cannot all be interviewed. For more details, please access the Port and Road Monitoring Terms of Reference here: <https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/830456c9/reach-ssd-terms-of-references-port-monitoring-october-2019-for-public-use.pdf>

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. Throughout October PRM surveys were conducted with 4 HHs travelling from South Sudan to Uganda and 3 HHs travelling to Kenya.

3. Usually this section contains information gathered from outbound transport focal points regarding anticipated onward security concerns, based on historical trips. However, due to heavy rainfall the road from Gambela to Matar was largely inaccessible for the month of October, limiting TFP data collection. Of the surveyed TFPs none of the respondents reported any security issue.

4. 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.