



Cross-Border Population Movement Factsheet

Akobo Port and Road Monitoring

Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

South Sudan Displacement Crisis

May 2021

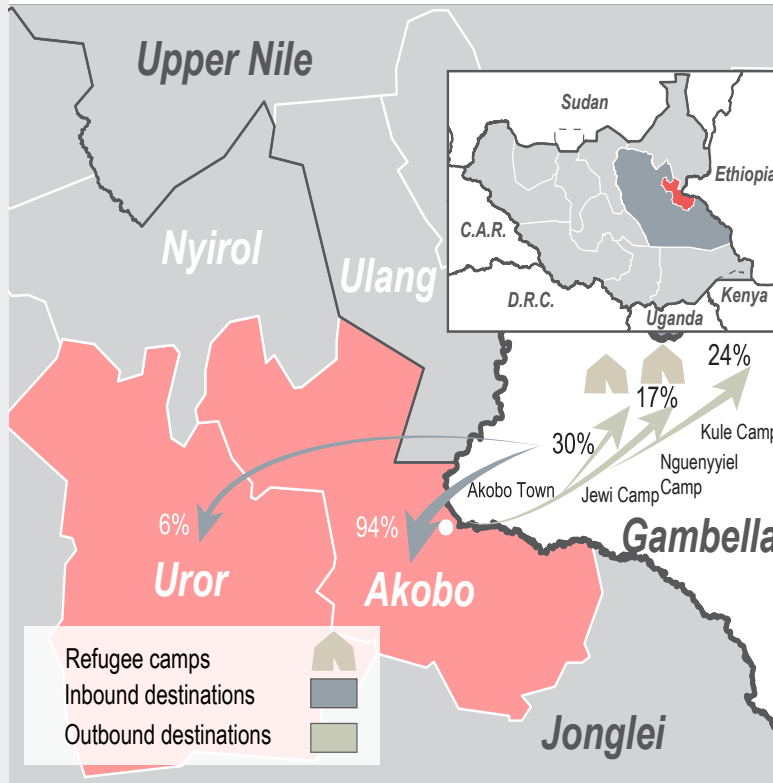
CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

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 3rd and 31st May 2021.

MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND AND OUTBOUND HHs



INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

29% 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:



88% of inbound HHs were partial HHs.⁶

Previous location in Ethiopia

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:



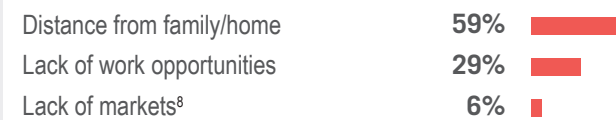
Intended destination in South Sudan

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:



Push factors

Primary reported push factors for inbound HHs to leave their last location:⁷



Reasons for coming to South Sudan

Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, February to May 2021:⁷

	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Proximity to family/home	62%	63%	61%	41%
Presence of work opportunities	15%	16%	14%	29%
Attending a ceremony	18%	14%	14%	18%

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

73% 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:



81% of outbound HHs were partial HHs.⁶

Previous location in South Sudan

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:



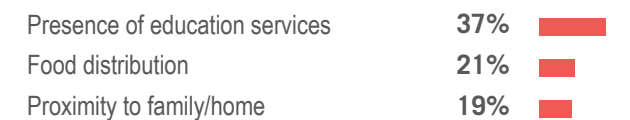
Intended destination in Ethiopia

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:



Pull factors

Primary reported pull factors for outbound HHs to go to another country:⁷



Reasons for leaving South Sudan

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, February to May 2021:⁷

	February 2021	March 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Lack of education services	28%	37%	39%	37%
Lack of food	42%	36%	26%	22%
Distance from family/home	8%	10%	15%	19%

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 in April 2021:

	HHs	Individuals	% of HHs
Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia	17	78	9%
Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan	149	596	81%
Internal movement within South Sudan	18	69	10%

No. of KIs reporting security concerns during travel^{3,4}

	Inbound transport	Outbound transport
Checkpoints	0	4
Boat damaged/flooded	0	1

During the data collection period, in addition to interviewing 81 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 May, five outbound transports were recorded carrying an estimated 14, 21, 41, 27, and 120 individuals respectively.

Vulnerabilities

76% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁵, including:

- 47%** Separated/unaccompanied child
- 41%** Pregnant

89% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁵, including:

- 63%** Breastfeeding
- 46%** Separated/unaccompanied child

Notes:

- 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](#).
- 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.
- KI stands for Key Informant.
- Outbound transport focal points were asked what security concerns they anticipated on their onward journey based on historical trips.
- Respondents may select multiple vulnerabilities.
- 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.
- Reported presence of services or opportunities is indicative of respondents' perceptions and does not necessarily reflect availability.
- Six percent (6%) of HHs also reported lack of shelter as a primary push factor.