

# Sudan Crisis: Cross-Border Assessment

Returnee / Refugee Household Survey

May 2023

South Sudan

## KEY MESSAGES

- **Nearly all households who were interviewed in South Sudan were South Sudanese nationals** who reported **having fled active conflict in urban areas in Khartoum State.**
- **Findings indicate households endured dangerous journeys to reach the border**, with most households reporting having faced difficulties, including racism and discrimination, transportation issues, and difficulties due to a lack of documentation. Some households recounted having been subjected to violence.
- **Households overwhelmingly reported being in urgent need of food**, shelter, and non-food items, including utensils required for cooking and storing water.

# 45%

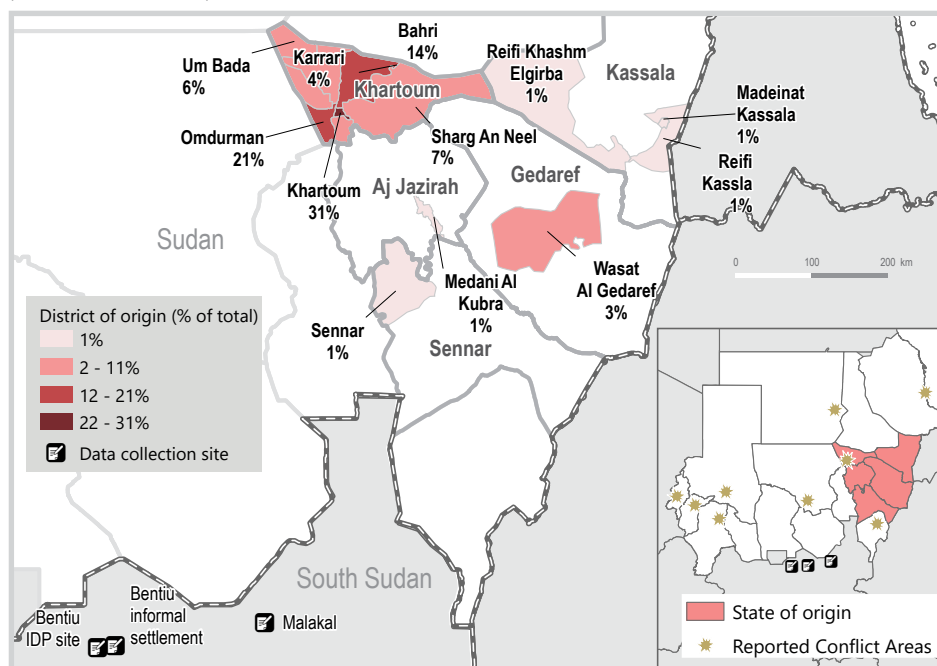
45% of households reported travelling with **at least one pregnant or lactating woman** in their household.

# 53%

53% of households reported **having been separated from household members** since the conflict broke out on the 15th of April. Over one-third of those households reported children in the household had been separated from both parents.

**Map 1: Reported regions of origin in Sudan**

(conflict data source: [ACLED](#))



## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Conflict erupted in Sudan on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2023, leading to displacement of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese nationals into neighbouring countries. The conflict, subsequent displacement, and anticipated macroeconomic consequences are likely to exacerbate the already severe humanitarian situation in Sudan and its neighbouring countries.

Given the rapidly changing humanitarian context, REACH conducted a cross-border assessment to provide humanitarian actors with up-to-date information on the extent of humanitarian needs in shock-affected parts of Sudan and among recent arrivals in neighbouring countries.

**This factsheet presents findings on the demographic characteristics, immediate needs, and displacement journeys of households who crossed the border into South Sudan.** Additional data and analysis from the cross-border and other assessments on the Sudan Crisis can be accessed via the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#) on the [REACH website](#).

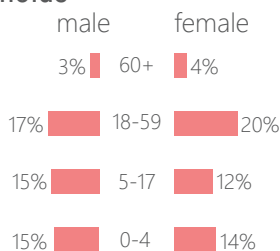
## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

For this first round of data collection, REACH enumerators conducted structured interviews with **73 returnee and refugee households** entering South Sudan at relevant border crossing points and in reception centers in Bentiu and Malakal between 17 and 19 May 2023. Interviewees were asked about their household's current situation in their area of displacement, their movement intention, as well as the situation in their settlement of origin.

Findings are indicative and cannot be generalised with a known level of precision. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the dedicated section on page 3.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

% of individuals in interviewed households



Average household size: **7\***

\*Includes only household members who were currently travelling together

**45%** of households reported **travelling with a pregnant or lactating woman**

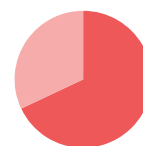
**53%**

of respondents reported **having been separated** from (a) household member(s).

Among those respondents,

**36%**

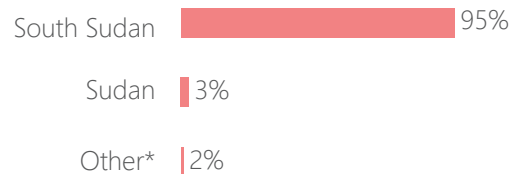
reported **children in their household had been separated from both parents.**



% of respondents per gender

female (68%)  
male (32%)

% of respondents per nationality\*



\* 1% of households reported being Eritrean and 1% Ethiopian.

## DISPLACEMENT & INTENTIONS

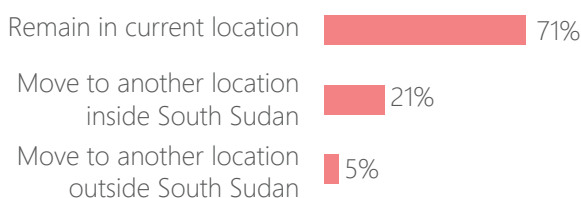
Top 3 most reported regions of origin

1. Khartoum, Khartoum (31%)
2. Omdurman, Khartoum (21%)
3. Bahri, Khartoum (14%)

Top 3 most reported push factors

1. Active conflict in settlement of origin (70%)
2. Loss of livelihoods (36%)
3. Concern about imminent escalation of conflict (25%)

Most reported intentions for the month following data collection



Among those households who reported intending to stay in South Sudan, top 3 most reported intended destinations

1. Juba, Central Equatoria State (33%)
2. Leer, Unity State (20%)
3. Rubkona, Unity State (12%)

Households commonly reported intending to **move to a planned camp (46%)** or **stay with relatives (42%)**.

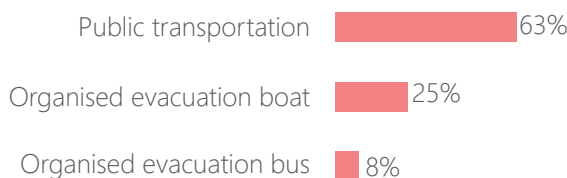
## REMAINING POPULATION\*

**13** key informants (n=20) reported that **people had been wanting to leave the settlement but had been unable to**. Fears of safety and security, road closures, and people being too weak to travel were the main reported barriers to movement, according to key informants.

\* The situation in settlements in Sudan was assessed through the Area of Knowledge method (see Methodology Overview). Findings from this part of the cross-border assessment can be found [in a dedicated factsheet](#).

## DISPLACEMENT JOURNEYS & PROTECTION

Most reported modes of transportation used to travel to border crossing point



**40%** of households reported **having faced difficulties with transportation**. Transport being expensive, unavailable, or overcrowded were the main reported difficulties. On average, households reported having spent **38070.15 Sudanese Pounds (SDG)** per person (≈63 USD) on transportation during their journey.

**3 households** reported having **had to pay informal road or checkpoint taxation** in Sudan while travelling.

**64%**

of households reported **having faced difficulties travelling to and/or entering South Sudan**. Difficulties were reported by **64%** of female respondents and **65%** of male respondents

Among those respondents, top 3 most reported difficulties faced travelling to and/or entering South Sudan

Difficulty (% of households)	Female respondents (n=33)	Male respondents (n=17)
Racism, discrimination (42%)	42%	40%
Difficulties with transportation (40%)	36%	47%
Difficulties due to a lack of documentation (33%)	36%	27%

In addition, some households reported **having been subjected to violence** (n=6) or **having been asked for bribes** (5).

## PRIORITY NEEDS & ASSISTANCE PREFERENCES

Top 3 most reported main priority needs, by % of interviewed households



Food

93%



Shelter

71%



Non-food items

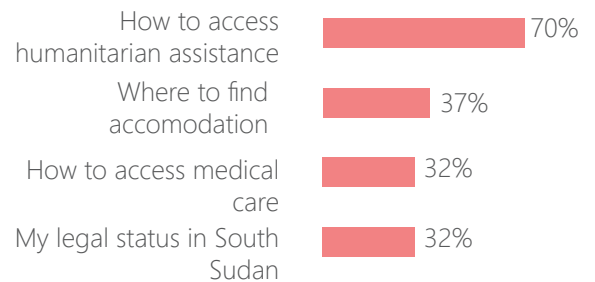
52%

Among those households who reported NFIs as one of their three most urgent needs, the most reported types of NFIs listed were **jerrycans/water containers** (79%), **cooking utensils** (76%), and **mattresses/sleeping mats** (42%).

Top 3 most preferred modalities of assistance

1. Multi-purpose cash (63%)
2. Service delivery (48%)
3. In-kind assistance (47%)

Most reported main information needs, by % of interviewed households



Most reported preferred ways of receiving information, by % of interviewed households



## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

**Time of data collection:** 17-19 May 2023

In the absence of a comprehensive needs assessment on the situation in Sudan and neighbouring countries, the assessment consisted of two components to cover, as best as possible, the situation in areas of origin in Sudan as well as the situation of recent arrivals in South Sudan.

The first component consisted of a structured household survey with returnees and refugees crossing the Sudan-South Sudan border. In total, **73 households** were interviewed about their current situation and movement intentions for this round of data collection.

For the second component, household survey interviewees were asked to act as a key informant (KI) and report on behalf of their community in their settlement of origin about the situation. Respondents were selected for the KI component if they 1) reported that there were still people living in their settlement of origin and 2) confirmed that they felt knowledgeable on the situation in their settlement of origin since the 15th of April. In total, enumerators interviewed 20 KIs among those households. All interviews were conducted at border crossing points and in reception centers by trained enumerators. Findings for this component are presented separately and can be accessed [here](#).

Due to the purposive sampling, for both components, findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only. As more information becomes available, it is recommended to triangulate findings with updated information where possible.

For more information on the sampling tools and methods used, please refer to the Research Terms of Reference (ToR) and the Detailed Analysis Plan (DAP), which will be made available [here](#).

New data, analysis, and outputs from other assessments on the Sudan conflict will be made available on the [Sudan Crisis Thread](#) on the REACH website.

### ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).