

Emergency Situation Overview: Sudan-South Sudan Cross Border Displacement

June 2023 | Malakal County | Upper Nile State | South Sudan

KEY MESSAGES

- Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan on 15th April, Malakal has served as a key transit location for populations entering South Sudan through the Joda/Wunthow border crossing in Renk County, Upper Nile State, which has received roughly 75% of recorded new arrivals. At the time of data collection, between two and four thousand people were estimated to be residing at the "Bulukat" transit centre adjacent to Malakal Port, while an unknown but likely substantial number of others had moved into Malakal Town or into the PoC site.
- Unresolved grievances leftover from the 2013-2018 crisis, stoked by fighting in Upper Nile State between August and December 2022, complicate Malakal's use as a transit location. Fighting in the Malakal PoC (est. population 44,438 as of May 2023) on 8th June resulted in at least 20 deaths, dozens of injuries, the destruction of hundreds of shelters, and the displacement of many of the PoC's residents.¹
- Challenges accessing humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, and non-food items (NFIs) were widely reported by new arrivals at Bulukat, in Malakal Town, and in the PoC. Such challenges were most frequently cited by those who reported travelling to Malakal by road, which findings suggest could comprise a substantial proportion of arrivals.
- Recent arrivals interviewed in Renk and Malakal reported facing serious protection concerns in their areas of departure and along their journeys to South Sudan, including physical violence, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), household separation – including of children from both parents - and robbery or extortion.
- Recent arrivals reported having observed along their journey large groups of people unable to displace, most commonly in Khartoum, Rabak, Kosti, Joda, and Renk. Among these groups were displaced people presumed to have run out of financial resources enabling their onward movement. As such, populations remaining in Sudan may include a disproportionate number of people without assets or financial resources, suggesting arrivals in the coming months may be increasingly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their immediate needs and for onward transport to their areas of final return.
- Assessment findings suggest that many of the new arrivals transiting through Malakal are bound for locations in Greater Upper Nile, including areas of Unity and Jonglei counties currently experiencing severe humanitarian needs, including emergency levels of food insecurity.² The situation of recent arrivals to Fangak underscores the challenges returnees are likely to face in these areas of return. Two needs assessments conducted in May and June found that most returnees in Fangak had integrated into host communities already facing exceptional challenges meeting their basic needs, and had not received any humanitarian assistance as of the first week of June. Such anticipated difficulties may increasingly compel new arrivals in Malakal, as in other transit areas, to remain at humanitarian-coordinated sites through the lean season. Fifty-six percent (56%) of heads of household interviewed at Bulukat between June 6-7 reported planning to remain in their current location over at least the next month, a figure that may indicate increasing reluctance to depart.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

On 15th April 2023, conflict broke out in Khartoum, Sudan, spreading to other parts of the country in the following days and weeks, and resulting in mass displacement from Sudan to Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia, Libya, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan. By the end of May, 92,190 people had been recorded entering South Sudan, the vast majority crossing through the Joda/Wunthow border point in Renk County, Upper Nile State, the northernmost border point in South Sudan.³ Of those recorded crossing, 93% were South Sudanese returnees, many of who fled war in then-southern Sudan prior the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, or during the South Sudan Civil War (2013 and 2018).⁴ With the aim of facilitating the movement of returnees to their final areas of return, on 13th May humanitarian-agency-supported riverine movement began from Renk to Malakal, with roughly 10,000 people moved by the end of the month. Many if not most of those arriving to Malakal continue onward to other areas of the country.

To contribute to the body of information already advising the humanitarian response, and to provide an overview of the situation in Renk and Malakal Counties and a snapshot of service provider, returnee, and host community perspectives on population movement, the response, and priority needs, REACH in conjunction with the World Food Programme (WFP), conducted assessments in May and June 2023. This brief details findings on the humanitarian situation in Malakal County at the time of data collection.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Following the facilitated onward movement of more than 5,000 people from Malakal to various areas of return and the independent onward movement of an unknown number of additional people, there likely remains upwards of 10,000 new arrivals from Sudan residing between the Bulukat transit center, the PoC, and Malakal Town. Hundreds of additional returnees were residing at the Malakal airport at the time of data collection, according to humanitarian KIs, and between 30 and 40 Sudanese refugees were observed residing at the mosque in Central Malakal.

Prior to the April outbreak of conflict in Khartoum, roughly 18,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Northern Jonglei were residing across six informal sites in and around Malakal Town, which have also received returnees since 15th April.⁵ Between August and December 2022, Malakal received roughly

METHODOLOGY

Primary data was collected via 21 focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews (IDIs) including fifteen with returnees, one with refugees, three with members of the host community, and two with trade union representatives. Two separate thematic FGDs guides focused on (a) population movement, priority needs, and conflict sensitivity and (b) and food security and livelihoods (FSL). All FGDs on population movement were conducted with returnees or refugees, while FSL interviews were conducted with both recent arrivals and the host community.

Primary data collection took place between the 22nd of May and 2nd of June in Malakal Town, the Malakal "Bulukat" Transit Center, and the Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site.

Ad-hoc key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with four humanitarian response coordinators in Malakal, and one humanitarian agency key informant (KI) in Kosti, White Nile State, Sudan. Key informant interviews (KIIs) focused on response challenges and general population movement trends.

This brief also draws on primary data collected by REACH over the same period in Renk County, using the same qualitative data collection tools, on interviews conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) in Renk and Malakal, who carried out an assessment concurrently and in conjunction with REACH between late-May and early-June, and on findings from 62 quantitative household interviews conducted by REACH at the Bulukat transit site between June 6-7.

Assessment findings are augmented and corroborated by various secondary sources including Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) data and other information published or shared bilaterally by humanitarian agencies and open-source media. Assessment findings were supplemented further by informal updates from various information sources in Malakal and Juba between June 2 and June 9, including on security and population movement.

A population movement map displays findings on displacement routes reported by recent arrivals and humanitarian key informations.

Findings are not statistically generalisable and should be considered indicative of the situation at the time of data collection.

22,000 IDPs from various areas of Upper Nile State following the outbreak of fighting in Panyikang and Fashoda counties, most of whom settled within the PoC.⁶

Fighting in the Malakal PoC on June 8 resulted in at least 20 deaths, the destruction of hundreds of shelters, and the displacement of many of the site's residents - the deadliest violence observed there since 2016.⁷ Many of those displaced by the fighting moved into Malakal Town or into other locations within the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) compound or humanitarian hub.⁸

POPULATION MOVEMENT

Sudan to Renk: Most new arrivals entering South Sudan through the Joda/Wunthow border crossing departed various neighborhoods and suburbs of metropolitan Khartoum and other towns within Khartoum State in the days and weeks following the fighting on April 15, according to FGD participants in Renk and Malakal, humanitarian KIs, and interviews with heads of household conducted at Bulukat. After departing Khartoum, most FGD participants reported travelling by rented car or truck, or by bus, along one of three routes passing through either Kosti, Rabek, or Wad Madani (see map 1). Some reported making stops at refugee camps in White Nile State, Sudan, including Al Alagaya or Jourie, where they said family members were residing.⁹ Upon arrival to Joda, between 20% and 30% of arrivals who met protection vulnerability criteria were provided transport to the transit centre in Renk Town, according to humanitarian KIs.¹⁰ The average travel time reported from Khartoum to the border was three days, and the average reported cost was roughly 115 USD per person.¹¹ A smaller number of arrivals reported departing directly from refugee camps in White Nile State (see map 1).

Renk to Malakal: All new arrivals interviewed in Malakal - at the transit center, at the PoC, and in Malakal Town - reported arriving via Renk. Those interviewed reported travelling by one of two modalities - by boat, which had been facilitated by one of at least two different humanitarian organizations in Renk, or by road, which was organized and financed privately, reportedly costing 50,000 SSP per person (roughly 50 USD). The journey by boat was reported to have taken between two and four days, stopping in different towns along the Nile, including Kodok, Kaka, Wau Shulluk, and Thor Gwan. The journey by road via Palloich, Melut County, was reported to have taken roughly 12 hours. Roughly one-half of recent arrivals

interviewed in Malakal reported arriving by road, while flow monitoring indicates that roughly 35% of onward movements from Renk are self-organized.¹²

Bottlenecks in Malakal resulting from logistical challenges with onward movement, as well as from aforementioned security incidents, have caused intermittent disruptions to humanitarian-facilitated movement from Renk to Malakal since commencing on May 13, according to bilateral updates from humanitarian coordinators.

Malakal onwards: Humanitarian-facilitated onward movement of returnees continues to be conducted from Malakal to various areas of return, according to updates from humanitarian agencies, chiefly to locations in Unity and Jonglei States. The majority of onward transport has been via by boat, according to humanitarian KIs, although a smaller number have more recently been provided transport by plane to Juba and Aweil.¹³ An additional unknown number of arrivals have departed Malakal through their own means.

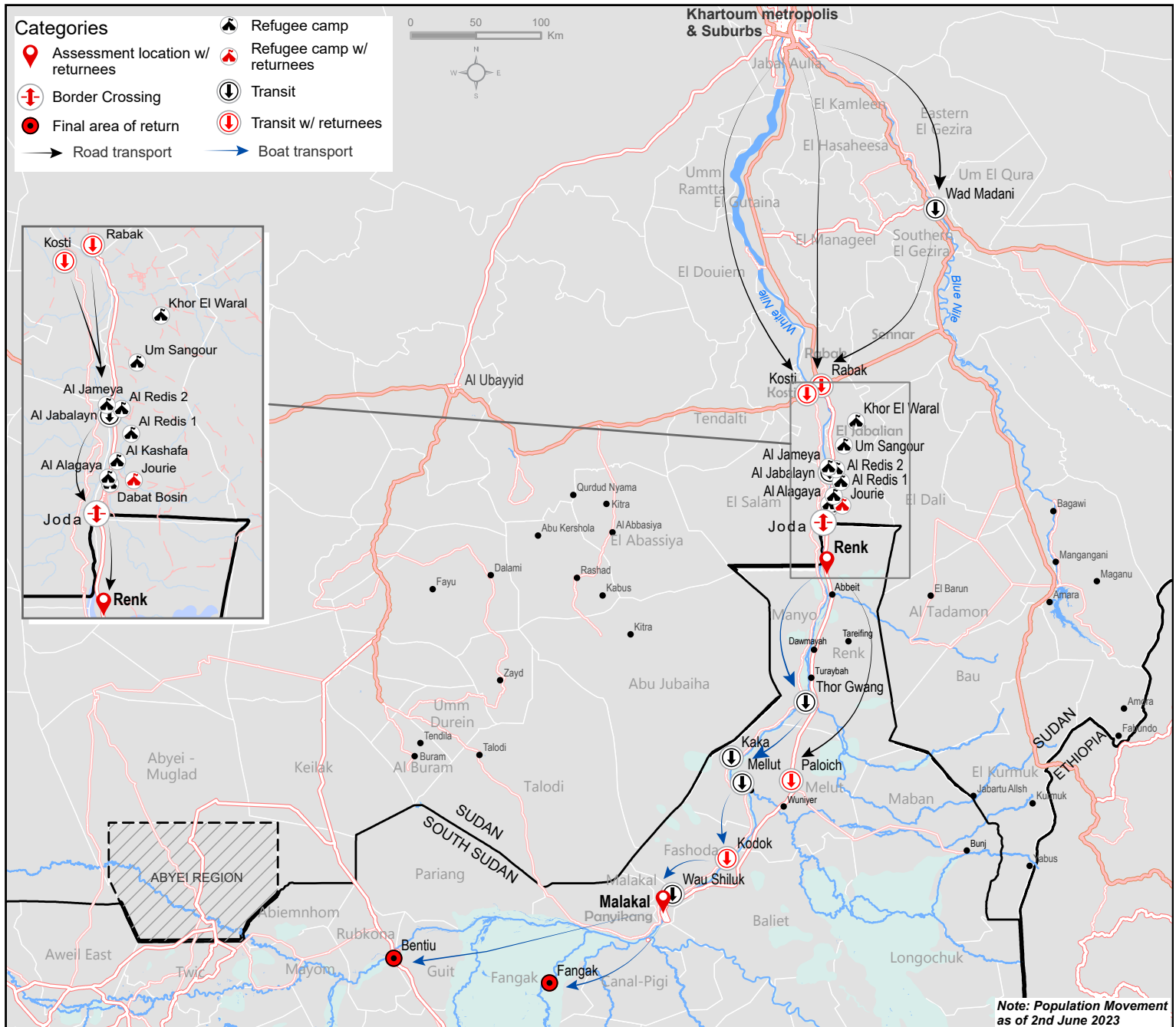
Taking into account available data on population inflows and outflows, it is likely that inflows have exceeded outflows, driving increased congestion at the Bulukat transit center, the Malakal PoC, and at informal sites in Malakal Town, compounding the burden on humanitarian organizations in Malakal to provide a growing caseload with basic services, and increasing the burden on host community households to support arrivals with food, shelter, and other resources.¹⁴

MOVEMENT BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

Movement capacity largely determined by access to cash: Nearly unanimously, returnees reported observing at various stages of their journey groups of people stranded, most commonly in Khartoum, Kosti, Rabek, Joda, and Renk. Some reported that these groups included displaced persons unable to proceed with onward movement to South Sudan.

Frequently, arrivals regarded access to cash as the most critical determinant of onward movement capacity. In Khartoum, as in various transit locations, those with cash were reportedly able to finance their journey, while those without cash, including those who had run out of cash while displacing, were unable to move. Some returnees reported needing to sell or trade assets, most commonly phones, to pay for onward travel or for passage at checkpoints. Recent arrivals in Malakal and Renk commonly described insufficient access to cash as a key

Map 1: Population movement from Khartoum to area of final return, via Renk and Malakal, as of June 2, 2023



driver of household separation, which appears to be widespread based on interviews with heads of household at Bulukat, 47% of whom reported having been separated from a household member in the process of displacing. Roughly half of arrivals reported that members of their household had remained in Khartoum due to a lack of financial resources enabling them to displace. One returnee interviewed in the Malakal PoC reported that he had departed ahead of his household in order to mobilize cash from relatives to send back so that others could follow. Refugees interviewed in Malakal stressed the importance of accessing cash as quickly as possible to finance their families' departure from areas of Khartoum that continue to experience heavy fighting and other safety concerns.

Because populations remaining in Sudan with intentions to displace may disproportionately comprise households with limited financial resources, it is probable that arrivals throughout the coming months will increasingly include poorer households who are likely to be highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs and reach their final areas of return. This would mirror trends already observed by humanitarians in Renk, who reported a sense that the initial wave of arrivals – those who arrived within the second half of April – were 'better off' than those who followed.

Serious protection incidents experienced along journeys: Roughly half of recent arrivals interviewed in Renk and Malakal reported having faced at

least one protection incident while travelling from Sudan, including beatings, shootings, sexual or gender-based violence, robberies, or harassment from armed groups. Serious protection concerns, including killings and SGBV, have been reported by other sources.¹⁵ Reports of such incidents enroute are particularly alarming given the widespread perception among arrivals that the Khartoum – Renk route was relatively safe compared to those leading to Panakuach, Abyei, Aweil, Raja, or to Chad, indicating that protection risks along such routes may be especially acute. Sudanese refugees in Malakal reported deciding to displace to South Sudan in part due to perceptions that routes from Khartoum to Chad, which bisect Darfur – a region of Sudan that has experienced heavy fighting since April – were highly insecure.¹⁶

PRIORITY NEEDS AND ACCESS TO HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Priority needs: The most commonly reported priority needs identified by heads of household at Bulukat were food assistance (82%), shelter (60%), non-food items (32%), cash (31%), and healthcare (26%), findings that were largely corroborated by qualitative interviews. Arrivals interviewed in Malakal Town and the Malakal PoC also stressed the importance of food assistance. These respondents commonly reported that rising food prices had reduced financial access to food at markets, and reported being highly dependent on relatives and community members for support. FGD and IDI participants, particularly at Bukulat, also highlighted the need for onward transportation and information about onward transportation.

Recent arrivals with origins in Malakal further highlighted a range of unique needs related to housing, land, and property. In all three FGDs or IDIs with returnees who reported having origins from Malakal, participants reported that their ancestral homes had been destroyed during the 2013–2018 conflict, and that they did not have in their possession any legal documents proving ownership of their land. These respondents commonly reported that cash assistance and land allocation would be a critical form of support enabling their reintegration, including the construction of new homes.

Challenges accessing assistance: Recent arrivals interviewed in Malakal widely reported facing challenges accessing humanitarian assistance. Eighty-two percent (82%) of heads of household at Bulukat reported having not yet received any humanitarian

assistance since arriving in Malakal, while qualitative interviews with recent arrivals in Malakal Town and the PoC confirmed that barriers to accessing assistance were widespread.

The roughly one-half of returnees interviewed in Malakal who reported arriving by road reported opting not to travel by boat because of concerns about conditions or safety, long queues, or a lack of information on facilitated transport. These individuals unanimously reported being unable to register for assistance in Malakal Town, which humanitarian service provider KIs reported was linked to challenges verifying their status as returnees from Sudan. Additional returnees in Malakal, including those arriving by boat, reported having not received assistance – food or otherwise – since arriving, including those who had been at the transit center for weeks. As of 2nd June, humanitarian KIs reported that communal shelters at the transit centre were being constructed, and food distributions of seven-day dry rations were being scaled-up.

Humanitarian KIs highlighted important considerations surrounding the provision of assistance in transit locations, raising concerns that the provision of food, shelter or NFIs, might serve as a pull-factor to already congested sites.

Difficult conditions reported during riverine travel from Renk to Malakal:

Interview participants widely reported difficult conditions along the boat journey from Renk to Malakal. Recent arrivals reported the journey had taken between two and four days, during which food was only accessible during stops in villages along the route. Weeks into their journey from Sudan, however, participants reported that access to cash was nearly or fully depleted – having paid inflated prices for transport and at checkpoints or having been robbed – and thus that financial access to markets was limited or non-existent. Many returnees reported poor WASH conditions, such as drinking water from the Nile and defecating in containers onboard overcrowded vessels. Returnees who arrived by road reported that expectations of difficult conditions were key to their decision to opt out of boat transport. Some returnees reported being unwilling to travel by boat because they were travelling with sick, elderly, or very young household members who they judged would be unable to withstand the journey's conditions. Such conditions between Renk and Malakal were corroborated by an assessment conducted by the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) in May.¹⁷

Refugees at the Malakal Mosque: Between 30 and

40 refugees were reportedly residing at the mosque in central Malakal Town as of May 30, all of whom were males between 18 and 30, and most of whom reported being students in Khartoum before the conflict. Members of the group participating in a FGD reported being unable to access assistance in Malakal Town, having reportedly been told that services for refugees are being provided in Maban, where existing camps for Sudanese refugees are located. While having reportedly been approached by humanitarian service providers about accessing facilitated movement to Maban, members of the FGD reported the desire to move to Juba, expressing that they did not have any family or support system in Maban, and regarding Juba as better option to continue their education or find work. FGD participants reported getting their food through donations from traders in town, but not having any other food or cash sources. Roughly five new refugees from Sudan were reported to be arriving at the mosque each week.

MARKETS AND ACCESS TO FOOD

The onset of fighting in Sudan corresponds with drastic price increases of basic commodities at markets across many South Sudanese counties.¹⁸ In Malakal, the JMMI recorded a 73% and 18% increase of the MSSMEB – an indicator representing the cost of the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person household for one month – at the Malakal PoC and Malakal Town markets, respectively, between April and May.¹⁹ Two FGDs with trade union representatives found that price increases were driven by the disruption of supply chains from Sudan to South Sudan, decreased activity of Sudanese importers, and the continued devaluation of the SSP,²⁰ which decreased by 40% between May 31st and the beginning of 2023.²¹ Prior to 15th April, Upper Nile State marketplaces, including those in Renk and Malakal, were reported by trade union representatives to have sourced most commodities from Sudan, and a small proportion from other locations, including Juba and Ethiopia. Since April, however, supply line disruptions and decreased activity of Sudanese suppliers have forced wholesalers to increasingly source commodities from Juba, which reportedly incurs greater transport costs due to the high number of checkpoints along the Nile,²² further driving up the price of goods.

Nearly unanimously, FGD participants in Malakal reported a high reliance on markets to access food and basic amenities. For the host community, access to traditional livelihoods such as livestock rearing and crop cultivation were reported to have decreased over recent years due to recurring shocks, including

Figure 1: Average price of staple food items in Malakal Town and Malakal PoC markets (SSP), between Oct 2022 and May 2023; Source: REACH, JMMI

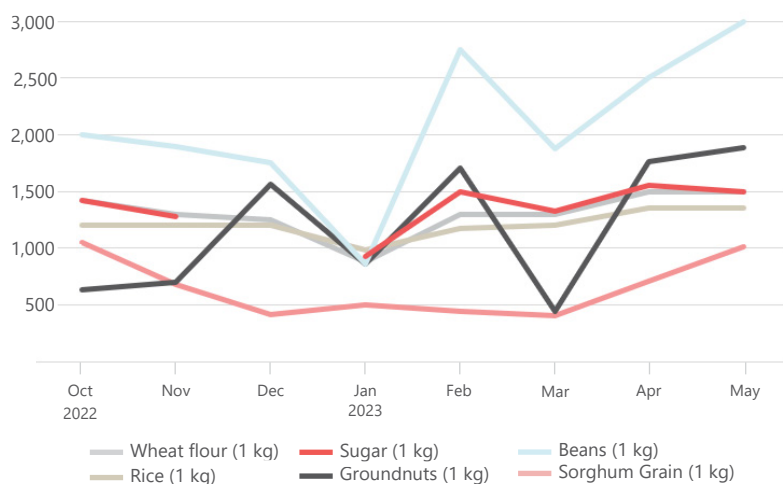
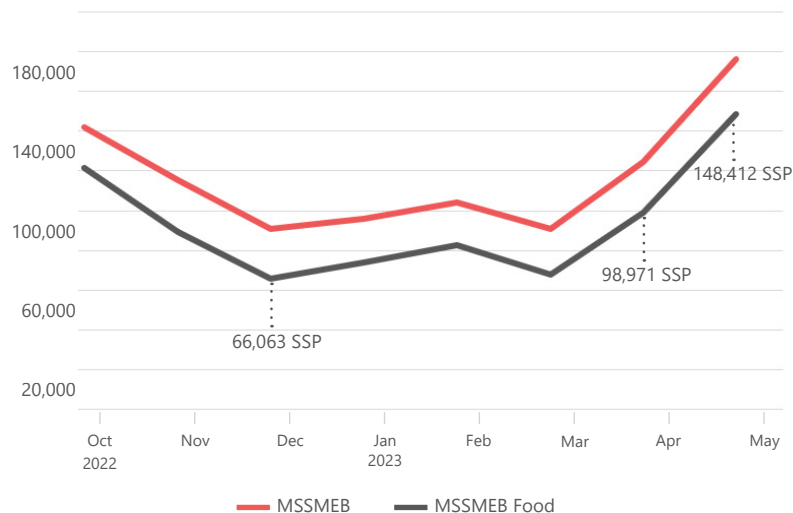


Figure 2: Cost of MSSMEB in Malakal Town and Malakal PoC markets (SSP), between Oct 2022 and May 2023; Source: REACH, JMMI



flooding, conflict, and displacement. Participants in all three FGDs with members of the host community reported that large-scale returns had put additional pressure on the resources of households who were struggling to fulfil their basic needs prior to the April population influx. Host community members further expressed perceptions that they were disadvantaged in accessing humanitarian food assistance despite having similar levels of needs to displaced groups residing in the PoC and within informal sites.

The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) projected that between April and July 2023, 80% of Malakal’s population would be acutely food insecure (P3+), indicating that the majority of the population was expected to be unable to meet their food consumption needs without resorting to erosive consumption

or livelihood coping strategies.²² This proportion encompasses 30% of the population projected to experience “emergency” levels of food insecurity (P4), reflective of large food consumption gaps, elevated rates of acute malnutrition, and reliance on emergency coping strategies. Such projections, however, were made prior to the April fighting in Sudan, not taking into account the large-scale population influx, ongoing disease outbreaks, and the deterioration in market conditions, suggesting that actual food insecurity levels may be more severe than projected.

RISKS AND PROJECTIONS FOR JUNE-DECEMBER

High tensions between groups: Incidents between groups in and around Malakal will remain a primary risk in the coming months, as sites are likely to remain congested, households will increasingly struggle to meet their basic needs, and the risk of a resumption in fighting between armed groups in Upper Nile State remains high, according to some experts.²⁴

In Malakal, population inflows take place against a backdrop of unresolved grievances left over from the 2013-2018 crisis, including the large-scale displacement of groups from their homes, the majority of whom remain displaced to date - residing largely in the PoC and in refugee camps abroad - and the resettlement of those lands by communities from neighboring counties.²⁵ Intercommunal tensions in Malakal were stoked in the second half of 2022 by heavy fighting between August and December 2022 - chiefly in Panyikang and Fashoda counties - that displaced roughly 40,000 people, more than half to Malakal.²⁶

Such tensions resulted in widespread fighting between groups residing in the PoC (est. population 44,438 as of 28th May) on 8th June, resulting in the death of at least 20 people and the large scale displacement of the site’s residents.²⁷ While there are no strong indications of causal connections between population inflows to Malakal and the June fighting, such events reflect the challenges associated with Malakal’s use as a transit location and indicate that returnees to Malakal are arriving to an area where intercommunal relations are likely to present a major obstacle to personal security and reintegration.²⁸

Difficulties with reintegration, accessing livelihoods, and meeting basic needs in areas of return: Assessment findings suggest that many

recent arrivals in Renk and Malakal intend on continuing onwards to a final destination, often to areas they or their family lived in prior to the Sudanese/South Sudanese crises. Many of these areas are extremely food insecure, have undergone repeated bouts of severe flooding since 2019, and experience chronic safety and security challenges, particularly locations in Greater Upper Nile - such as Fangak and Rubkona counties - which have both recorded returns since April.²⁹ Many returnees reported occupying blue-collar jobs in Sudan, including as housekeepers, cleaners, cooks, or manual laborers, and some expressed concern about being able to access similar opportunities in their area of return, where cultivation or cattle rearing are likely to be the more common livelihood opportunities.

Already, the exceptional challenges some populations will face in their areas of return are apparent. In one area of return, Fangak county, a joint agency initial rapid needs assessment (IRNA) conducted in May reported that “generally, food security among returnees is worse [than the host community] because the livelihood of the whole community depends on humanitarian assistance,” which the report specifies returnees had not yet been registered to receive.³⁰ The same IRNA reported that returnees from Khartoum “don’t know the area,” and have thus been unable to access basic services, such as healthcare. Needs for these groups are likely to be especially acute given that, in much of Greater Upper Nile, their arrival corresponds with the onset of the peak lean season, during which food availability will be at an annual low and communal coping capacity minimal. A follow-up assessment conducted in early June found that recent arrivals to Fangak had largely integrated into the host community but had not yet received any humanitarian assistance, depending on support from acquaintances and relatives already experiencing severe needs and emergency levels of food insecurity,³¹ and putting additional burden on humanitarian agencies to scale-up food assistance.³² Further, the number of arrivals to these areas are likely to be higher than reflected by population flow monitoring, given the reportedly high usage of informal border crossing points, and non-humanitarian-facilitated movement modalities.³³ Other anecdotal sources suggest similar service gaps may be occurring elsewhere.³⁴

Increased public health risk at transit sites: Public health risks are likely to increase at transit sites with the onset of rains, which began in June and are expected to continue through much of 2023. Rains are likely to drive deteriorated WASH conditions

at sites, increasing the risk posed by the spread of water-borne diseases and malaria. Disease outbreaks are ongoing in both Malakal and Renk; an outbreak of cholera was declared in Malakal in March 2023, while an outbreak of measles was declared in Renk in June.³⁵ Vaccination campaigns and disease surveillance in both areas are ongoing.

Arrivals to Upper Nile State likely to continue:

Assessment findings suggest that arrivals to Upper Nile State are likely to continue throughout the end of 2023, with a large number expected to enter South Sudan through the Joda/Wunthow border crossing. The road from Khartoum to Renk is reportedly paved, meaning the onset of rains is unlikely to significantly stem the flow of arrivals through the Joda border crossing. Other factors could trigger an precipitous increase in the number of arrivals to Upper Nile, chiefly the spread fighting to White Nile State, Sudan, or the deterioration of living conditions there, where as many as 450,000 South Sudanese refugees may be currently residing, many if not most of whom are originally from Upper Nile State.³⁶

ENDNOTES

1. UNMISS. [“UNMISS Calls for Immediate Halt to Deadly Fighting in Malakal UN Protection Site.”](#) June 8, 2023; UNMISS. [“UNMISS Urges Malakal PoC Community Leaders to Address Root Causes of Violence.”](#) June 11, 2023; Reuters. [“Fighting kills at least 20 in South Sudan displaced peoples camp, medical-aid group says.”](#) 9 June 2023.
2. IPC. [“South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October - November 2022 and Projections for December 2022 - March 2023 and April - July 2023.”](#) October 2022.
3. UNHCR and IOM. [Population Movement Dashboard.](#) Accessed 14 June, 2023.
4. Ibid.
5. South Sudan Protection Cluster. [“Internal displacement in Malakal Town.”](#) March 2023
6. UN-OCHA. “Upper Nile Flash Update No. 1.” December 2022.
7. Reuters. [“Fighting kills at least 20 in South Sudan displaced peoples camp, medical-aid group says.”](#) 9 June 2023.
8. Bilateral updates from humanitarian coordinators. 9 June 2023.
9. UNHCR. [“Refugee Camp Profile: Overview of Refugee Camps and Facilities in Sudan.”](#) November 2020.
10. Protection criteria include: A. Older persons without family support; B. Single women or girls; C. Single parents with more than two children; D. Individuals with disabilities; E. Unaccompanied and separated children; F. Persons with serious medical or psychological conditions. Note: These criteria are not exhaustive and UNHCR maintains sub-criteria to assess vulnerability as necessary.
11. Calculated by converting the cumulative reported cost in Sudanese Pounds and South Sudanese Pounds (June 8th). In many instances, the cost of travel per person was difficult to calculate because households often travelled together and pooled money to pay for vehicle rentals, but were unsure of the number of people in their group. Further, this total may fail to take into account the value of assets traded or fees paid at checkpoints, and as such may underestimate the total cost.
12. UNHCR and IOM. [Population Movement Dashboard.](#) Accessed 14 June, 2023.
13. IOM South Sudan. [Facebook Post.](#) IOM reports that 100 South Sudanese returnees were provided transport by plane from Malakal to Juba. 15 June 2023.
14. While increased arrivals to the PoC were recorded throughout May and the first week of June, fighting on June 8 caused much of the PoC’s population to displace. Informal updates indicate that, as of June 12, some of those displaced are beginning to return.
15. UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, [“Civilians bear devastating brunt of fighting in Sudan: UN experts.”](#) 11 May 2023; UN-HCR. [“Sudan violence forces South Sudanese refugees to return to country they fled.”](#) 2023; Danish Refugee Council. [“Thousands of refugees are forced to return to South Sudan as the conflict in Sudan escalates.”](#) May 2023; Türk, Volker. [“Statement Delivered at the 36th Special Session of the Human Rights Council.”](#) 11 May 2023.
16. Amnesty International. [“Sudan: New conflict escalation exacerbates 20 years of suffering for civilians in Darfur.”](#) April 2023. NPR. [“Sudan’s fighting risks reigniting war in Darfur, a site of atrocities 20 years ago.”](#) June 2023.
17. FSLC. [“FSL Cluster Meeting.”](#) June 2023
18. REACH. [JMMI South Sudan Dashboard.](#) Accessed 8 June, 2023.
19. JMMI data is collected between the 1st and 7th of every month, meaning the April to May data would reflect price changes observed between the first week of April and the first week in May, during which the fighting in Sudan began.
20. The yearly devaluation of the SSP against the USD is 108%; [JMMI South Sudan Dashboard.](#) Accessed 8 June, 2023.
21. United Nations Security Council. [“Situation in South Sudan, Report of the Secretary-General.”](#) June 2023.
22. Danish Institute for International Studies, [“Checkpoint economy: the political economy of checkpoints in South Sudan, ten years after independence.”](#) 10 December 2021.

23. 2. IPC. ["South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October - November 2022 and Projections for December 2022 - March 2023 and April - July 2023."](#) October 2022.
24. Small Arms Survey. ["Upper Nile Prepares to Return to War."](#) March 2023; VOA, ["Concerns Rise Over Looming Upper Nile Conflict."](#) February 2023.
25. CSRF. 2018. ["Housing, Land and Property, Aid and Conflict in South Sudan"](#); UN-IOM. 2021. ["Malakal PoC Brief"](#); South Sudan NGO Forum. February 2023. ["Humanitarian situation in South Sudan still not ripe to decommission PoC"](#); Craze, Joshua. ["Displaced and Immiserated: The Shilluk of Upper Nile in South Sudan's Civil War, 2014-2019."](#) September 2019.
26. UNHCR, ["Thousands displaced by escalating conflict in South Sudan's Greater Upper Nile Region,"](#) December 2022; UN-OCHA. ["Tonga Clashes Flash Update No. 2,"](#) August 2022; UN-OCHA. ["Upper Nile Flash Update No. 1,"](#) December 2022.
27. Eye Radio. ["Death toll in Malakal camp violence rise to 20."](#) 10 June 2023; Bilateral updates from humanitarian coordination agencies, 8-12 June, 2023.
28. UNMISS. ["UNMISS Urges Malakal PoC Community Leaders to Address Root Causes of Violence."](#) June 11, 2023.
29. UNHCR and IOM. [Population Movement Dashboard; IPC. "South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October – November and Projections for December 2022 – March 2023 and April – July 2023."](#) November 2022.
30. IRNA. March 2023. "Rapid Joint Assessment on Sudan War Affected 315 HHs in Tangbuon, Bab, New Fangak Payam of Fangak County." On file with REACH.
31. FSLC. ["FSL Cluster Meeting."](#) June 2023
32. FEWS NET. ["Large-scale arrival of South Sudanese returnees driving higher food assistance needs."](#) May 2023.
33. FSLC. ["FSL Cluster Meeting."](#) June 2023.
34. Radio Tamazuj. ["Hunger threatens returnees, refugees in Nyirol."](#) 18 June 2023.
35. GoSS. ["Measles Outbreak and Response Weekly Situation Update."](#) 6 June 2023; GoSS. ["Health Statement on Declaration of Cholera Outbreak in Malakal, Upper Nile State."](#) 8 March 2023.
36. UNICEF. ["White Nile State Profile."](#) 2022. This figure includes 250,000 people residing across nine refugee camps, 100,000 residing within the host community, and an additional 100,000 people who are estimated to have arrived on secondary displacement since 15 April, according to updates from a humanitarian KI in Kosti, Sudan.

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).