In July, sub-national violence persisted throughout different parts of the country, including in Pibor in Jonglei State, which remained particularly volatile, with active incidents of armed clashes by rival parties. Incidents of intercommunal clashes in Warrap State and criminality in a range of manifestations also continued across the country. Concerning the Transitional Government of National Unity, July witnessed the lapse of the deadline on the reconstitution of the legislature that had 26 July earmarked as the date of completion. On 15 July, President Salva Kiir announced the appointment of Denay Jock Chagor as Governor of Jonglei State. The appointment of a Governor for Upper Nile State remains pending and is a cause for tension between the two main parties to the agreement. The continued power vacuum has exacerbated insecurity and bureaucratic impediments within the state.
COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOM continued to carry out response activities, focusing on health screenings; risk communication and community engagement; health and hygiene promotion; WASH/Infection, Prevention, and Control; and displacement tracking. In addition, IOM continued its active participation in various COVID-19 coordination fora, including the Strategic Advisory Group, National Task Force, COVID-19 National Steering Committee meetings, State Task Forces, and Technical Working Groups, including continuing its role as Co-lead of the Points of Entry (POE) Technical Working Group.

IOM WASH teams continued the construction of handwashing facilities and handwashing stations to enhance COVID-19 prevention at the community level, with a cumulative total of 13 handwashing facilities (1,000L each), 16 handwashing stations (500L each), and 591 handwashing stands (20L each) built since April 2020 in Juba, Wau, Twic, and Malakal and Bentiu PoC sites. A total of 355,259 individuals benefitted from these handwashing facilities in July. The teams also conducted WASH NFI distributions in Twic, Wau, and Bentiu PoC for 13,270 households, and continued COVID-19 awareness and hygiene promotion activities in Bentiu and Malakal PoCs, as well as outside the PoCs in Wau, Twic, Magwi, and Juba, benefiting 378,910 individuals in July.

With the support of IOM’s MHPPS, CCCM, and TRU teams, 18,801 reusable face masks were produced by displaced communities and local organizations in Wau, Bentiu, Malakal, and Abyei Administrative Area.

IOM DTM teams continued to conduct weekly monitoring of COVID-19 restrictions and measures and the impact they have on IDPs and migrants across 87 airports, land border points, and internal transit points and areas. DTM is also monitoring population movement and COVID-19 preparedness measures at transit sites and border crossings. Through the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR), a total of 30,633 surveys were conducted, capturing information on individual journeys across 30 flow monitoring points in the country. DTM facilitated a virtual geographical prioritization workshop for the COVID-19 POE Technical Working Group (TWG) led by the Ministry of Health.

In Unity, IOM Camp Management (CM) continued to participate in the state-level Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Working Group led by the Ministry of Health. IOM supports the RCCE TWG to update ongoing COVID-19 messaging and community engagement activities, as well as to identify information gaps. In Bentiu and Wau PoC sites, Camp Management continued to educate the PoC community about COVID-19 infection, prevention, and control measures, and engage community members through Focus Group Discussions to track rumours and understand their perceptions and concerns, to inform the risk communication analysis led by IOM CM in co-leading the Communication and Community Engagement Working Group Working Group.

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

A total of 7,611 individuals received MHPPS services in Wau, Malakal, and Bentiu in July. In addition, IOM MHPPS teams continued to establish regional MHPPS hotlines to increase remote access to MHPPS services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and IOM established a partnership with the Ministries of Health and Environment at the national and sub-national levels to host the MHPPS hotlines on their premises in Bentiu and Wau towns. The first round of training for hotline staff was conducted in Malakal to prepare for the provision of remote MHPPS services, while teams at other field locations will commence training shortly. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, IOM expanded its field operations by bringing MHPPS services closer to IDPs and conflict-affected communities residing in Rubkona and Malakia in Malakal. In addition, capacity building trainings continued with community leadership structures to enable community-driven support and sensitization on MHPPS considerations during COVID-19. In Wau, the capacity building of social workers continued through consultation meetings and awareness raising on prevention and management of cases at-risk of suicide.

LOGISTICS

1,295 metric tons of humanitarian cargo delivered this month

37 humanitarian organisations supported

10,048 metric tons of humanitarian cargo transported this year
CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM Camp Management (CM) and UNMISS Relief, Reintegration, and Protection (RRP) supported a community-led Sector and Block Leaders’ selection process in Bentiu PoC that resulted in the successful appointment and inauguration of 192 new leaders. Similarly, 24 new Community High Committee (CHC) leaders were selected to replace leaders that had completed their six months non-renewable tenure, in a process overseen by IOM CM and UNMISS RRP. In response to increased malaria cases in Bentiu PoC, CM participated in WHO-led ad-hoc Task Force meetings to discuss malaria contingency planning, response and support, particularly through the provision of malaria risk communication. To enhance malaria surveillance, CM temporarily re-allocated the Youth Center and CCCM office to allow Health partners to use these sites as Malaria points. In Agok Collective Center, site management was handed over to the community following a CCCM response to support self-management structures and to enhance coordination and communication mechanisms. In Malakal, Bentiu, and Wau PoC sites, IOM Care and Maintenance teams continued to implement site upkeep works to reduce the risk of flooding in the PoC sites.

CCCM CLUSTER

As part of the Humanitarian Project Cycle process to develop a Cluster Strategy and Response Plan for 2021, the CCCM Cluster conducted the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) through an online partner satisfaction survey to gauge the quality and accountability of the Cluster to its partners. The findings of the survey indicated a significant improvement in the performance of the Cluster. However, the survey found that many partners feel that the Cluster has not adequately provided clarity on the site typologies that the Cluster utilizes in South Sudan. The Cluster recognizes the need to address this and this has been included in the Cluster Strategy for 2020-2021. In addition, the Cluster will arrange a virtual meeting for partners to discuss the site typologies in detail. The survey results also highlighted the need for the Cluster to improve capacity building for partners, which the Cluster is working to address.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

In partnership with the Government of South Sudan’s Technical Taskforce to Counter Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, IOM launched a report titled, Trafficking in Persons in South Sudan: Prevalence, Challenges, and Responses, on 29 July. The report is the first dedicated study concerning the situation of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in South Sudan. It aims to determine the prevalence of trafficking in the country, including the pull and push factors of TIP, and provides evidence-based recommendations to strengthen South Sudan’s national TIP response to bring about necessary reforms. The recommendations include acceding to the United Nations Convention Against Organized Crime Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as to strengthen the capacities of South Sudan’s government in identifying victims of trafficking and ensuring assistance is provided.

MIGRATION HEALTH

IOM continued to provide primary health care services in eight static and five mobile health facilities in Rubkona, Wau, Kajo-Keji and Malakal counties, attaining the following results:

- 47,824 individuals received outpatient consultations
- 36,573 individuals reached with health promotion messages
- 881 children received measles vaccinations
- 288 deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants

IOM continued to provide HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services for key populations in various locations and continued COVID-19 response activities. Due to a sharp rise in malaria incidence rates in Bentiu, IOM established one mobile malaria treatment post to supplement the services provided in the existing health facilities. The IOM Rapid Response Team (RRT) mission in Kajo Keji also continued, supporting three health facilities in hard to reach areas of Kinyiba, Jalimo, and Bori. In July, the RRT conducted 1,805 outpatient consultations, reached 1,759 persons with health promotion messages, and provided antenatal care for 97 mothers.
RAPID RESPONSE FUND

With support from the USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, RRF’s partners continued with closeout activities in preparation for the current award’s closing. RRF WASH and Health projects focused on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, reaching over 200,000 persons, and produced 222,000 masks for distribution to vulnerable persons in high-risk areas, including Juba, Kapoeta East, Yei, Fashoda, Bor South, Nimule, Terekeka, Wau, and Raja. All other projects incorporated COVID-19-related precautions for their staff and beneficiaries into daily activities and messaging. RRF partner Women Aid Vision focused on GBV prevention in Adior and Malek, reaching 2,500 women and girls through community protection committees. In addition, 18 service providers were trained in GBV case management and psychosocial support. In Maban, RRF food security and livelihood partner Action Africa Help International distributed 15,000 livelihood kits across four payams. RRF is continuing to prepare for the new award roll-out, coordinating with external partners and preparing for new programming in the coming months.

LOCATION OF RRF PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Legend

- Counties with ongoing RRF funded projects

Project Activities*

- Create community awareness on prevention and control of COVID-19
- NFI assistance
- Provision of basic WASH Services
- Protection / GBV

* For details on projects and targets please contact RRF South Sudan at RRFSouthSudan@iom.int.
IOM Pipeline processed 28 approved requests for the benefit of approximately 42,512 households in 18 counties. In addition, 14 requests were processed for seven S-NFI partners for the benefit of approximately 20,172 households in nine counties. IOM Pipeline continued its vital support to the COVID-19 response, providing partners with critical WASH items, such as soap, buckets with tap for handwashing, buckets without tap for household water storage, Aquatabs for household water treatment, and chlorine for communal handwashing facilities. Of the 28 WASH requests processed, nine requests from five WASH partners were for COVID-19 responses in Fangak, Juba, Rumbek, Terekeka, and Malakal counties. IOM continued prepositioning at key logistic hub locations, that are still accessible by road transportation, ensuring the uninterrupted provision of supplies for S-NFI and WASH responses during the rainy season. IOM Pipeline transported 76.1 metric tons of supplies for prepositioning to logistics hubs in Rumbek, Bor, and Wau.

**SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM), IOM trained 56 MHADM staff in Juba on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures. IOM and partners, in coordination with State Focal Points in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal, supported 1,500 households displaced from Wunlit and Ananatk Payams in Tonj East county. In addition, 1,851 households (10,847 individuals) in Pieri Uror County in Jonglei were provided with plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and kangs. The IOM S-NFI team also completed verification and identification of the most vulnerable conflict-affected household in Tonj South, with 2,500 households to be assisted. S-NFI teams also conducted a needs analysis in Tingili, Lokiriri County, Central Equatoria, for an estimated 850 households in need of S-NFI assistance. In Wau, IOM S-NFI completed a shelter assessment and rehabilitated 211 communal shelters for 638 households in the PoC AA and 81 individual shelters in the Hai Masna Collective site. In addition, 315 beneficiaries in the PoC AA and 40 beneficiaries in Hai Masna Collective Site were identified for a cash-for-work project in the PoC AA. IOM’s Housing, Land & Property team finalized the development of an extensive community training curriculum while aiding and educating 111 individuals (57 male and 54 female) on their HLP rights.

**S-NFI CLUSTER**

The S-NFI Cluster assisted 58,024 individuals with emergency shelter and non-food items, bringing the total number of individuals supported by the Cluster in 2020 to 682,202 individuals, representing 67% of its target in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan. In July, Cluster partners conducted 14 assessments, 11 distributions, and two post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys. In coordination with the Health Cluster, S-NFI Cluster partners are constructing two COVID-19 case management centres; one in Wau Primary Health Care Unit and one in Malakal Town.

**WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE**

IOM continued to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to over 136,932 IDPs in Bentiu, Malakal, and Wau PoC sites. Outside the PoCs, IOM completed the manual drilling of two boreholes in Juba, as well as the distribution of 460 WASH NFI sets in Magwi and Wau, ensuring that an estimated 500 individuals were provided with access to safe drinking water supply facilities. The WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPnR) team undertook two missions to respond to displacement in Tonj South and Tonj East in Warrap State, and Arun Junction in Central Equatoria State. To support the COVID-19 response, IOM continued to maintain 615 handwashing stations in Malakal PoC, Bentiu PoC, Wau PoC, Wau, Twic, Juba, and Magwi. IOM also continued to conduct COVID-19 awareness raising and hygiene promotion activities through a network of 271 community hygiene promoters, reaching 378,910 individuals in Bentiu PoC, Malakal PoC, Wau, Twic, Juba, and Magwi in July.
Following the release of the Mobility Tracking Round 8 data, DTM began work on producing state-level summaries for government and humanitarian partners, while data collection for Round 9 commenced across the country. Throughout July, the Flow Monitoring Registry (FMR) surveyed 30,633 individual journeys, of which 13,236 were undertaken by female travellers and migrants. DTM also continued to monitor population movement and COVID-19 preparedness measures at transit sites and border crossings. DTM facilitated a virtual geographical prioritization workshop for the COVID-19 POE TWG led by the Ministry of Health. Using data available from FMR, Displacement Site Flow Monitoring (DSFM), and Mobility Restriction Monitoring (MRM), an analysis of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on mobility patterns was presented during the workshop. Results were contextualized with inputs from operational partners. Through a combination of remote sensing analysis and field assessment data, DTM teams also finalized the verification of urban enumeration areas for Juba. A similar process is ongoing in Wau, where field data collection was completed in July. While biometric authentication remains on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, teams continued to share data for beneficiary verification to facilitate food distributions. Partner requests to verify and issue cards at Juba PoC 1, Masna Collective

In the Abyei Administrative Area, IOM continued supporting the production of COVID-19 face masks. A total of 15 women social mobilizers selected to support distribution of local cloth masks received a training-of-trainers (ToT) session on COVID-19 prevention strategies. By the end of July, over 6,000 face masks have been produced and distributed to the most vulnerable communities in Abyei. In addition, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, IOM supported a farming group consisting of 25 beneficiaries in Abyei with the ploughing of eight acres of land and distributed simple farm inputs. In addition, rehabilitation works for three water yards were completed, while the construction of a vocational training center is ongoing. In Wau, IOM supported Community Based Facilitators to conduct COVID-19 awareness and Functional Adult Literacy activities through home visits. IOM also continued supervising and mentoring 15 women livelihoods groups in Bussere and Bazia Jedid in Wau. IOM supported 25 beneficiaries in the production of 900 face masks through a cash for work modality in the communities of Lokoloko and Jebel Kheir.

In partnership with a local partner, IOM conducted three radio talk shows focusing on the roles of youth in response to COVID-19. Additionally, two community theatre shows were organized with IOM support to provide marginalized youth with a platform to share their experiences through drama and songs.
PROTECTION/GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In July, the IOM Protection team conducted a protection needs assessment in the Tingili IDP settlement in Lokiri County, Central Equatoria, to determine the nature of the protection environment and IDP needs. The assessment identified a lack of health services, S-NFI materials, sanitary items, and WASH materials, and issues of child abduction, insecurity, sexual violence, revenge killing, child recruitment, and absence of general food distribution services. In collaboration with IOM’s MMU team, the Protection team conducted an assessment of child trafficking and the protection environment in Majokythiu and Kirradem in Aweil. The assessment identified cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, revenge killing, child marriage, and intercommunal fighting. IOM’s Protection team also facilitated the production of a sign language film with COVID-19 messages for persons with hearing impairment in Juba. IOM and implementing partner Active Youth Agency (AYA) conducted a 12-day training course for 17 men and women Engaging Men through Accountable Practices (EMAP) facilitators, in order to equip them with relevant knowledge and skills to roll-out the second phase of EMAP activities in their respective communities over the next five months. As part of community awareness-raising in Juba, AYA reached 1,006 community members with messages about food hygiene, sharing roles at home, physical violence. At the women and girls friendly space in Juba, AYA also continued to engage 166 women and girls in skills-building sessions. During the sessions, participants also received awareness raising messages about sexual harassment at water points, food hygiene, and COVID-19 preventive measures.

IOM, Government of South Sudan Launch the First-ever Trafficking in Persons Report

Today the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Government of South Sudan launched the Trafficking in Persons in South Sudan: Prevalence, Challenges and Responses. The report is the first dedicated study into Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in South Sudan conducted by IOM and Technical Task Force to Counter Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, aimed to determine the prevalence of trafficking in the country, the pull and push factors of TIP and to provide evidence-based recommendations to strengthen South Sudan’s national TIP response and bring about necessary reforms.

Inadequate capacity within government to tackle trafficking coupled with governance challenges have meant traffickers often exploit the vulnerable and go unpunished. Forced recruitment into armed forces and armed groups, forced marriage, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation particularly among women and children, as well as labour exploitation are some of the most prevalent forms of trafficking in South Sudan. “Human trafficking transcends borders and therefore, shared global commitments and efforts should be the cornerstone towards successfully tackling these heinous activities,” said IOM South Sudan’s Chief of Mission, Jean-Philippe Chauzy.

The report is made available through the generous funding from the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID). The full report is available here.