

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Sudan first implemented the global Mobility Tracking (MT)¹ methodology in 2019 with the objective of updating displacement figures more frequently, comprehensively, systematically and at regular intervals. Recent and ongoing operational expansion has highlighted the need for methodological clarification between the objectives of the MT and Registration methodologies in Sudan. Repeated MT rounds allow for comparative analysis, data refinement and operational expansion for broadened geographical coverage. In anticipation of upcoming MT round reports, the following report provides a comparative overview between DTM Sudan's Registration and MT methodologies, focusing on implementation and frequency, as well as justification for the expected increases and/or fluctuations in displacement figures over upcoming data collection rounds due to population growth, population movement and new displacement.

METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

REGISTRATION DEFINED

Registration data is collected by DTM field teams through direct individual interviews in the target locations, usually with the heads of households. It meets specific data needs for beneficiary selection, vulnerability targeting and programming. Registration is done upon request and data is shared with partners by means of data sharing agreements. Since 2004, DTM Sudan has provided rapid emergency registrations with a priority of meeting immediate information needs to guide joint assessments for emergency and humanitarian response. In 2010, DTM expanded to include biometric registrations and data verification.

MOBILITY TRACKING DEFINED

MT utilises key informant networks to systematically track mobility in locations of interest over consistent data collection rounds. Enumerators revisit each location and interview key informants to update and verify population presence on a quarterly basis. Through MT, DTM produces an evidence base for strategy and programme design and development, humanitarian coordination, and joint funding appeals, as well as informing operational response planning to protect, assist and advocate on behalf of vulnerable and displaced populations in Sudan.

		REGISTRATION	MOBILITY TRACKING
OBJECTIVE	MT provides a systematic evidence base while Registration meets specific data needs	✓	✓
PURPOSE	MT supports cross-cutting programmatic planning on a state/national level while Registration supports beneficiary selection for direct humanitarian assistance on a location level	✓	✓
FREQUENCY	MT revisits locations quarterly to provide regular updates while Registration is done upon request from government or humanitarian partners	✗	✓
ACCURACY	Registration provides exact figures through direct individual interviews while MT provides best estimates through key informant interviews	✓	✗
FINANCES	MT can be done both time and cost effectively, while more resources are required for Registration activities	✗	✓
NETWORK	MT utilizes a wide network of key informants to provide updates while Registration is done through direct individual interviews	✗	✓
SCOPE	MT regularly updates all geographic locations while Registration is done in requested locations	✗	✓
VERIFICATION	Registration can be implemented to accurately verify population data in specific locations while MT provides best estimates through triangulation ²	✓	✗
COMPARISON	MT allows for comparative analysis of data over time while Registration data becomes outdated	✗	✓
SPEED	MT data can be updated quickly while Registration data serves specific purposes	✗	✓

1 DTM Sudan's MT figures have been endorsed by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and will be used to inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) going forward.

2 Triangulation refers to triple verification done by interviewing at least three key informants for best estimates.

MOVING FROM ROUND ZERO TO ROUND ONE

REGISTRATION

In October 2019, DTM published its Mobility Tracking Round Zero report to provide an overview of all verified registrations conducted previously between 2010-2019, and a baseline for MT activities.

Registration data was collected across seven states namely, North, East, South, West and Central Darfur, as well as South and West Kordofan. It covered 57 localities and 473 identified locations, where an estimated total of 2,086,934 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were registered over the ten-year period.³

- **2,086,934 IDPs registered (2010-2019)**
- **473 IDP locations**
- **Locations are mainly IDP camps**

MOBILITY TRACKING

Commencing in November 2019, DTM Sudan expanded its operations to implement MT. DTM carried out data collection over a two-month period, concluding in mid-January.

MT was conducted across an initial seven states namely, North, East, South, West and Central Darfur, as well as South and West Kordofan. Round One covered 69 localities and 740 identified locations, identifying 2,399,433 IDPs. This represents an increase of 312,499 IDPs (15%) since Round Zero.

- **2,399,433 IDPs tracked (November-January 2020)**
- **740 IDP locations**
- **New locations include villages, neighbourhoods & camps**

UNDERSTANDING THE INCREASE IN DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

REGISTRATION

- **Outdated data: Almost 60% of registration data are more than five years old**
- **Projected 41% population growth over the past decade**

Upon disaggregating the total number of IDPs by the year in which they were registered, almost 60 per cent were last registered in 2015 or later. For more information, please refer to Chart 1. Consequently, registration data for at least 1,211,750 IDPs is outdated by more than five years (registration being a one-off activity), as populations continue to move, and local dynamics change.

Furthermore, 41 per cent of IDPs were under the age of 18 at the time of registration (856,074 individuals) and would likely now be adults, possibly with children of their own and resulting in an increase to the total population count.

The Sudanese population growth rate has been 41 per cent over the past decade (2008-2018)⁴. Assuming that this trend continues over the next decade, the IDP population is anticipated to rise in tandem.

MOBILITY TRACKING

- **Regularly updated data through repeated data collection rounds**
- **Increasing geographic coverage and expansion**

MT data collection, in contrast, provides regularly updated snapshots through repeated data collection rounds. Field teams continue to revisit all identified locations and interview key informants to update locations and verify population presence on a quarter-yearly basis – ensuring updates are communicated regularly and remain reflective of evolving dynamics in Sudan.

With registration data becoming quickly outdated and displaced populations continuing to grow (in accordance with Sudan's projected population growth), it is important to also acknowledge that the greatest proportion of displacement in the country is protracted (ongoing for more than five years).

According to MT Round One⁵, an estimated 1,527,807 IDPs (64%) were initially displaced between 2003 and 2010 at the height of the Darfur crisis and an estimated 755,831 IDPs (31%) were displaced between 2011-2017. In comparison, 76,416 IDPs (3%) were newly displaced in 2018 and 39,379 (2%) in 2019 – corresponding to the decrease in registration activities requested and observed in Round Zero.

As registration activities do not revisit sites of protracted displacement (some locations have not been updated since 2010), MT is crucial in fulfilling these subsequent information gaps and needs.

Furthermore, MT is gradually increasing its geographic scope to cover the entire country. By Round One, DTM had identified an increase of 267 IDP locations (740 locations in total) since Round Zero. The number of locations identified is expected to continue to rise as DTM expands to additional states in the east.

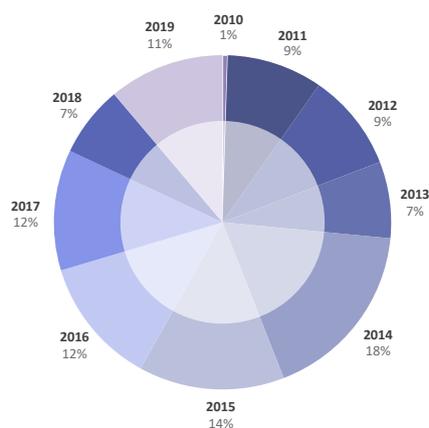


Chart 1 The total number of IDPs registered per year

³ Upon further verification, the number of IDP baseline locations has increased to 474.

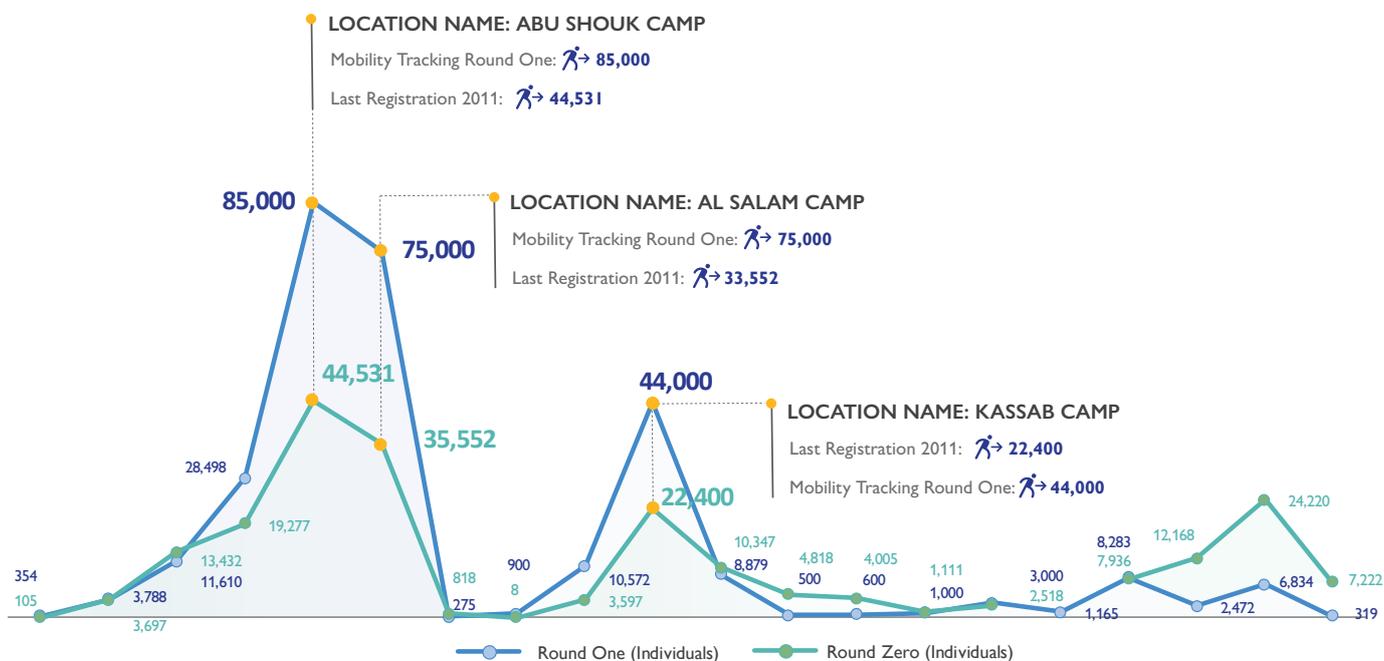
⁴ Projection data has been calculated using the Cabinet Central Bureau of Statistics' Sudan Population Data Sheet (2018).

⁵ Data collection for DTM Sudan's first round of Mobility Tracking took place over a two-month period between November 2019 and January 2020. For more information, please see the final information product <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/sudan-%E2%80%94-mobility-tracking-round-1-july-2020>.

VISUALISING THE POPULATION DIFFERENCES IN NORTH DARFUR STATE

To visualise the comparative differences between Registration and MT figures in more detail, locations visited in North Darfur under both methodologies are displayed as an example in Graph 1. A total number of 293,049 IDPs were identified across 19 locations revisited in Round One, having previously been registered in Round Zero (this total excludes the 55,084 IDPs located in 42 new locations identified since Round Zero). Furthermore, 16 old locations from Round Zero were not revisited in Round One – locations which will be reflected and updated in Round Two.

Out of the 19 locations visualised on the graph, three locations (namely, Abu Shouk camp, Al Salam camp and Kassab camp) show significant increases in their displaced caseloads. As the last registration in these camps took place as far back as 2011, subsequent population growth, new displacements and/or population movements have increased IDP figures observed through the implementation of MT – figures likely to change once again upon refinement in future MT rounds.



Graph 1 Comparison between Round Zero and Round One IDP figures for each corresponding location in North Darfur

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