



Cross-Border Population Movement Factsheet

Akobo Port and Road Monitoring

Akobo County, Jonglei State, South Sudan

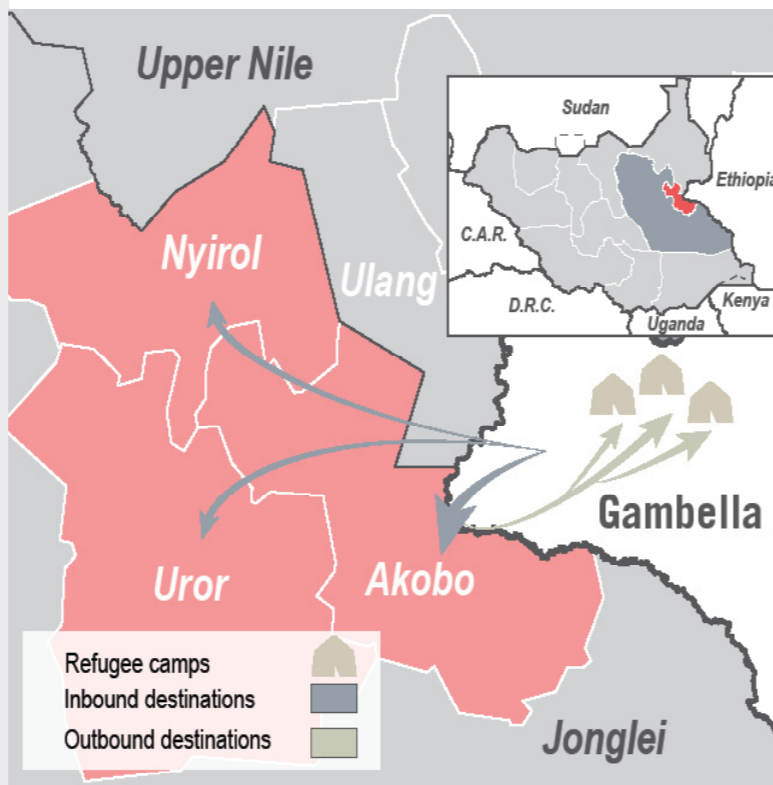
CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

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 4th and 31st of August 2020.

MAIN DESTINATIONS OF INBOUND AND OUTBOUND HHs



INBOUND TO SOUTH SUDAN

37% of inbound HHs reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination in South Sudan.

Demographics

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



78% of inbound HHs were partial HHs.⁵

Previous location in Ethiopia

Primary reported locations from which inbound HHs were leaving:

Nguenyiel Camp	25%
Jewi Camp	21%
Kule Camp	19%

Intended destination in South Sudan

Primary reported intended destinations for inbound HHs:

Akobo County	90%
Nyirol County	5%
Uror County	3%

Push factors

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

Distance from family/home	60%
Fleeing COVID-19 ⁶	11%
Lack of food	11%

Reasons for coming to South Sudan

Primary reported pull factors for inbound HHs, May 2020 to August 2020:

	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020
Rejoining family/ home	61%	74%	60%	51%
Lower perceived risk of COVID-19	14%	9%	9%	17%
Perceived availability of food	0%	0%	9%	11%

OUTBOUND FROM SOUTH SUDAN

51% of outbound HHs reported intending to **stay more than six months** in their final destination outside of South Sudan.

Demographics

Proportion of recorded travellers by demographic group:



91% of outbound HHs were partial HHs.⁵

Previous location in South Sudan

Primary reported locations from which outbound HHs were leaving:

Akobo County	86%
Nyirol County	9%
Uror County	5%

Intended destination in Ethiopia

Primary reported intended destinations for outbound HHs:

Nguenyiel Camp	29%
Jewi Camp	25%
Kule Camp	20%

Pull factors

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

Presence of food distributions	32%
Presence of education services	24%
Proximity to family/home	22%

Reasons for leaving South Sudan

Primary reported push factors for outbound HHs, May 2020 to August 2020:

	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020
Lack of food	31%	36%	34%	33%
Distance from family/home	39%	27%	23%	26%
Lack of education	3%	12%	16%	24%

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 July 2020:

	HHs	Individuals	HHs %
Inbound to South Sudan from Ethiopia	82	478	28%
Outbound to Ethiopia from South Sudan	183	1030	63%
Internal movement within South Sudan	25	119	9%

Security concerns during travel

Inbound transport		Outbound transport ³	
2	Checkpoints	3	
0	Boat is overloaded	0	
0	Armed actors	0	

Vulnerabilities

87% of total inbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁴, including:

- **48%** Breastfeeding
- **42%** Pregnant women

77% of total outbound HHs reported that at least one member of the HH had a vulnerability⁴, including:

- **47%** Breastfeeding
- **31%** Pregnant women

Notes:
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. Outbound transport focal points were asked what security concerns they anticipated on their onward journey based on historical trips.
 4. Respondents may select multiple vulnerabilities.
 5. 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.
 6. New COVID-19 indicators were added to the survey in April 2020, following the first confirmed cases of the virus in South Sudan.