

COVID-19 Preparedness & Response: Mobility Update 14 (13–26 July 2020)

Background and Methodology

DTM relies on its network of key informants and on secondary sources to provide a bi-weekly assessment of mobility and COVID-19 preparedness at priority locations in South Sudan. Table 2 on page 2 represents only points recommended by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group (PoE TWG). A more exhaustive list of entry points and displacement sites can be found here.

If you wish to share any updates or flag any errors, please do not hesitate to contact IOM DTM at southsudanDTM@iom.int.

Overview

As of 26 July 2020, the Public Health Laboratory and the UN Clinic have tested 13,423 samples. The national cumulative figure of COVID-19 cases stands at **2,305 confirmed cases**, **1,190 recoveries**, **and 46 deaths**.

The country's northern borders remain largely passable in the west while north-eastern routes remain closed. However, travellers are reported to use alternative crossing points. Official crossing points along the Ugandan border remain closed but its porous nature renders the management of migration flows challenging. Local authorities have been allowing minibuses of South Sudanese students to pass back into South Sudan through the official Nimule border as an exception.

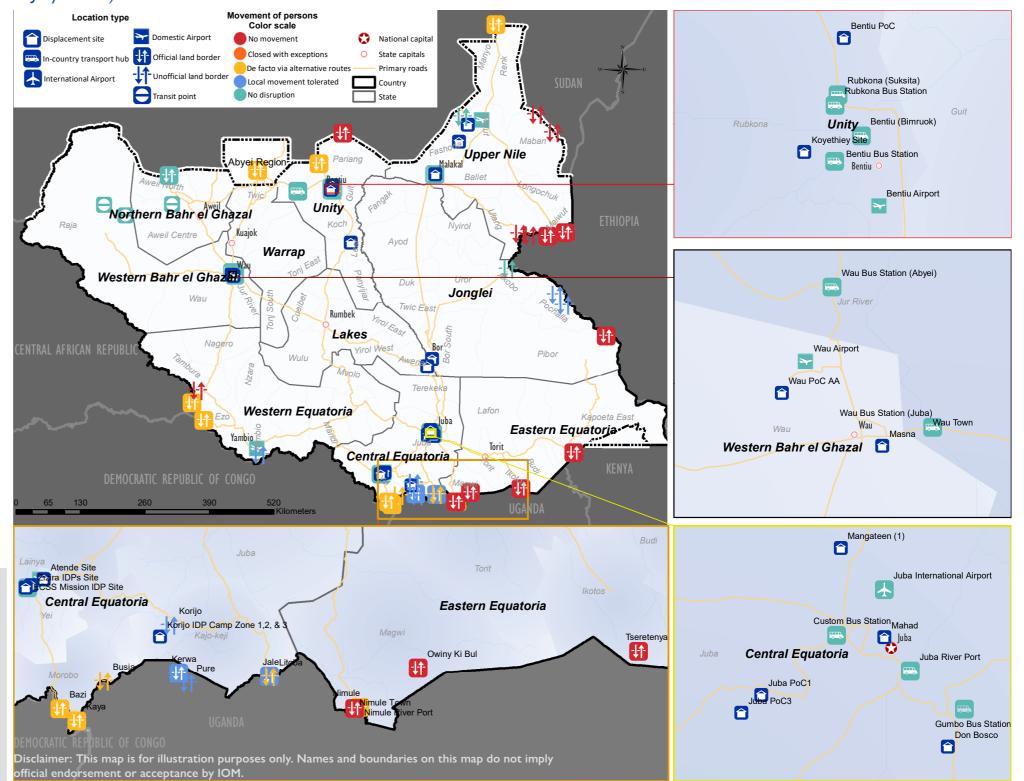
Stigma has become a major hurdle in the fight against COVID-19 as described in a recent <u>report</u> and evidenced by 11 South Sudanese <u>health workers</u>, <u>who left their positions</u> due to reasons related to social stigma.

United Nations agencies (UNICEF, and UNESCO) have pushed South Sudan to <u>reopen schools</u> arguing that the benefits would outweigh the risks of new infections and that schools have not been major drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Sudan.

Consequences of the pandemic continue to affect the country's economy as reported with regards to the <u>oil industry</u> as well as small business as reported by the example of <u>women businesses in Aweil</u>.

Key insights on countries bordering South Sudan

- SUDAN: While movements through most western routes bordering Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal have been unaffected by COVID-19 regulations, other eastern routes remain shut down with travellers using alternative smaller routes. As <u>Sudan's death toll increases</u>, the government announced it would <u>devalue the nation's currency</u> and cut fuel subsidies due to an economic crisis aggravated by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ETHIOPIA: Local authorities have been allowing local movements through Pibor and Pochalla. However, routes through the northern South Sudan / Ethiopia border remain without movements of persons or cargo apart from Akobo. Transport terminals in Addis Ababa remain congested as <u>cases have soared</u> in the second half of July 2020.
- UGANDA: Of eleven crossing points along the Ugandan border no movement of persons was registered
 for only three. Other points remain either open to local cross-border communities or have not been
 successfully shut due to the use of nearby alternative routes. As Uganda has <u>started easing some lockdown</u>
 restrictions, it has also recorded the <u>first death</u> related to the virus.
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: While borders remain closed to the movement of persons, most travellers have found alternative crossing points. The WHO warns that funding gaps have rendered a response to country's 11th <u>Ebola outbreak</u> challenging amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Source Yubu and Nabia Pai remain closed for movement of persons
 with alternative routes being used by a reduced number of persons. A <u>UNDP-led study</u> finds that <u>violence</u>
 against women in the Central African Republic has surged during the pandemic.
- KENYA: Nadapal border point remains closed for movement of persons with no alternative movements recorded as of this reporting week. Despite rising cases, budget airlines have <u>resumed flights</u> in Kenya.



Please note that coordinates are available upon request.

DTM tracked 76 locations including 18 displacement sites and 58 transportation hubs within the country and along international borders to report on COVID-19 related measures such as temperature screening and the availability of handwashing stations.

Of 18 displacement sites all were subjected to some form of risk communications and made additional handwashing stations available. Three sites (17%) screened temperatures at the gates. The movement of persons was completely stopped at 17 per cent of tracked in-country and border transit locations (10 locations). However, movement continued unhindered at 27 points (47%) with reports of alternative nearby routes being used at 10 (17%) and local movement by cross-border communities being tolerated at a further 11 locations (19%). Temperature screening was practiced at 11 locations (19%) while risk communication was made available at 76 per cent of tracked transit areas (44 locations). While handwashing stations had been constructed at 28 locations (48%), these were not put to use by travellers in all hubs.

Table 1. Mobility and preparedness assessment at selected IDP sites within South Sudan

County	Location	Туре	Population ¹	Movement Restrictions within and in/ out of the site	Average daily flow in / out (latest available data)	Approx. % overnight travel	Approx. % of out of county travel for overnight travel	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk com- munication	Comment
Rubkona	Bentiu PoC	PoC	99,052	None	11,270/10,794	54%	51%	No	Yes	Yes	There are two confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Bentiu PoC site, while two COVID related deaths have been reported. UNMISS and other partners continue to operate with minimum footprint. While plans are in place to convert a former humanitarian hub in Bentiu town to an isolation facility, MSF has operationalized an on-site isolation facility.
Malakal	Malakal PoC	PoC	27,930	None	4,688/4,732	24%	66%	No	Yes	Yes	There are 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases so far in Malakal PoC site, while one COVID related death has been reported. To establish an isolation facility, IOM provided shelter material to Malakal Hospital. The construction of an on-site isolation facility has been finalized.
Wau	Wau PoC AA	PoC AA	9,393	None	3,869/4,236	1%	93%	No	Yes	Yes	No COVID-19 cases have been registered. Isolation facilities have been established at the Al-Mukta PHCC, Mary Help PHCC, and Wau Teaching Hospital in Wau Town while on site temporary facilities are situated within the IMC and IOM clinics.
Wau	Masna	Collective centre	5,496	None	Unkn.	7%	72%	No	Yes	Yes	
Bor South	Bor PoC	PoC	1,921	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	There are no COVID-19 cases so far in Bor PoC site. Public gatherings remain limited to 10 people. Temperature screening at the PoC gate is suspended due to malfunctioning of the equipment
Juba	Juba PoC1	PoC	6,880	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	There have been 11 confirmed COVID-19 cases at Juba PoC sites (1 & 3). An onsite isolation facility is not available at PoC 1. Cases are referred to a temporary isolation unit established by IMC before being referred to the infectious disease unit in
Juba	Juba PoC3	PoC	22,778	None	Unkn.	Unkn.	Unkn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Juba. Other preparatory measures include availability of an on- site ambulance for emergency referrals and involvement of WASH committee in RCCE messaging at water points.

Table 2. Mobility and preparedness assessment at urban transport hubs and points of entry in South Sudan recommended by the Points of Entry Technical Working Group (PoETWG)

County	Location	Туре	Border to	Mvmnt of cargo as of 26 July 2020	Mvmnt of persons as of 26 July 2020	Into / out of point 2019 daily average ²	Into / out of point during reporting period daily average ²	Temper- ature Screening	Hand- washing stations	Risk communication	Isolation / quarantine area	Increased security forces	Comment
Abyei	Abyei (Amiet)	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	De facto via alternative routes	20/32	17/44	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Akobo	Akobo	Unofficial land border	ETH	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	11/17	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Aweil East	Majokyinthiou	Transit point	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	6/24	41/39	No	No	No	No	No	
Aweil North	Kiir Adem	Official land border	SDN	No disruption	No disruption	13/26	48/37	No	No	No	No	No	
Juba	Juba Intl. Airport	Intl. Airport	Inland	No disruption	No disruption	Unknown	386/NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unknown	While the airport is open for all movements of cargo and passengers, not all international flights have resumed to pre-COVID-19 schedules. Most flights operated within South Sudan only during the reporting period.
Kapoeta East	Nadapal	Official land border	KEN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	6/0	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unknown	There are hand washing stations set up at the site by the Red Cross.
Maban	Yabous	Unofficial land border	SDN	No movement	Local movement tolerated	Unknown	31/30	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Maban	Elfoj	Unofficial land border	SDN	No movement	Local movement tolerated	Unknown	37/39	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Magwi	Nimule	Official land border	UGA	No movement	De facto via alternative routes ³	124/156	382/NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Most persons crossing the official border are South Sudanese students returning from Uganda for whom an exception has been made. During the reporting period two mini buses of students entered the country per day on average.
Maiwut	Pagak	Official land border	ETH	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Maiwut	Jekow	Official land border	ETH	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Unknown	
Morobo	Kaya	Official land border	UGA	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	249/198	2/2	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Holding unit available but no isolation unit. Hand washing facility installed on 14 July 2020.
Pariang	Pantou	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Travelers still cross on foot to South Sudan during the night. The travelers cross to Panthou first then disperse to different locations from there. Some take a route to Mayom and others board cars from Panakuach/Payangay to Unity oil fields and then to Rubkona.
Pariang	Jau	Official land border	SDN	No movement	No movement	Unknown	0/0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Unknown	
Renk	Wunthaw	Official land border	SDN	No movement	De facto via alternative routes	Unknown	0/0	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Rubkona	Rubkona Suksita	In-country transport hub	Inland	No movement	No disruption	9/28	707/594	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	This internal transit point is used by IDPs from Bentiu PoC site. It is a bus terminal for different internal locations within Rubkona and to other locations beyond Rubkona / Bentiu town such as Mayom, Unity Oil fields, Lalob / Rotriak, Panakuach. Handwashing facilities were installed by UNICEF/CWW.

South Sudan

COVID-19 Timeline (main events)

High Level Task Border Closure Force

The Government South Sudan establishes the High Level Task Force on COVID-19 led by The First Vice President Dr. Riak Machar.

South Sudan closes al airports and seals land for passengers Curfew across country fron 8.00PM to 6.00AM. Public institutions working half time. First suspected case of COVID-19 tested negative.

Quarantine Escape

Over 500 South Sudan described nationals as returnees escape quarantine in Renk, set up at a secondary school after arriving from Sudan.

Closing of Wau Collective Centres

The Diocesan Maior Response Team on COVID-19 to close several Wau collective centres. As of 12 April 2020, Nazareth, Cathedral. St. loseph and Lokoloko (3.743 ind. in March 2020 according to DTM population count)

Internal movement restrictions

Suspension of all public transportation system between Juba and all other towns and villages in Central Equatoria, and between Torit and all other towns and villages in Eastern Equatoria.

First Bentiu PoC site case confirmed

The first COVID-19 case (IDP) is confirmed at Bentiu PoC

site. Partners begin contact tracing and continue in the construction of a Benti Town isolation centre.

Relaxation of measures

First Juba PoC site cases confirmed

The first COVID-19 cases are confirmed at Juba

PoC 3 site. The patients are humanitarian service providers.

Re-opening of airspace

South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority has officially announced the eopening all airports to domestic and international flights.

Taskforce change

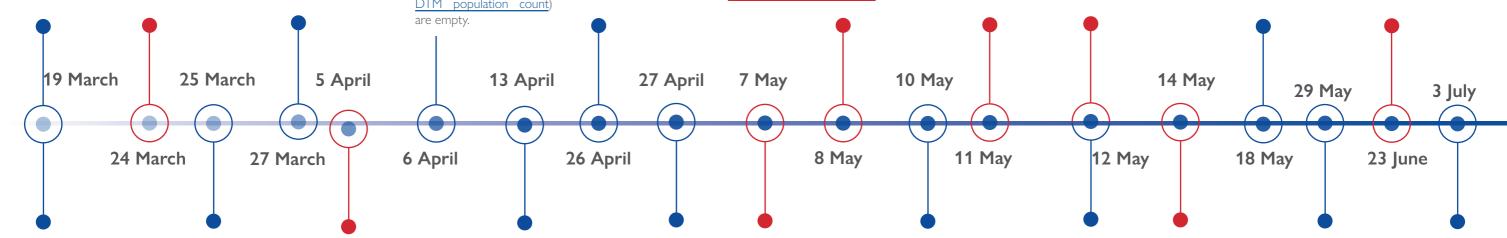
The High Level Task Force on COVID-19 replaced with the National Taskforce Committee on Coronavirus Disease.

First Malakal PoC site case

TRACKING MATRIX

SOUTH SUDAN

The first know case of COVID-19 has been confirmed at Malaka PoC site. Humanitarian partners call precautions considering that the real scale of infection is not known.



Preparedness & Response Plan

Ministry of Health releases COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan (April - September 2020).

Uganda suspends refugee policy

Uganda's open-door policy for refugees and asylum seekers is suspended for 30 days. Refugees who are already in the country will continue to receive support.

COVID-19 Case in SSD

The South Sudan Government confirmed its first case of COVID-19



Suspension of interstate travel

The Government has suspended passenger



state transport for up to two weeks effective from midnight Wednesday 15 April 2020 (Communication from the presidency 25, HLTF 13 April 2020).

Malakal PoC site lockdown start

Security forces put the UNMISS base and Malakal PoC site under lockdown COVID-19 Malakal

from 10pm-6am and the loosening of other congregation restrictions without their complete epeal.

23 July

Trucks stranded

The Presidency announces "Hundreds of" trucks a relaxation of COVID-19 are reported to be neasures as of 8 May in Elegu stranded 2020 including a curfew (UGA), bordering Nimule. The drivers are said to be awaiting clearance from South Sudanese authorities.

Malakal PoC site lockdown end

Government security forces have lifted the lockdown Malakal PoC site.



First death

HLTF The confirmes28 new cases bringing the total number of cases to AI 231 with **X** three

recoveries

and one death

24 July

Front line death

One health-care worker of COVID-19 representing the first front-line fatality in South Sudan.

Resumption flights

A number international airlines regional they announce would resume flights as soon as 10 July 2020.

South Sudan

COVID-19 Timeline (reporting period)

Stigma reported to hinder response

13 July

Stigma - driven by fear and uncertainty - is one of the major barriers in tacking COVID-19 pandemic and has been experienced by both community members and health workers and health authorities tacking the spread of COVID-19 in South Sudan.

Oil sector hit by the pandemic

22 July

South Sudan's production dropped to 170, 000 barrels per day from 185,000 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. a senior Petroleum ministry official said.

UN agencies push to re-open schools

County.

Two United Nations agencies are calling on South Sudanese authorities to immediately reopen schools across the country, saying damage being done to children forced to stay home outweighs the risk of catching the novel coronavirus. The agencies (UNICEF & UNESCO) further argued that while it is important to protect children from COVID-19, children and schools are no the main drivers of the epidemic.

COVID-19 affects women businesses in Aweil

The women entrepreneurs specialized in cloth boutiques, restaurants, tea-selling and shopkeepers in Aweil town of South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal State complained of the slowdown of their businesses since the Health ministry announced the COVID-19 health measures across the country.

Increase in malaria cases across PoC sites

At least 100 people have been killed by malaria across the country since the beginning of the year as the number of cases increase across displacement sites in South Sudan.

More testing centres announced to be built

The Ministry of Health has announced intentions to establish more testing centres across the country. The new centers are planned for populated state capitals such as Wau, Malakal, Rumbek and Bentiu.

Summary of tracked border crossing points and transportation hubs Report 14 (13–26 July 2020)



Туре 👫	#
Domestic Airport	6
In-country transport hub	15
Intl. Airport	1
Official land border	19
Transit point	3
Unofficial land border	14
Total	58

Movement of cargo	00 0	#
Incoming only (1	
No disruption	16	
No movement	41	
Total		58

Movement of people	#
De facto via alternative routes	10
Local movement tolerated	11
No disruption	27
No movement	10
Total	58

C-19 measures	Yes	No	Unknown
Temperature screening	11	47	0
Handwashing stations	28	30	0
Isolation / quarantine area	12	44	2
Increased security forces	7	10	41
Risk Communication	44	14	0



For an excel version of the above summary as well as table 1 & 2 including more transport hubs and points of entry, please click here.

COVID-19 Cases and Deaths



Worldwide:

- 15,785,641 confirmed cases
- 640,016 deaths



Number of cases / deaths in neighboring countries:

- Sudan: 11,385 / 717
- Central African Republic: 4,598 / 59
- Democratic Republic of the Congo: 8,766 / 200
- Uganda: 1,103 / 1
- Ethiopia: 13,248 / 209
- Kenya: 16,643 / 375



South Sudan*

- 2,305 confirmed cases
- 46 deaths
- 1,190 recoveries

Source: WHO, update as of 26 July 2020 *Source: Ministry of Health, South Sudan













