Flow Monitoring: South Sudan/Uganda border
1 April - 31 October 2018

IOM DTM measures mixed migration along the Ugandan (UGA) border through four strategically located flow monitoring points (FMPs). Over 90 per cent of persons observed at these points are South Sudanese. The movement from UGA to SSD does not necessarily equal returns as most movement is short term and circular.

In the period from 1 April to 31 October 2018, overall movement from UGA to SSD has not significantly increased (F.1). However, data collected by interviewing 9,370 households representing 25,669 individuals revealed two trends that suggest an improvement in the humanitarian crisis. Firstly, there has been a decrease in people fleeing SSD due to conflict (personal insecurity or food insecurity caused by conflict). Secondly, the number of persons returning to SSD citing family reasons as motivation for travel with the intention of staying at their destination in South Sudan for more than a year has increased.

**F.1 Monthly migration flow South Sudan/Uganda border**

- **SSD to UGA**
  - Apr: 3,255
  - May: 5,060
  - Jun: 5,696
  - Jul: 3,495
  - Aug: 1,878
  - Sep: 2,073
  - Oct: 3,255

- **UGA to SSD**
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  - May: 5,060
  - Jun: 5,696
  - Jul: 3,495
  - Aug: 1,878
  - Sep: 2,073
  - Oct: 3,255

**Transportation modes**

- 44% Taxi or car
- 27% Motorbike
- 13% Boat
- 8% Foot

**Migration trends through the four border points have not been homogenous**

- **ORABA**: Migration to SSD has especially increased at Oraba FMP (7,606 ind. tracked in both directions, 61% female), which borders SSD in Morobo (Central Equatoria), and became the busiest FMP by the end of the reporting period (from 288 migrants in April to 2,073 in October). Oraba FMP saw a comparatively significant number of women and children crossing in both directions.

- **KERWA**: Whilst Kerwa has been the busiest point overall, with 8,364 individuals (50% female) tracked, the flow both to and from UGA has decreased steadily since May, until it became the least busy point in October 2018.

- **PANJALA**: DTM tracked 7,796 individuals (46% female) passing through Panjala FMP, west of the Nimule border, which saw more persons traveling from UGA to SSD than in the other direction.

- **AWENO OWIYO**: Just as Panjala FMP, which also borders Magwi in SSD, Aweno Owinyo FMP saw a spike in SSD to UGA movement in May 2018 which was largely due to conflict (mainly from Magwi, Nimule). Aweno Owinyo was the least busy point with 1,903 individuals (54% female) tracked. Children were more likely to cross Aweno Owinyo when travelling from SSD to UGA (50%) compared to 36 per cent for those travelling from UGA to SSD.

The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan or IOM. This map is for planning purposes only. IOM cannot guarantee this map is error free and therefore accepts no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from its use.
**Flow Monitoring: South Sudan/Uganda border**

1 April - 31 October 2018

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**F.2 Migration trends through the four flow monitoring points**

- **Kerwa (Yumbe)**
  - Bordering: Kajo Keji (CEQ)
  - 8,364 individuals tracked
  - UGA - SSD: 57% from camps
  - 0.6% internal movement

- **Panjala (Moyo)**
  - Bordering: Magwi (EEQ)
  - 7,796 individuals tracked
  - UGA - SSD: 70% from camps
  - 0.8% internal movement

- **Oraba (Koboko)**
  - Bordering: Morobo (CEQ)
  - 7,606 individuals tracked
  - UGA - SSD: 89% from camps
  - 0.4% internal movement

- **Aweno Olwiyo (Lamwo)**
  - Bordering: Magwi (EEQ)
  - 1,903 individuals tracked
  - UGA - SSD: 91% from camps
  - 0.5% internal movement

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**F.3 Flow Monitoring point**

- **Kerwa (Yumbe)**
  - UGA to SSD: 23% (Male), 27% (Female)
  - SSD to UGA: 24% (Male), 28% (Female)

- **Panjala (Moyo)**
  - UGA to SSD: 15% (Male), 31% (Female)
  - SSD to UGA: 16% (Male), 29% (Female)

- **Oraba (Koboko)**
  - UGA to SSD: 26% (Male), 34% (Female)
  - SSD to UGA: 26% (Male), 35% (Female)

- **Aweno Olwiyo (Lamwo)**
  - UGA to SSD: 18% (Male), 35% (Female)
  - SSD to UGA: 26% (Male), 29% (Female)

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**F.4 Sex and age proportions by FMP and direction of travel**

- **Children (<18)**
  - 23%
  - 15%
  - 26%
  - 18%

- **Adults (>18)**
  - 27%
  - 31%
  - 34%
  - 35%
The main reason (F.5) cited by those travelling from UGA to SSD was to visit or re-join their families (49%). Natural disaster induced food insecurity (14%) commonly related to heavy rains destroying crops. Furthermore, these rains tend to destroy houses, with seven per cent citing that "natural disaster destroyed [their] home".

**Evolution of family-linked travel**

Since July, an increase is observable in the number of individuals citing family as the primary reason for travel (F.9). This also coincides with an increase in the percentage of individuals citing this reason combined with an intention to stay for more than a year, indicating that these could be more long-term returns (F.8). The proportion of those citing this reason while also intending to stay in South Sudan for more than one year increased from one per cent in July to fifty-five per cent in October. Whereas in July a total of 31 individuals fit this description, this number reached 1,200 individuals in October 2018 (out of 2,056 individuals for the entire reporting period).

**Most depart from UGA refugee camps**

Nearly three quarters of all UGA to SSD migrants claimed to have started their journey at a refugee camp / settlement (73%, F.10). The upward trend of persons leaving for family reasons is largely represented in the refugee camp / settlement originating population. The vast majority (79%) were observed at Oraba FMP with a high representation of women (58%) and children (50%). The overall scale of movements from UGA to SSD has not increased, however, the share of individuals coming from refugee camps / settlements has seen an upward trend since June 2018 whilst the opposite is true for migration from non-camp settings (F.10). Travellers citing an intention to stay for more than a year and linking their reason for movement to family were departing primarily from Imvepi, Rhino and BidiBidi Camp headed to Yei, Lainya and Morobo. Those who started travelling in non-camp settings travelled for more varied reasons besides family (21%) including food insecurity induced by natural disasters (16%) and short term business (15%).

When comparing destination and departure locations (F.11&12), data suggests that those intending to reach Yei County commonly travelled from camp-settings (notably from Imvepi, 31% and BidiBidi camp, 26%) and are likely to travel for family related reasons (72%). On the contrary, those intending to reach Kajo Keji were primarily departing from non-camp settings (mostly from Terego, 37% and Yumbe North, 20%) and were more prone to travel because of natural disaster induced food insecurity (29%) than family reasons (9%).

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**Migration trends Uganda to South Sudan**

1 April - 31 October 2018

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**Reasons for movement**

100%  
F.5 From Uganda to South Sudan (n=15,640 ind.)  
- 49% Family  
- 14% Natural disaster induced food insecurity  
- 11% Natural disaster destroyed home  
- 7% Conflict induced personal insecurity  
- 5% Business (short term)  
- 5% Conflict induced food insecurity  
- 4% Economic migration (+6 months)  
- 3% Natural disaster destroyed home  
- 2% Other

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During the reporting period, conflict constituted the main reason for movement (55%) from SSD to UGA in the form of conflict-induced food insecurity (31%) and conflict-induced personal insecurity (24%) (F.13). However, conflict cited as reason for travel to UGA reduced in the months from May to October from 1,892 to 159 individuals (F.17). Respectively to each month’s total flow, this represents a drop from 62 per cent of travellers in May citing conflict as reason for movement to 18 per cent of travellers in October. Simultaneously, the number of individuals travelling for family increased from 145 to 402, or from eight per cent of all travellers in May to 49 and 44 per cent respectively, in September and October. Nearly two-thirds of movements to Uganda were intended to last less than three months (63%, of which 27% stated intentions of moving for less than a week).

Sixty-one per cent of individuals travelling from SSD to UGA intended to reach refugee camps / settlements (F.18). Reasons for movement to camps and non-camp settings differed slightly (F.14/15). Whilst food insecurity induced by conflict represented nearly a third of both flows (30% to camps and 32% to non-camp settings), persons travelling to non-camps settings also left for short-term business related reasons (10%) or for more long-term economic endeavours (7%). Family visits were more common for those going to camps (29% vs 8%).

Duration of stay
When comparing intended durations of stay for the top three reasons for movement, the following dynamics were observed: those citing movement for family-related reasons generally intend to stay in Uganda for shorter periods, whereas those reporting conflict related personal or food insecurity indicated longer intentions of stay (F.16). It is also worth noting that available data suggests conflict-induced personal insecurity leads people to intend to remain abroad for longer periods of time than conflict-induced food insecurity. Twenty-two per cent of those travelling for personal safety intended to remain in Uganda for more than a year compared to 15 per cent of those travelling out of hunger.

Pre-departure locations and destinations
Kajo Keji (28%), Magwi (26%) and Yei (17%) were the most common counties from which observed migrants begin their journey (F.20).

Terego in Arua, Uganda features as the most prominent destination location (F.19). Most arrived from Kajo Keji (74%) and Yei (25%) fleeing conflict, with numbers peaking in May and dropping to (and remaining at) zero in August. Bidibidi Camp was the second most common destination overall and the most frequently cited refugee camp / settlement destination with 57 per cent reaching the camp through Kerwa FMP and 30 per cent through Oraba FMP. The most common pre-departure location for those aiming to reach Bidibidi was Kajo Keji (39%) and Yei (27%) with conflict-induced food insecurity at the top of the list of reasons for travel.
Throughout 2018, areas bordering Uganda have experienced significant insecurity as a result of clashes between government and opposition forces. Areas such as Kajo-Keji and Yei have been particularly impacted, displacing local populations, stalling development, and interrupting major trade and travel routes.

In June 2018, talks mediated by regional leaders began between parties to the conflict to revitalize the peace agreement, which coincided with a decrease in the flow of individuals crossing the Ugandan border at key points. Despite the initiation of peace talks, clashes continued on the South Sudanese side of the border, reflected in the fluctuation of movements in July. A second ceasefire was reached in August, similarly coinciding with a decrease in the cross border flow, with the peace agreement being finalized in September.

During the reporting period, insecurity in South Sudan was the single-most important factor influencing movements out of the country. The effects of conflict on food production, the economy, education, healthcare and rule of law also contribute substantially to these movements.

Uganda is a popular and accessible destination, particularly for those from the Equatorias who have been severely affected by the outbreak of conflict in 2016. The Ugandan government has a progressive refugee policy; refugees are often integrated within host communities and are given freedom of movement and ability to work. Some of those returning to South Sudan permanently tend to do so because of the difficult conditions they face in refugee settlements or urban areas, such as insufficient access to food and sporadic violence.

The flow monitoring component of DTM tracks movement flows on a household and individual level through key transit points. The purpose of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the patterns and trends of population flows and profiles and intentions of persons on the move irrespective of their status, through specific locations. Trained enumerators collect data on two types of movements: i) internal flows within South Sudan and ii) cross-border flows to and from neighboring countries. Depending on the location, the data is being collected by IOM or in partnership with trained local NGOs. The data collected through Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs) allows partners to better understand population movements and inform humanitarian assistance.

IOM DTM strives to provide an as complete and accurate picture of migration trends as possible within the available humanitarian space and other structural constraints.

FMPs are strategically selected following an assessment of high mobility locations to capture the most important flows. Nevertheless, not all migration between SSD and UGA can be covered. Data remains limited to the locations of FMPs, which is especially important to take note of in the current dynamic context brought about by the signing of the peace agreement. Points of entry allowing migrants to cross borders with ease change rapidly, as evidenced by Kerwa FMP, which went from being the busiest to the least frequented crossing point in a matter of months.

Data collection is carried out seven days a week, but ceases at night from 17:00 to 08:00, which results in anyone passing through the FMP during this time not being captured in the data. Whilst methodologically DTM aims to capture all passing migrants through its flow monitoring registry, and obtain additional more detailed information about their journey as part of surveys conducted with a sample of those passing, the fluid movement of people in small groups at times makes it difficult to capture the full extent of the flow even during daytime hours. The remoteness of certain FMPs means that data uploads can be delayed because of poor connectivity. Security concerns can also lead to data being collected on paper instead of mobile applications, which can lead to delayed analysis. Security concerns can, furthermore, cause the complete closure or relocation of certain FMPs (all four Uganda-based FMPs remained open throughout the observation period).

With roughly over 60 languages spoken in South Sudan, communication with respondents can be limited by linguistic abilities of local enumerators.

Though findings are limited to a select number of response options in the quantitative data collection tools used. IOM DTM communicates with its enumerators and constantly updates its forms to adapt to the dynamic South Sudanese context.