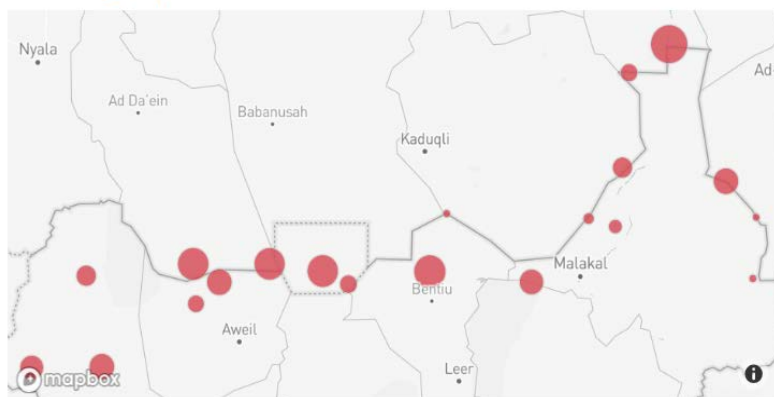


This report is compiled by OCHA South Sudan on behalf of the Inter-Agency actors of the Emergency Response to the Sudan Crisis and the Humanitarian Country Team. The information reflected covers the period from 20 – 27 July. The next report will be published in two weeks.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 27 July 2023, 195,242 individuals from 44,659 households were recorded as arriving in South Sudan since the beginning of the crisis. The number of arrivals is projected to increase as the conflict in Sudan continues.
- Transportation reduced from Joda crossing to Renk transit centre due to lack of funding.
- An increase in malnourishment rates among women and children was identified.
- On 26 July 2023, the humanitarian community in South Sudan called for urgent funding of US\$26.4 million to ensure continued support for onward transportation.

Point of Entry Map



Source: IOM, UNHCR The administrative boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not been determined. Final Status of Abyei

### 195K

Number of people arrived at Points of Entry as of 27 July 2023 (6% increase from the week prior)

### 112K

People moved from points of entry as of 23 July 2023

### 22K

Refugees and asylum-seekers have sought asylum in South Sudan

### 1 IN 5

households of returnees and refugees arrived at the border with at least one protection vulnerability

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- As of 27 July 2023, 195,242 individuals from 44,659 households were recorded as arriving in South Sudan since the beginning of the crisis and the number of arrivals is projected to increase as the conflict in Sudan continues. Of these arrivals, 91 per cent are South Sudanese returnees, seven per cent are Sudanese, and two per cent are of other nationalities.
- Returnees continue to arrive in areas of origin or relocation in South Sudan, many of whom already experienced displacement, inter-communal conflict, hazards (particularly a risk of flood impact given the rainy season), exposure to diseases, high prices of basic goods, food insecurity, and a loss of livelihoods. Wunthow/Juda, near Renk, Upper Nile State, continues to be the point of entry (PoE) for most new arrivals to South Sudan.
- As of 22 July, 36,356 individuals were recorded in the collective centre and host communities in Renk. This population needs urgent transportation assistance, however, a lack of funding remains a key challenge to support.
- In collaboration with the Government of South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Committee (RRC), partners continue to facilitate onward transportation assistance to vulnerable returnees, refugees, and third-country nationals

arriving from Sudan. As of 23 July 2023, a total of 112,430 individuals have been moved, including 88,953 individuals who assisted by the RRC and humanitarian partners, and 23,477 individuals who have moved through self-organized means.

- Returnees continue to experience barriers to their movement, including inflated bus fares and insecurity along their routes from Sudan, risk of attacks, harassment and looting by armed groups. Returnees experience food insecurity and serious health risks, with reports of some individuals, including children, who died due to health complications.
- The number of returnees arriving in Panakuach continues to increase following the road opening between Karasana and Panakuach.
- Vulnerable children returnees are affected by malnourishment and measles, requiring referrals to specialized services and greater health messaging around seeking early medical care and vaccination.

## NEEDS, RESPONSE, GAPS and CHALLENGES

### NEEDS

- In Upper Nile State, local authorities support is needed at the transit centre Bulukal to help address overcrowding and congestion of returnees.
- The numbers of people requiring onward transport assistance continues to outpace the assistance available and the inflows of further new arrivals. Onward transportation assistance remains a key priority.
- Returnee arrivals continue to report their key needs as food, shelter, WASH and health assistance.
- The number of returnees arriving in Panakuach increased following the road opening between Karasana and Panakuach. This leads to an increased number of returnees staying overnight at the temporary accommodation, requiring more resources particularly hot meals.
- Tensions in some areas hampers people's ability to move there and a response to those already there. Poor road conditions from heavy rains pose an additional challenge.
- Preliminary data from June 2023 post-distribution monitoring assessment shows that 83 per cent of returnee households are food insecure, and 81 per cent are economically vulnerable. Further, 98 per cent of all refugees and returnees surveyed indicated that they plan to stay in South Sudan, with most preferring to live in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Upper Nile, Warrap states and in the Abyei Administrative Area.
- Approximately 13 per cent of households in Jonglei state surveyed in the WFP Country Strategic Plan baseline survey reported that they were hosting either refugees or returnees, followed by Unity (11 per cent), Upper Nile (7 per cent), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (6 per cent), Lakes (5 per cent), Central Equatoria (5 per cent) and Warrap (3 per cent). Households surveyed from Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Western Bahr el Ghazal reported they did not host any returnees.
- While food assistance provided by humanitarian partners remains the main food source for returnee households, the current level of food assistance, at 50 percent of the standard food basket, remains inadequate. People's needs far exceeding available resources.
- With the increased competition over limited resources and land due to population movements, food security outcomes are likely to deteriorate, and humanitarian needs to rise, including for host communities in the already acutely food-insecure areas. Faced with large food consumption gaps, households are likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms.
- Data collection for the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring Survey (FSNMS) from new arrivals in Abyei, Aweil, Malakal, Renk, Twic, Leer and Rubkona counties from people receiving food assistance is planned. This will help to understand the food security and overall vulnerability of new arrivals. Of these locations, data collection began in Warrap and the Abyei Administrative Area. FSNMS data collection is expected to continue during July and August 2023 across all 80 counties and administrative areas in South Sudan.
- A joint rapid Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk assessment, conducted from 15-19 June in Renk, highlighted that risks of SEA and other misconduct by humanitarian staff in Renk and at the Joda border are high. The

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assessment recommended increasing awareness raising efforts and targeted messaging for high-risk groups, a review of recruitment and distribution processes, consideration of gender parity among staff, training and orientation, and ensuring that SEA reporting lines are operational.

## RESPONSE

### Protection (including Child Protection and GBV)

- Joint inter-agency protection teams are present at main PoE, identifying vulnerable individuals for prioritization for onward transportation assistance. During the past week, protection staff identified a total of 4,850 individuals in households with one or more vulnerable household members. The vast majority were at Joda/Wunthow border point in Renk, Upper Nile where 4,508 persons were identified and provided with wristbands.
- To maintain family unity, vulnerable individuals and their family members were prioritized for transportation from Joda border crossing point to Renk transit centre, while those in need of immediate medical attention or psychological first aid were referred to health or MHPSS personnel, respectively. In Renk, 773 vulnerable persons were fast tracked and referred to available services, and 205 persons were identified in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, while 137 were identified in Unity state.
- Protection teams are supporting individuals with critical protection risks by providing ad-hoc individual protection assistance (IPA) in the form of cash assistance to meet specific needs such as urgent food or medical needs. In Renk, the team provided IPA to 29 individuals and their families during the reporting period. Vulnerable individuals were referred to services (e.g., health, specialized protection), including 64 individuals in Unity state, two individuals in Malakal, and 16 individuals in Abyei.
- Protection teams raised awareness about available services and how to access them, as well as on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and safe reporting mechanisms, at Bulukal transit site in Malakal, where many returnees reside; reaching 4,570 individuals with these sessions.
- In Renk, orientation sessions for frontline staff on PSEA, trafficking in persons, protection mainstreaming, disability inclusion and gender-based violence (GBV) mainstreaming, reaching 26 individuals were undertaken.
- MHPSS teams provided support to 2,688 vulnerable at various border crossing points or onward transportation reception points as follows. The MHPSS support provided to returnees included psychological first aid (2,076), individual counselling (413 of whom 29 were follow-up cases), recreational activities (143) and group psychosocial support sessions (56). Of the returnees supported, 140 were persons with disabilities.
- MHPSS teams referred individuals seeking/requiring additional support, such as health and protection services, including 52 individuals in Abyei, and 6 individuals in Wau. In Bentiu, 155 vulnerable female returnees were provided with menstrual hygiene items, such as reusable sanitary pads, to minimize the stress these individuals are facing.
- Awareness on GBV continued during the reporting period reaching 2,345 returnees. During the awareness, returnees received information on GBV referral pathways and GBV prevention and response services in Malakal. Furthermore, 270 dignity kits were distributed to the most vulnerable women and girls; 508 returnees benefitted from services provided at the women and girls' friendly spaces in the PoC. Awareness raising continued on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) reaching 190 individuals.
- In Malakal, Protection partners profiled 298 persons with vulnerabilities. Cumulatively, 3,142 persons (with 1,013 persons with specific needs/PSNs) with vulnerability were profiled since the beginning of the response in Malakal Reception Center. Partners assisted 40 PSNs with cash under Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and 61 returnees (persons with disabilities and elderly) with multi-purpose cash assistance. Cumulatively, 363 PSNs were assisted with cash under Individual Protection Assistance (IPA).
- Protection referred 49 cases. Awareness sessions on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and safe reporting mechanisms reached 4,666 returnees, while GBV awareness sessions reached 699 returnees, including 32 persons with disabilities. Case management and psychosocial support were given to 17 women and girls and psychological first aid (PFA) was given to 228 returnees.

- To enhance child protection activities as arrivals increase, a second child friendly space (CFS) was established at the reception center. Child protection partners provided psychosocial support and recreational activities to 1,555 children and 252 adolescents.
- Dignity kits were distributed to 842 women and girls at the reception center. Cumulatively, 1,342 women and girls received dignity kits since the beginning of the response.
- Partners identified 29 families with Housing, Land and Property (HLP) complaints and referred them to the Ministry of Housing, Land and Public Utilities. Cumulatively, 441 HLP cases were identified, and 169 cases were verified. Of the verified cases, as of 23 July, 92 households received shelter assistance, with 35 of the shelters completed.
- In Unity, government land demarcation continues in Rotriak for returnees that decided to stay in the area. To date, 45 households were provided with 20x20 meter plots. Protection partners carried out a GBV safety audit to assess the major risks faced by returnee and host community women in Rotriak settlement. Dignity kits were distributed to 601 women and girls and GBV awareness sessions were conducted.
- In Wedweil, partners reached 68 persons through door-to-door awareness raising on physical violence, consequences of GBV, available services, and the importance of timely reporting. Near the transit center, land for 360 households have been surveyed pending allotment to newly arrived refugees.
- Child protections support to the Returnees and Refugees are ongoing at the ports of entry and transit sites and this week Malakal, a total of 750 dignity kits were distributed adolescent children in Malakal. A total of 608 beneficiary reached with Child protection message during join awareness campaign in Renk. Additionally, 357 children reached with Psychosocial support services at Child friendly spaces in Renk transit centre.

## Food Security

- Humanitarian partners continued to provide life-saving food assistance by providing high-energy biscuits, hot meals or dry rations, cash transfers and specialized nutritious food for the most vulnerable. As of 22 July, partners had assisted **171,154 people** with hot meals, high-energy biscuits, dry rations, and/or cash. WFP continued the roll-out of its cash response for returnees in Renk, Malakal, and Abyei which started on 26 June 2023, to accommodate their mobility and preferences, with a total of **USD 511,253** distributed **42,050** new arrivals in these locations.
- Humanitarian partners continued to screen children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing mothers, admitting those moderately acutely malnourished into the relevant nutrition programmes. During the seven-day reporting period, they screened **1,692** children and 309 mothers in all locations. Out of these, **365** children and **220** mothers were identified as moderately malnourished, respectively, and WFP admitted them into the treatment programme. In May, partners admitted **1,901** children and **631** mothers into the treatment programme and supported **9,322** children and **2,050** mothers through the prevention programme. In June, **2,715** children and **1,423** mothers into the treatment programme and supported **2,070** children and **7,439** mothers through the prevention programme were admitted. This indicates a 63 per cent increase in the number of people enrolled in treatment programme between May and June, a stark indicator of a rapidly deteriorating nutritional status amongst new arrivals. As of 22 July, **36,657** children aged 6-59 months and **13,268** pregnant and nursing mothers received specialized food to treat and prevent malnutrition.
- Partners provide food assistance to newly arrived refugees in reception centres. As of 22 July, **20,278** newly arrived refugees had received food assistance in all locations, and **17,301** had settled into existing refugee camps.

## Health & Nutrition

- Static and mobile healthcare services are available across all PoE, transit, and return in Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr al Ghazal, and Northern Bahr al Ghazal States, and Abyei Administrative Area. Services provided include health screenings, malnutrition screenings, basic immunizations, and reproductive health care, as well as referrals to specialized facilities.
- In Malakal, 1,850 medical consultations were conducted in Malakal Clinic and Malakal PoC. In Renk, 3,596 consultations were conducted, with 1,908 in Abayok and 1,688 in Wunthou. In Abyei Administrative Area, 245 new arrivals were provided health services, while in Northern Bahr al Ghazal, a total of 103 returnees received treatment for various illnesses.

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- In Panakuach, medical screening was provided to 86 returnees, with 2 critical cases referred to Lalop, and more than 115 children (routine immunization). Discussions between UN agencies and partners are ongoing in response to the measles outbreak declared in Unity State.
- Routine expanded programme on immunization (EPI) activities continued across all locations. In Malakal, 89 individuals received routine vaccines and 85 women of childbearing age were vaccinated against tetanus. In Renk, 148 individuals received immunization services at Abayok clinic and 3,227 at Wunthou/Joda clinic.
- 24-hour maternity services are available, with 15 deliveries in Malakal, and four deliveries in Renk.
- In Malakal, a temporary clinic was set up and MSF was provided two tents for their mobile clinic at reception center. More than 250 cases are received daily at the primary clinics in the reception center, which is much higher than the existing human resources. A cumulative number of 5,152 outpatient consultations were provided since the beginning of the response.
- During the week, 762 children and 277 pregnant and lactating Women (PLW) were screened for acute malnutrition. Cumulatively, 6,405 children and 3,065 PLW were screened, with 586 children provided with outpatient therapeutic feeding, and 916 children and 645 PLW with target supplementary feeding.
- In Unity, 45 children below 15 years were vaccinated at Nyeruop port by the County Health Department in Koch. Cumulatively, over 80 percent of children below 15 years were vaccinated and issued blue vaccination cards. To prevent the spread of measles, WHO/MoH instructed that nobody should board the trucks before screening.
- In Unity State, Panakauch PoE health assessment of returnees was conducted, focusing on fit to travel and medical escorts.
- Reproductive health supplies were provided to primary health care centres supporting returnees and refugees in Bentiu. These included oxytocins, misoprostol and combined oral contraceptives. Routine health service provisions continued in both Bentiu and Malakal from health facilities and one-stop centres extending services to returnees.
- In Unity, the State Ministry of Health reported 40 deaths related to measles within Bentiu town, IDP camp and Rubkona, which became grounds to declare a measles outbreak across the State. A mass campaign is underway.
- In Malakal, prevalent morbidities are malaria, acute malnutrition, lower respiratory tract infection, and acute watery diarrhea. Children under 5 years are the most affected.
- Common illnesses recorded in Abayok and Wunthou clinics in Upper Nile State during the reporting period included acute watery diarrhea, malaria, upper respiratory tract infection, lower respiratory tract infection and measles.
- Nutrition screening continue in all the transit and reception centers. In all the transit points, transit site and Malakal, Nutrition screening is continuing to provide essential nutrition services at mobile nutrition centres. The number of children have increase over the past week at OTP sites at both transit sites in Malakal and Renk.
- In Malakal, 600 children were recorded to have been provided with nutrition services including SAM and SAM cases were attended. Furthermore, Vital nutrition supplies such as Plumpy'Nut and PB5 have been sent to Malakal to support nutrition needs for the next three months.
- The provision of health emergency services at the mobile clinics at transit and reception centres is ongoing to respond to the health needs of the returnees and refugees. Available health facilities at the host communities are also providing services to the increasing population that includes some returnees that already got integrated into the host communities. On the arrival, children are vaccinated at both reception and transit centres, medical supplies are being provided at all these mobile clinics to meet the increasing needs of the population.
- In Renk, 11 patients with health complication were airlifted to Juba for more medical attention. At least 2157 OPD consultation were conducted in mobile clinics at reception and transit centres and 15 patients were referred to Renk hospital for further medical attention. In addition, 855 children were vaccinated. In Unity State, suspected measles cases are managed in the health facilities in Rotriak and Pariang hospital. Health continues to provide the services in Malakal transit site. Additional health supplies are being sent in to cover the gap.

## Shelter and Non-Food items

- Partner shelter/NFIs unit facilitated the payment of 2,253 cash vouchers to the registered and validated passengers in Malakal airport upon boarding the flight to Juba, Aweil, Wau and Warrap.

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- 883 transportation vouchers were paid to boat owners for transportation of returnees from Renk to Malakal. Each voucher for boat is paid 35,000 SSP to returnees moving from Renk to Malakal and beyond.
- Partners continue to engage County RRC and IDPs leaders for planned construct of 100 emergency shelters to IDPs displaced from PoC starting to Malakal town.
- At the transit center in Renk, partners renovated four communal shelters, with two more ongoing at Joda border. This brings a total of 28 functional communal shelters that can accommodate 1,500 persons, in line with the Sphere emergency standards. Construction of additional shelters at the new extension site is underway.
- In Unity State, Rotriak, NFIs (plastic sheets, solar lamps, rubber ropes, kangas, NFI blue bag, blankets, mats) to 885 registered and verified households were distributed.
- In Abyei Administrative Area, the Protection Cluster concluded a vulnerability assessment for returnees. S/NFIs plans to conduct an in-depth need assessment to deliver a response to the most vulnerable returnees.
- An estimated 9,000 returnees are currently staying at the Malakal reception center. Five communal shelters were completed, increasing capacity for 6,350 people to stay. Additional shelters are planned for capacity to support 10,000 people.
- In Malakal, 37 households with vulnerabilities received NFIs, with a cumulative 247 most vulnerable returnees/PSNs assisted. Protection partners assisted 42 vulnerable families to move to designated PSN accommodations.
- In Unity, partners distributed NFIs to 980 most vulnerable returnee households in Rotriak.

## WASH

- At the transit centers in Renk, Paloich, Malakal and Pankuach, available water per person per day is within the Sphere emergency standard.
- In Malakal, partners completed construction of two blocks of latrines and four stances each.
- Partners continued provision of safe drinking water across all locations. In Renk, partners produced 120,000 litres of water on a daily basis. A total of 100,000 litres of water was delivered daily to transit centre, and 30,000 litres to Joda by water trucking. In Unity State, 6,900 litres of clean drinking water was provided to returnees and refugees passing through the Panakuach POE.
- In Bentiu, WASH cluster partners distributed WASH/NFI kits to 980 households (4,163 individuals).
- In Abyei Administrative Area, the WASH cluster handed over the upgraded Kol-lang mini water yard in Amiet market (Dinka village) to the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure (SMoPI) for community use. The water yard will provide clean water to the community in the area as well as support the new arrivals at Amiet market as well as returnees who are integrating within the Amiet community.
- Additionally, WASH needs assessment was conducted successfully in areas of returns, beside conflict and floods affected population within Abyei box.
- In Malakal reception center, 12 blocks of latrine with 8 stances bring the ratio to 167 persons per latrine stance, which is below the standard of 50 persons per stance.
- WASH activities continue in each location. The rehabilitation of the safe water treatment plant in Renk town is ongoing and is expected to fully operate including a connection of water line to the transit site by early August. 1,500 bags for Aluminum sulphate have been released for use in the next 06 months at the safe water treatment plan in Renk town. About 08 stances of latrines at the transit site in Malakal had been completed.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- The reception centre and information desk in Panakuach, Unity State, were completed. These structures will provide returnees protection from the elements. The local authorities in Nyaroup PoE confirmed the allocation of space for the construction of 10 communal shelters and an information desk.
- CCCM teams are recruiting community mobilizers across operations supporting the Sudan crisis response to assist with communications and community engagement, OTA and coordination of service delivery for the returnees.

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- As per 20 July head count at the Renk Transit Center, there were more than 6,000 people present including refugees and returnees living outside the perimeter wall. All humanitarian actors pledged their support, in cash and in-kind, to the proposed expansion of the transit site to accommodate the increasing population.
- With partners in Maban, UNHCR is assessing the availability and suitability of land in Kaya camp to accommodate the increasing number of arrivals.

## Education

NSTR

## GAPS AND CHALLENGES

The response to the challenges faced by returnees in Sudan is marked by critical gaps and persistent obstacles. Returnees continue to encounter barriers to their movement, including inflated bus fares and insecurity along their routes, making them susceptible to attacks, harassment, and looting by armed groups. Additionally, returnees grapple with food insecurity and serious health risks, with reports of individuals, including children, succumbing to health complications. The burden of debts owed to individuals who facilitated their transportation further exacerbates their vulnerability, potentially leading to exploitation or negative coping strategies.

The situation is compounded by the influx of new arrivals at the Wunthou/Joda border, overwhelming existing resources and necessitating urgent action to provide essential assistance. The lack of funding hampers efforts to meet the basic needs of returnees, including access to dignity kits and adequate medical care. Inadequate transportation options leave many returnees stranded, without onward passage to their final destinations, exacerbating their predicament. Coordination challenges and insufficient cooperation from local hospital staff hinder access to medical services, further jeopardizing the health and well-being of returnees. Urgent and comprehensive efforts are required to address these gaps, allocate additional resources, and improve coordination among humanitarian partners to provide timely and effective assistance to returnees and host communities.

## LOGISTICS, COORDINATION, OPERATIONS AND FUNDING

### LOGISTICS

- In collaboration with the Government of South Sudan's RRC, partners continue to facilitate onward transport assistance to vulnerable returnees, refugees, and third-country nationals arriving from Sudan. As of 23 July 2023, 112,430 individuals were moved, including 88,953 individuals assisted by the RRC and humanitarian partners and 23,477 individuals who moved through self-organized means. Inter-sectoral teams are coordinating to receive and register new arrivals; provide information on the onward transportation process and other services available at points of entry, transit, and return; and generate manifests.
- Limited road infrastructure linked to rain impact influenced by climate change hinders returnees hoping to travel onward to their home areas, transportation options are restricted and out of reach for most.
- UNHAS transported 125 passengers to Renk and relocated two humanitarian staff. Renk airstrip and the parking area require rehabilitation to maximize the aircraft capacity to support the humanitarian response. UNHAS transported eight Sudan-based humanitarian staff to Juba through regular flights and conducted one medical evacuation from Renk to Juba.
- The Logistics Cluster airlifted 33 mt of health, WASH, logistics and general operations cargo to Malakal, Renk and Rubkona on behalf of 15 partners. Additionally, the cluster transported 32 mt of WASH and shelter cargo by road from Wau to Aweil and from Bentiu to Rotriak using Common Transport Service (CTS) trucks.

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- Humanitarian partners continued to deliver food to various locations for distribution to new arrivals. In Renk, 1.8 mt of high-energy biscuits were received and will be distributed to returnees departing to final destinations, while an additional 1.4 mt of high-energy biscuits were dispatched to Joda to be distributed to incoming new arrivals. A technician is installing a mobile storage unit (MSU) at the Wedweil transit center in Aweil West.
- Approximately 30 per cent of food commodities for the initial Sudan response were delivered to date across various locations.



## COORDINATION

Inter-agency coordination structures are in place in all major receiving areas and sectoral meetings at national and sub-national levels are ongoing. In areas of return, humanitarian partners through the cluster approach and in line with the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan, provide initial humanitarian assistance to those with identified needs. The InterAgency Coordination Lead remains in Renk.

## OPERATIONS SUPPORT

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is tracking movements at key border and transit points and conducts registration and providing other support to onward transportation operations. DTM conducts weekly assessments to map the presence of returnees in Renk County. These data collection and analysis activities feed into a [public dashboard on the situation in South Sudan](#), jointly developed with IOM/UNHCR and the RCC and is regularly updated with the latest available data.



## FUNDING

UNHCR/IOM Appeal amount: USD 96.1M

The reported amount received: USD 35.5M = 37% (reported via the refugee funding tracker - UNHCR)

On 26 July 2023, the humanitarian community in South Sudan [called](#) for urgent funding of US\$26.4 million to ensure continued support for onward transportation for people fleeing the Sudan conflict to South Sudan until the end of the year. In June 2023, the number of new arrivals increased significantly, with approximately 15,000 individuals arriving from Sudan every week. The number of people seeking refuge in South Sudan is expected to continue to rise in the coming period. Should the required funding not be secured, the consequences will be extremely severe, affecting the well-being and safety of returnees and refugees from Sudan as well as of the South Sudanese living in the affected border areas.

## IMPACT OF SUDAN CRISIS ON SOUTH SUDAN

- Disruption of supply lines to Abyei from Sudan (due to conflict) and South Sudan (due to rainy season and security concerns) resulted in a steady price increase, which decreases access of returnees and host communities to basic commodities.
- The conflict in Sudan has heavily impacted trade levels between Sudan and South Sudan, with a 47 per cent decline in the amount of sorghum traded during the second quarter of 2023, as compared to the previous quarter. This decline is more significant considering the high level of demand in South Sudan for sorghum in the second quarter, which corresponds to the lean season. The reduced level of imports from Sudan is one of the key factors contributing to a sharp increase (as much as 81 per cent) of the cost of the food basket since the beginning of the Sudan crisis in areas bordering Sudan. Conflict-related disruption of sorghum inflows from Sudan to South Sudan will likely result in high sorghum prices in South Sudan for the months to come.
- The cost of a standard food basket remains high across the country, particularly along the northern border.

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