

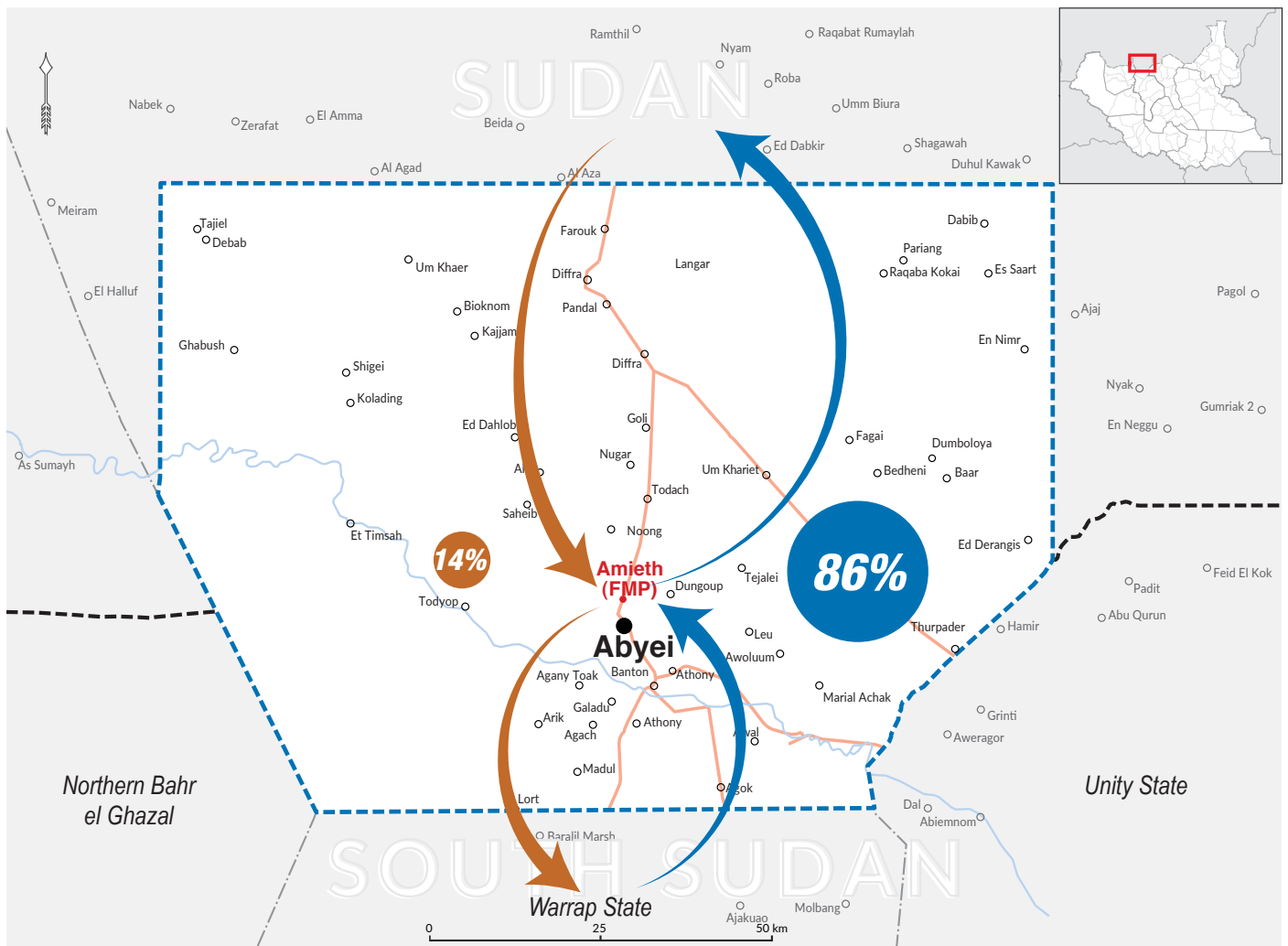
**86%** of cross-border movements destined to Sudan, primarily Khartoum State

**49%** of the cross border movement to Sudan is to access health services

**99%** of families crossing into Sudan intend to come back

### METHODOLOGY

IOM established a Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) to identify individuals and families traveling through, into and out of Abyei. The objective of flow monitoring is to provide regularly updated information on the patterns and trends of population flows and profiles and intentions of IDPs on the move through specific locations. Household demographic information is collected as well as vulnerabilities, locations of origin, intended destinations and motives for movement. The data collection is not based on a sample size, but rather, targets all individuals and families moving through the FMP (See Annex 1 – Flow Monitoring Form). This monitoring exercise targets only individuals and families moving through the main Abyei-Diffra road. It does not account for individuals and groups using informal/traditional routes which are off the main road.



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. Final boundary between the Republic of South Sudan and Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of Abyei region is not yet determined.

## CONTEXT

The Abyei Administrative Area (AAA) is divided by two dominant, culturally distinct groups; the agro-pastoralist Dinka Ngok and the pastoral Missiriyia. Conflict between the two is embedded in livelihood patterns that require migrations through Dinka-Ngok territory by the Missiriyia in search of pasture and water for livestock. Tensions have been exacerbated by international politics that have made Abyei a contested area following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 that eventually led to South Sudan's independence in 2011. Failure to settle the status of the Abyei region led to serious fighting from 2007 to 2008 leading to the displacement of up to 25,000 people. In 2011, violence erupted in Abyei town and the nearby villages causing the displacement of as many as 110,000 Dinka Ngok, destroying residences and public infrastructure. The United Nations deployed its interim security mission, the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) in June 2011 to monitor the flashpoint border between Sudan and South Sudan and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. The Mission is also authorized to use force in protecting civilians and humanitarian workers in Abyei.

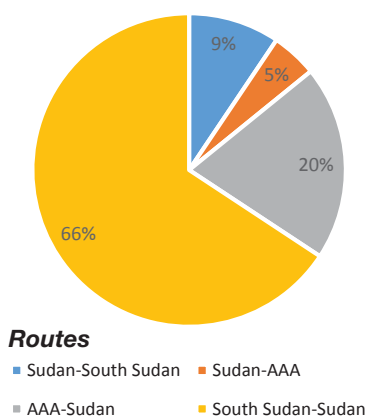
Since the deployment of the UNISFA, Abyei has witnessed a gradual improvement of security and returns of IDPs. Local initiatives and community-led peace dialogues has improved the deteriorating relationships between the Dinka Ngok and Missiriyia communities. Such initiatives combined with the relative and progressive peace in Abyei has created a favorable environment for cross-border movements and trade. IOM has established a Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) in Amieth, 15 km north of Abyei town, to track cross-border movements through Abyei. This report highlights the demographics, movement trends, pull and push factors for movements recorded from January to June 2017.

## MOVEMENT TRENDS

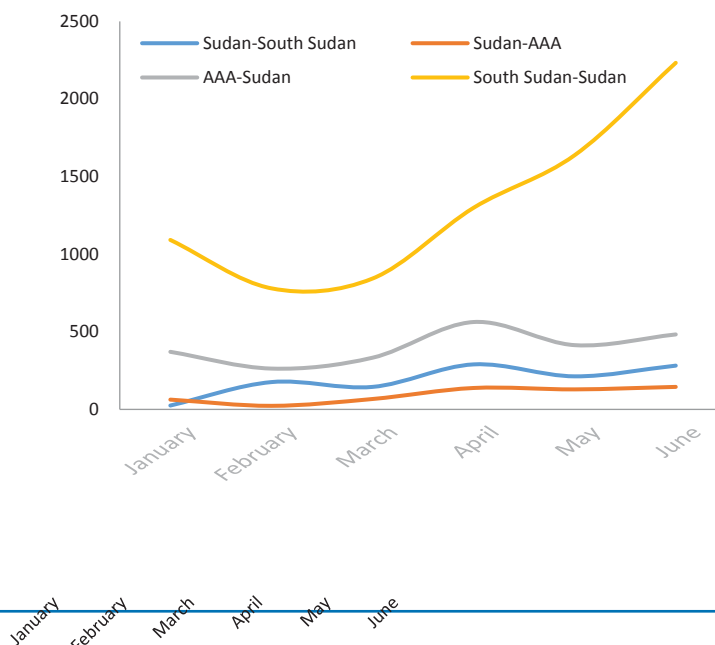
The total volume of cross-border movements for the reporting period is approximately 12,000 individuals. The majority of these movements (66%) originated from South Sudan with the majority of these individuals indicating Sudan, mainly Khartoum State, as their final destination. Improved security within the AAA combined with the improving social relationship between the Dinka Ngok and Missiriyia has encouraged families from South Sudan to use Abyei as a transit route to cross into Sudan, mainly to access social services and employment opportunities.

The movement trends of individuals crossing from South Sudan or parts of Abyei to Sudan increased from the first week of March through April until the first week of May. This increase may be attributed to the peak of the dry season when access is not hindered by weather. Movements out of Abyei (either from Abyei or the neighboring States of South Sudan) picked in the month of June 2017, before the onset of the rains as it is the last window of opportunity to cross into Sudan before the road becomes inaccessible, especially from South Sudan to Abyei. Movements from Sudan into Abyei or South Sudan remained low and relatively stable through the reporting period, with a slight increase around mid-March to mid-June.

**Cross-border Movement Trends**



**Monthly Cross-border Movement Trends**



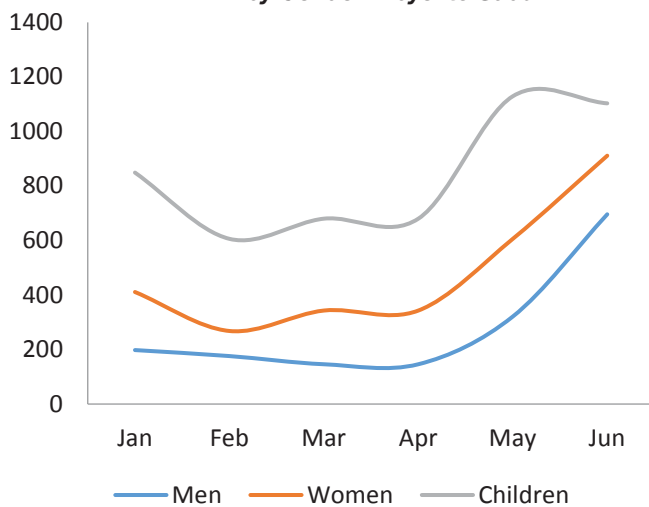
## Demographics

During the reporting period, 53% of the movements destined to Sudan consisted of children (under 18 years), while 30% and 17% were women and men. The movement of children into Sudan from South Sudan and Abyei increased in May, stabilizing in June. One of the main reasons pushing individuals into Sudan is the lack of adequate education opportunities in South Sudan. The increase in May and June is probably attributed to the start of the school season in Sudan which begins in early July. June being the last month which allows movement, before road inaccessibility following the rains, movements for men and women also increased in June.

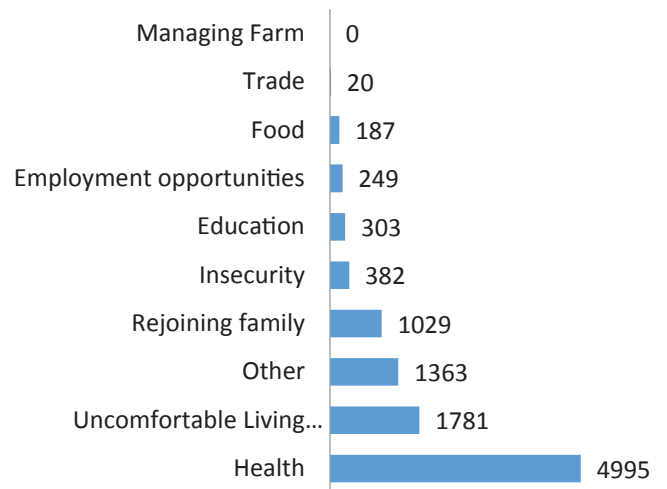
## Reason for Movement

The major motives for movement to Sudan are lack of adequate health services and uncomfortable living conditions. Families are also traveling to rejoin and visit family members in Sudan.

**Cross-border Movement Trends Disaggregated by Gender: Abyei to Sudan**

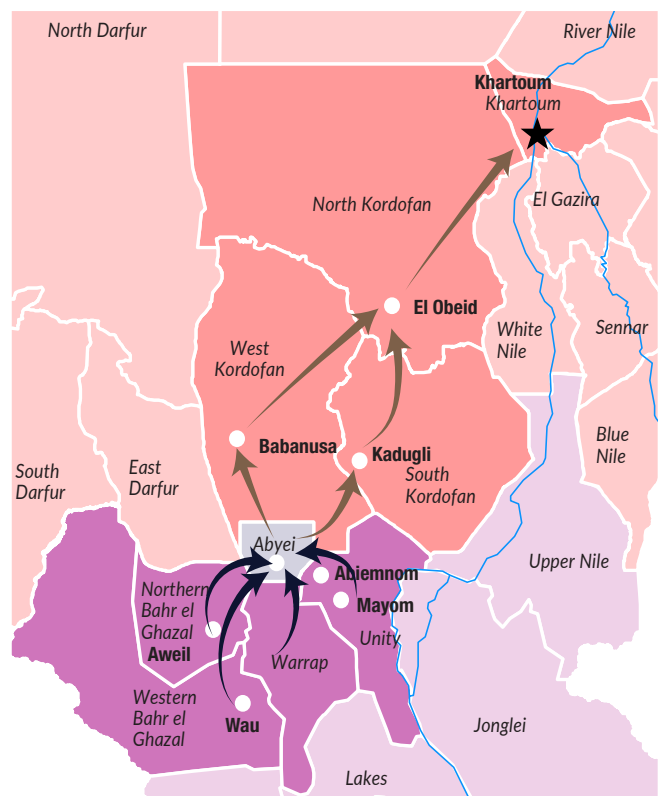


**Reasons for Movement - Abyei to Sudan**

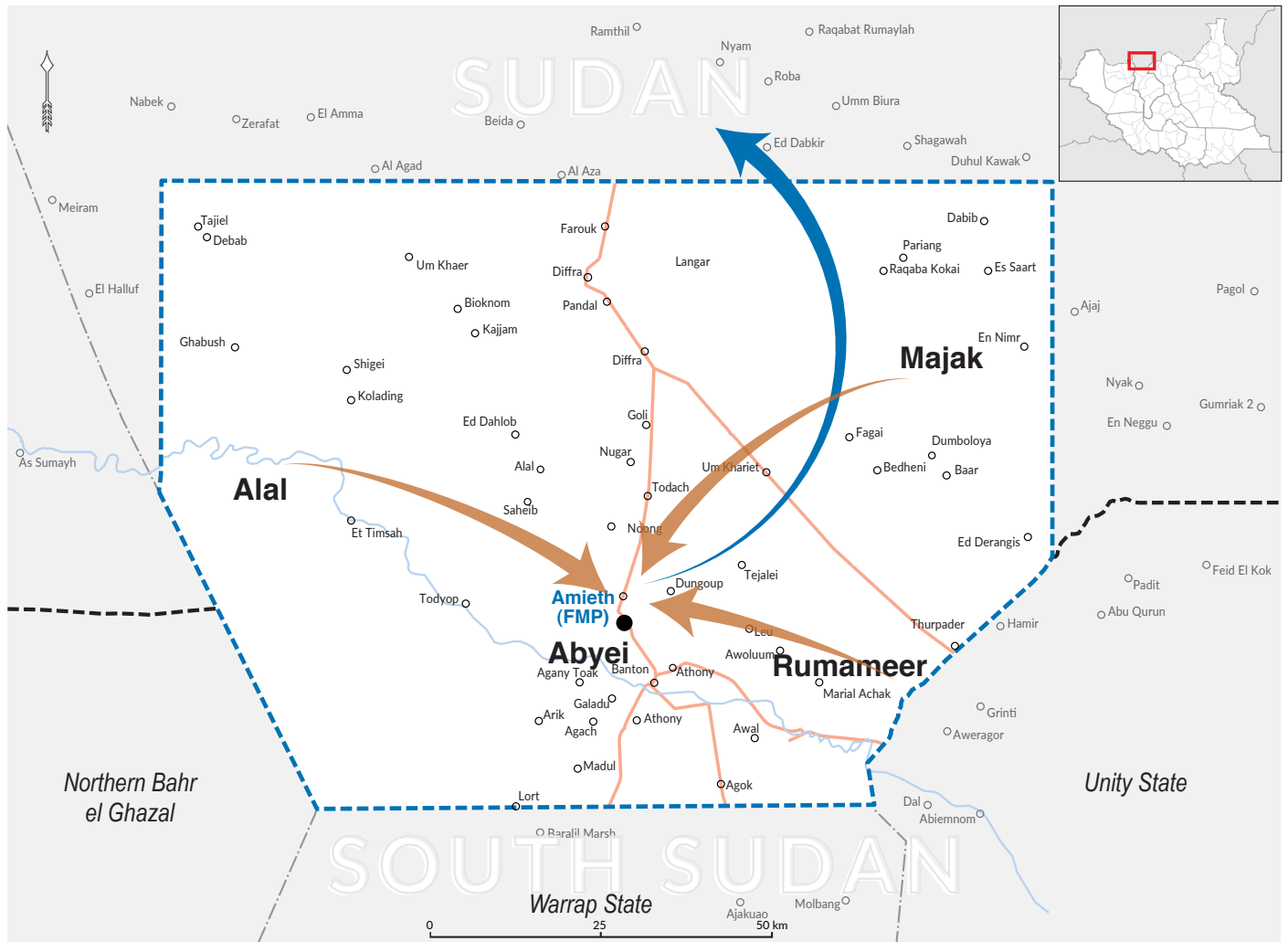


## Locations

The majority of movements (86%) destined to Sudan consist of families intending to go to Khartoum State of Sudan, particularly to Khartoum (53%), Eastern Nile (19%) and Omdurman (11%). The two transit routes within Sudan mostly used by families are Babanusua, Kadugli and El-Obied. The majority of the movements (over 75%) originated from South Sudan particularly, Western Bahr el Ghazal (30%), Unity (18%), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (9%) and Warrap (17%). Approximately 23% of the movements originated from the Abyei Administrative Area (AAA). The main locations within South Sudan include Wau (30%), Twic (15%), Mayom (12%) and Awiel (9%).



Approximately 25% of the cross-border movements are either originating from Abyei or are destined to Abyei. The major locations within the AAA where movements originate from includes Rumameer, Alal and Mijak Counties. Most of the locations within the counties are located south of the River Kiir (Bahr al Arab), where the majority of the Ngok-Dinka population resides. This includes host communities, IDPs and returnees. The main reason pushing communities from Abyei into Sudan is health services. 68% of the individuals who crossed into Sudan from Abyei report access to health services as the main reason followed by other reasons (13%) including visiting family in Sudan.



## Conclusion

Over the last couple of years, Abyei has become an island of peace, especially in comparison with the neighboring States in South Sudan. Booming trade and progressive peace dialogues between the Ngok-Dinka and Missiriya has also played a significant role in the stability of Abyei, as well as in stimulating cross-border movements. The first half of 2017 witnessed a significant volume of cross-border movements which were destined to Sudan, mainly due to the lack of adequate services and uncomfortable living conditions in areas where the movements have been originating in South Sudan and Abyei. These factors will likely to continue to influence movements to Sudan from Abyei and South Sudan for the second half of 2017. However, the figure for the second half of 2017 will likely decrease as movements will be hindered due inaccessible from June-November because of the rains.



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