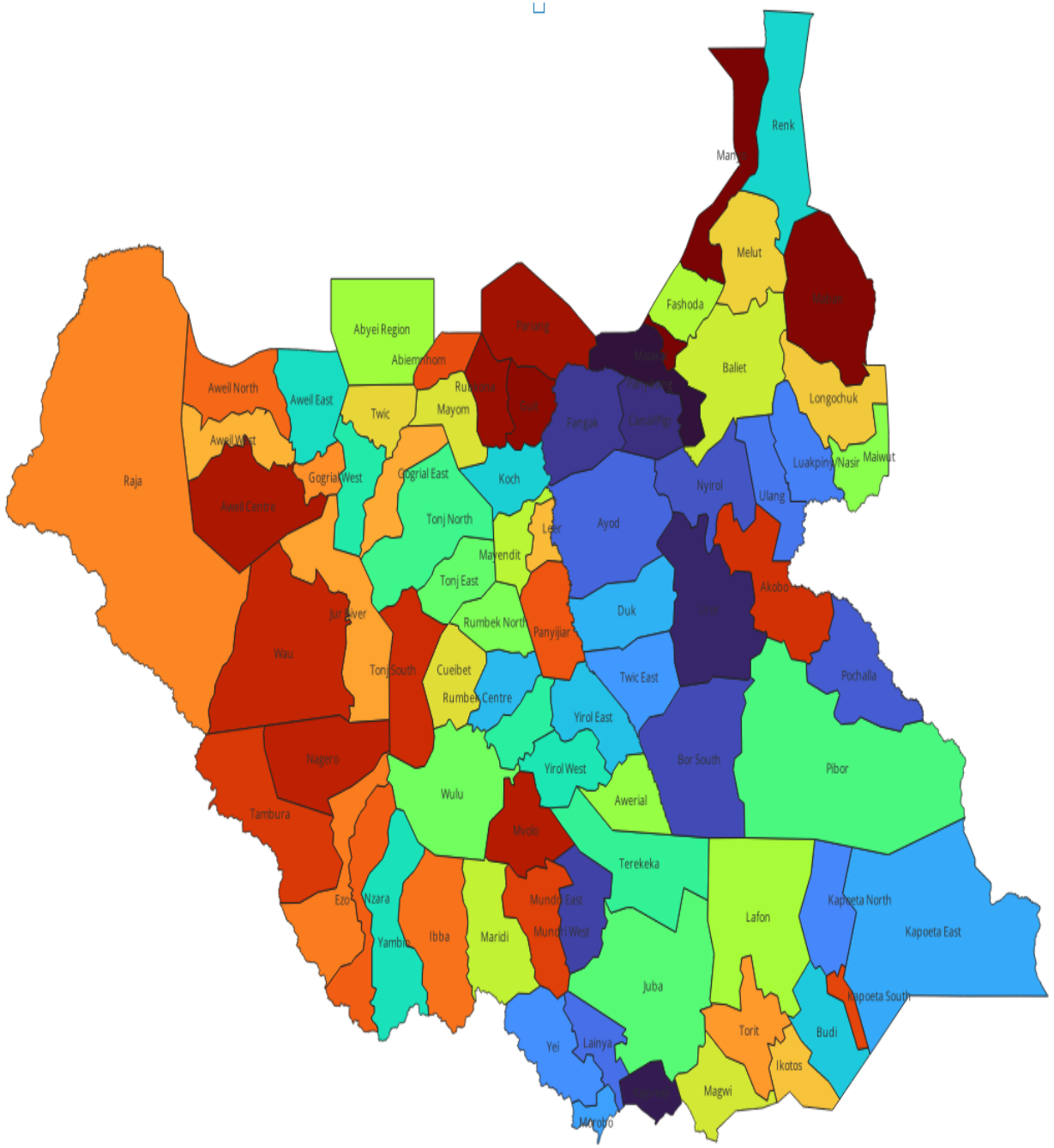
AMP Partners Meeting

February 2024

South Sudan: Addressing challenges for ITN distribution through adapted strategies

South Sudan: Context

- Became the world's youngest nation and Africa's 54th country on July 9, 2011
- More than a decade after independence, remains affected by fragility, economic stagnation, and instability
- Some 9.4 million people, 76% of the population, were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023, an increase by half a million people compared to 2022, with women and children most affected
- Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters compounds the country's humanitarian crisis, jeopardizing recovery and undermining development efforts
- Since 2011, the country has suffered from severe droughts (2011, 2015) and floods (2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022), resulting in high numbers of fatalities, displacements and loss of livestock



Campaign overview

In 2021, South Sudan and the GF signed the NFM3 malaria agreement and UNICEF was identified as PR

Engagement with AMF to fund 5,730,750 nets

Digitalization of data collection was introduced as a key element

Implementing partners are contracted by UNICEF to undertake field operations in collaboration with MOH

SOUTH SUDAN LLIN MASS CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

6,367,174 LLIN distributed

(Source: DHIS 2, December 2022 to 2nd February 2024)

15,154,801 (of People Benefited from LLIN *(Source: DHIS 2, (Source: DHIS 2, December 2022 to 2nd February 2024)*

1,346,085 children under 5 years benefited

(Source: DHIS 2, December 2022 to 2nd February 2024)

1,620,229 Pregnant women benefited

(Source: DHIS 2, December 2022 to 2nd February 2024)

LLIN DISTRIBUTION BY STATE

States	Population Est 2023 (DHIS 2)	#LLINs Target	#LLINs Distributed	% LLIN Coverage	Status
Eastern Eqautoria	1,890,393	1,081,011	1,029,735	95.3	Completed
Unity and Ruweng AA	1,196,343	745,200	747,259	100.3	Completed
Northern Bahr El Ghazal	1,259,618	773,789	773,619	100	Completed
Western Bahr El Ghazal	583,359	359,650	289,623	80.5	Completed
Central Equatoria	1,937,102	1,050,075	1,010,659	96.2	Completed
Warap	1,605,048	989,586	966,663	97.7	Completed
Abyei administrative area)	91,620	56,828	56,008	98.6	Completed
Western Equatoria	937,223	594,131	550,478	92.7	Completed
Lakes	1,352,801	816,754	792,997	97.1	Completed
Upper Nile	1,732,062	1,059,020	1,045,922	98.8	Completed
Total	**12,585,569**	**7,526,044**	**7,262,963**	**96.50**	

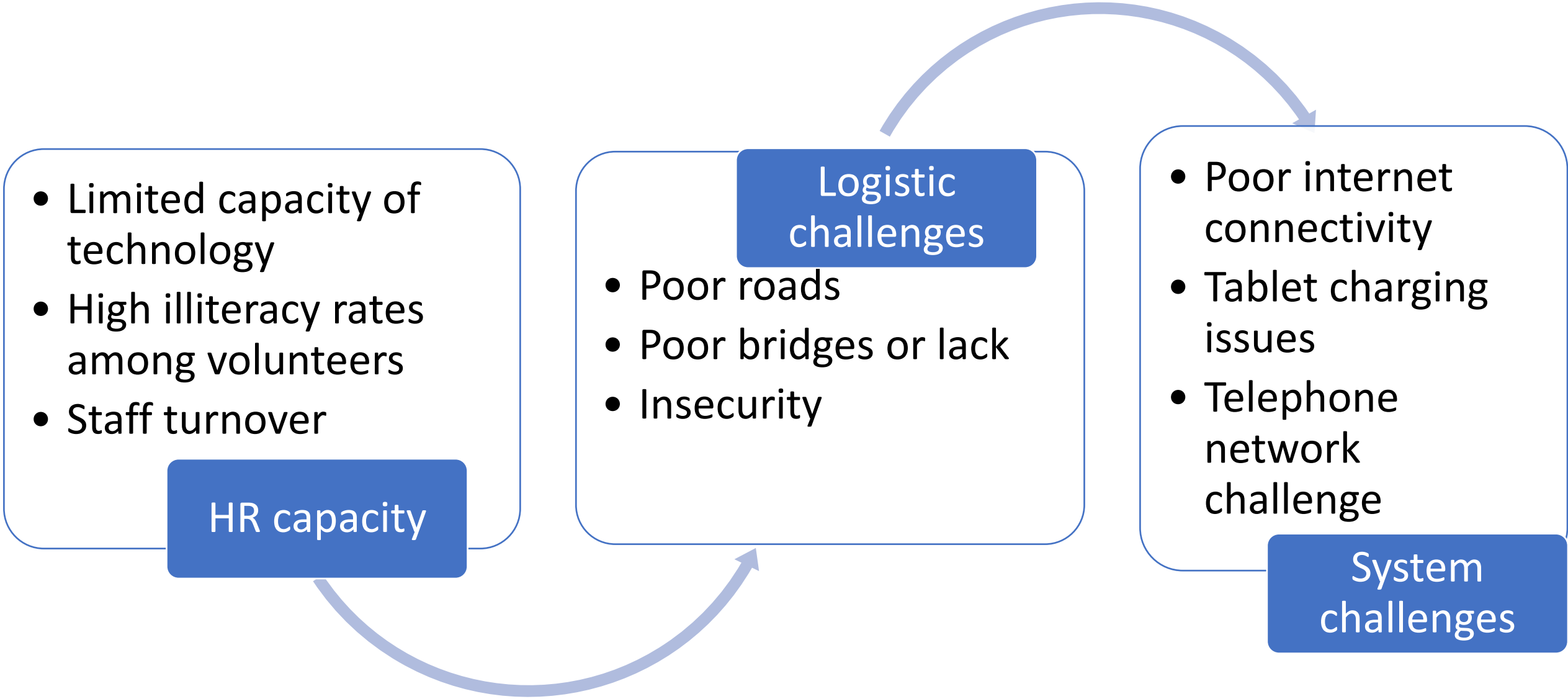
- Two service providers (MC and IPA) were contracted to do LLIN distributions in the States.
- LLIN distribution was done digitally using DHIS2 and manual distributions in Jonglei and Central Equatoria.
- 5000 tablets, power banks, and 16 internet modems were procured to support LLIN distributions.
- South Sudan LLIN mass campaign declared closed on 31st January 2024.
- LLIN distributions completed in all 10 States and 2 Administrative Areas. There is an ongoing plan to start distribution in Greater Pibor.
- **7,262,963** LLINs were distributed from 2022 to January 2024 with 96.5 coverage.
- PBO nets were distributed in NBG and WBG states.
- There are some balances of LLINs in the States which are accounted for by the team.
- Third-party monitoring contracted to verify outcomes (in and end process).

Digitalized campaign strategy

Digitalization was introduced as a requirement to access the AMF nets and fill important gaps:

- This came with several challenges and the system was hybrid (paper and digital) to address contextual challenges including connectivity, capacity of the population with the devices
- System capacity limitations where data was recorded by using tablets and sent to the country system of DHIS2 which could crash the system hence cap of 100/users per day delaying ever more
- Inadequate tablets to start at once all over the country hence rotating the states become necessary prolonging the distribution
- Third party monitoring was introduced as precondition in distribution for accountability

Challenges experienced during the ITNs distribution



Challenges experienced during the LLIN distribution

Capacity for digitalization

- ✓ Digital system adaptation from manual system was an issue
- ✓ Infrastructure capacity (phone network, power network) is a major challenge

Challenges experienced during the ITN distribution

Cost of transportation:

- ✓ Transporting the ITNs to last mile destinations involved a lot of logistics
- ✓ Poor roads coupled with record flood devastating the country since 2018 to date hindering any prospect of road transport

Poor storage facilities at the lower level:

- ✓ Storage is to be completed at the last mile
- ✓ Several layers involved in transporting the ITNs to last mile
- ✓ Some keeping the ITNs in the open causing considerable damage to chemical composition

Challenges experienced during the ITN distribution

Delays due to digitalization:

- ✓ Since the deployment of electronic data collection was the first of its kind in the ITN distribution, too much time was spent
- ✓ Given the fact that digitalization distribution of ITNs moves very slowly, it creates some kind of SUPPLIES and DEMAND to those areas where distribution started and beneficiaries received versus those who haven't received
- ✓ Hence beneficiaries at times are tempted to sell their ITNs to areas that haven't been served yet

SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- Challenges with the “digitalization” of the reporting of ITN mass distribution with frequent changes in the training, supervision, and monitoring strategy by the MoH, leading to huge delays in the implementation of this activity.
- Delays in delivery of ITNs to locations affected by flooding, inaccessibility, and insecurity.
- Delay in software development, modeling, testing, security improvement, and data entry interface for DHIS2 by MoH.
- The initial cap of 100 household registrations of the DHIS2 system prevented teams from distributing the maximum number of ITNs per day.
- Training registrars moved from the initial State to the Payam level and introduction of MTOT and DHIS2 system support.
- Distribution cannot be done concurrently in multiple states due to fear that DHIS2 might crush.

SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

- Heavy rains and flooding affecting distribution.
- Flight cancellations to some locations.
- Technical aspects of electronic data collection in remote locations without network coverage to synchronize data.
- Insecurity continues in some counties not accessible currently.
- Registrars have been arrested by the rebel group and are still in detention in Mundri East County of WES speed distribution.
- Some tablets taken by the security organs were not returned to the service providers.

In addition to the planned campaign, engaged in the Sudan emergency response

Sudan Emergency Response LLIN Quantification			
S/N	**State**	**Refugee/IDPs Population**	**LLINs**
1	Western Bahr El Ghazal	1,217	613
2	Upper Nile	166,885	84,030
3	Unity	13,064	6,578
4	Northern Bahr El Ghazal	7,878	3,967
5	Abyei AA	5,585	2,812
	Total	**194,629**	**98,000**

- Distribution ongoing in Renk at the protected site that was not done late last year due to the restriction of the camp management.
- Planning to move emergency nets in Manyo and Akoka to support the influx of returnees from Sudan.
- Distribution completed in Norther Bar El Ghazal, Western Bar El Ghazal, Malakal, Abyei AA, Unity State (Bentiu), and Panyikang (94,257 pieces distributed).

Link: Microsoft Power BI

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

IOM UN MIGRATION

Inflows | Intentions | Movements | Presence in Renk | About

Date Update

16/04/2023

08/02/2024

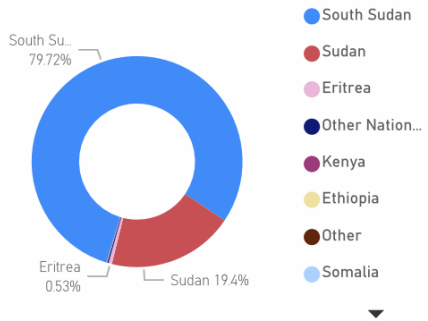
Key Figures

129,986 Households

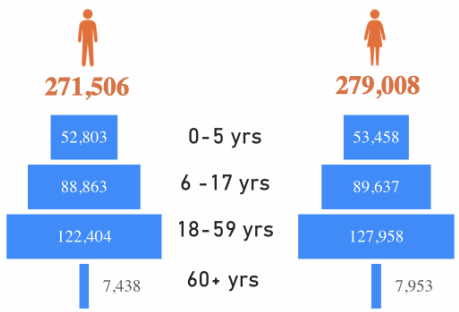
550,514 Individuals

19 Nationalities

Arrivals by Nationality



Sex and Age Breakdown



Context

Since 16 April 2023, South Sudan has received thousands of new arrivals at several Point of Entry along the border between Sudan and South Sudan.

Arrivals recorded at point of entry

State	HHs	Ind	Total Male	Total Female
Abyei Administrative Area	**3,762**	**16,058**	**8,156**	**7,902**
Abyei	3,762	16,058	8,156	7,902
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	**12,846**	**30,838**	**17,935**	**12,903**
Gokmachar	15	146	74	72
Jaach	888	3,003	1,880	1,123
Kiir Adem	4,154	9,968	5,761	4,207
Majokyinthiou	7,789	17,721	10,220	7,501
Total	**129,986**	**550,514**	**271,506**	**279,008**

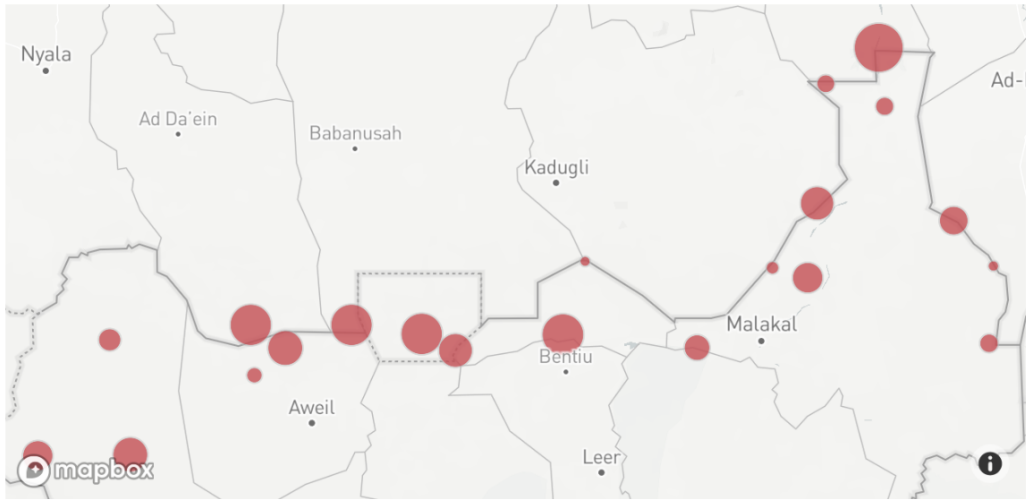
Methodology

The dashboard is jointly developed by IOM and UNHCR and endorsed by RRC. IOM and UNHCR collect data at various Point of Entry where different population groups are arriving to South Sudan from Sudan.

** Situation at the border remains fluid and all numbers are indicative only. It is likely that more people are arriving than IOM and UNHCR teams present at border crossing points are able to identify and register.*

Daily Arrivals Trends (Individuals)

Point of Entry Map



The administrative boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Adaptations and recommendations for addressing the challenges

- Scaled up SBCC to citizens stressing the importance of ITNs in the fight against malaria
- Advocacy to government for:
  - Taking ownership of distribution to avoid bottlenecks
  - Improving the road network to enable easy last mile propositioning
  - Improving security across the country
  - Improving infrastructure, such as the phone network coverage
- Plan for all out distribution for the whole country at once in future distributions
- Note that a study plan for post distribution survey is underway soon and will identify additional areas requiring adaptations to align to the context

SHUKARUN !

THANK YOU !

ASANTENI !

MERCI BEAUCOUP !